



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 52

July 25, 2021

Dates to Remember

- Seventeenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
July 24: 4:00 PM Mass
July 25: 9:00 AM Mass
- July 26: Memorial of Saints
Joachim and Anne
- July 29: Memorial of Saint
Martha
- July 31: Memorial of Saint
Ignatius of Loyola

Saints to Know

Saint Martha: Saint Martha of Bethany is honored as a disciple and friend of Jesus. Martha and her siblings, Mary and Lazarus, had a special relationship with Jesus.

Luke's Gospel (Luke 10: 38 -42) recalls the hospitality of Martha when Jesus visited their home in Bethany, and Martha's frustration with her sister when Mary chose to sit at the feet of Jesus and listen to him as a disciple.

John's Gospel, (John 11: 20 -27), recalls Martha rushing out to meet Jesus after her brother died proclaiming, if Jesus had been there, Lazarus would not have died. When Jesus responds, "I am the resurrection and the life," Martha professes her great faith in the Lord, "I believe you are the Christ, the Son of God, he who is coming into the world." Her feast day is July 29.

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

John 6: 1-15

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus went across the Sea of Galilee.

A large crowd followed him,

because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick.

Jesus went up on the mountain,

and there he sat down with his disciples.

The Jewish feast of Passover was near.

When Jesus raised his eyes

and saw that a large crowd was coming to him,

he said to Philip,

"Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?"

He said this to test him,

because he himself knew what he was going to do.

Philip answered him,

"Two hundred days' wages worth of food would not be enough for each of them to have a little."

One of his disciples,

Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, said to him,

"There is a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish; but what good are these for so many?"

Jesus said, "Have the people recline."

Now there was a great deal of grass in that place.

So the men reclined, about five thousand in number.

Then Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks,

and distributed them to those who were reclining,

and also as much of the fish as they wanted.

When they had had their fill, he said to his disciples,

"Gather the fragments left over,

so that nothing will be wasted."

So they collected them,

and filled twelve wicker baskets with fragments

from the five barley loaves

that had been more than they could eat.

When the people saw the sign he had done, they said,

"This is truly the Prophet, the one who is to come into the world."

Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king,

he withdrew again to the mountain alone.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sunday Gospel Connection: July 25, 2021

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

John 6: 1-15

Gospel Background: Through most of Lectionary Cycle B, our Sunday Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel of Mark. Over the past two Sundays, we heard how Jesus sent his disciples to share in his mission. If we were to continue reading Mark's Gospel, we would next hear his report of how Jesus feeds the crowds in the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Our Lectionary, however, leaves Mark's Gospel for the next several weeks and instead presents this event from the Gospel of John. In John's Gospel, Jesus' multiplication of the loaves and the fishes is presented as a sign of his authority and divinity. Jesus interprets the meaning and significance of this miracle as a sharing of his Body and Blood. This chapter is sometimes called the "Bread of Life Discourse."



In many important ways, John's Gospel uses the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes to teach about the Eucharist. Like the Last Supper, this miracle is said to have occurred near the time of the Jewish feast of Passover. (In John's Gospel three Passovers are identified.) Jesus' language is similar to the language he used at the Last Supper as reported in the Synoptic Gospels. John's description of this event also anticipates the Messianic banquet of heaven, as the crowd reclines and all hungers are satisfied with abundance. This connection is further amplified by the response of the crowd, who wants to make Jesus a king. John is teaching us that each time we celebrate the Eucharist, we are anticipating the eternal banquet of heaven.

Recall that John's Gospel tells the story of the Last Supper differently than the Synoptic Gospels. Instead of describing the meal and Jesus' actions with the bread and cup, John describes how Jesus washed his disciples' feet. We hear this Gospel when we remember the Last Supper on Holy Thursday. This recollection of Jesus' action at the Last Supper complements the institution narrative of the Synoptic Gospels and Paul's Letters that we hear repeated at each Mass.

In both stories about the Eucharist—the washing of the disciples' feet and the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes—the Gospel of John teaches us that the Eucharist is an action. Our word Eucharist is taken from the Greek language and describes an action: "to give thanks." In the Eucharist we are fed by Jesus himself, and we are sent to serve others.

John's Gospel notes the detail that the bread blessed and shared with the crowd are barley loaves. This is the food of the poor. It reminds us that God feeds and nourishes us, fulfilling our physical needs as well as our spiritual ones. In the Eucharist, we are sent to serve the poorest among us.

The story of the multiplication of the loaves and the fishes recalls a particular aspect of the Mass. In this miracle, Jesus transforms a young boy's offering of five barley loaves and two fish. In the offertory at Mass, we present the fruits of our labors, represented by bread and wine. These gifts, given to us first by God as grain and fruit, are returned to God in our offering of thanksgiving. God in turn transforms our gifts, making this bread and wine the very Body and Blood of Jesus. We also offer ourselves in this exchange, and we, too, are transformed by the Eucharist.

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Family Connection: Parents may sympathize with the disciples' protests when Jesus asks Philip where food might be found for the crowd. In the responses of both Philip and Andrew, we hear feelings of inadequacy as they survey their limited resources in the face of such great need. We may sometimes share these feelings about our own material possessions or our emotional and spiritual resources in the face of our family's needs. This is a Gospel of hope for these times, which are all too frequent in parenting and family life. As Jesus made the five barley loaves and two fish sufficient to more than meet the needs of over five thousand people, Jesus will also work with what we have to provide for our family's needs. When we offer our efforts to God, we ask him to transform them so that they will be more than adequate to the tasks and needs before us. As you gather as a family, talk together about the things that your family needs, starting with the basics—food, shelter, safety, and so on. Continue by naming other things that a family needs to be happy and healthy—time together, cooperation, patience, and so on. Observe that sometimes we can feel like we don't have enough of the things that we need or want. Read together today's Gospel, John 6:1-15. Talk about how Jesus provided plenty of food for the crowd with just five barley loaves and two fish. We have faith that Jesus will also take what we have and make it enough to satisfy and fill all our needs. We ask for this blessing when we offer to God the work of each day in prayer in the Morning Offering. Pray together the Morning Offering, asking God to bless and make fruitful the work of each of our days.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/17th-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

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July 25: World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

On Sunday, January 31, 2021, Pope Francis announced that he had decided to institute a Church-wide celebration of a World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, to be held on the fourth Sunday of July, the Sunday closest to the July 26 feast day of Saints Joachim and Anne, the grandparents of Jesus.

The Church recognizes and honors Saints Joachim and Anne as the parents of Mary, the mother of Jesus. They nurtured Mary in the faith that led her to say “yes” to God’s will for her life when she was chosen to be the mother of Jesus. Through the example of her parents, Mary was able to nurture her Son, Jesus in his childhood years, and also have the faith and courage to stand by the cross as he was crucified.



While Saints Joachim and Anne are honored as a model for all parents, Pope Francis, in announcing this new celebration for grandparents and the elderly, has chosen to highlight their roles as grandparents, saying the elderly “remind us that old age is a gift and that grandparents are the link between the different generation(s), to pass on to the young the experience of life.” He adds, “grandparents are often forgotten, and we forget this wealth of preserving roots and passing on” what the elderly have received.

On this day of celebration, let us remember and pray for our grandparents and all the elderly, in thanksgiving for their example of love and the gifts of wisdom they share with all of us.