

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**THE HAND OF
THE LORD FEEDS US;
HE ANSWERS ALL
OUR NEEDS.**

Psalm 145

A Letter from our Pastor

Greetings of peace and goodwill to you and your household!

John's gospel is unique in its description of the miracles of Jesus as "signs." Signs are not ends in themselves, but point to something beyond them. In the Church's sacramental theology, sacraments are described as efficacious signs that communicate grace. Though signs, sacraments effect what they signify. For example, water used in baptism, not only signifies cleansing, but actually washes away sins. Not only does it signify death, burial and resurrection to new life, baptism actually is death to the old self and the birth of a new identity in Christ. When the words of Christ are pronounced over ordinary bread and wine, they not only signify the true Body and Blood of Christ, but also are indeed the Real Presence of the Lord – his body, blood, soul and divinity. The church is a sacrament in that she not only signifies Christ's presence in the world; she actually makes Christ present through her sacramental ministry and the proclamation of the gospel.

In the chapter preceding that from which our gospel for this weekend was taken, Jesus had just performed the sign of curing the sick man who laid by the pool Bethesda for thirty-eight years. According to him, he had no one to put him in the pool when the water was stirred up. However, Jesus did not need the water of the pool to heal this man because he was the true life-giving spring of whom the pool was only a sign. This occurred on a Sabbath. As such, Jesus drew the ire of the Jews who thought he had done something forbidden on a Sabbath. Then followed the argument about his identity as the Son of God and how his works testify to this identity. In this weekend's gospel, Jesus, like Elisha in our First reading, performs the miracle of the multiplication of loaves. Again, this was a sign. The Lord provided for the people in the manner of Moses, whom God had used as an instrument to feed his chosen people in the wilderness, and they acclaimed that he was truly 'the Prophet' (Deuteronomy 18:15). The Lord provides food, which is a necessity for the sustenance of the lives of the people. Just like he set himself to teach the people who had followed him, and who looked like sheep without a shepherd (in last weekend's gospel from Mark), Jesus shows compassion to those who came to him. And just like he did not need the water from the pool of Bethesda to cure the sick man, he performed the miracle even with the little supplies he received from the generous, but unnamed little boy. I still wonder if the Lord would have performed the miracle had the boy refused offering his lunch. God can do all things, but sometimes God wants us to participate in bringing about his miracles. Are we willing to give what we have even if our lives depended on it?

There are lessons to be learned. The Lord was moved with compassion. It was not his responsibility to provide lunch for all these people. After all, he never sent them an invitation to a party. Like the disciples suggested in the synoptic gospels, he could have sent them to go procure their own food. But no, he, the Good Shepherd, tells them to feed them. Do we limit ourselves to only what we think is our responsibility even when we have the capability or capacity to do more? Are we minimalists, doing only what is the required minimum and no more? When it comes to

church attendance, do we consider a one-hour weekend-only liturgy all the time we can honestly give to God out of our one hundred and sixty eight (168) hours a week? Do we watch things go from bad to worse without doing anything to help simply because it is not our responsibility? The Lord says, "you give them something to eat" (Matthew 14:16).

Notice that it was Jesus who asked, "Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?" How did he know they needed something to eat? He must have been very attentive to know the people's need was food. Although he had the food for their souls, which was his word, he knew they needed bodily nourishment as well. The Good Shepherd is sensitive to our needs. He knows his sheep's need for food, nurture and affection. He does not ignore or delegate this duty; rather he sets himself to attend to it. Are we sensitive to the need of others or do we think only of our own needs? Are we able to go beyond ourselves to meeting the needs of others? Are we hospitable even to those we do not know or limit our hospitality to friends and family only?

Like Elisha in our First reading, the Lord Jesus knew what he would do. He knew he would provide food for the crowd. But he first asks his disciples. Perhaps to teach his disciples to pay attention to the people's needs. He was teaching them how to enter into his ministry by going beyond themselves to be compassionate to others. The multiplication of the five barley loaves and two fish was a foreshadowing of what he would do at the last supper, when he would give us his flesh as food and his blood as drink. He would give us the food that would satisfy our hunger and the drink that would quench our thirst. Notice the pattern: He receives the gift, blesses it, breaks it, and then shares it. Does that not sound like what we do at Mass? The priest receives the gifts presented by the people, fruit of the earth and work of human hands, says the blessing over them, breaks them and offers them to the people. This is the mystery we celebrate every time we gather for the Eucharist. Out of his magnanimous hospitality, the Lord who calls us together as the ekklesia (the Church), offers us himself as food for our souls. Indeed, as we sing in our Responsorial Psalm, "The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs."

May Jesus bless you, and may Our Lady protect you!
With blessing from my heart,



Text of the Propers— 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Propers of the Mass include the Scriptural texts that change with the liturgical calendar. The Proper texts which will be chanted by a cantor are the Introit (when the priest processes to the altar), Offertory (when the altar is prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist), and Communion.

Introit: “God is in his holy dwelling place; the God who causes us to dwell together; one at heart, in his house; he himself will give power and strength to his people.” (Psalm 68:6-7, 36)

Offertory: “I will extol you, O Lord, for you have drawn me up, and have not let my foes rejoice over me. O Lord, I cried unto you and you healed me.” (Psalm 30:2-3)

Communion: “Honor the Lord with your substance and with the first fruits of all your produce; then shall your barns be filled with abundance, and your presses shall run over with wine.” (Proverbs 3:9-10)

This Sunday: World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

Pope Francis has decreed Sunday, July 25th as the First **World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly**. This occasion will be celebrated every year on the fourth Sunday in July. A plenary indulgence may be obtained on this occasion by grandparents, the elderly and those faithful who devote adequate time to actually or virtually visiting their elderly brothers and sisters in need or in difficulty.



Readings for the Week of July 25, 2021

Sunday	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time 2 Kgs 4:42-44; Ps 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18; Eph 4:1-6; Jn 6:1-15
Monday	Memorial Saints Joachim and Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23; Mt 13:31-35
Tuesday	Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-7, 8-9, 10-11, 12-13; Mt 13:36-43
Wednesday	Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5, 6, 7, 9; Mt 13:44-46
Thursday	Memorial of Saint Martha Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3, 4, 5-6a and 8a, 11; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42
Friday	Saint Peter Chrysologus, Bishop and Doctor of the Church Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-4, 5-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58
Saturday	Memorial of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, Priest Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12
Sunday	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Ps 78:3-4, 23-24, 25, 54; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35

Healing Prayer Corner: Love and Compassion Heal

In the July 17 edition of the South Bend Tribune, there was a letter in the Voices section by Margaret Pfeil of the Catholic Worker, Our Lady of the Road, and a professor at the University of Notre Dame. In it she says, “I am aware of publicly expressed sentiments in our local community that all people currently living in tent encampments should be in jail. This troubling and misguided carceral approach reflects the need for further education about the complex situation of people affected by severe mental illness and addiction.”



What has this got to do with healing? Everything! For in last Sunday’s Gospel on the Good Shepherd and this Sunday’s Gospel of John story of the feeding of the five thousand, we see the power of compassion. Whatever healing gifts the Holy Spirit has given to you and me, everyone has the capacity to love and exercise compassion. It might be counter-cultural to love the unlovable, but when we realize the unlovable often have been victims of rejection, abuse, sickness, our love and compassion can bring healing to these people.

July 25-31, 2021 is...
NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING WEEK
parish events

Monday 26th

Learn NFP from a certified instructor!



Learn from a certified Femm™ instructor how to read your body's natural fertility signs. Men and women both welcome!

Wednesday 28th

Families of Two: Catholics + Infertility



Ever wondered whether you 'count' as a family if you don't have kids yet? Struggling to conceive or stay pregnant? Join us for an uplifting night with the Scott and Reyes-Miranda Families.

Thursday 29th

Adoption + Foster Care Panel



Curious about foster care or adoption but unsure where to start? Join us for a panel hosted by real Catholics who have been through it all: the good, the bad, and the ugly.

Friday 30th

The Sinner's Guide to Natural Family Planning



Let's get real about the highs and lows of doing NFP as a couple. Presented by the author of *The Sinner's Guide to NFP*, Simcha Fisher.

Want more details? Visit www.littleflowerchurch.org/year-of-the-family/

NFP Trivia!

Circle your guess! Answers below.

true or false

It's a good idea for people who are single or dating to learn NFP.

true or false

NFP helps build up communication between married couples.

true or false

NFP is just "Catholic birth control".

true or false

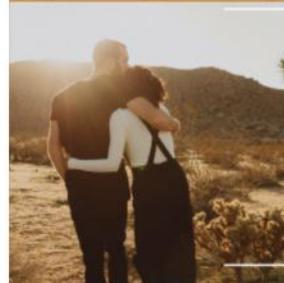
NFP unfairly puts the burden of fertility tracking on the woman.

answers: 1) true, 2) true, 3) false, 4) false

Want to know more? Join us for an **Introduction to NFP Night** Monday, June 26th at 7PM with certified FEMM™ Instructors, Ryann & Lauren!



STARTS JULY 28TH!



NATURAL FAMILY PLANNING SUPPORT GROUP

4th Wednesday of the month
 online
 8:00 to 9:30 PM

RSVP to cburke@diocesefwsb.org
 Learn more: diocesefwsb.org/nfp

Theology on Tap: Summer Series

All young adults are invited to join us in our outdoor space this Tuesday, July 27th at 6:30pm for the next Theology on Tap event. The night will include musical entertainment by talented local artists Jon Schommer & The Hopeful Sound, a food truck (Junbuggies) with \$1 tacos, and an engaging talk followed by discussion. This week's talk "This Is My Body: The Real Presence & Eucharistic Miracles" will be presented by Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades.



FATHER/SON RETREAT

Sunday, Sept 19
 2-8 p.m.
 St. Patrick's County Park
 South Bend

Join Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades for a father/son retreat to celebrate the Year of St. Joseph! The retreat is open to boys aged 13-17 and their father/male relative.

Learn more:
diocesefwsb.org/joseph-retreat

Landscaping Help Needed

Now that it's spring, it is time to ask all gardeners who might be interested in adopting a garden patch on church grounds to contact our landscape coordinator/business manager Gail Waltman. The gardens will be cleaned and mulched by professionals over the next month. Volunteers are needed to plant, weed and water their garden patches throughout the summer. If you are interested in adopting a garden patch, please contact Gail at gail@littleflowerchurch.org or 574-243-3443.

Sensory-Friendly Mass

Sensory-friendly Masses take place at St. John the Baptist Parish, Fort Wayne on the second Friday of each month. A sensory-friendly Mass provides a safe and comfortable setting for children and adults with sensory challenges, mental illness or any kind of disability. Livestream: [facebook.com/belongingFWSB](https://www.facebook.com/belongingFWSB). Questions? Contact Allison Sturm at 260.399.1452 or asturm@diocesefwsb.org,

Thank you, Brian!

Shout Out to Brian Gring for the amazing job he did renovating the outdoor stage and benches!

This was Brian's Eagle Scout project and he worked many hours replacing rotting wood boards, adding benches and a railing, sanding and painting. We are so fortunate that Brian chose the parish for his project. Thank you Brian for your talent and generosity!



Work with Catholic Charities!

Catholic Charities is growing and has several positions available working from the South Bend office: Community Service Case Manager, School Counselor, Addiction Counselor, Clinical Liaison and Mental Health Counselor. Interested candidates will find a full job description and minimum qualifications by visiting our website at: www.ccfwsb.org/careers.

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Annual Corn & Sausage Roast

Save the Date! August 8th 12:30–2:00pm. Come reconnect with those we have been missing over the last 16 months & welcome the many new faces that have joined our parish! Bring your own lawn games and just enjoy being together again! The cost is \$5.00 for ages 8 & up, and there is no charge for those 7 & under. Please plan to bring a side dish or dessert to share!



Knights of Columbus Happenings

We want you! We will begin a new Fraternal Year on July 1st. We are always seeking new members to join our order. If you are a Catholic gentleman of the age of 18 or older, I ask this question: Why haven't you joined the Knights of Columbus? The Knights offer a chance to grow in your faith and serve your fellow Brothers and Sisters in serving one another. See any Knight if you wish to join, we would be glad to have you on our team. You can also visit kofc.org and join online, be sure to list Council 17043 as the Council you wish to join and we will reach out to you!

Election of Officers - Your Little Flower Knights of Columbus recently held an election of officers for the fraternal year of 2021-2022. The results are as follows: Grand Knight – Ben Janczewski; Deputy Grand Knight – Brian Peterson; Financial Secretary – Nevin Siqueira; Treasurer- Craig Phillips; Recorder- Jerry Zent; Advocate- Vince Feck; Chancellor- Jerry Espiritu; Warden-Alan Chamblee; Inside Guard- Art Zielinski; Outside Guard- Scott Smithburn; Third Trustee- Todd Elliott; Second Trustee-Rick Alexander; First Trustee- Mikel Hogan. Congratulations to all!

Installation of Officers: This event will take place at Little Flower immediately following the 11:30 Mass on Sunday August 1st. All parishioners are invited and encouraged to attend and view this important event. There will be refreshments immediately following the event in the Parish Center again all are invited to attend. This is the official installation of all Officers for the new fraternal year.



Celebrate the 4th Annual Blessed Solanus Casey, Feast Day
July 30, from 12:30-9:30 p.m.
Hosted by the Father Solanus Guild
at St. Felix Catholic Center, 1280 Hitzfield St. in Huntington

Special guests include: Father Daniel Whelan, Father Louis Fowoyo, Father Thomas Zehr, Father Philip DeVolder and Madeline Nugent.
Activities for all ages provided by Huntington Youth Ministry.

Preorder boxed lunches by July 25th or feel free to bring your own picnic.
Tours will be available all day. Mass at 5 p.m.
Contact Jan Scher at 260-450-3045

Thank you!

Fr. Julius would like to express his gratitude to all who made the occasion of his installation as pastor so special. In particular, he offers his thanks to the Knights of Columbus for being present and hosting coffee and donuts after Mass.

FAITHFUL 5K | Saturday, August 21
Race and 1-Mile Family Fun Walk at the Mishawaka Riverwalk
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www.faithful5k.com

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Hanson & Bauer Families	Ouellette & Parent Families	Peterson Family	
		Dillman Family	
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		For the Poor Souls in Purgatory	