



He said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over--twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children. - Mt 14:19c-21

**17th Sunday in Ordinary Time/July 26, 2020**

**First Reading:**

Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. (Is 55:3a)

**Psalm:**

The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs. (Ps 145)

**Second Reading:**

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Rom 8:38-39)

**Gospel:**

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied. (Mt 14:19-20a)

**WEEKLY READINGS**

**Readings for the week of August 2, 2020**

Sunday: Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21

Monday: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102 [68b]/Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 [17]/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a, 9a]/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9

Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41 [39c]/Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Hb 1:12—2:4/Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [11b]/Mt 17:14-20

Next Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a/Ps 85:9, 10, 11-12, 13-14 [8]/Rom 9:1-5/Mt 14:22-33



**PRAYER REQUESTS**

**Please keep in your prayers the sick and homebound of our parish and those who care for them:**

Anonymous, Paul Amyot, Okgana Bajko, Joan Bellanger, Michael Birmingham, Sylvia Boulger, John Brady, Daniel Burnett, Michael Burnett, Charlotte Chase, Eleanor Chase, Major Jeffrey Chase, Susan E. Cotsonas, Dave Daly, Barbara Domigan, Michael Doyle, Beth Drzymala, Sammy Evans, Gianni Farinacci, Concetta Florientino, Michelle Foutch, Donald Gaylord, Charlene Genaway, Mary Ann Goodine, Lesha Hardgraves, Robert Havelka, Mary Hayes, Ed Helfer, William Hernandez, David Jaffarian, Craig Kingsley, Doug LaBudde, Jack Law Jr., Pinky Laviano, Kristen Law, Kevin M. Lynch, William Lindberg, Dominick Lizzi, Cindy Mahony, Erica Matthies, Kevin McCann, Gary McDonald, Edin Mercado, Marianne Martinez, Judy Martino, Kaylee Rose Meyer, Luba Mykytiw, Amelia Nabozny, Richard Norton, David Nichlos, Rita Paladino, Tommy Palmer, Elise Panico, Bonnie Pelizza, David Picchione, Pam Polashenski, Helen Rayve, Claire Renn, Tim Renn, William Robinson, Lisa Rossello, Dawn Ruchel, Rita Ryan, Alice Salvatore, Eileen Scott, Maddi Sidarous, Ralph Sitcer, Special Intentions, Bonnie Spertl, Sean Spicer, Kevin Sutton, Nolan Thompson, Joan Torcello, Nancy Troutman, Matthew West, Edward Wheeler, Dan Wiltse, Marybeth Wiltse, Gary Wickes, Chrissy Wills, Carol Wisenhunt, Veronica Wistar, Robert Woodward, Erica Wordon

**CHANGES TO THE BISHOP'S APPEAL**

We want to let you know about a few changes to the annual campaign formerly known as the Bishop's Appeal:

- The campaign will now be known as the **Diocesan Appeal** and themed, "For we walk by faith, not by sight." (2 Corinthians 5:7)
  - There will no longer be "in-pew" collection of pledges.
  - The 2020-2021 Diocesan Appeal will begin with a mailing sent to parishioners from the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany (RCDA) - Office of Stewardship and Development. You should expect to receive this correspondence between now and early September; it will include a pledge card and envelope.
  - Pledges and payments will no longer be processed in the parish office.
  - The appeal year runs through June 30, 2021 (rather than ending in March as in the past).
  - Monthly or one-time gifts by credit card can be made via secure website at [donate.thediocesanappeal.org](https://donate.thediocesanappeal.org). You can also make a pledge at that site as well as pledge payments. For more information on the appeal, visit [www.thediocesanappeal.org](https://www.thediocesanappeal.org).
- Questions - call the RCDA Office of Stewardship & Development at 518-453-6680 or email [stewardship@rcda.org](mailto:stewardship@rcda.org)  
As the Diocese serves as a critical partner with us in serving you, we thank you in advance for your prayerful consideration of a pledge to the Diocesan Appeal.





Pastors Blog,

*Brothers and sisters:*

*What will separate us from the love of Christ?  
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine,  
or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?*

*No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly  
through him who loved us.*

*For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,  
nor angels, nor principalities,  
nor present things, nor future things,  
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,  
nor any other creature will be able to separate us  
from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

*Rom 8:35, 37-39*

In my first messages to our people as the corona virus opened up as a pandemic in New York State, this passage from Romans came to mind. Understanding that keeping social distance would mean that we would not be opening churches ‘for at least a little while’, many of us anxiously pondered how that separation from each other and the Sacraments would affect us. We also anticipated the financial toll which weighed on my mind as your pastor. More importantly, we thought of the emotional and spiritual toll it would have on us as individuals and as a community.

The community rallied and generous souls came forward to serve the parish family. I recognized that the love of God would use this time to bring us together in a different way. We would also begin a new course in navigating what it means to be church. Reaching out by mail and phone was necessary but the online response boggled my mind. I never saw myself as a priest comfortable in front of a camera but, with guidance and support, I was able to do so more than I ever could have imagined.

The most difficult aspect of this ordeal, however, has been the limited availability even now from entering into the Sacraments and especially the deprivation of the Eucharist. While social distance requires not everyone can come back to church as we once did, at least we continue the process of slowly moving forward. I feel bad for so many people who want to partake but also recognize that in their compromised health situation that it is best for themselves, their loved ones and their community to wait. You are true champions in my estimation and I know that the Lord will bless you in the coming months.

Our Gospel this week is Matthew’s account of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Certain Protestant biblical scholars have seen this as a miracle of hospitality. In that line of thinking, which is contrary to our traditional Catholic understanding, Jesus didn’t literally multiply the food. In that scenario, people who had been hiding and selfishly hoarding, were transformed by Jesus to undergo a change of heart. Instead of protecting their own interests and concerns over their hunger, Jesus motivated them to share out of love and concern for all.

I remember us debating these interpretations in the classroom but now have seen that they do not necessarily negate each other. Perhaps there was a change of heart and a sharing in the crowd. We have seen that generosity and spirit as never before during the pandemic. I also firmly believe that Jesus provided and multiplied whatever was lacking. In this case, Jesus worked through the people to create a miracle of loving nourishment and provided multiple blessings beyond what the community provided on their own.

My faith has never been stronger. I have witnessed the outpouring of prayer, generosity and service of parish families working together. I have seen the additional miracle of knowing that none of us could accomplish what we are doing without the grace of God. God bless you everyone!

Fr. George

**Mass Schedule for Month of August**

**Aug. 1/2** Last name beginning with **A-D**

**Aug. 8/9** Last name beginning with **E-L**

**Aug. 15/16** Last name beginning with **M-R**

**Aug. 22/23** Last name beginning with

**S-Z**

**4pm Saturday or**

**7:30am Sunday.**