

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



August 2, 2020

Jesus said the blessing, broke the loaves,
and gave them to the disciples,
who in turn gave them to the crowds.
They all ate and were satisfied.

Matthew 14:19-20

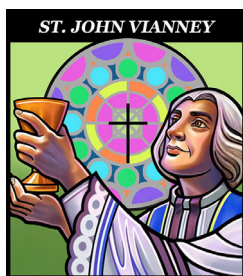
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St. John Mary Vianney (1786-1859)

August 4

A busy pastor jokingly suggests the secret of John Vianney's holiness: "He died seventeen years before telephones!" Call they didn't, but visit they did, keeping Vianney eighteen hours a day in the confessional. Stories abound of reading hearts and exorcisms, but Vianney's first miracle was getting ordained. Difficulty with studies delayed him, prompting the rector's apology to the bishop, "So far to ordain just one, especially this one!" The bishop, who could not know he was ordaining the future patron saint of parish priests, replied, "No burden to ordain one good priest!" In Ars, only an elderly handful attended Mass, "praying," one told Vianney, "for a priest with brains." But he stayed forty-two years, fulfilling the promise he made the day he arrived. In a sculpture just outside the village Vianney points skyward: "Show me the way to Ars," he tells a boy, "and I'll show you the way to heaven." To someone who feared there was no heaven beyond the grave, Vianney smiled, "My child, it would have been heaven enough to have lived as Jesus' disciple on earth."
—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Readings for the Week

Monday: Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102; Mt 14:22-36
Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday: Hb 1:12 — 2:4; Ps 9:8-13; Mt 17:14-20
Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday: Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Tuesday: St. John Vianney
Wednesday: Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major
Thursday: The Transfiguration of the Lord; Hiroshima Memorial Day
Friday: St. Sixtus II and Companions; St. Cajetan; First Friday
Saturday: St. Dominic

Prayer And Humility

Arm yourself with prayer rather than a sword; wear humility rather than fine clothes.

—St. Dominic

Our Deepest Needs

The word of God serves up a tremendous feast for us today. Isaiah beckons all who hunger and thirst to come to the Lord for satisfaction. The psalmist cries out, "The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs" (Psalm 145:16). Saint Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Finally, in the Gospel, we hear the story of the miraculous feeding of over five thousand people from a mere five loaves and two fish. Most of us have our material needs met on a day-to-day basis. These scriptures, nevertheless, have much to say to the contemporary believer. We must ask ourselves, "Where are my deepest hungers? Where are my thirsts?" After material needs are satisfied and, in some cases, over-satisfied, many people still experience a deep longing for spiritual balance and well-being. As the loaves and fish are multiplied in today's Gospel, perhaps our prayer can be a longing for the satisfaction of the deepest needs that only God can fill.
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Today's Readings

First Reading — All you who thirst, come to the water! You without money, come to the feast! (Isaiah 55:1-3).

Psalms — The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs (Psalm 145).

Second Reading — Nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ (Romans 8:35, 37-39).

Gospel — All ate until satisfied; they collected twelve baskets of what was left over (Matthew 14:13-21).

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Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 2, 2020

**All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!**

—Isaiah 55:1a

Treasures From Our Tradition

Over the last several weeks, the history of confirmation has been set out as a rite following baptism and preceding First Communion. Eucharist was a sacrament of spiritual maturity, attuned to the legal age of majority, which was considered to be fourteen years or so. Medieval bishops were often generous, if not especially pious, in seeing to it that children were confirmed before adulthood.

A pattern more familiar to us surfaced in the Diocese of Toulon in France in 1748, where it was decreed that “children are to be confirmed only after receiving First Communion.” This was an amazing shift in practice that undermined centuries of theology and tradition by which confirmation was seen as a bridge between font and table. The innovation swept through France and across Europe, despite constant complaints from Rome. French-trained bishops like Cheverus of Boston and Carroll of Baltimore, founders of the American church, established the practice here. The order of the sacraments was thus disrupted in France and in the United States, and remained an eccentric exception to the rule until big developments in 1910.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc

Our readings today remind us of our hunger and thirst, and how God works within us. We human beings are created dependent on food and water, and much more. And God deeply desires that our needs be met. Our physical hunger and thirst point to our deeper hungers: our need for meaning, purpose, and belonging; and most of all, for unity with God. In Matthew’s Gospel passage today, Jesus’ heart is moved with compassion for the people. Jesus not only cures the sick and feeds the multitude, he also establishes bonds of community through the shared meal. Saint Paul shows us that nothing can ultimately separate us from God. Isaiah reminds us of God’s ongoing invitation to us to come and receive. God’s gifts cannot be earned or purchased. God’s grace is offered in abundance. God’s nourishment is the very best possible, and we should accept no substitutes.

Nothing Can Separate Us

Today’s passage from Saint Paul’s letter to the Romans concludes Chapter 8 with a flourish. It is the exclamation point of Paul’s teaching on the presence of the Spirit within them and among them. The church in Rome faced great suffering as they were marginalized and persecuted for their faith. Paul names both social and cosmic forces that oppress them, over which they have no control. Their trials likely provoked questions that led them to wonder, “Where is God?”

Paul teaches that God is so deeply present within us that nothing can separate us from God. This includes our own forms of resistance. Even when we find myriad ways to avoid and run away, God is waiting patiently. Even when

God seems distant or absent, God continues to invite, to welcome, and to speak to us.

Imagining God’s Abundance

When reflecting upon today’s Gospel passage from Matthew, the story of the feeding of the multitude, we might consider the role of Jesus’ disciples. Unlike the very similar story in Matthew 15, Jesus responds to the disciples by saying, “Give them some food yourselves”. Jesus is pushing his disciples to think beyond the apparent scarcity, and to open their imaginations to God’s abundance. They are to join in with what God is doing. Jesus then takes, blesses, breaks, and shares the bread (anticipating his action at the Last Supper), and the disciples share the loaves with the crowd. The stories of the feeding of the multitudes also point ahead to the practice of Eucharist in the Church. The Eucharist itself points ahead to God’s banquet at the consummation of the reign of God, when all will share God’s abundance. We the Church are called to open our imaginations to God present and active, who continually works toward God’s promised future. We are to share in God’s passionate desire to feed the people, and join in what God is doing here and now.

Today’s Readings: Is 55:1–3; Ps 145:8–9, 15–16, 17–18; Rom 8:35, 37–39; Mt 14:13–21

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Sunday Readings

August 2, 2020

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1

Isaiah 55:1–3

Thus says the LORD:

All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!

You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
Come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!

Why spend your money for what is not bread;
your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.

Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.

I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,
the benefits assured to David.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 145:8–9, 15–16, 17–18

R. (cf. 16) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers
all our needs.

The LORD is gracious and merciful,
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all
and compassionate toward all his works.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our
needs.

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,
and you give them their food in due season;

you open your hand
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our
needs.

The LORD is just in all his ways
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him,
to all who call upon him in truth.

R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our
needs.

Reading 2

Rom 8:35, 37–39

Brothers and sisters: What will separate us from the

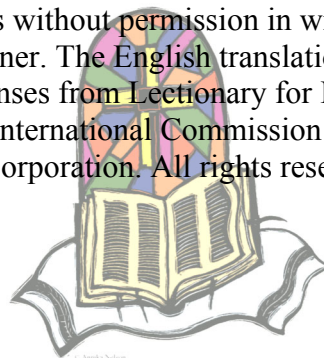
love of Christ? Will anguish, or distress, or
persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the
sword? No, in all these things we conquer
overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am
convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor
principalities, nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other
creature will be able to separate us from the love of
God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel

Mt 14:13–21

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he
withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.
The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot
from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the
vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them,
and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the
disciples approached him and said, “This is a
deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the
crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy
food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “There is
no need for them to go away; give them some food
yourselves.” But they said to him, “Five loaves and
two fish are all we have here.” Then he said, “Bring
them here to me,” and he ordered the crowds to sit
down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the
two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the
blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the
disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They
all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the
fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full.
Those who ate were about five thousand men, not
counting women and children.

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Prayer of the Faithful

**We bring our prayers to God today, knowing that God
will take pity and listen to our needs.**

For the Church as we work to feed the hungry and
spread the Good News throughout the world,
let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are oppressed and persecuted, for all
who hunger and thirst for justice and freedom, and for
an end to racist systems in our country,
let us pray to the Lord.

For those who work to assist and shelter those who
are homeless, that they will be strengthened in their ministry,
let us pray to the Lord.

For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one,
that they know the comfort of God's love and our
hope in the Resurrection,
let us pray to the Lord.

For our community as we reach out to serve those
among our neighbors who are in need, especially
during this time of recovery,
let us pray to the Lord.

For all those who are sick, for all who suffer from
COVID-19, and for all who have died,
especially N., N., and N.,
let us pray to the Lord.

For all the prayers that we hold in the silence
of our hearts; for all our intentions spoken and unspoken,
let us pray to the Lord.

God of compassion,
you feed us abundantly out of even the
simplest resources.

Hear our grateful prayer
and grant these other prayers as well
which we make in the name of
Jesus Christ your Son and our Lord.



Letters from Heaven



Start with the letter in the shaded square. Draw a path from letter to letter to complete the Biblical statement. Move one square at a time, up, down, right, left and diagonally until all letters are used once. Ignore any black squares.

Jesus said, "Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will ...

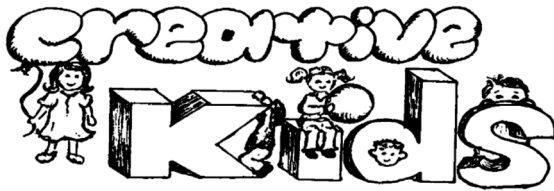
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B _ _ _ _ _ "

Answer: *he opened to you*

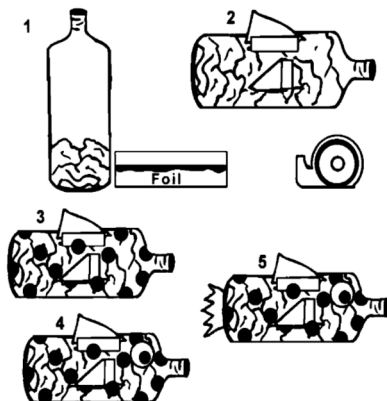
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Making Your Own Fish

1. Fill a clear plastic bottle with crunched-up pieces of tin foil. (body of fish)
2. Cut foil and tape to top and both sides of the bottle. (top and side fins)
3. Cut circles from colored paper and glue them onto all sides of the bottle. (scales)
4. Cut and glue 2 large circles at the front. (eyes)
5. Cut a triangle from the tin foil with one end with a zigzag. Tape it to the back of the bottle. (tail)



GOD'S WORD FOR CHILDREN!

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

Jesus took pity on the people in the crowd and performed a miracle of feeding all of them with just 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish. This fed over 5,000 people.

Is 55:1-3 Ps 145:8-9, 15-18
Rom 8:35, 37-39 Mt 14:13-21

Directions: Color this picture.



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