

16th Sunday of Ordinary Time Year C
7/20/2025

Dear Beloved Parishioners,

In today's Gospel, we read the now-familiar story of a woman, Martha, who welcomes Jesus into her home. Martha's sister, Mary, sits near Jesus listening to him speak. Meanwhile, Martha is getting sort of steamed because she seems to be doing all the hospitality work. When she's had enough, she says to Jesus: *Don't you care that Mary has left me to do all the work? Tell her to help me.* To which Jesus replies: *Dear, dear Martha, you're upset over the great variety of "to-dos" you chose to be busy about. Mary has made paying attention to my words the one thing she chose to do. I can't fault her for that.*



Is this the story of a "thing" that's been a source of argument for a long time between the sister who doesn't notice the work to be done and the other who *must* do what she sees to be done?

Is Martha jealous of the attention that Jesus is showing Mary—who has plunked herself down on the floor next to Jesus to keep herself out of Martha's way?

No, **this is an episode in the life of Jesus to illustrate that the one thing really necessary when the Word of God is present is paying attention to Him. The conventions, the customs of courtesy, that dictate getting the meal on the table for the guests in good order cannot be the first priority when the Guest has come to feed you.**

Jesus does not condemn Martha for emphasizing getting the job done, nor for doing the *work* of hospitality. It's just that what Jesus brings to the table in this household is of a higher value than the bread which satisfies for a little while and will have to be replaced again tomorrow.

Today is the Lord's Day, right here in our town, in our homes. Jesus wants to visit us with the Bread of God's Word and Sacrament. How can we welcome him?

Happy summer day!

Msgr. Mike and Fr. Albert