

Week of July 29, 2018

MONDAY

Jer 13:1-11 * Dt 32:18-21 * Mt 13:31-35

TUESDAY

Jer 14:17-22 * Ps 79:8-9,11,13 * Mt 13:36-43

WEDNESDAY

Jer 15:10,16-21 * Ps 59:2-4,10-11,17-18 * Mt 13:44-46

THURSDAY

Jer 18:1-6 * Ps 146:1-6 * Mt 13:47-53

FRIDAY

Jer 26:1-9 * Ps 69:5,8-10,14 * Mt 13:54-58

SATURDAY 4:30pm Mass

Jer 26:11-16,24 * Ps 69:15-16,20-21 * Mt 14:1-12

SUNDAY 9:30am Mass

Ex 16:2-4,12-15 * Ps 78:3-4,23-25,54 * Eph 4:17,20-24 * Jn 6:24-35

Baptism Prep I: Thursday, August 2 at 7pm in the Parish Center.

Missionary: Our thanks to Sr. Janet Stankowski of the Adrian Dominicans for taking the time to share the story of the missionary work of her community. There is an envelope in the July packet for support of their work. *Fr. Tom*

Raffle Tickets can be returned via the collection, or dropped off at the Parish Center. Additional tickets are available at the office.

Position Opening: We are looking once again for a secretary/receptionist (office administrator). The position is for a minimum of 28 hours per week. A job description is available at the parish office. A resume and three letters of recommendation are requested.

Stewardship

Stewardship Message

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?" John 6:9

This miracle, mentioned multiple times in the Bible, has a two-fold message. The first message is: no matter how little we have, we always have enough to share. The second message is: Christ can take our most humble gifts and do great things with them, if we allow Him to do so. No gift is too small.

Weekly Target: \$10,961.54 * Offering: \$9,359.42
Mission Co-Op: \$600.00 * Priests' Retirement: \$202.00

CSA: No new pledges this week. Total pledges: 370 (71% of parish families). Total pledged: \$76,458.00 (98% of \$78,232 target). \$1,774.00 still needed to reach our parish target!

Children's Good Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...helped Mom with chores. ...helped with home repairs.

Education/Formation

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families, Sara McGinnis Lee
When was the last time you were really, truly hungry? How did it feel?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** This miracle is recounted in all four Gospel narratives. It impacts a multitude of people, and involves food, the most basic need and the most powerful symbol of God's ability to fill us. This miracle also echoes back to Moses, who fed the people manna in the desert. When the people realized that Jesus has this same miraculous power, they come to understand that he is a messenger of God.

► **Living the Word:** Buy a loaf of exceptional bread from the store. Just before you eat dinner, take a long walk together as a family. When you come home, sit at the table together with nothing but the bread. Pass it around, smell it and touch it. Then break the bread with your

hands and offer everyone one piece. As you eat, think together about how we need God like we need bread, and how God wants to fill our "hungry" hearts.

► VBS Splash Canyon – God's Promise on Life's Wild Ride

July 30-August 2, 9am – 12 noon. Everyone is welcome to join us Thursday at 11am to hear about what we learned!!!

Auburn Area Catholic School

► **Script:** During the summer, Scrip will be available in the parish office M-Th, 8:30am-4pm and Fri, 8:30am-12noon.

► **Registration:** For more information or to schedule a tour, call 662-6431. Registration packets can be found on the school bulletin board. You can also contact Mrs. Reder at jreder@auburnac.org or visit our website under Registration www.auburnacschool.org.

► **Spreading the Spirit Program!** This program provides financial assistance to families who would like to send their child(ren) to Auburn Area Catholic School but may not be able to afford it. It is also used to assist larger families with multiple children in the school. If you are interested in donating, or would like more information regarding financial support, please call the school office at 662-6431. More info can also be found on our website at www.auburnacschool.org under Programs. All donations will be provided with a charitable donation receipt.

► **AACS is Hiring for a part-time 2nd grade reading/writing teacher** with some additional duties. If you are qualified and interested, please contact Mrs. Reder at jreder@auburnac.org.

Teacher Qualifications include:

- Must be a practicing member of a Roman Catholic Church
- BA or BS in elementary education
- State of Michigan valid teaching certificate
- Adhere to Code of Ethical Conduct
- Positive references and recommendations
- Must clear criminal background check and comply with other diocesan mandates for Protecting God's Children



From Father Tom's Desk

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Carol Dempsey, [Celebration](#)

This Sunday's readings focus on sharing and practicing virtues so that the bond of unity can be preserved within the human community and among all its members. The readings remind us that we have all been given of the one Spirit who lives and breathes within us and among us all.

An unnamed servant of the prophet Elisha is hesitant that the 20 barley loaves he brings to the prophet will be enough to feed the 100 people gathered in their vicinity. Elisha, however, is confident that the loaves will be able to provide food for all. So, the servant distributes the loaves. All eat, and in testimony to God's word that the prophet quotes, some bread is left over.

In the Letter to the Ephesians, Paul urges the believing community members at Ephesus to live a life worthy of the call they have received. They are to follow the way of Christ who embodied a virtuous life of love. Paul's words of encouragement highlight specific virtues that the community members are to practice so that they can preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace. Diverse as they may be, the people are essentially one body and one Spirit through Christ. Through that communion, they are also united to God whose Spirit remains alive in the midst of all creation. A life lived in humility, with patience and the ability to bear with the other through love also safeguards right relationships and ensures the practice of civility among the community's many members.

The Gospel from John develops the theme of sharing heard earlier in the reading from 2 Kings. Captivated by Jesus' healings, a large crowd follows Jesus, and he wants to feed them, but buying food for

such a multitude is impossible. Andrew, one of Jesus' disciples, draws attention to a young boy with five barley loaves and two fish. Andrew notes that such a small amount of provisions is inadequate for the large crowd. Jesus, however, like Elisha before him, is able to feed everyone through the miracle of sharing. All partake of the loaves and fish, and leftovers remain.

In sum, this Sunday's readings describe how life flourishes when virtues are practiced. In a world of both over-consumption on the part of some people and far too many broken relationships, these readings invite us to live simply and virtuously. The readings call us to be forever mindful of others' needs while striving to grow ever more deeply into the divine vision of one body, one family, so deeply loved by one God.

Food for Thought (2 Kgs 4:42-44) Celebration

The common interpretation of this story is that the prophet Elisha has shown his power as a true prophet of God. Elisha has uttered a divine word, and that word is fulfilled. Only divine words proclaimed by "true" prophets come to fruition. The words proclaimed by false or corrupt prophets are nothing more than wind. Even though this interpretation is one possibility, another possibility from the perspective of the people and not the prophet is the power of sharing. The point that some bread was left over after all had eaten demonstrates that no one over-consumed. People took what was sufficient and were mindful that 100 of them had to eat from 20 loaves. The virtues of mindfulness and sharing led to an abundance for all. In a world where countless people go hungry every night while some others have to jog off their super-sized meals and compost their many leftover scraps, this reading from 2 Kings offers much food for thought.

Bear With One Another (Eph 4:1-6) Celebration

Paul's directive that the community members bear with one another through love highlights what Paul considers to be the greatest of all virtues – love. For Paul, love is the true culmination of the Law (Rom 13:8-10; Gal 5:14). Practicing humility and gentleness within a loving context would help maintain unity within the multiethnic community. The fact that Paul admonishes the community members to bear with one another suggests that not all the Christians at Ephesus were on the same page with each other. They were at different states of faith and growth. They had diverse temperaments and differences of opinions. Diversity was to be celebrated and was never meant to be a stumbling block toward or for unity.

John's Chapter 6, The Bread of Life

Lawrence Mick, Celebration

Many people take vacations during the summer, and it seems like the evangelist Mark needs a break, too. Because Mark's Gospel is the shortest, we take five weeks each summer in Cycle B when we draw on the Gospel of John instead. Notice that last week's Gospel ended with Jesus teaching a vast crowd. The next verse in Mark begins his account of the miraculous feeding of that multitude. So, our first passage from the sixth chapter of John begins with a similar feeding of a multitude.

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

This event wins the prize as scripture's number-one picnic because the New Testament narrates a version of it six times: twice each in Matthew and Mark, Once in Luke and once in John. But like every favorite family story, the details vary. Today we hear John's rendition.

John presents Jesus as so popular that a huge crowd was following him – somehow, 5,000 people crossed the lake to be with him. That detail alone suggests that we may be in the realm of stretching the facts to make a point, a well-accepted technique in storytelling through the ages. Writers can exaggerate to tell truths that statistics can't reveal.

Just when the disciples have pointed out the absurd limitations of their ability to respond, Jesus has them tell the people to recline in preparation for a feast. While thousands look on, Jesus takes the food and prays. John says that Jesus "gave thanks." That implies that he acknowledged that the food he held came from God and belonged to God. Once the child handed it over and Jesus gave thanks over it, it was recognized as God's food, and it was therefore God's goodness that the crowd was going to share.

This story is good news because it tells us that God is concerned about people who hunger. It is good news because it reminds us that God can work wonders with the little we have if we are willing to give it all. It is good news because it reminds us that with God in our midst, we can always make a banquet out of what seems to be pretty poor fare.



The Body of Christ Pat Marrin, Celebration

The multiplication of loaves and fishes reveals Jesus as the Bread of Life, manna from heaven to a hungry world. Like Moses, Jesus communes with God on the mountain, then feeds the people in the wilderness. Like Elijah the prophet, Jesus multiplies loaves. Everyone is satisfied and there is even food left over.

John's Bread of Life discourse is layered in biblical themes that came true in the Eucharist for the early church. When they gathered to read the scriptures, break the bread and share the cup, the followers of Jesus invoked his risen presence in their midst. When they had shared his peace with each and received him in Communion, they could celebrate that they were the body of Christ in the world, sent to share his saving mystery in history.

We are the body of Christ in the 21st century. We are his face to the world, his hands in service, his prophetic voice on behalf of the needy and his merciful heart to one another.

"Lord, satisfy my hungry heart."

AMEN CORNER: A representative of the Breton Group made a presentation on Tuesday evening to the Planning Group of the parish on the recent feasibility study. 237 surveys were submitted and another 33 individuals/couples were personally interviewed. The total is close to 50%+ of the number of registered families. The average return for mail-in surveys is 30%. The representative thought the responses exceptional. Knowing that 50% didn't respond leaves the committee less than pleased.

The results were mixed. There was widespread investment in the parish (love for the parish and care about it), but not widespread enthusiasm or support in the proposed project. Several felt that communication was not what it should have been and the committee was shocked by this. Others raised questions that the committee needs to consider.

The result was there was not enough evidence of support for the proposal at this time. You can't take on such a project with only 50% being committed to the undertaking. The committee will mull over the results – the positive and the negative responses – and meet in two weeks to decide their response.

Fr. Tom