

**For The Bulletin Of
August 5, 2018**



**THE 18TH SUNDAY IN
SUMMER'S ORDINARY TIME**

From Father Robert

Sourdough, pumpernickel, rye, whole wheat, ancient grain, pita, white, and many more are the breads from which we can choose in our modern, convenient grocery stores. Variety and selection are the hallmarks of our society. It's sometimes easy to forget how basic bread was to an ancient culture. It certainly wasn't a specialty item that afforded choice and distinction. Bread was the staple of life, consumed daily as an essential source of nutrition.

The day after the "multiplication of the loaves" the people were still seeking Jesus and found Him in Capernaum. He admonishes them to seek not perishable food but the food of everlasting life. They only need to believe in Him. The people, having just witnessed the sign of the multiplication of loaves the day before wonder what further sign Jesus might give them. Irony, which is a

hallmark of John's gospel, should not be lost.

The people demand a sign similar to Moses providing Manna in the desert. At that time the Hebrew people had left Egypt and were wandering in the desert. They were fed by bread from heaven that appeared each morning. Jesus in turn reminds them that it was not Moses, but the Father Who gives "true bread from heaven." Jesus' addition of the word "true" is significant. In a double entendre, Jesus says that the true bread" comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." This sets the stage for His claim at the conclusion of the reading, that Jesus Himself is the Bread of Life.

Throughout the Gospel of John, Jesus is portrayed as the One Who comes down from heaven. He is the One Who gives life. This is a remarkable teaching, for Jesus refers to Himself as having come down from heaven. Essentially, this is a teaching reflecting the prologue of John's gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God" and "the Word became flesh." No other gospel makes such a claim. Johannine theology is Christology. The true bread from heaven that gives eternal life is none other than Jesus Himself, the Word of God made flesh.

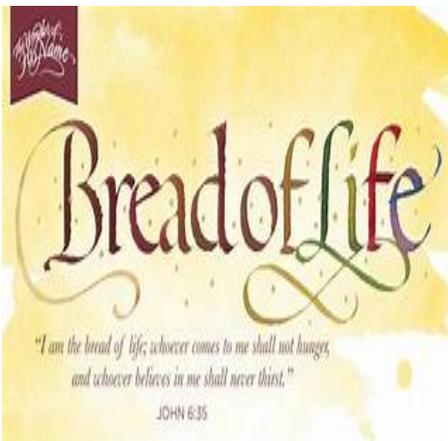
Living The Paschal Mystery

In the midst of such rich theological and Christological statements that we find in the gospel reading today, what are we to do? The response that Jesus demands of us in this gospel is what was demanded of those who heard the discourse: Believe in the One Whom the Father has sent. That, of course, is Jesus. We are called to recognize and believe that God the Father sent Him into the world.

Once we believe that, our lives will never be the same.

In this story we have no ethical demands, no commandments, no imperatives other than “believe.” It is as though once we do accept and believe this fundamental reality, the morals and ethics will naturally flow from that. So we reflect on the mystery of the incarnation, the coming down from heaven to live among us, the bread of everlasting life. How are our lives different because of this belief?

- Have you ever placed your trust in what you thought was “imperishable,” but in the end proved to be very “perishable?”
- What difference does the Eucharist make in your life that could not be fulfilled by other forms of prayer?
- What forms of “manna” have “rained down” in your life?
- In what real ways do we “become” the Body and Blood of Christ for others?



About Liturgy: Communion And The Tabernacle

There is a practice that continues to be common even though it has never been approved. That is the practice of getting

and then distributing hosts from the tabernacle during the celebration of Eucharist. This practice weakens our understanding of both the Eucharist and the participation of the assembly and it should cease immediately. Here are the basic points we need to help our people understand in order to stop this practice:

First, the purpose of the tabernacle is this: “The reason for which the church reserves Holy Communion outside the celebration of Eucharist is, primarily, the administration of Viaticum to the dying, and secondarily, Communion of the Sick, Communion Outside Mass, and Adoration of Christ Present in the Sacrament” (USCCB referring to Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass, 5; <http://www.usccb.org/prayer-and-worship/the-mass/order-of-mass/liturgy-of-the-eucharist/holy-communion-from-the-tabernacle.cfm>). Therefore, the hosts in the tabernacle are set aside primarily for the dying who cannot be present at the community’s celebration of Eucharist.

Second, in a liturgy in which communion is distributed outside of the celebration of the Eucharist, such as a Communion Service, the hosts are rightfully taken from the tabernacle. However, Eucharist is different from a Communion Service, not because of who leads the liturgy or where the hosts come from but because of what is omitted in a Communion Service, namely, the Eucharistic Prayer. This prayer, led by the ordained Presider on behalf of the gathered assembly, is the heart of the celebration of the Eucharist. It is the Great Prayer of Thanksgiving that recalls God’s blessings through Christ and asks God to send the Holy Spirit to

change the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, thus changing us who shares in that Body and Blood. The hosts in the tabernacle are indeed the Body of Christ, but distributing them to the faithful at Eucharist dismisses their participation in the Eucharistic Prayer and severs the connection between offering Christ's sacrifice of Praise and sharing in that same sacrifice in Communion. This is why the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* says: "it is most desirable that the faithful, just as the priest himself is bound to do, receive the Lord's body from hosts consecrated at the same Mass...so that even by means of the signs Communion will stand out more clearly as a participation in the sacrifice being celebrated" (85).



The Floral Arrangement at the Altar today is placed to the Glory of God and In Loving Memory of **Carlos Garcia, the son of Leo and Cecilia Garcia.**



Garden Ministry Update

Each week the summer parish garden produces an abundant harvest of fresh and nutritious vegetables and herbs. This delicious bounty supplements the canned

and packaged food donated by our parishioners at the weekend liturgies. The food is delivered every Tuesday to the St. Vincent de Paul food pantry at Holy Rosary. The produce includes tomatoes, green and yellow zucchini, peppers, spaghetti squash, fresh basil and more. Thank you to **Pat Kramer** and **Frank Zamora** who stepped in to assist with harvesting. Frank also transports the vegetables to StVdP each week. A special thank you to **Catherine Vidaurri** for her yeoman's efforts and commitment in ensuring the success of this ministry on behalf of the parish. Catherine cordially invites you to visit the garden to view its wonderful bounty. She can be found working in the garden on many weekdays after the 8 am liturgies. Stop by and maybe you'll feel called to get involved.



Back Pack Sunday

Thank you to all those who are participating in our 10th Annual Back Pack Sunday, contributing Back Packs for the Children of our adopted parochial school of St. Peter Martyr in Pittsburg. If you did not remember to bring your back pack to one of the liturgies this weekend, there are lists of the needed supplies for each grade plus the back pack on the credenza that can be purchased and brought back to the church office by Wednesday of this coming week. Your support of Catholic

Education through this annual outreach is greatly appreciated.



© Can Stock Photo

The Second Quarter Financial Report

Last weekend, the Second Quarter Financial Report was placed in the Bulletin without announcement or comment. I want to apologize to our Financial Secretary, **Estrella Rusk**, for this oversight as it should have been announced and the attention of the parish directed to it. A great deal of work, time, and preparation goes into this report and it is important to call attention to it. I have asked our secretarial staff to print the report again and had it placed in the bulletin as well as additional copies placed on the credenza. It is one of the most important ways for us to be accountable to you for your Stewardship of Treasure. Thank you, Estrella, for preparing the report as well as to the members of our Finance Council who work with her in the oversight of our finances.

Expansion Project Update

As was noted in the recently published financial report, the parish had received and was in the process of reviewing the proposed Services Agreement with our architects. The proposal included the preparation of the feasibility study. This study is required and must be accepted by the Diocese before the project can move on to the next steps.

I'm pleased to report the Services Agreement has been signed and the architects instructed to proceed with the feasibility study. Much work still remains, but this is an important step forward.



COOPERATIVE PROGRAM

The Diocesan Missionary Cooperative Appeal

Next weekend, August 11th and 12th, we will welcome Sister Peg Bishop from Sisters of St. Francis of Tiffin, OH. The Sisters serve the poor, with foreign missions in Mexico and home missions in Appalachia. The Sisters also give children living in extreme poverty the opportunity to obtain education, as well as emergency needs of food and medicine.

Envelopes for the collection are in our monthly envelope packet as well as additional envelopes on the credenza. Thank you for your support of the missions.



...to all those who come early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Rose Salamanca, Heather**

Hatteroth, Carole Miller, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Al Cosce, Alfred Madoshi, Jun Bajet, and Steve Rojek.

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in the church and parish hall throughout the week: **Robert**

Goncalves, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, Harlan Young, and Father Robert.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

Melodye Costanza, Rowena Cayaban, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Sharon Cissell, Harlan Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Frank Zamora and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Dave Costanza, Beth Enea, Richard Enea, Sherry Webb, Kathy Augusta and Vince Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Don Benson and Steve Rojek.**



I will be away for my annual retreat beginning this afternoon and will return on Friday evening, August 10th. Please pray for me and for all the priests who will be on retreat this week as we take this time to rest, renew, and deepen our love for God. We are blessed to have Fr. Ricardo Chavez preside for Eucharist on Monday and Friday and Communion Services led by Deacon Gary and Peter on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.



From The Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your gift of \$250 on June 8, 2018 toward the work of the Interfaith Council of Contra Costa County. Our work together absolutely depends on the regular gifts such as yours.

This year's elected council is living into the process of our new structure, increasing the time we devote to Inter-religious conversation, responding to religious intolerance and religiously motivated hate speech and ideological processes. Our online presence

continues to increase and we now network much of the East Bay through our website, Facebook page, and regular eBlasts to keep the community in touch with the latest events and programs.

You know our current programs: the Social Justice Alliance (SoJA) and the Homeless Summit of SoJA that operates the Winter Nights Shelter; the Singing Messengers that shared music and humor at over 60 programs a year at nursing homes; and we are creating a new Youth Council. Your gift also supports the Juvenile Detention Chaplaincy under the direction of Rev. Dr. Charles Tinsley that ministers to young people in the facilities in Martinez and Byron, and beyond to those who take advantage of college.

As if that weren't enough, congregations and members of our Council are joining people of faith and the Multi-Faith Action Coalition in lifting the voice of the faith community in addressing poverty in our county. We are blessed with a broad base of affiliation that includes more than 107 congregations and dozens of agencies. Visit our new and improved website for all our upcoming events, interfaithccc.org where you can now share events, become an individual member and stay up to date on all the latest news.

Your generous donation enables a wide range of healing and connecting interfaith activities. Thank you. Please invite your friends and family to join you in giving toward our important work. Sincerely, Rev. Will McGarvey, Executive Director

