



I AM THE BREAD OF LIFE;
WHOEVER COMES TO ME
WILL NEVER HUNGER,
AND WHOEVER BELIEVES IN ME
WILL NEVER THIRST.

JOHN 6:35

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 1, 2021

Today's Gospel continues into a second day the narrative that had begun the day before when, after crossing the lake to look for Jesus, a large crowd are fed with five barley loaves and two fish. The following day (today's reading), after more lake crossings, the people who had been miraculously fed are again searching for Jesus. However, they do so (as Jesus puts it) "not because you saw signs, but because you ate the loaves and were filled" (John 6:6).

In John's Gospel, the word "sign" has a distinct meaning. At the wedding at Cana, after telling how Jesus turned water into wine, the Evangelist notes "Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs" that "revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him" (John 2:11). For John, signs are not just wonders to behold; they are about the revelation of God and a response of faith in Jesus.

MAYBE THE SIGN IS THE WONDER

When the crowd first arrives, Jesus notes that they had not appreciated the sign that he had already given; they are still

focused on their physical hunger. When they ask for a sign, "that we may see and believe in you" (John 6:30), they refer to their ancestors who ate manna in the wilderness. Can Jesus top that? Can he give them more bread that will relieve them of their daily worries about going hungry?

Jesus reminds the crowd that it was not Moses who gave the "bread from heaven," but his Father. Further, the Father can give them the true bread from heaven that comes down and gives life to the world. There is a parallel in the Greek between working for food that perishes and doing the works of God, which is believing in Jesus as the one God has sent. This is the sign that the people missed the day before, the sign that Jesus is pointing out to them.

Like the Evangelist, the Church uses the word "sign" for its sacraments. Like the crowd, we are called to see similar "signs" of God's generosity in all the blessings of our lives.

Today's Readings: Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6: 24-35

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the
anticipated date 903-769-3235

Holy Spirit

Catholic Church

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Fr. Mike Snider

Cell Phone: 903-490-3883

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holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."*

*Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. **Please come again!***

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Al & Evelyn Murfin. Aimee Mills. Rick & Teri Jackson. Ron Emma. Kate Serres. John Gillespie. Belinda Flowers. Dona Jordan. Jaye Anderson. Georgette March. Daniel Corrigan. Kyle Fabitz. Greg Mooney. Valerie Branch. Garry Fetsch. Karee Haney. Yvonne Scott. Bollinger Family. Kate Guthrie. Charlie Parker. Molly Dunn. Regina Davies. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Shay Mikalonis. Wanda & George Duke. Fleming Family. Doris & Jo Hoffman. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Judy Fazzio. Joshua & Chase Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda & Mike Stephens. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month. We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially: Ed Stanley, part-time parishioner (his wife, Diane passed away on 5/25/21) Marsha Blahitka, pass parishioner.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community: Dawn Quinn, US Army PVT 2nd Class (Granddaughter of Bob & Jean Quinn). Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Lt. "JG" Gary Buchanan; 2nd Lt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The people of Israel receive bread from heaven in response to their grumbling (Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15).

Psalm: The Lord gave them bread from heaven (Psalm 78).

Second Reading: Put on the new self that has been created in God's way (Ephesians 4:17, 20-24).

Gospel: I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger (John 6:24-35).

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Nm 11:4b-15; Ps 81:12-17; Mt 14:13-21

Tuesday: Nm 12:1-13; Ps 51:3-7, 12-13; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Nm 13:1-2, 25 — 14:1, 26-29a, 34-35; Ps 106:6-7ab, 13-14, 21-23; Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Nm 20:1-13; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Mt 16:13-23

Friday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mk 9:2-10

Saturday: Dt 6:4-13; Ps 18:2-4, 47, 51; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:4-8; Ps 34:2-9; Eph 4:30 — 5:2; Jn 6:41-51

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 7/31 Ed & Diane Stanley+

Sun 8/01 Rev. Emmanuel (Daughters of Divine Hope)

Tue 8/03 9:00am Communion Service. Adoration

Wed 8/04 No 9:00am Mass

Thurs 8/05 No 9:00am Mass

Fri. 8/06 9:00am Communion Service

Sat. 8/07 Rev. Luis Arroyave (Daughters of Divine Hope)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the month of June, 2021

Expenditures \$ 3,882

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 4,176

Attendance 7/24 Saturday 58 7/25 Sunday 65

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.



Pope's Intention for August:

The Church. Let us pray for the Church, that she may receive from the Holy Spirit the grace and strength to reform herself in the light of the Gospel.

A SECRET

The secret of happiness is to count your blessings while others are adding up their troubles.—Anonymous

GOVERNING OUR PASSIONS

Whoever governs their passions is master of the world. We must either command them, or be commanded by them. It is better to be the hammer than the anvil.

—St. Dominic

THE BREAD OF LIFE

Today's Gospel has the crowd asking Jesus three questions. First, "When did you get here," to which Jesus responds by rebuking them for their failure to grasp his miracle as a "sign," an occasion to put faith in him. Their second question about accomplishing the "works of God" has Jesus respond that faith is the "work" that God wishes. Many scholars believe this is John's answer to the faith-works dichotomy emerging in the early Christian community. Faith is the work of God in the believer, John would have us understand. The third question asked by the crowd is a request for a "sign" that would allow them to put faith in Jesus, as the manna in the desert allowed the Israelites to put faith in the Lord God. Jesus answers by revealing himself as the "bread of life" that "comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

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Would you be interested in spending an hour with our Lord in adoration?



Please contact Cathy Ellis at cathy.ellis@gmail.com. Cathy will need your name, and a one hour time slot on Tuesdays that you would be willing to come to the church and adore our Lord.

August Second Collections: 7/31 & 8/1 "Building & Maintenance Fund." 8/14 & 8/15 "Holy Spirit Faith Formation." 8/21 & 8/22 "Black & Indian Mission & the Indian Missions."



Patriotic Rosary for Peace in America
Due to conflicting summer schedules there will be no Patriotic Rosary in Aug. & Sept. We will start back on Saturday, October 2nd at 9:00am.



Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each Wed. from 3:30—4:30pm. Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki 817-637-9382**

To those blessed souls out there contemplating Scripture

Study. You are listening to the Holy Spirit; now, I hope you open your heart to His invitation. The greatest relationship I have enjoyed in my entire life has been with My Father, My Savior and My Holy Spirit; and, in some cases, great moments of understanding and clarity have resulted from the investigation (casual or formal) of various Scriptures. **The Holy Spirit is AWESOME!** The Scripture study, I would like to propose to those who respond, will be "structured" for research and investigation, while still aligning with The Magisterum. Many discoveries will be made through the participating and sharing of those who attend each session. *WE will benefit from The Word of God as shared by the Holy Spirit. God is good.*

Randy Munoz

Legion of Mary—Pilgrim Statue: Thanks to a couple of parishioners, Our Lady of Fatima Statue was not in lockdown during Covid. **Now She is ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749 or Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953.** The Statue will be delivered to your home on the day of your choice and picked up at the end of one week. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all our parishioners for their food donations. The large plastic bin is located by in the hallway by Bridget's office. **We are in the need of pasta; canned vegetables and sauce.**

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or theduckdude@att.net

Are you ready for some coffee and donuts after Sun., 9:00am Mass? Looking to start back **Sunday, Sept. 12th**, if we can get volunteers to help with the following:



1st Sunday of each month (when no K of C breakfast), 2nd Sunday, 3rd, 4th and when there is a 5th Sunday. Also, needed alternates. Volunteers needed for picking up donuts & delivering to church, serve coffee, juice and donuts. Clean-up the kitchen. Additionally, need someone to purchase donuts on a monthly basis (estimate cost of donuts on a weekly basis is \$33.00) this was the cost before covid. Sign-up sheet located outside my office. Questions, call 903-769-3235 or email holy.spirit2@yahoo.com

Thank You, Bridget



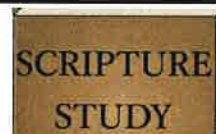
Thank you,
*Bob Mailliard; Bryan & Dolly Todd;
Stan & Terry Evans; Al & Evelyn Murfin*



Fr. Mike will be on vacation starting Monday, Aug. 2nd through 12th. His first weekday Mass will be held on Friday, Aug. 13th at 9:00am. Let's keep him in our prayers for safe travels.

Fr. Ron Demski will be celebrating Mass, the weekend of Aug. 7th & 8th.

So, do you ever wish God would just talk to you sometimes?



You do? Great! Let's get together and talk about it. (He already talks to you, you know. One way is through our Bibles.)

We would like to offer a weekly, on-ongoing course of Scripture Study for men only; women only or co-ed. And we need your input to determine exactly how, what, and when we will make this available to you. Please fill out the mini form below and drop it into the collection basket or email me (email address below). Please do not fill out the form unless you are serious about participating. After we tabulate and collate the information you provide for us, we will report our finding and offer suggestions for the "preferred" Scripture Study. The sooner we receive your input, the sooner we can announce your preferences and our plan to accommodate them. If you require any additional information please feel free to **contact randymunoz80@hotmail.com.** Fill out the following info with your

NAME: _____ **phone #** _____ **Place in collection basket or email Randy Munoz.**

When would you like to meet? (Check one day and one time)

Sunday _____ Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____

Morning _____ Evening _____ **When Would You Like To Start Scripture Study** In July 2021 _____ Aug. _____ Sept. _____

Men only _____ Women only _____ Co-Ed _____

What would you prefer for a format? Structured (specific scriptures and formal study guides – Little Rock, etc.) _____

Unstructured (pick a book and go) _____

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 4 August 2021 Edition
(Submission date: 30 July 2021) Submitted by Randy Munoz

With temperatures in the 90s, many of us are yearning for Autumn – glad we have this thing called “air conditioning”. Have you ever wondered what it was like without it? Have you ever wondered what things were like in Nazareth at the time of Jesus? Excerpts from an article by Craig Blomberg provide us with a little insight. “Everyday Life in the Time of Jesus of Nazareth”, – <https://bjstockman.wordpress.com/2011/05/16/everyday-life-in-the-time-of-jesus-of-nazareth/>)

... The Jewish people made up roughly 8% of the Roman empire. Of the 50 million inhabitants of the Roman empire, 4 million were Jews and 700,000 of them lived in Israel. Jesus ministered mainly outside of large pro-Roman cities. However, the region of Galilee was not as rural as you think – “...the majority of Galilee was made up of as many as 200 small villages, few as large as Capernaum, which had possibly 1,000 inhabitants. We must therefore avoid stereotyping Jesus and his disciples as roaming through largely uninhabited regions with large farms. Galilee, was in some respects more urban than we imagine it.” News was either posted in town squares or announced by a herald. The average family “lived in 1-room, 2-level dwellings with living quarters separated from and raised above the animal stalls.” Jewish extended families often lived together. Towns stunk because many would pour their sewage into designated sections of the middle of the street. Wine was the drink of choice, but it was “as much as three times as diluted as it is today.” Wealthy Romans had four meals a day of meat and dairy, while many other ordinary Jews had two meals consisting mostly of bread. After dinner, usually amidst only good friends, 2-3 hours of the evening were spent in conversation. Women dressed simpler than men, yet had more colorful clothing. Most men had beards, and most women had long hair put in a bun. The transit system within the Roman empire was the best in the ancient world, but roads that were not well-traveled could be quite dangerous. “Inns dotted the landscape, providing lodging for travelers, but many were notorious as hangouts for pirates and prostitutes. More reputable people preferred to stay in private homes with relatives, friends, or people who were recommended to them.” 1 to 2 % of the population had 1/2 the wealth of the empire (political, military and religious leaders), 5-7 % were considered rich (bureaucratic individuals), and about 15 % were middle class (priests, Pharisees, fortunate merchants, etc.); while 70 % of the population lived within what we would consider poverty and “were struggling farmers and fisherman or subsistence laborers working for others”. Slavery was common. For the most part, people were either born into slavery, a prisoner of war, or sold themselves into slavery to pay off debts. “Unlike pre-Civil War America, in the Roman world slaves could own property, earn money, and often save enough to buy their own freedom.” Most of Jesus’ disciples and followers were poor, but they “relied on the support that others offered, including considerable help from a strategic group of well-to-do women (Luke 8:1-3).” Due to the Jewish triple tax (10% to priests and Levites, 10% for temple sacrifice, and a bit over 3% for the poor) and normal Roman taxes, Jews could pay more than half their income in taxes. One job that was not held in high repute was teaching, and many teachers were former slaves. Men were expected to marry: Jews usually by 18, Romans by 25, and Greeks by 30. Women were usually married in their mid-teens. Divorce was common, but not as common among Jews. Children had no social voice. Girls were not formally educated unless among the Greco-Roman rich. Jewish boys were educated in the Bible, and Greek boys in Homer and rhetoric. Privacy was rare in crowded cities, and usually only the wealthy owned books. Funerals and weddings could last a week among an entire village. Jews enjoyed singing and story-telling, Greeks enjoyed theater, and Hellenists enjoyed sporting events like Olympic games and gladiators. Holy days and the once-a-week Sabbath for Jews were a time of joy and celebration, while for Romans and Greeks (who did not get weekly days off) “numerous annual holidays, temple rituals, and patriotic celebrations provided relief from daily routines”.



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Most Rev. Joseph E. Strickland

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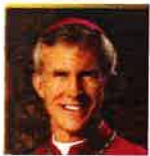
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