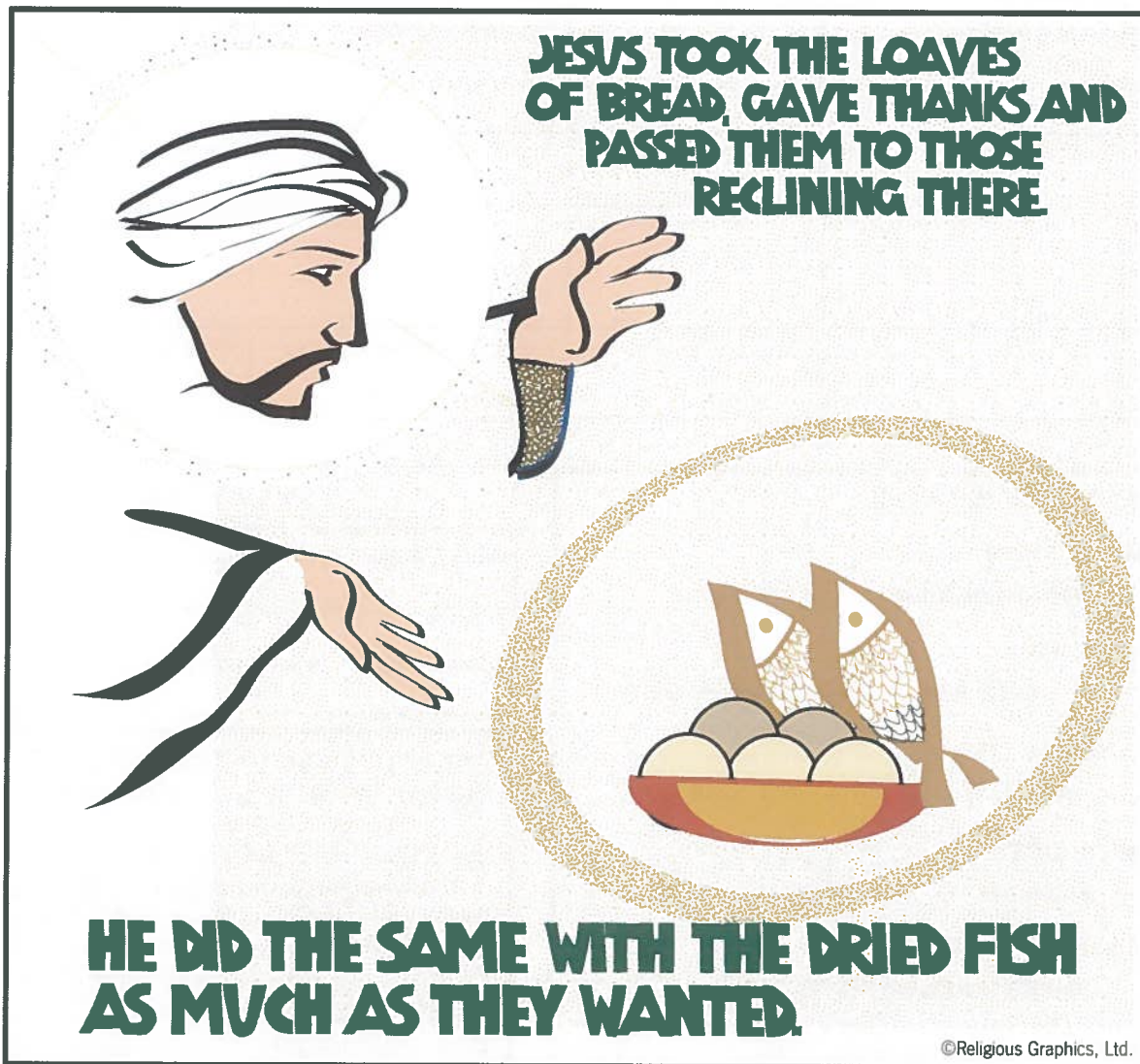


The Roman Catholic Parishes of  
St. Margaret Mary, Herscher  
St. James the Apostle, Irwin  
Sacred Heart, Goodrich

SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JULY 27-28,



Weekend Masses:

|                   |              |               |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
| St. Margaret Mary | Sat. 5:00 pm | Sun. 10:30 am |
| Sacred Heart      | Sun. 7:30 am |               |
| St. James         | Sun 9:00 am  |               |

Confessions:

|                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| St. Margaret Mary | Sat. 4:15 pm      |
| Sacred Heart      | Sun. 7:05-7:20 am |
| St. James         | Sun 8:35-8:50 am  |

Church Mailing Address: 207 E. 5th Street Herscher, IL 60941 Phone: 815-426-2550

**Quotable:** "A good shepherd—not only does he keep his doors open, but he also goes to seek out those who no longer wish to enter them."  
*—Pope Francis*

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 3-4, 2024

|                     |   |   |   |   |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Liturgical Schedule | St. Margaret Mary<br>Saturday, August 3<br>5:00 pm        | Sacred Heart<br>Sunday, August 4<br>7:30 am | St. James<br>Sunday, August 4<br>9:00 am                      | St. Margaret Mary<br>Sunday, August 4<br>10:30 am                 |
| Celebrant           | Fr. Ron   | Fr. Ron<br>Deacon Ron                       | Fr. Ron   | Fr. Ron   |
| Ushers              | Dave Emling<br>Roger Jensen<br>Gery Wright<br>Dan Hoffman | Daryl Ferris<br>Dennis Pankey               | Mary Offerman<br>Bob Buente<br>Dennis O'Connor<br>Jeff Martin | Darren Lovell<br>Corrin Wheeler<br>Erik Wheeler<br>Wayne Bisailon |
| Lector              | Bobbi Buza  | Rhonda Berns                                | Andy Hansen   | Dana Masching   |
| Servers             |   |   |   | Sydney Weldon   |
| Greeters            |   |   | Greeter—Donna Bernicky<br>R. Leader—Rita Thiesen              | Wayne Bisailon  |

### Mass Intentions for the Week

#### Monday, July 29 (SMM)

8:00 am +Madeline Bouchard (Jackie Eberle)

#### Tuesday, July 30 (SH)

8:00 am +Jennifer Bonds (Terri/Jerry Weakley)

#### Wednesday, July 31 (SJ)

8:00 am +Jeffery Cooley (Maryanne Cooley)

#### Friday, August 2 (SMM)

8:00 am Father Holup (Pat Gray)

#### Saturday, August 3 (SMM)

5:00 pm For All the Parish Family

#### Sunday, August 4

7:30 am (SH) +Danielle Timm (Jerry/Terri Weakley)

+Janet Denault Menke (Darlene Peters/Kathy DeChenne)

9:00am (SJ) +Rick Nelson (Steve/Dena Coy)

+Leola Ader (Kim Astroth)

10:30am (SMM) +Igor Dubravec (The Family)

+Jerome Ruder (Mariann Lane)

### A Look Ahead

**Friday, August 2**—First Friday Adoration at SMM

**August 3/4**—K of K Food Drive

**Sunday, August 11**—Free breakfast at SH after Mass

Pastor— Fr. Ron Neitzke- 815-426-2550

Deacon – Ron Gagnon— rjgckg@aol.com  
 Home—815-933-4077

Parish Email – smm\_sja\_sh@yahoo.com

TriParish web page – [www.triparishcatholics.org](http://www.triparishcatholics.org)

Like us on Facebook triparishcatholic communities

**Tri Parish Church office** –Barb Riker 426-2550

Julie Bisailon 426-2550

**Bulletin** – Debbie Jensen - 426-2550

debjen04@gmail.com

**Religious Education** –

St. MM – Jill Fulton [jfulton.stmm@gmail.com](mailto:jfulton.stmm@gmail.com)

Sacred Heart – Rhonda Berns – 426-5015

St. James—Tanhya Osenga [tosenga81@gmail.com](mailto:tosenga81@gmail.com)

**Parish Nurse** – Jackie Eberle – 815-421-4048

**Prayer Line**—

SMM -Janice 815-426-2574 [Jdstreefarms@aol.com](mailto:Jdstreefarms@aol.com)

St. James— Mary Offerman—602-670-8888 (call or text)

Sacred Heart-Marilyn Pfeiffer 815-955-8246 (call or text)

Terri Weakley— 815-514-8171

### Collections Week of July 13-14, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,553

St. James—\$3,015

Sacred Heart—\$1,332

Thank you for your generosity!

### Collections Week of July 20-21, 2024

St. Margaret Mary—\$1,375

St. James—\$1,082

Sacred Heart—\$1,454

Thank you for your generosity!

#### Adult Ed

We will be starting adult ed after Labor Day. We will be doing a video series on the 10 Commandments. If you are interested, please call the office (426-2550) and register. Also, please let me know what night of the week works better for you so we can pick a night that works best for the group. I am open to doing Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday sessions.

#### Gospel Shorts—

##### The Ultimate Source of Satisfaction

Today's Gospel reading tells us where we can find satisfaction in all our living. Satisfaction does not come through the things we acquire, the achievements we accomplish, or the accolades that come our way from others. True satisfaction comes only in a relationship with the Lord of all life, Jesus of Nazareth. He is the ultimate food that satisfies the hungers in our souls. Come to Jesus and be satisfied.

#### 1<sup>st</sup> Friday Adoration



"We should consider those moments spent before the Blessed Sacrament as the happiest of our lives."

-St John Vianney

First Friday Adoration is Friday August 2 at St. Margaret Mary. Adoration will conclude at 3:00 with Benediction.



The next Knights of Columbus next Food for Families collection will be held August 3-4 at all three parishes. This is a great way to give to help those in need. We thank you for your support!!

"For I was hungry and you gave me food..."  
"Matthew 25:35

#### Parish News:

St. Margaret Mary—

St. James—

Sacred Heart—

◆ Sacred Heart C.C.W. will again be participating in the "Boxes of Joy" project this year. We will not be collecting boxes until October, but we will be putting out a list of items you might want to put in them, since many of those items are on sale at this time. Thanks so much for your support.

◆ The Sacred Heart CCW will be serving a free breakfast following the 7:30 am Mass August 11. Everyone is welcome! Please join us for a great meal and fellowship.

All Parishes—

◆ There is a new form in each pew to fill out concerning ministries. Please consider joining our ministry teas in any way you are able. Each parish could use more volunteers to help out. High school students are encouraged to get involved as well.

◆ Due to vacation, fair schedules, etc. there will be no Knights of Columbus meeting in the month of July. Next meeting will be August 26, 2024 at St James at 7:00 PM

◆ Tri-Parish Office Hours— Our office hours are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday 9am—12 pm.

◆ The phone number for the rectory will no longer be in service. All calls should be made to the parish office number 815-426-2550.

#### Reflections A Thought

Most of us tend to be more generous and giving to those we know than to those who are strangers. When we are asked to give to the church, we are not being asked to give to strangers, we are being asked to give to our brothers and sisters in Christ. We are being asked to be generous to our spiritual family.

#### Give Lavishly and Live Abundantly

The more you give, the more you get. ... The more you laugh, the less you fret. ... The more you do unselfishly, the more you live abundantly. ... The more of everything you share, the more you'll always have to spare. ... The more you love, the more you'll find that life is good and friends are kind.

#### Question of the week

What can I offer this week, without expecting anything in return, that could provide more than it would if I kept it for myself?



**Saint of the week: St. Lazarus of Bethany (July 29)** was the brother of Saint Matha and Saint Mary of Bethany. He was the man whom Jesus raised from the dead after having been dead and in his tomb for four days. The Bible does not trace his history after the miracle, but tradition says he became a missionary to Gaul, the first bishop of Marseilles, France, and a martyr in the persecutions of Domitian.



**Obscure Saint of the week: St. Olaf II** was also known as Olaf of Norway, Olaf the Fat, Olaf the Holy, and Olaf the Thick. He was the son of Harald Grenske King of Norway and Åsta Gudbrandsdatter. They were Vikings and pirates. Olaf was a convert to Christianity, baptized in 1010. He helped Ethelred of England against pagan Danish invaders. He became the king of Norway from 1015 to 1028. Olaf brought missionaries, including Blessed Theodgar of Vestervig, to Norway to evangelize his people. Olaf tried to force Christianity on them, but they revolted in 1029, and drove him first to Sweden and then to Kiev (in modern Russia). There he gathered his forces, and in 1030 he tried to re-take his throne. He was killed in battle and regarded by Norwegians as the great champion of national independence and a martyr.



## HE FED THE MULTITUDES WITH THE POWER OF HIS WORDS

©Religious Graphics, Ltd.

### The Sunday Gospel in Everyday English

After this, Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee (some call it Tiberias). A huge crowd followed him, attracted by the miracles they had seen him do among the sick. When he got to the other side, he climbed a hill and sat down, surrounded by his disciples. It was nearly time for the Feast of Passover, kept annually by the Jews.

When Jesus looked out and saw that a large crowd had arrived, he said to Philip, "Where can we buy bread to feed these people?" He said this to stretch Philip's faith. He already knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered, "Two hundred silver pieces wouldn't be enough to buy bread for each person to get a piece."

One of the disciples—it was Andrew, brother to Simon Peter—said, "There's a little boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But that's a drop in the bucket for a crowd like this."

Jesus said, "Make the people sit down." There was a nice carpet of green grass in this place. They sat down, about five thousand of them. Then Jesus took the bread and, having given thanks, gave it to those who were seated. He did the same with the fish. All ate as much as they wanted.

When the people had eaten their fill, he said to his disciples, "Gather the leftovers so nothing is wasted." They went to work and filled 12 large baskets with leftovers from the five barley loaves.

The people realized that God was at work among them in what Jesus had just done. They said, "This is the Prophet for sure, God's Prophet right here in Galilee!" Jesus saw that in their enthusiasm, they were about to grab him and make him king, so he slipped off and went back up the mountain to be by himself (*from John 6*).

## Questions Catholics Ask

### Can women religious work in law enforcement or in forensic labs?



The spirit of the community's founder should be represented by the work of the institute and its members.

This is a question best addressed by canon law, and the answers are less clear than might be expected. The section that describes "Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life" (cc. 573-746) notes that laws governing religious life are to meet certain criteria—most fundamentally, the evangelical counsels of chastity, poverty, and obedience (c. 573.1). It's also presumed that the individual and her community are mutually responsive to a call by the Holy Spirit, which must be confirmed by the proper church authorities (c. 573.2). However, it's not specified in every instance whether that authority implies the superior of the order, the local bishop, the Holy See, or any combination of the above.

The spirit of the community's founder should be represented by the work of the institute and its members (c. 578). Which means an order founded to be contemplative should pursue this vocation, just as those founded for teaching, healing, service to the poor, etc. should maintain this calling. These guidelines are deliberately drawn very broadly, to admit the ongoing guidance of the Holy Spirit as well as the evolving need of each new generation. For example, Mother Frances Cabrini's Missionary Institute of the Sacred Heart originally embraced service to Italian immigrants in the U.S. In later generations, their service expanded to other immigrant groups and to other countries.

Does the flexibility purposely built into these canons expand to admit a woman religious to the field of law enforcement if her religious community was founded on the charism of justice for the poor or prison ministry? Might she fulfill her calling serving in a forensic lab if her intent is to ensure that DNA testing is properly done for incarcerated persons who were poorly represented at trial or whose guilty sentence may have been racially motivated? These occupations likely didn't exist at the time of her community's founder. Yet were the founder alive today, would she see this work as an extension of the charism?

Other canons concern "unbecoming activity" for church leaders (see canons 285-289), but these explicitly refer to ordained clergy. These activities presently include holding public office, but historically included fox hunting, bartending, cab driving, professional prize-fighting, horse racing, and serving as a jailor. The "Worker Priest" movement of the 1940s and 50s—in which some clergy worked among the people at manual labor—was dimly viewed, yet there's still no canonical impediment for clergy to do so.

**Scriptures:** Amos 1:1; 7:12-15; Acts 18:3; 20:33-35; 1 Corinthians 4:11-13; 9:1-18; 1 Thessalonians 2:9

### Humor—Nutshells

- A group of priests were talking about how people usually sit at the back of the church. How can we make them sit on the front pews?
- "Very easy," said an old priest, "Just don't turn on the heater in the back of the church!"
- This old priest went to see his doctor about some aches and pains. As he was leaving, the doctor reminded him: "You forgot to pay me."
- "What for?," asked the priest. "For professional advice," answered the doctor. "Well, then," said the priest, "I don't owe you anything. I'm not going to take your advice!"
- Which reminds me — If you ask enough people, you usually can find someone who'll advise you to do what you were going to do anyway
- After 40, life is just a physical maintenance job
- Arguing with the umpire has never won a ball game, but it has helped lose many
- Some people are so handy around the house, they're able to fix the same thing over and over again!



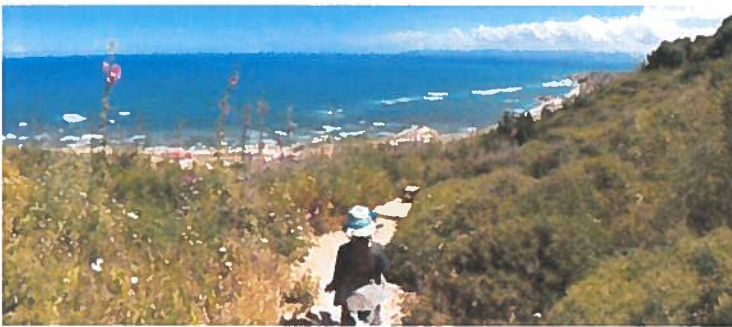
**JESUS TOOK THE LOAVES, GAVE THANKS, AND DISTRIBUTED THEM.**  
JN.6:11

THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO RESPONDED TO THE CALL FOR MINISTRY HELP! THE FORM IS IN THE PEWS FOR ONE MORE WEEK FOR THOSE WHO DID NOT GET A CHANCE TO FILL IT OUT LAST WEEK-END. JUST DROP IT IN THE COLLECTION BASKET.

## Catholic Snacks, Get Fed Catholic Snacks, Get Fed

Where is Mount Carmel, and why is it so important?  
This ancient and sacred mountain is a place of enormous significance for the Church.

The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad,  
the desert shall rejoice and blossom...  
The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it,  
the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. —Isaiah 35:1-2



Located in the north of Israel with western slopes that descend into the Mediterranean Sea, Mount Carmel National Park is a picturesque spot. It might inspire you to grab a packed lunch and your sunglasses, a picnic blanket and a copy of a good book.

Actually, bring the Good Book, and open to the First Book of Kings. Here, in the eighteenth chapter, you'll read about an amazing thing that happened right under your feet on Mount Carmel.

Back then (9th century B.C.), Israel was in trouble (again) for following a false god. This time it was Baal, whose worship was promoted—often violently—by King Ahab under the influence of his nasty wife Jezebel. Israel was afflicted with three years of famine because of its faithlessness.

So the Lord instructed Elijah to challenge the pagan prophets to a test, to show everyone who was the true God.

These were the rules: Baal's prophets and Elijah would each set up a sacrifice to their respective deities, call upon him, then wait to see what would happen. Whichever god answered with fire was the true God.

We probably don't need to tell you who won. Baal's prophets were met with silence from their god, but Elijah was answered with fire from heaven that consumed his sacrifice.

Later in history, near the end of the 12th century A.D., the Order of Our Lady of Mount Carmel—the Carmelites—was founded here. They would be driven repeatedly from their original habitation due to external conflicts in the volatile region, but always managed to come back, and can be found there today.

Moreover, being driven from their home had a wonderful effect: it contributed to the order's spread to Europe, where it became one of the most significant orders in the Church. Its sons and daughters include St. Teresa of Ávila, St. John of the Cross, and St. Thérèse of Lisieux.

Through the Carmelites, Our Lady gave us one of her most popular devotions: the Brown Scapular. She promised that those who wore it would "not suffer eternal fire." So if you're wearing the Brown Scapular, you're a little bit Carmelite, and have a tangible connection to the ancient and holy mountain of Carmel.

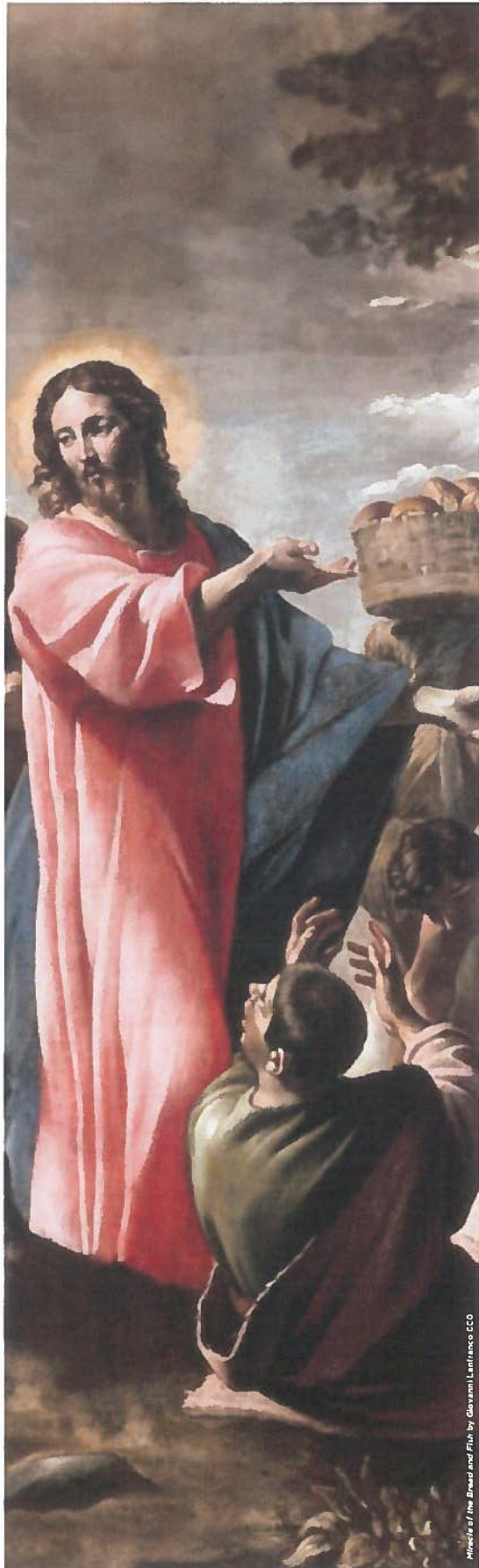
-reprinted with permission The Catholic Company [www.thecatholiccompany.com](http://www.thecatholiccompany.com)

### A Stewardship Moment

### Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### Weekend of July 27-28

The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is a familiar one, and has many lessons, not least of which is how our willingness to share who we are and what we have - exercising good stewardship - releases God's power and bountifulness on the world and its people. Do we realize that there is enough for all if we are willing to share? Are we aware that God is at work when we share our time, money and our other resources in His name?



Miracle of the Bread and Fish by Giovanni Lanfranco CCO

July 28, 2024

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

## Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:42-44 | Eph 4:1-6 | Jn 6:1-15

### **GROW** AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

If the multiplication of the loaves sounds oh so familiar ... it's because it is! It's the only miracle story found in all four Gospels, and for good reason. Jesus multiplies the meager offering of a boy with five barley loaves and two fish and feeds a large crowd with baskets left over. The story is symbolic of the food that is readily available through Jesus in the Eucharist. The crowd in the Gospel that had been following Jesus was tired, worn out, and hungry. Don't we all feel discouraged now and then? When we do, Jesus makes himself available to us in the Eucharist; he provides daily food that nourishes and sustains. When we eat this life-giving bread, we are strengthened and fortified, as was the crowd in the Gospel, as we heard: "They had more than they could eat."

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Trusting in the bounty of God can be a challenging thing. Think about Philip in today's Gospel - looking out over the massive crowd gathered, he thought, "there's no way we'll be able to feed all of these people." And he was right! He couldn't, and we cannot. But the Lord can. And if we are to "live in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received," we must strive to live like the Apostles with complete trust in Jesus, and not rely on our own notions of what's possible and what's not. The miracle here was not that everybody was hiding fish and bread and they shared it. No, the Gospel is clear that Jesus takes what little we can offer and multiplies it beyond our wildest imagination. That's the beauty of Gospel readings like this. Ordinary people are following Jesus, maybe curious about his message, maybe they know someone healed by him and want to see if he's for real. He teaches, they listen, and then something amazing happens. Let us always remember that no effort is too small for God - no kindness too ordinary. He magnifies the good we do. All we need to do is trust in his bounty, and freely give to him what we have.

**SERVE** Let's make an effort this week to try and emulate the boy in today's Gospel. Give what we have over to Jesus and say, "I trust you to make something out of this." Small acts of kindness, showing gratitude, or sharing our blessings can lead to bigger things than we think possible. We will never know the echoes of the good that we do, as it ripples out and touches other lives, but we can trust that in his love for us, God will use our good deeds for tremendous ends.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 28, 2024: 2 Kgs 4:42-44 | Ps 145:10-11,15-18 | Eph 4:1-6 | Jn 6:1-15

**Pray:** Jesus, thank you for your provision and divine nourishment to fill all our needs. Amen.

### The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes Points to the Miracle of the Eucharist

The miracle of the loaves and fishes showcases Christ's radical love and compassion toward the people in the crowd who had been listening to Him for hours. Constantly aware of every need of His followers, Jesus knew the people were tired and hungry. He also knew their minds and souls hungered for more time with Him. This moment on the Sea of Galilee offered the perfect opportunity for Jesus to reveal His divine identity as God's Chosen One.

He wanted them to trust Him to care for their needs. He wished to show them He was sent to complete the work of salvation, the one who would usher in the New Kingdom. This supernatural miracle was also a great precursor to His soon-to-be-coming institution of the Holy Eucharist, Christ's ultimate gift of nourishment for our souls. The people were impressed with Jesus' fantastic miracle but still misunderstood His intention. Although he spoke to them at length about the kingdom of heaven, they seemed eager to make Him a king only to serve their political and temporal needs on earth.



The supernatural power of Jesus, as demonstrated in the miracle of the loaves and fishes, is not a distant memory but a living reality in our lives today. For those who dare to believe, Jesus offers His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the Eucharist, just as He promised. This Sacrament is not a mere ritual but a transformative experience. It is very real. When we partake of His Body and drink His Blood, the Trinity – Father, Son, and Holy Spirit – becomes alive within us, shaping us into the image of God, who is pure love, mercy, and compassion.

This ongoing connection with Jesus, as He continues to nourish our souls, not only guides us towards the heavenly kingdom but also equips us to overcome the obstacles of sin, to see Christ in others, and to be Christ to others. This connection is a constant source of reassurance and comfort, reminding us that we are never alone on our spiritual

journey. The Spirit of Christ is alive, and He is with us. Expect miracles!

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How has God provided for your temporal and spiritual needs in different seasons of your life?
- † In what areas of your life do you need to trust God more?
- † What implication does this miracle story of the loaves and fishes have for families and ministries?