

# Parish News...

Hard to believe that summer is almost over. There are only a few weeks left until your children return back to school. Families are getting ready for the Fall school year. As I thought about this week's words of wisdom on how to stay closer to God and on a Zoom meeting on Family Catechesis, it came to me that I needed to focus on Family Catechesis as well this fall.

Some of you may be asking what Family Catechesis is, why should my family be involved and how does it work. With Family Catechesis there is the opportunity for parents to catechize the children directly and for spouses to catechize each other and for children to catechize one another and their parents. (National Directory for Catechesis #61.2)

First as parent's when your children were brought to the Church to be baptized, as parents a promise was made to bring up that child in the Catholic faith. You as parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children. You bear witness to this responsibility first by creating a home where tenderness, forgiveness, respect, fidelity, and disinterested service are the rule. The home is well suited for education in the virtues. This requires an apprenticeship in self-denial, sound judgment, and self-mastery-the preconditions of all true freedom. Parents should teach their children to subordinate the 'material and instinctual dimensions to interior and spiritual ones.' Parents have a grave responsibility to give good examples to their children. By knowing how to acknowledge their own failings to their children, parents will be better able to guide and correct them." (CCC 2223)

"Education in the faith by the parents should begin in the child's earliest years. This already happens when family members help one another to grow in faith by the witness of a Christian life in keeping with the Gospel. Family catechesis precedes, accompanies, and enriches other forms of instruction in the faith. Parents have the mission of teaching their children to pray and to discover their vocation as children of God. The parish is the Eucharistic community and the heart of the liturgical life of Christian families; it is a privileged place for the catechesis of children and parents." (CCC 2226)

As a Parish Family it is important that we begin the process of building a Family Catechesis program. After multiple searches I found a model from the Archdiocese of New York to follow as a resource. The program utilizes 9 models for family catechesis and is a good place to start. I will have additional resources as well.

To start, what will be the goal and mission of Family Catechesis in the Parish Religious Education?

- help families learn how to pray and to discuss their faith together
- help parents better understand their role as primary catechists
- bring families together in order to share and deepen their Catholic faith
- strengthen the relationship between the family and the Church
- establish ongoing Catholic faith practices within the family life
- integrate the family into the parish community

I am very excited to start this new program of Family Catechesis here at the Parish in the fall.

The teen Summer Program last night is this Sunday August 1<sup>st</sup> End of Summer Luau for Grades 7-12. Food will be provided by O'Scugnizzo's (Ziti) You may see me at the grill for extra hamburgers/hotdogs. Come and enjoy the last teen night out for the summer.

The Parish festival is on August 14<sup>th</sup> only from 5-8pm in the school cafeteria. Polish kitchen will only serve up a polish platter and mushroom stew/Polish and American beer & wine. Will have take-out available. There will also be a flea market. Thursday, Friday and Saturday. 50/50 Raffle



Looking ahead to next year's Faith Formation, the program will start on September 12th and in person. Any family who would like to pre-register their children, please call me to register. The cost will be the same as last year, \$25 per child or \$45 per family. Thanks to those families that have already pre-registered their children.

I will be available for registration these following days, if you would like to register your children, August 4, 18 & September 1 & 8 (Wednesday) from 5-6:30pm, weekend of August 7/8, 21/22 September 4/5 after the Masses in the school.

Some families have been questioning the issue regarding masks for the children this coming faith formation year. The program is under the direction of the Syracuse Diocese and not the State of New York. The Syracuse Diocese consults with the State of New York with respect to protocol for a safe return back to classes. Once this information from the Diocese, all families will be informed of the protocol for masks.

As like last year all parents will be required to sign the **COVID -19 Personal Home Screening and Personal Protection Covenant** before their child is allowed in the program. I have attached a copy for those families to review and sign at the time of registration.

This year, I have an opening Catechist for Grades for Kindergarten, and combined 4,5 & 6 Grade and combined 7<sup>th</sup>& 8<sup>th</sup> Grades. Virtus is a requirement in order to be a Catechist. Also looking for assistants for these grades as well. This will also require each person to be Virtus trained. The program is based upon the weekly Gospel reading and is easy to teach the children. Anyone interested, please contact me directly. 315 527-8399.

Sacrament of First Communion or Confirmation students is a 2-year program per the Syracuse Dioceses. Any child making First Communion would be 1 Grade and 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade. Confirmation is 9<sup>th</sup> Grade and 10<sup>th</sup> Grade. If anyone has any questions regarding these requirements, please contact me directly.



The mandatory retreat will be with St. Paul's in October at Syracuse University for the 10<sup>th</sup> Graders who are to make their Confirmation this October 23<sup>rd</sup> from 10-5pm. The cost of the retreat is \$40. The Parish will pay the \$20 with the remaining \$20 from the student. Transportation will be provided along with the lunch.

Confirmand/Sponsor sharing. Attached please find a handout for a Summer with my Sponsor. You should have already chosen your Sponsor. This handout notes what a sponsor role is for the Confirmand and what you should have with your sponsor. There should be at least 5 sponsor-confirmand meetings between now and Labor Day. If anyone has any questions, please give me a call. 315-527-8399



## **Eighteenth Sunday of Ordinary time**

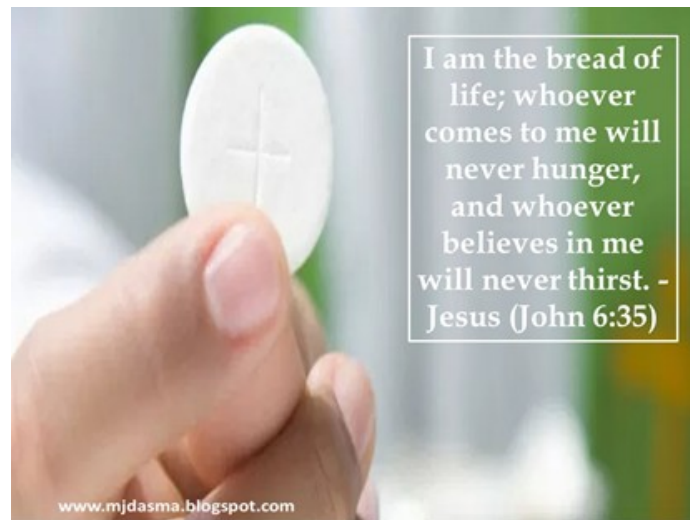
### **Sunday Reading –**

**First Reading: EX 16:2-4, 12-15**

**Responsorial Psalm 78: 3-4, 23-24, 25, 54**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Eph 4:17, 20-24**

**Gospel: John 6:24-35**



When searching for a reflection on this week's Gospel, I came across this from U.S. Catholic from John T Grosso and it really hit home for me. I reflected on my own experience during COVID. During the Pandemic we were without the Bread of Life. While watching Sunday Mass on via YouTube Mass was not the same. It was like watching TV but not being able to fully be a part of the Mass as I was not able to partake in receiving Jesus. It was like the old saying the bowl is half empty. When we were finally able to return back to Church first in the parking lot and then in the Church did, I finally felt complete. In the taking of Communion, Jesus wants us to be reminded that every time we take Communion that He is the one who provides all our needs. We are sharing in this Holy and intimate time with the Lord as part of His body -the Church

Now let us reflect on Mr. Grosso's reflection on this week's Gospel.

When was the last time you have been so moved, so convinced, so utterly awe-struck by something that your only response was “give this to me always”?

I've been reflecting on this question for the past fifteen months—during which many of us were separated from the things we love most: family, friends, and of course, Mass. I found myself in the situation of the crowd from today's reading almost every day as I watched Mass on my laptop, or during virtual family functions instead of in-person holiday parties.

I can't tell you the number of times after events like that I prayed, “Give me this, always. I need it, Lord. I miss it. When can I have it again?” I suspect that many of us have had the same struggles during this difficult year.

Those struggles, and that craving for what really matters in our lives, are what make today's readings so compelling. “The Bread of Life Discourse” (as this portion of the Gospel of John is called) is famous and profound—it tells us so much about our relationship with God. God desires an intimate, personal relationship with us. God wants to feed us with “food that endures for eternal life” (John 6:27). God wants to give life to the world by giving each of us life. God wants to dwell within us.

“The bread of God is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world” (John 6:33), Jesus says after sharing with the crowd that he will give them food that will endure for eternal life.

Can you imagine being in the crowd and hearing such a statement? How can food endure for eternal life and how can this man give it to me? Besides being confused, one would also probably be intrigued, perhaps even excited. If God wants to feed us with “the bread of life” (John 6:35), God must really love us.

God has fed God's people throughout history. In Exodus, we hear about the Israelites, who are wandering in the desert and starving. After leading them out of bondage in Egypt, God does not abandon them, literally raining bread down on them every morning. Our Psalm tells us that the Israelites ate “the bread of angels” (Ps. 78:25).

How could we not resonate with the passionate, instinctual, eager response by the crowd to Jesus after he describes “the Bread of God that comes down from Heaven” (John 6:33)? How could our response be anything other than “give us this bread always”?

Though it has been a few months since my wife and I have been vaccinated and thus, have returned to Mass, part of me mourns those fifteen months of separation from the Eucharist. The deep, spiritual ache and hunger for the Eucharist reminded me that the bread of life is not just a nice sentiment or a comforting metaphor—it is real and as essential to our lives as eating or drinking. I will never take it for granted again.

**The hymn I am the Bread of Life, now has meaning after being without for those months. How about you?**



Pita pockets and other types of bread.

Most of us eat some kind of bread almost everyday. All around the world people eat bread. White bread, brown bread, cinnamon bread, cornbread ...

Bread comes in many forms. It can be shaped into biscuits, rolls, or bread sticks. Perhaps the most familiar shape is a loaf of bread. We slice the loaf and toast it for our breakfast or use it to make sandwiches.

Here is a type of bread that may not be as familiar to you. This is flatbread. When baked the layers of the bread rise and as it cools steam creates a space between the layers. When we cut this circle of flat bread across the center, we see that a type of pocket is formed. We call these pieces of bread pita pockets.

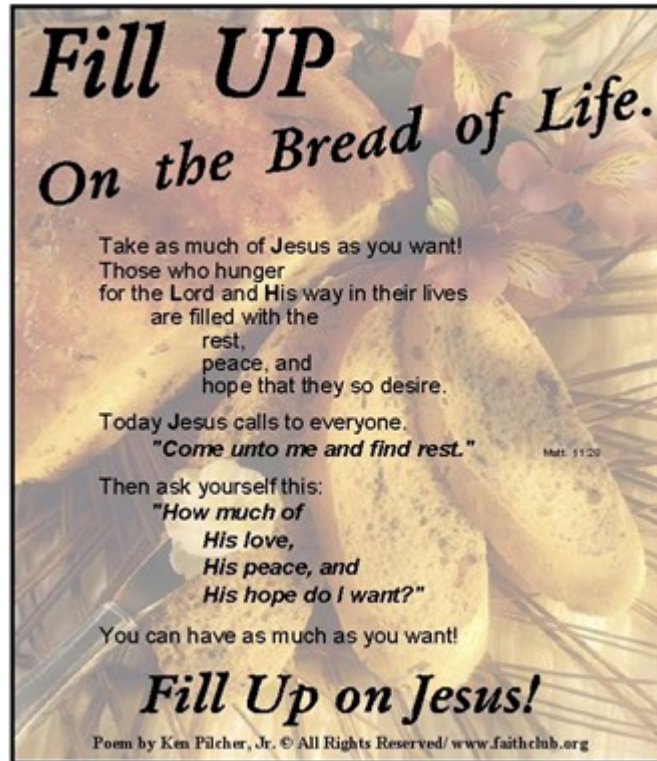
Pita pockets have been made for hundreds and hundreds of years in many parts of the world. One great thing about pita pockets is that you can fill them with meat, tomatoes, cucumbers, lettuce, carrots, tuna fish, eggs. All kinds of nutritious food can be held inside.

Bread is important for our physical bodies and Jesus uses this idea to teach us about how to nourish our spiritual life – that part of us that wants to know God. He says, **“For the bread of God is that which comes down out of heaven, and gives life to the world”** (6:33).

Jesus says, **“I am the bread of life”** (6:35). He compares himself to bread. His Spirit allows us to be filled with love, gentleness, kindness, joy, and peace. We can think of these things as nutritious food for our spirit – food that helps us grow strong and healthy. Fill yourself with God’s love.

## Weekly Prayer

This week the Gospel reading leads to the Bread of Life-Our Lord Jesus. This week's prayer is for the Bread of Life that fills us with trust in the Lord for our needs



**Fill UP**  
**On the Bread of Life.**

Take as much of Jesus as you want!  
Those who hunger  
for the Lord and His way in their lives  
are filled with the  
rest,  
peace, and  
hope that they so desire.

Today Jesus calls to everyone.  
**"Come unto me and find rest."** Mat. 11:28

Then ask yourself this:  
**"How much of  
His love,  
His peace, and  
His hope do I want?"**

You can have as much as you want!

**Fill Up on Jesus!**

Poem by Ken Pilcher, Jr. © All Rights Reserved/ www.faithclub.org



*From James Salamy, the Office of Public Policy, and Lisa Hall, the Office of Family/Respect Life Ministry*

### **Washington, D.C. – Continue to Oppose Federal Taxpayer Funding for Abortions**

Since 1976 the Hyde amendment and similar federal laws have protected federal taxpayers from being forced to pay for elective abortions. A majority of Americans oppose taxpayer funding for abortions.

However, the United States House of Representatives Committee on Appropriations continues to mark-up additional appropriations bills that currently exclude the Hyde amendment and similar provisions that prevent federal taxpayer funding for abortions.

Cardinal Timothy M. Dolan, chairman of the USCCB Committee for Religious Liberty, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann, chairman of the USCCB Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement that can be read [here](#) .

The USCCB is encouraging us to contact our United States Senators and Congressperson to keep the Hyde amendment and related policies in the appropriations bills, and to oppose any bill that expands taxpayer funding of abortion. Click [here](#) to take action and contact your elected officials.

Additional information can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Middle School Summer Pilgrimage August 14, 2021 - Niagara Falls, New York**

Come join the Diocese of Syracuse Office of Youth and Young Adult Ministry on a special summer pilgrimage for middle school students! We will visit Niagara Falls, ride the Maid of the Mist, tour the Fr. Baker Museum, and visit Our Lady of Victory Shrine for Mass!

This event is open to boys and girls entering grades 6th through 8th.

Cost is \$40 per person, and includes all activities, a t-shirt, and Chick-fil-A dinner.

Registration is now open!

For more information or to register a group, please visit [the event on the Diocesan website](#).

**NCYC (National Catholic Youth Conference)  
November 18-21, 2021 - Indianapolis, Indiana**

Join the Syracuse Diocese Delegation to the National Catholic Youth Conference in Indianapolis! NCYC is a powerful, biennial, three-day experience of prayer, community, and empowerment for Catholic teenagers (of high school age) and their adult chaperones. Don't miss the powerful talks, informative and inspiring workshops, music, and experiencing the sacraments with 10,000 young Catholics from around the US!

This event is open to youth in grades 9 through 12.

Cost is \$645 per person, and includes the conference fee, t-shirts, transportation, and lodging at double occupancy with breakfast.

For more information or to register a group, please visit the [Diocesan Event page](#).

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