

Jesus' Greatest Miracle

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Jesus revealed to us His divinity through His words and His actions. In all four Gospels, crowds follow Jesus. Many of them want to know and see Jesus as they have heard about the miracles He performs. Wherever He goes, he heals the sick, makes the blind see, and the mute speak while curing those possessed by evil spirits. All these miracles are signs of His divinity. They are all attracted by Jesus' speaking authority and **His divine power of healing**. Miracles are central to our Christian Faith. Ask your friend or neighbor: "Do you believe in miracles?" Follow-up with questions about Jesus' miracles, including: "Which one is Jesus' greatest miracle?"

I have asked several parishioners which miracle is Jesus' greatest one. Here are some of their answers: Jesus walking on the water; Jesus cleanses a leper; Jesus feeding the five thousand; Jesus healing the blind man; Jesus resurrecting Lazarus. Clearly, it is an unfair question because any miracle by Jesus while on earth is a great sign of his divine power. They are not to be compared. In fact, one could answer that all miracles by Jesus during His lifetime on earth are of the same greatness. They all served a specific purpose at a specific time. A better question could be, "Is Jesus, after His Ascension to Heaven, still involved in miracles?" Yes! And in many ways those miracles can affect anyone at any time. As promised, Jesus, while in Heaven, sends us individually and collectively His Spirit—the Holy Spirit. Through the Holy Spirit, miracles occur in each of the seven sacraments established by Jesus while on earth and then entrusted to the church. One could argue that the greatest miracle today is the miracle of the **Eucharist**. At any Mass celebrated today, and in any place of the world, **Jesus becomes really present** in the offered bread and wine: **His body and His blood!** As in other miracles today, the **Holy Spirit** is the one acting at Mass! Do you know of any miracle greater than the Eucharist?

We are blessed this summer to have five Sundays in a row where we hear from Chapter 6 of John's Gospel. This occurs every three years in Mark's Liturgical Year. As Mark's Gospel is the shortest one, and as we do not have a Liturgical Year for John, this is a good time to hear about John's Eucharistic Discourse (his famous Chapter 6 which is essential for our understanding of the Mass and the Eucharistic Mystery). Instead of covering the Narrative of the Institution of the Eucharist at the Last Supper (as in Mark and Matthew), one can wonder: why does John begin Chapter 6 with the Miracle of the Multiplication of the Bread?

In last week's Gospel (John 6:1-15), John describes the *Miracle of Feeding the Five Thousand*. Looking at John's detailed narrative, one can see the similarities with the Mass, which is the Liturgy of the Word followed by the Liturgy of the Eucharist. We know



from Mark's Gospel (Mark 6:30-34), heard two weeks ago, that just before the multiplication of the loaves, Jesus and His 12 Apostles had gone to a deserted place to rest for a while. But the crowds attracted by Jesus' teaching and miracles, had followed them, and Jesus' "heart was moved with pity for they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to **teach them many things.**" This teaching by Jesus is the precursor of our Liturgy of the Word at Mass: readings from Scripture concluding with the proclamation of the Gospel (by priest or deacon), followed by the homily to inspire all participants on the basis of the day's readings and to encourage everyone to follow Jesus in our daily lives in practical terms relevant to our times.

Back to John's Gospel, beginning of Chapter 6, we imagine Jesus sitting down with His disciples and seeing the large crowd coming to Him. This is an ideal setting for him to give a sign of His divinity through another miracle. He knows that the boy's five barley loaves and the two fish are totally inadequate to feed 5,000 men. But, He is also aware of the divine powers given to Him by the Father and He doesn't hesitate to have all 5,000 recline on the grass. "Then **Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those reclining...**" Not only did they have their fill, but there were also fragments **left over** that filled 12 wicker baskets! This is the amazing **miracle**: with the five barley loaves, the 5,000 men had more than they could eat.



It is such an important miracle in Jesus' life that it is the **only miracle** found in **each** of the Four Gospels. **Each** of the Evangelists understood the great meaning of the multiplication of the loaves: it anticipates what happened right after Jesus' Resurrection and Ascension into Heaven when the first Christians gathered in the homes the day after the Sabbath so as to **break the bread together** after hearing God's Word. Through the **Holy Spirit**, at every Mass Jesus offers himself as supernatural bread: the **Eucharistic bread of life, His own body and blood!** In this way, it is no longer the miraculous feeding of 5,000. It is now the miraculous **spiritual feeding of millions and millions of people** every day, everywhere in the whole world. **This is Jesus' greatest miracle!**

Let us pray that the **Holy Spirit** will help each one of us to be more attentive to the **Mass**, including the Scripture readings, prayers, and most importantly, attentive to the Consecration of the bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ - preparing ourselves to receive Him at **Holy Communion**, and to be transformed spiritually!

**One in Christ,
Fr. Alain**



Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Over 95 kids enjoyed "Surfin' with the Holy Spirit" this summer. Thank you to all who volunteered and/or attended. Continue that spiritual growth of the Catholic faith in your children.



Register on-line for the 2018-19 CCD Religious Education Program at www.olhoc.org grades pre-K through 8th. Classes begin Sunday, September 16. For more information send an email to dre@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Therese, Director of Religious Education.



FIAT: Elementary school Faith in Action Team
Edge: Middle school youth ministry
Life Teen: High school youth ministry

For most current Youth and Evangelization events, please see our website: www.olhoc.org.

Our Younger Generation and the Catholic Faith

Attention: Adults ages 18 - 102 yrs. Concerned about the younger generation walking away from the faith? We are launching a new Confirmation initiative this year for our 7th and 8th graders and need your help. Come *make a difference* and be an adult mentor to walk with these young people. Pray about your involvement and willingness to share with the next generation. It can only strengthen your personal faith journey while enriching another.



Please contact our Director of Religious Education, Therese Thiedeman, at dre@olhoc.org or 301-645-7112, with any questions you may have and becoming VIRTUS-compliant (Child Protection Classes and background check). Thank you!

RCIA Invitation – Registration Open House



Interested in learning about the Catholic Church for the first time? Wanting to complete your Sacraments of Initiation? Or, wishing to learn more about your Catholic faith? This is the group for you! We invite you

to meet RCIA team members at the **Registration Open House for 2018-2019 RCIA classes, Wednesday, August 29 at 7:00 to 8:30 PM** in the social hall. Classes start in September and will be held on Wednesdays 7:15-9:00 PM.

OUR LADY'S LITTLE CHRISTIANS

Preschool openings (3 and 4 year olds) at OLHOC! Full and half-day programs. We include children's chapel services and many opportunities for family involvement! Register now to secure your child's seat for the 2018-19 school year.



For more information send an email to preschool@olhoc.org or call the office and ask for Nieda, Preschool Director.

OLHOC Community Outreach

The next Shepherd's Table Dinner is scheduled for **Thursday, August 16, at Good Shepherd Church**. The next Outreach meeting is September 5 at 7:00 pm in the Social Hall. New members and ideas are always welcome!



Sharing Sunday – Non-perishable food donations are always welcome and can be left in the Social Hall. All donations will go to the local food bank, managed by Catholic Charities, on Irongate Drive in Waldorf.

Upcoming Child Protection Workshop in Southern MD:

Thursday, August 16 12:30 pm-3:30 pm

St. Philip the Apostle School
5414 Henderson Way
Camp Springs, MD 20746
or

Monday, August 20 6:00 pm-9:00 pm

Archbishop Neale School
104 Port Tobacco Road
La Plata, MD 20646

Register at www.virtus.org



Prayer Requests *

We are asked to pray for: Maria Mora, Nadia Toledo, Cielo Quintero, Zynae Green, Green Family, Anthony Rodriguez, James Thompson, Doris Chesley, David Parady, Linda Bourne, Rebecca "Tess" Franch, Alex León, Connie Miller, Wanda Roberts, Fr. Kleinstuber, Wilbur Etbauer, Antonio Marin, Georgiana Norgren, Scott Anderson, Harold Frye, Patricia Fisher, Marjorie O'Donnel, Sarah Parker, Leslie Heath, Miriam Chagolla, Lauren Lohman, Grace Emmanuella, Dennis Forgash, Robert Brooks, and all our military and civilians serving in harm's way.

**Names will remain on our list for 3 months. Please call the parish office to re-request a name after 3 months or to remove a name when the person has regained health.*



Mass Intentions this Week

Saturday, August 04, 9:00 AM: Nadia Toledo

Saturday, August 04, 5:00 PM: Lida Paltan

Sunday, August 05, 8:30 AM: Dennis Forgash

Sunday, August 05, 10:00 AM: OLHOC Parishioners

Sunday, August 05, 11:30 AM: Richard DiLiberto (+)

Sunday, August 05, 1:00 PM: Marie Madeleine Kam (+)

Sunday, August 05, 7:00 PM: Cielo Quintero

Monday, August 06, 9:00 AM: Romelia Romero (+)

Tuesday, August 07, 9:00 AM: Sonia Romero (+)

Wednesday, August 08, 9:00 AM: Galo Litardo (+)

Thursday, August 09, 9:00 PM: Jaime Trochez (+)

Friday, August 10, 9:00 AM: Deceased members of Boguslawski Family (+)

Catholic Campaign for Human Development: Working on the Margins



This week a collection is being taken for the Catholic Campaign for Human development. In the United States, one in seven people lives in poverty. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this program and work on the margins that empower people to identify and address the obstacles they face as they work to bring permanent and positive change to their communities. Learn more about the Catholic Campaign for Human development at www.usccb.org/cchd/collection.

Friday Faith and Fellowship Group



Join the group every 2nd Friday of the month for Movie Night, and for bible study and music each 3rd, 4th, and occasional 5th Friday.

August 10 Movie Night

"Pay it Forward"

7:00 PM in the Social Hall

Your Church; the Lord's House

Continue to please respect your church, the Lord's house, and refrain from taking any food or beverage in the Church. If children need food or beverages, please use the cry room or Social Hall.



We have incurred some recent pew damage. Please care for your building investment by not walking on kneelers or using them as a foot rest.

Mass Readings for August 12, 2018

19th Sunday of Ordinary Time

***First Reading**

1 Kings 19:4-8

***Second Reading**

Ephesians 4:30-5:2

***Gospel**

John 6:41-51



www.usccb.org

THE WILD GOOSE

DISCOVERING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH THE HOLY SPIRIT

Join us this Sunday/Monday for an incredible video series featuring Fr. Dave Pivonka, TOR, which is awakening God's love and transforming power in the hearts of all who participate. Discover the Holy Spirit who has been revealed to us by Jesus Christ and who leads us to our heavenly Father. This adventure consists of Fr. Dave speaking on an attribute of the Holy Spirit, a practical application on how to respond to the Holy Spirit and testimonies of people from across the country whose lives have been impacted by the Spirit of God. **Babysitting will be provided on Monday evenings.**

We'll watch and discuss 2 video segments at each of our gatherings

- SUNDAY mornings in Rooms 103/104 (9:30 am) with Mike and Diane Spurgeon
- MONDAY nights in Rooms 103/104 (7 pm) with Deacon Rich and Carl Phipps
- MONDAY nights in Rooms 201/202 (7 pm) in Spanish with Milton Galván and Maria Lam
- MONDAY nights in Rooms 203/204 (7 pm) for EDGE and LIFETEEN (grades 6-12) with Marlen Coles and Youth Core Teams.

MEETINGS with TWO SEGMENTS per MEETING

- August 5/6: (7) The Spirit of Adoption, (8) The Spirit and the Sacraments
- August 12/13: (9) Fruits of the Holy Spirit, (10) The Spirit and the Desert
- August 19/20: (11) The Spirit Convicts, (12) The Spirit's Freedom
- August 26/27: (13) The Spirit Gives Witness, (14) The Spirit Remembers

For more information, contact Therese Thiedeman at 301-645-7112, dre@olhoc.org



Registration for Religious Education - CCD 2018 - 19 is open on-line:
www.olhoc.org * Pre-K thru 8th Grade



Archdiocese of Washington Small Group Training

"No one is saved alone, as an isolated individual, but God attracts us looking at the complex web of relationships that take place in the human community. God enters into this dynamic, this participation in the web of human relationships." - Pope Francis

Currently leading a small group? Looking to start one? Are you regularly leading a group through RCIA, Marriage Prep or any other ministry within the Church? This training is for you!

Join us as we dive deeper into best practices in small group ministry.

Sunday, August 26th, 2018

12pm - Optional Mass at Holy Rosary Catholic Church (595 3rd St NW, Washington, DC)

1-4pm - Small group seminar led by Melissa Overmyer

Questions? Contact DCCatholic@adw.org

Register here: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/small-group-leader-training-tickets-48185169138>