



Miracle of the Bread and Fish by Giovanni Lanfranco c.1600

July 28, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:42-44 | Eph 4:1-6 | Jn 6:1-15

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

If the multiplication of the loaves sounds so familiar ... it's because it is! It's the only miracle story found in all four Gospels, and for good reason. Jesus multiplies the meager offering of a boy with five barley loaves and two fish and feeds a large crowd with baskets left over. The story is symbolic of the food that is readily available through Jesus in the Eucharist. The crowd in the Gospel that had been following Jesus was tired, worn out, and hungry. Don't we all feel discouraged now and then? When we do, Jesus makes himself available to us in the Eucharist; he provides daily food that nourishes and sustains. When we eat this life-giving bread, we are strengthened and fortified, as was the crowd in the Gospel, as we heard: "They had more than they could eat."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Trusting in the bounty of God can be a challenging thing. Think about Philip in today's Gospel - looking out over the massive crowd gathered, he thought, "there's no way we'll be able to feed all of these people." And he was right! He couldn't, and we cannot. But the Lord can. And if we are to "live in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received," we must strive to live like the Apostles with complete trust in Jesus, and not rely on our own notions of what's possible and what's not. The miracle here was not that everybody was hiding fish and bread and they shared it. No, the Gospel is clear that Jesus takes what little we can offer and multiplies it beyond our wildest imagination. That's the beauty of Gospel readings like this. Ordinary people are following Jesus, maybe curious about his message, maybe they know someone healed by him and want to see if he's for real. He teaches, they listen, and then something amazing happens. Let us always remember that no effort is too small for God - no kindness too ordinary. He magnifies the good we do. All we need to do is trust in his bounty, and freely give to him what we have.

SERVE Let's make an effort this week to try and emulate the boy in today's Gospel. Give what we have over to Jesus and say, "I trust you to make something out of this." Small acts of kindness, showing gratitude, or sharing our blessings can lead to bigger things than we think possible. We will never know the echoes of the good that we do, as it ripples out and touches other lives, but we can trust that in his love for us, God will use our good deeds for tremendous ends.

Church of the Ascension

ascensionsaratoga.org | 408-725-3939
Masses: (Sat) 5p; (Sun) 7a, 9a, 11a, 5p
(Mon-Fri) 8a; (Sat) 9a
Confessions: (Sat) 4p - 4:45p

Jesus Satisfies the Hungry Heart

The crowd could not leave [Jesus]. They had witnessed his miracles as he healed the sick, and they seemed to forget whatever else they had to do in order to be near him. This was risky business in a desert culture where food could be scarce to come by. But compassionate beyond measure, Jesus fed them. The meal that day on the grassy plain near the Sea of Galilee was its own kind of eucharistic celebration, an event that foreshadowed those that now are the “source and summit of our faith” as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it. Then and now, Jesus satisfies the hungry. Give thanks for the gift of being fed.
- *Preparetheword.com*

Quotes

“Happiness rarely keeps company with an empty stomach.”
- *Japanese proverb*

“It’s no use preaching religion to one who is hungry.”
- *Vietnamese proverb*

“The war against hunger is truly mankind’s war of liberation.”
- *John F. Kennedy*

“A hungry man is not a free man.” - *Adlai E. Stevenson*

One Body, One Spirit, One Lord

A Christian Prayer for Unity

One only Holy Spirit of Father and Son
in whom all are baptized,

one giver of many gifts,
one tree of many fruits,
one speaker of every tongue.

Renew in our day
the wonders of Pentecost.

Grant that people of every race and nation
may understand one another,
and as one, proclaim the praises of God.

Grant that all may be one
as you, Spirit, with the Father and the Son
are one God, one Lord.

Grant unity to the Body of Christ;
grant unity to the human family.

Sole breath of every living thing,
may all be one who, in you,
live and move and have their being.

- *Bishop Carl K. Moeddel (1937-2009)*

Pope’s Prayer Intention in August

We pray that political leaders be at the service of their own people, working for integral human development and for the common good, especially caring for the poor and those who have lost their jobs.

WEEKLY OFFERING - JULY 21

-**\$5,136** (baskets: \$3,174; online: \$1,962). Goal: \$6,500.

-YTD: **\$17,928**. Budget: \$19,500. *NEW FISCAL YEAR*

Thank you for your generosity.

MASS INTENTIONS

July 28	Sun	07 am	Josephine Gembala +
July 30	Tue	08 am	The Weeks Family
Aug 01	Thu	08 am	Carol McLafferty (L)
Aug 02	Fri	08 am	Walter Whelan (L)
Aug 03	Sat	09 am	Jerome & Anna Dao +

National Eucharistic Congress

The National Eucharistic Revival, a multi-year renewal initiative by the US bishops since 2022, culminated in the National Eucharistic Congress from July 17-21, 2024 in Indianapolis.

More than 50,000 Catholics gathered at Lucas Oil Stadium and the Indiana Convention Center. The days were filled with opportunities to grow closer to Jesus in the Eucharist through the Mass, adoration, confession, praise and worship, and talks from a variety of speakers, including Bishop Robert Barron, Jonathan Roumie, Father Mike Schmitz, Mother Olga of the Sacred Heart, Sister Bethany Madonna, etc.

Here are some quotes:

“It’s time for faithful Catholics to stop trying to live *for* God. Instead we should start living *from* him.”

- *Monsignor James Shea*

“You can never have a revival without repentance.”

- *Father Mike Schmitz*

“Your Christianity is not for you. Christianity is not a self-help program, something designed just to make us feel better about ourselves. Your Christianity is for the world.”

- *Bishop Robert Barron*

“Those who choose to stay with Jesus will be sent by Jesus ... Let us go to proclaim Jesus zealously and joyfully for the life of the world.” - *Cardinal Luis Antonio Tagle*

Olympic Truce Appeal

Pope Francis on [last] Sunday expressed his hope that the Paris Olympic and Paralympic Games provide the opportunity for warring nations to respect an ancient Greek tradition and establish a truce for the duration of the Games.

“According to ancient tradition, may the Olympics be an opportunity to establish a truce in wars, demonstrating a sincere will for peace,” he said.

The pope noted that “Sport also has a great social power, capable of peacefully uniting people from different cultures... “I hope that this event can be a sign of the inclusive world we want to build and that the athletes, with their sporting testimony, may be messengers of peace and valuable models for the young.” - *Vaticannews.va*

Mission Co-op Appeal July 27-28

Fr. Innocent Onuh will visit Ascension this weekend and appeal for our support for the Association of Missionary Servants of the Needy. The association’s mission is to help the poor restore their sense of self-worth and help them become more cognizant of their position in society. The missionary servants strive to offer counseling to them, provide education, and discern the best ways of helping them become better persons.

Mass for Fr. Ben Manding

August 4, Sunday, at 11:00 am

Father Benito Oppus Manding was called home to the Lord on August 1, 2023 at the age of 85.

Our Church of the Ascension will pray for the repose of his soul on Sunday, August 4, at the 11:00 am Mass. Father Ben frequently celebrated this Mass on Sundays for many years. May he rest in peace.