



HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
inviting all to new life in Christ

***LECTIONARY
BASED
SMALL
CHRISTIAN
COMMUNITIES***

*The Most Holy Trinity
May 30, 2021*

through

*21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
August 22, 2021*

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*“For where
two or three
have gathered
together
in my name,
I am there
in their midst”*

(Matthew 18:20)



Covenant Prayer

Loving God,

we ask You to send Your Spirit to guide us
as we gather in the name of Jesus, Your Son.

May we hear Your voice in the Sacred Scriptures
and be open to each other as we pray together and share our lives.
Help us to be in covenant with You, our God, and with one another
by committing to being here as often as we can,

sharing from our heart,

respecting confidentiality

and being Church with and for each other.

May our time of prayer and reflection
deepen our love for You

and strengthen us to go forth to live our lives
rooted in the Good News that we have shared.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.

Amen



Lectionary Based Small Christian Community Guide ***The Most Holy Trinity – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time***

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Gathering of the Small Christian Community

Fostering a Prayerful Environment

- Lighting the Candle
- Music, Silent Prayer
- Covenant Prayer

God Sightings

- How has anyone experienced God's presence or the movement or will of God in the events of your life or our world since the last time we met?

Breaking Open the Sacred Scripture

- Readings
- DVD Reflection
- Faith Sharing Questions

Responding to God's Word

- What am I going to do, concretely, to live the message of the Scriptures this week?
- What can we do, as a Small Christian Community, short-range or long-term, to transform society in light of the Scriptures we have heard proclaimed?
- What outreach or social justice mission should we embrace as a group?

Closing Prayer

- Petitions
- Our Father



The Most Holy Trinity May 30, 2021

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 4:32-34, 39-40

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses said to the people:

“Ask now of the days of old, before your time,
ever since God created man upon the earth;
ask from one end of the sky to the other:
Did anything so great ever happen before?
Was it ever heard of?

Did a people ever hear the voice of God speaking
from the midst of fire, as you did, and live?
Or did any god venture to go and take a nation for
himself from the midst of another nation,
by testings, by signs and wonders, by war,
with strong hand and outstretched arm, and by
great terrors, all of which the Lord, your God,
did for you in Egypt before your very eyes?

This is why you must now know, and fix in your
heart, that the Lord is God in the heavens above
and on earth below, and that there is no other.
You must keep his statutes and commandments
that I enjoin on you today, that you and your
children after you may prosper, and that you may
have long life on the land which the Lord, your
God, is giving you forever.”

SECOND READING

Romans 8:14-17

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are sons
of God.

For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall
back into fear, but you have received a Spirit of
adoption, through whom we cry, "Abba, Father!"

The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit
that we are children of God,
and if children, then heirs,
heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ,
if only we suffer with him
so that we may also be glorified with him.



The Most Holy Trinity • May 30, 2021

GOSPEL

Matthew 28:16-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew

The eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had ordered them. When they all saw him, they worshiped, but they doubted.

Then Jesus approached and said to them, “All power in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you.

And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. Moses reminds his people that they have witnessed the power and wonder of God. What have you experienced that has led you to believe in the one, true God?
2. As a community of faith, how did we see God’s presence during Covid?
3. Paul describes us as heirs of the Spirit, of God and of Christ. What does this mean to you? How do you see yourself as an heir?
4. Jesus has commissioned us to “*Go therefore, and make disciples of all nations.*” To fulfill this commission, what is our responsibility at Holy Family, and personally?
5. How do you think about the concept of the Holy Trinity to yourself? How might it differ if trying to explain the concept to a non-believer?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

Working to change unjust systems can be difficult and challenging. Jesus says “Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.” How does this statement impact your work for racial justice?



The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 6, 2021

FIRST READING

Exodus 24:3-8

A reading from the Book of Exodus

When Moses came to the people and related all the words and ordinances of the Lord, they all answered with one voice, “We will do everything that the Lord has told us.”

Moses then wrote down all the words of the Lord and, rising early the next day, he erected at the foot of the mountain an altar and twelve pillars for the twelve tribes of Israel.

Then, having sent certain young men of the Israelites to offer holocausts and sacrifice young bulls as peace offerings to the Lord, Moses took half of the blood and put it in large bowls; the other half he splashed on the altar.

Taking the book of the covenant, he read it aloud to the people, who answered, “All that the Lord has said, we will heed and do.”

Then he took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, saying, “This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words of his.”

SECOND READING

Hebrews 9:11-15

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

Brothers and sisters:

When Christ came as high priest of the good things that have come to be, passing through the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made by hands, that is, not belonging to this creation, he entered once for all into the sanctuary, not with the blood of goats and calves but with his own blood, thus obtaining eternal redemption.

For if the blood of goats and bulls and the sprinkling of a heifer’s ashes can sanctify those who are defiled so that their flesh is cleansed, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from dead works to worship the living God.

For this reason he is mediator of a new covenant: since a death has taken place for deliverance from transgressions under the first covenant, those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance.



GOSPEL

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, when they sacrificed the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples said to him, "Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?"

He sent two of his disciples and said to them, "Go into the city and a man will meet you, carrying a jar of water. Follow him.

Wherever he enters, say to the master of the house, 'The Teacher says, "Where is my guest room where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?'" Then he will show you a large upper room furnished and ready. Make the preparations for us there."

The disciples then went off, entered the city, and found it just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

While they were eating, he took bread, said the blessing, broke it, gave it to them, and said, "Take it; this is my body."

Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

He said to them, "This is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed for many. Amen, I say to you, I shall not drink again the fruit of the vine until the day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

Then, after singing a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. Today we sprinkle with water instead of blood. What does the sprinkling of water represent that is the same or different than the time of Moses?
2. We are blessed with the inheritance we have received as a result of Jesus' death and resurrection. What more can we do to prepare for our eternal inheritance while still here on earth?
3. During the consecration of the Holy Gifts at Mass, what moves you the most and why?
4. How can we keep the significance of the Eucharist alive when it could so easily become routine? Does your experience vary from week to week, or is it essentially the same?
5. Are there things you would recommend to enhance the Eucharistic experience at Holy Family?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

What must you shed to be a more committed disciple of Christ? Do you give to those in need from your supply or your surplus?



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 13, 2021

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 17:22-24

**A reading from the Book of the Prophet
Ezekiel**

Thus says the Lord God:

I, too, will take from the crest of the cedar,
from its topmost branches tear off a tender shoot,
and plant it on a high and lofty mountain;
on the mountain heights of Israel I will plant it.

It shall put forth branches and bear fruit,
and become a majestic cedar.
Birds of every kind shall dwell beneath it,
every winged thing in the shade of its boughs.

And all the trees of the field shall know
that I, the Lord,
bring low the high tree,
lift high the low tree,
wither up the green tree,
and make the withered tree bloom.

As I, the Lord, have spoken, so will I do.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:6-10

**A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul
to the Corinthians**

Brothers and sisters,
We are always courageous,
although we know that while we are at home in
the body
we are away from the Lord,
for we walk by faith, not by sight.
Yet we are courageous,
and we would rather leave the body and go home
to the Lord.

Therefore, we aspire to please him,
whether we are at home or away.
For we must all appear before the judgment seat
of Christ,
so that each may receive recompense,
according to what he did in the body,
whether good or evil.



11th Sunday in Ordinary Time • June 13, 2021

GOSPEL

Mark 4:26-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus said to the crowds:

“This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land, and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how.

Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear.

And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come.”

He said,

“To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it?

It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth.

But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants

and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade.”

With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it.

Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. What does our first reading tell us about God’s creation and our obligation to protect it?
2. As written in Ezekial, who are the high trees and the low trees in our world today?
3. In our second reading, Paul seems to contradict other writings where he discusses grace and faith as a means of salvation. What are your thoughts on grace versus works?
4. Jesus used parables as an effective way to communicate and educate. What does today’s Church need to do to reach more people?
5. Which parable is your favorite and why?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

The small mustard seed grows into a very large plant with proper nurturing. What small seed are you sowing and nurturing that has the potential to impact something much larger than you could ever imagine?



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 20, 2021

FIRST READING

Job 38:1, 8-11

A reading from the Book of Job

The Lord addressed Job out of the storm and said:

Who shut within doors the sea,
when it burst forth from the womb;
when I made the clouds its garment
and thick darkness its swaddling bands?

When I set limits for it
and fastened the bar of its door,
and said: Thus far shall you come but no farther,
and here shall your proud waves be stilled!

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
The love of Christ impels us,
once we have come to the conviction that one
died for all;
therefore, all have died.

He indeed died for all,
so that those who live might no longer live for
themselves but for him who for their sake died
and was raised.

Consequently, from now on we regard no one
according to the flesh;
even if we once knew Christ according to the
flesh,
yet now we know him so no longer.

So whoever is in Christ is a new creation:
the old things have passed away;
behold, new things have come.



12th Sunday in Ordinary Time • June 20, 2021

GOSPEL

Mark 4:35-41

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

On that day, as evening drew on, Jesus said to his disciples:

“Let us cross to the other side.”

Leaving the crowd, they took Jesus with them in the boat just as he was.

And other boats were with him.

A violent squall came up and waves were breaking over the boat, so that it was already filling up. Jesus was in the stern, asleep on a cushion.

They woke him and said to him, “Teacher, do you not care that we are perishing?”

He woke up, rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Quiet! Be still!”

The wind ceased and there was a great calm. Then he asked them, “Why are you terrified? Do you not yet have faith?”

They were filled with great awe and said to one another, “Who then is this whom even wind and sea obey?”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. In the first reading, “*the Lord addressed Job out of the storm.*” We’ve all faced “storms” in our life. When have you felt God’s presence during a storm?
2. Paul tells us that “*whoever is in Christ is a new creation*” – the old has gone, and the new has come. When have you felt this renewal in Christ? Can you pinpoint a singular event?
3. In the Gospel, Jesus “*crossed to the other side*” to get away from the crowds and get some sleep. Why is it important to be reminded of his human side?
4. Even if you don’t get what you pray for, Jesus has the power to make “*even wind and sea obey.*” How does this knowledge comfort you?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

To the poor and disadvantaged, life is a storm as they try to cross to calmness on the other side. To whom can you be a partner, what guidance can you offer and what would you learn from that experience?



13th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 27, 2021

FIRST READING

Wisdom 1:13-15, 2:23-24

A reading from the Book of Wisdom

God did not make death, nor does he rejoice in the destruction of the living. For he fashioned all things that they might have being; and the creatures of the world are wholesome, and there is not a destructive drug among them nor any domain of the netherworld on earth, for justice is undying.

For God formed man to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made him. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who belong to his company experience it.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

As you excel in every respect, in faith, discourse, knowledge, all earnestness, and in the love we have for you, may you excel in this gracious act also.

For you know the gracious act of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though he was rich, for your sake he became poor, so that by his poverty you might become rich.

Not that others should have relief while you are burdened, but that as a matter of equality your abundance at the present time should supply their needs, so that their abundance may also supply your needs, that there may be equality.

As it is written:

*Whoever had much did not have more,
and whoever had little did not have less.*

GOSPEL

Mark 5:21-43

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

When Jesus had crossed again in the boat to the other side, a large crowd gathered around him, and he stayed close to the sea.

One of the synagogue officials, named Jairus, came forward.

Seeing him he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, saying,

“My daughter is at the point of death.

Please come lay your hands on her that she may get well and live.”

He went off with him, and a large crowd followed him and pressed upon him.

There was a woman afflicted with hemorrhages for twelve years.

She had suffered greatly at the hands of many doctors and had spent all that she had.

Yet she was not helped but only grew worse.

She had heard about Jesus and came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak.

She said, “If I but touch his clothes, I shall be cured.”

Immediately her flow of blood dried up.

She felt in her body that she was healed of her affliction.

Jesus, aware at once that power had gone out from him, turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who has touched my clothes?”

But his disciples said to Jesus,

“You see how the crowd is pressing upon you, and yet you ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

And he looked around to see who had done it.

The woman, realizing what had happened to her, approached in fear and trembling.

She fell down before Jesus and told him the whole truth.



13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • June 27, 2021

He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has saved you.

Go in peace and be cured of your affliction.”

While he was still speaking, people from the synagogue official’s house arrived and said, “Your daughter has died; why trouble the teacher any longer?”

Disregarding the message that was reported, Jesus said to the synagogue official, “Do not be afraid; just have faith.”

He did not allow anyone to accompany him inside except Peter, James, and John, the brother of James.

When they arrived at the house of the synagogue official, he caught sight of a commotion, people weeping and wailing loudly. So he went in and said to them, “Why this commotion and weeping? The child is not dead but asleep.” And they ridiculed him. Then he put them all out.

He took along the child’s father and mother and those who were with him and entered the room where the child was.

He took the child by the hand and said to her, “*Talitha kum,*” which means, “Little girl, I say to you, arise!” The girl, a child of twelve, arose immediately and walked around. At that they were utterly astounded.

He gave strict orders that no one should know this, and said that she should be given something to eat.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. In Wisdom we hear “*by the envy of the devil, death entered the world.*” What is your understanding of the devil, or the evil one, or forces of evil in the world?
2. How do we guard ourselves and our loved ones from the forces of evil?
3. Paul talks about the matter of equality and the importance of helping others as they help you. What more would you like to do for others using your time, talent and treasure?
4. Jesus said to Jairus, “*Do not be afraid; just have faith.*” Why is it hard to not let fear get the best of us?
5. Like the woman who touched the cloak of Jesus, how has your faith overcome your fears?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

Corinthians tells us our abundance should supply others needs while others abundance supplies our needs. Who is providing an “abundance” to your efforts to learn more about racism and bias in your own life and in our nation?



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 4, 2021

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 2:2-5

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Ezekiel

As the Lord spoke to me, the spirit entered into me and set me on my feet, and I heard the one who was speaking say to me:

Son of man, I am sending you to the Israelites, rebels who have rebelled against me; they and their ancestors have revolted against me to this very day.

Hard of face and obstinate of heart are they to whom I am sending you.

But you shall say to them:

Thus says the Lord God!

And whether they heed or resist – for they are a rebellious house – they shall know that a prophet has been among them.

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

A reading from the second Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:

That I, Paul, might not become too elated, because of the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, an angel of Satan, to beat me, to keep me from being too elated.

Three times I begged the Lord about this, that it might leave me, but he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness."

I will rather boast most gladly of my weaknesses, in order that the power of Christ may dwell with me.

Therefore, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions and constraints, for the sake of Christ; for when I am weak, then I am strong.



14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 4, 2021

GOSPEL

Mark 6:1-6

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples.

When the sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished.

They said, "Where did this man get all this?

What kind of wisdom has been given him?

What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands!

Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon?

And are not his sisters here with us?"

And they took offense at him.

Jesus said to them,

"A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house."

So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

He was amazed at their lack of faith.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. As stated in our first reading, what do you view as a "rebellious house" today?
2. Is there an Old Testament prophet, including Ezekial, whose words have strengthened your faith?
3. Paul concludes by saying: "*for when I am weak, then I am strong.*" Have you been able to find strength out of weakness?
4. The Gospel mentions the "brothers and sisters" of Jesus. Who are these people that Mark is talking about?
5. Many in the synagogue discounted Jesus because of his humble background. What is the lesson for us about judging people based on their background?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

What mighty deeds are you providing to others who experience prejudice and discrimination?



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 11, 2021

FIRST READING

Amos 7:12-15

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Amos

Amaziah, priest of Bethel, said to Amos,
“Off with you, visionary, flee to the land of Judah!
There earn your bread by prophesying,
but never again prophesy in Bethel;
for it is the king's sanctuary and a royal temple.”

Amos answered Amaziah,
“I was no prophet, nor have I belonged to a company of prophets;
I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores.
The Lord took me from following the flock, and said to me,
Go, prophesy to my people Israel.”

SECOND READING

Ephesians 1:3-14

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,
as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him.

In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.

In him we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace that he lavished upon us.

In all wisdom and insight, he has made known to us the mystery of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.

In him we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped in Christ.

In him you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, which is the first installment of our inheritance toward redemption as God's possession, to the praise of his glory.



15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 11, 2021

GOSPEL

Mark 6:7-13

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits.

He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick – no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic.

He said to them,
"Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave.
Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them."

So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. When Amaziah rejected Amos, in response Amos demonstrated humility, not anger. How hard is it for us to show humility when we are rejected?
2. Paul tells us: "*In love he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ.*" Have you ever thought of yourself as being destined to be a follower of Christ? What prevents others from doing so?
3. What would need to happen for all Christian denominations to unite as one church?
4. Jesus sent the Twelve out two by two. Why not alone or in larger groups? How do we benefit from having a "buddy system?"
5. When have you felt like "shaking the dust off your feet?" How did you handle it? Could you have handled it better?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

The disciples were sent out in pairs. How will your work for justice be impacted by including another person to join you in your efforts? Who would that person be?



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 18, 2021

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 23:1-6

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Jeremiah

Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the Lord. Therefore, thus says the Lord, the God of Israel, against the shepherds who shepherd my people: You have scattered my sheep and driven them away. You have not cared for them, but I will take care to punish your evil deeds.

I myself will gather the remnant of my flock from all the lands to which I have driven them and bring them back to their meadow; there they shall increase and multiply. I will appoint shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear and tremble; and none shall be missing, says the Lord.

Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, when I will raise up a righteous shoot to David; as king he shall reign and govern wisely, he shall do what is just and right in the land.

In his days Judah shall be saved, Israel shall dwell in security. This is the name they give him: "The Lord our justice."

SECOND READING

Ephesians 2:13-18

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:
In Christ Jesus you who once were far off have become near by the blood of Christ.

For he is our peace, he who made both one and broke down the dividing wall of enmity, through his flesh, abolishing the law with its commandments and legal claims, that he might create in himself one new person in place of the two, thus establishing peace, and might reconcile both with God, in one body, through the cross, putting that enmity to death by it.

He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father.



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 18, 2021

GOSPEL

Mark 6:30-34

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark

The apostles gathered together with Jesus and reported all they had done and taught.

He said to them,

"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."

People were coming and going in great numbers, and they had no opportunity even to eat. So they went off in the boat by themselves to a deserted place.

People saw them leaving and many came to know about it.

They hastened there on foot from all the towns and arrived at the place before them.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. The Lord warns in the first reading: *"Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture."* Who are these shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock today?
2. Who has been a good shepherd in your life?
3. In the second reading, Paul encourages unity and peace to those near and far. How well are we doing this outside of our community? What could we do better?
4. Jesus encouraged his apostles to: *"Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while."* Is finding a quiet place or time part of your spiritual renewal?
5. When Jesus went ashore, he began to teach the people many things. What new things is Jesus teaching you?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

How does your ministry of serving others parallel to that of the Good Shepherd?



17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 25, 2021

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:42-44

A reading from the second Book of Kings

A man came from Baal-shalishah bringing to Elisha, the man of God, twenty barley loaves made from the firstfruits, and fresh grain in the ear.

Elisha said,

"Give it to the people to eat."

But his servant objected,

"How can I set this before a hundred people?"

Elisha insisted,

"Give it to the people to eat,

For thus says the Lord,

‘They shall eat and there shall be some left over.’

And when they had eaten, there was some left over, as the Lord had said.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:1-6

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

I, a prisoner for the Lord,

urge you to live in a manner worthy of the call you have received,

with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another through love, striving to preserve the unity of the spirit through the bond of peace:

one body and one Spirit,

as you were also called to the one hope of your call;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism;

one God and Father of all,

who is over all and through all and in all.

GOSPEL

John 6:1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him, because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain,

and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip,

"Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him, because he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him,

"Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."

One of his disciples, Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,

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

Jesus said, "Have the people recline."

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place.

So the men reclined, about five thousand in number.

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples,

"Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted."

So they collected them,

and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments from the five barley loaves, that had been more than they could eat.



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When the people saw the sign he had done, they said,
"This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."

Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

FAITH SHARING QUESTION

1. In our first reading, Elisha trusted that what he was given would be more than enough. When has God given you more than what you asked for or needed?
2. Paul calls himself "*a prisoner for the Lord.*" How can we transition from being a "prisoner of other stuff" to being a "prisoner for the Lord?"
3. The theme of the second reading is unity in the body of Christ, centered on the word "one." What is "one" thing you like about your spiritual journey? What is "one" thing you would like to improve?
4. The Covid pandemic created even more urgency for food banks. How is the miracle of the "loaves and fishes" tied to organizations who feed the hungry?
5. Jesus tells the disciples to: "*Gather the fragments left over, so that nothing will be wasted.*" Is there a message here about repurposing our own excess?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

One cannot live without food. "Feeding the hungry" can take many forms – nutrition, education, advocacy, and social justice, to name a few. In what way(s) are you feeding others through the actions of your faith?



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 1, 2021

FIRST READING

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15, 31a

A reading from the Book of Exodus

The whole Israelite community grumbled against Moses and Aaron.
The Israelites said to them,
“Would that we had died at the Lord’s hand in the land of Egypt,
as we sat by our fleshpots and ate our fill of bread!
But you had to lead us into this desert to make the whole community die of famine!”

Then the Lord said to Moses,
“I will now rain down bread from heaven for you.
Each day the people are to go out and gather their daily portion; thus will I test them, to see whether they follow my instructions or not.

“I have heard the grumbling of the Israelites. Tell them: In the evening twilight you shall eat flesh, and in the morning you shall have your fill of bread, so that you may know that I, the Lord, am your God.”

In the evening quail came up and covered the camp.
In the morning a dew lay all about the camp, and when the dew evaporated, there on the surface of the desert were fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground.

On seeing it, the Israelites asked one another,
“What is this?”
for they did not know what it was.
But Moses told them,
“This is the bread that the Lord has given you to eat.”

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:17, 20-24

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:
I declare and testify in the Lord that you must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their minds;
that is not how you learned Christ,
assuming that you have heard of him and were taught in him,
as truth is in Jesus,
that you should put away the old self of your former way of life,
corrupted through deceitful desires,
and be renewed in the spirit of your minds,
and put on the new self,
created in God’s way in righteousness and holiness of truth.

GOSPEL

John 6:24-35

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

When the crowd saw that neither Jesus nor his disciples were there, they themselves got into boats and came to Capernaum looking for Jesus.

And when they found him across the sea they said to him, “Rabbi, when did you get here?”
Jesus answered them and said,
“Amen, amen, I say to you,
you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.
Do not work for food that perishes but for the food that endures for eternal life, which the Son of Man will give you.
For on him the Father, God, has set his seal.”



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So they said to him,
"What can we do to accomplish the works of
God?"

Jesus answered and said to them,
"This is the work of God, that you believe in
the one he sent."

So they said to him,
"What sign can you do, that we may see and
believe in you?"

What can you do?
Our ancestors ate manna in the desert, as it is
written:

He gave them bread from heaven to eat."

So Jesus said to them,
"Amen, amen, I say to you,
it was not Moses who gave the bread from
heaven;
my Father gives you the true bread from
heaven.

For the bread of God is that which comes
down from heaven and gives life to the
world."

So they said to him,
"Sir, give us this bread always."

Jesus said to them,
"I am the bread of life;
whoever comes to me will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. The Israelites complained that they had been brought out of Egypt only to die of hunger. They did not believe that something good was coming. When has your source of complaint turned into something good that you did not see coming?

2. When God's blessing came in the form of manna, the Israelites didn't recognize it. When have you missed a blessing from God, and what opened your eyes?

3. Paul tells us that "*you should put away the old self of your former way of life.*" When aspects of our former way of life creep back in, how do we deal with it and "put away" our old self again?

4. In our daily life, we all work for the food that perishes. What must we do more of to work for "*the food that endures for eternal life*"?

5. Jesus says, "*I am the bread of life.*" What does this truth mean to you, and how does it shape your understanding of the Eucharist?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

How is God feeding you with "food" that endures? And what great works of God are you performing for the benefit of others due to His sustenance?



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 8, 2021

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:4-8

A reading from the first Book of Kings

Elijah went a day's journey into the desert, until he came to a broom tree and sat beneath it. He prayed for death, saying:
“This is enough, O Lord!
Take my life, for I am no better than my fathers.”

He lay down and fell asleep under the broom tree, but then an angel touched him and ordered him to get up and eat. Elijah looked and there at his head was a hearth cake and a jug of water.

After he ate and drank, he lay down again, but the angel of the Lord came back a second time, touched him, and ordered,
“Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you!”

He got up, ate, and drank;
then strengthened by that food,
he walked forty days and forty nights to the mountain of God, Horeb.

SECOND READING

Ephesians 4:30-5.2

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:
Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God,
with which you were sealed for the day of redemption.

All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice.
And be kind to one another, compassionate, forgiving one another as God has forgiven you in Christ.

So be imitators of God, as beloved children,
and live in love,
as Christ loved us and handed himself over for us as a sacrificial offering to God for a fragrant aroma.



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time • August 8, 2021

GOSPEL

John 6:41-51

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

The Jews murmured about Jesus because he said, "I am the bread that came down from heaven,"

and they said, "Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph?"

Do we not know his father and mother?

Then how can he say,

"I have come down from heaven?"

Jesus answered and said to them,

"Stop murmuring among yourselves.

No one can come to me unless the Father who sent me draw him, and I will raise him on the last day.

It is written in the prophets:

They shall all be taught by God.

Everyone who listens to my Father and learns from him comes to me.

Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father. Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever believes has eternal life.

I am the bread of life.

Your ancestors ate the manna in the desert, but they died; this is the bread that comes down from heaven so that one may eat it and not die.

I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever;

and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. Like Elijah, who has served as an angel in your life, ministering to you in your time of need?
2. The Angel came a second time to help Elijah. Why is it important to not consider our help to others as "one and done?" When have you given or received repeated help from someone else?
3. Paul tells us that "*All bitterness, fury, anger, shouting, and reviling must be removed from you, along with all malice.*" How hard is it to avoid these things in daily life?
4. In our Gospel, the people think that Jesus is "just too ordinary" to be the Messiah. What is the lesson for us here? Have you ever misjudged another person, or have others misjudged you?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

Jesus is the bread of life. How is your faith feeding you? How is your faith feeding others, especially those on the fringes of society, and those facing racism and discrimination?



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary August 15, 2021

FIRST READING

Revelation 11:19a, 12:1-6a, 10ab

A reading from the Book of Revelation

God's temple in heaven was opened, and the ark of his covenant could be seen in the temple.

A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She was with child and wailed aloud in pain as she labored to give birth.

Then another sign appeared in the sky; it was a huge red dragon, with seven heads and ten horns, and on its heads were seven diadems. Its tail swept away a third of the stars in the sky and hurled them down to the earth.

Then the dragon stood before the woman about to give birth, to devour her child when she gave birth.

She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne. The woman herself fled into the desert where she had a place prepared by God.

Then I heard a loud voice in heaven say: "Now have salvation and power come, and the Kingdom of our God and the authority of his Anointed One."

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-27

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters:
Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through man, the resurrection of the dead came also through man.

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order:
Christ the firstfruits;
then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ;
then comes the end,
when he hands over the Kingdom to his God and Father,
when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power.

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
The last enemy to be destroyed is death, for "he subjected everything under his feet."



The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary • August 15, 2021

GOSPEL

Luke 1:39-56

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, “Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.”

And Mary said: “My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord; my spirit rejoices in God my Savior for he has with favor on his lowly servant. From this day all generations will call me blessed:

the Almighty has done great things for me and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation He has shown the strength of his arm, and has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel, for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children for ever.”

Mary remained with her about three months and then returned to her home.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. The Book of Revelation is very powerful. Does this final Book of Holy Scripture frighten you, inspire you, or what would you say?
2. Paul says that Christ “*must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.*” Other than people, what could be seen as an enemy?
3. Despite her own miraculous pregnancy, Elizabeth knew there was something even more special about Mary. Has the Holy Spirit moved you to recognize something extraordinary in an experience, circumstance, or someone else?
4. The Assumption of the Blessed Mother is a major feast day in Catholicism and Orthodoxy. How would you explain its significance to those who do not observe this Holy Day?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

Elizabeth is filled with the Holy Spirit upon Mary’s greeting. Mary speaks to the “strength of his arm” referring to God’s justice. When did you feel the Holy Spirit filling you up with God’s strength to pursue an issue of justice? What was the impact of your action?



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 22, 2021

FIRST READING

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

A reading from the Book of Joshua

Joshua gathered together all the tribes of Israel at Shechem, summoning their elders, their leaders, their judges, and their officers.

When they stood in ranks before God, Joshua addressed all the people:

“If it does not please you to serve the Lord, decide today whom you will serve, the gods your fathers served beyond the River or the gods of the Amorites in whose country you are now dwelling.

As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

But the people answered,

“Far be it from us to forsake the Lord for the service of other gods.

For it was the Lord, our God, who brought us and our fathers up out of the land of Egypt, out of a state of slavery.

He performed those great miracles before our very eyes and protected us along our entire journey and among the peoples through whom we passed.

Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God.”

SECOND READING

Ephesians 5:21-32

A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Brothers and sisters:

Be subordinate to one another out of reverence for Christ.

Wives should be subordinate to their husbands as to the Lord.

For the husband is head of his wife just as Christ is head of the church, he himself the savior of the body.

As the church is subordinate to Christ, so wives should be subordinate to their husbands in everything.

Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her,

cleansing her by the bath of water with the word,

that he might present to himself the church in splendor,

without spot or wrinkle or any such thing, that she might be holy and without blemish.

So also husbands should love their wives as their own bodies.

He who loves his wife loves himself.

But no one hates his own flesh

but rather nourishes and cherishes it,

even as Christ does the church,

because we are members of his body.

For this reason a man shall leave his father and his mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh.

This is a great mystery,

but I speak in reference to Christ and the church.



GOSPEL

John 6:60-69

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Many of Jesus’ disciples who were listening said,

“This saying is hard; who can accept it?”

Since Jesus knew that his disciples were murmuring about this, he said to them,

“Does this shock you?

What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?

It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail.

The words I have spoken to you are Spirit and life.

But there are some of you who do not believe.”

Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe and the one who would betray him.

And he said,

"For this reason I have told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted by my Father."

As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.

Jesus then said to the Twelve,

"Do you also want to leave?"

Simon Peter answered him,

"Master, to whom shall we go?

You have the words of eternal life.

We have come to believe

and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

1. Joshua says: “*As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.*” In our busy 21st century lives, what can our households do better to serve the Lord?

2. Joshua tells the tribes they need to make a decision on what God or gods they will serve. That same decision was made for you at your Baptism. When did it become your own choice, and when did you feel you owned it?

3. Paul’s letter on husbands and wives is controversial for many. What does it mean to you; do you view it as sexist; why or why not?

4. The Gospel says: “*Jesus knew from the beginning the ones who would not believe.*” What about those who have a change of heart and come to believe? What responsibility do we have to help people strengthen their faith?

5. Jesus lost many disciples along the way, but the Twelve and others stayed. What makes you identify with those who stayed?

SOCIAL JUSTICE QUESTION

Taking a stand for justice has its consequences. When was the last time you took a stand? What did it cost you? Would you do it again?