

Taking the five loaves and the two fish,  
and looking up to heaven,  
Jesus said the blessing, broke the loaves,  
and gave them to the disciples,  
who in turn gave them to the crowds.

Matthew 14:19

# Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time August 2, 2020

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503  
[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)



**Congratulations Emma Lawruk and Raelynn Schraff who received their First Holy Communion last weekend. We pray that God will bless them both and draw them nearer to Him today and always.**

## NEXT WEEKEND'S APPOINTMENTS

### LECTORS

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Betsy Slat, Maria Spayd  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 8:00 AM - Tim Rea, Mark Krepich  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 10:00 AM - Gary Johnson, James Krug

### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Sophia Raneri, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 8:00 AM - Ethan & Emily Miller  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 10:00 AM - Evie & Estella Koch

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Betsy Lloyd, Billy Sweet,  
Judy Sneath, Connie Baker  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 8:00 AM - Jane Strasser, Ed Stoltz  
Mary Truesdale, Charile Moore  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 10:00 AM - Wendy Campbell, Peg Madden  
Dolores Capriotti, Mary Grace Horton

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Bob Olson  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 10:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Cecelia Bloom,  
Lou Ann Clark

### SACRISTAN

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 10:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

### SCRIP

Sat. Aug. 8- 4:00 PM - Anna Rasmussen, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 8:00 AM - Erika & Heather Yasolsky  
Sun. Aug. 9 - 10:00 AM - Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes, undated

Attributed to Pedro Meray Medrano (Spanish, 1628-1688)

after Jacopo Robusti, called Tintoretto (Italian, 1519-1594)

Chicago Institute of Art (CIC)

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## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**COMMUNION IN THE FRONT CIRCLE** - For the sake of those who are not able to attend Mass in public, Bishop Mark has encouraged parishes to offer communion outside the church after Mass on Sunday mornings. Once you have watched Mass on TV or the internet, you are welcome to come to church and receive Holy Communion in your car in the front circle. Communion will be distributed twice: first at 11:30, and then again at 12:30. Your promptness is appreciated.

**CONFIRMATION DATES SET** - We intend to celebrate the Sacrament of Confirmation here at St. John's on Monday evening, September 28<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM, and again on Wednesday evening, September 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM. If your son or daughter is scheduled for Confirmation (having been postponed in the spring), expect to be hearing from us soon! Let's pray that a second wave of the virus does not delay us again!

**SAINTS OF THE WEEK** - On Tuesday of this week we honor St. John Vianney, the 19<sup>th</sup> century French Priest who is the patron of parish priests. His parish was in the village of Ars. On his journey to this obscure village, he stopped to ask a young boy for directions, saying "show me the way to Ars and I will show you the way to heaven!" Please pray for priestly vocations.

We also honor St. Dominic, noted founder of the Order of Preachers, an outstanding religious community of men and women committed to preaching the gospel and renewing the Church. I had the privilege of studying for my doctorate with the Dominicans at the Aquinas Institute in St. Louis.

**"NO MORE WAR: WAR NEVER AGAIN!"** When Saint Pope Paul VI addressed the United Nations in 1965, these words were his plea for peace. These words must be our words as well, as the world observes the 75th Anniversary of the attacks on Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6 and 9<sup>th</sup>, respectively. These bombs were the world's first deployed atomic bombs. The explosion in Hiroshima wiped out 90 percent of the city, with 50% of Nagasaki destroyed. The two bombings killed between 129,000 and 226,000 people, most of whom were civilians, and remain the only uses of nuclear weapons in armed conflict.

**DAILY MEDITATIONS** - My daily reflections on our website will continue to focus upon the life and spirituality of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Jesuits and renowned master of the spiritual life. Please join us!

**FEAST OF THE TRANSFIGURATION** - On Thursday, August 6, the universal church celebrates the feast of the Transfiguration. Accompanied by Peter, James and John, the Lord Jesus ascended Mount Tabor and was transfigured into glory in their site, both Moses and Elijah appeared with him. The voice from heaven is similar to the voice at Jesus' baptism - "this is my beloved Son, listen to him."

**WEEKEND MASSES** - Attendance at our weekend Masses is certainly encouraging, given the limitations that are placed upon gatherings. We are comfortably and safely able to accommodate 50 to 60 people at a weekend Mass. Should we have an overflow, we always have the opportunity and option to place chairs in the gathering space. Masks and social distancing remain the norm.

**DAILY MASS SCHEDULE** - Please note that evening Masses will continue to be offered on Monday and Wednesday at 6 o'clock. Morning Masses will be offered at 8:30 on Tuesday Thursday and Friday.

**ONLINE GIVING** - In these uncertain times, the financial support of your parish remains important. Have you considered online giving? Whether you are able to get to Mass or not, a direct deposit from your checking account to our parish account allows you to sustain your giving without interruption.

**BIBLE STUDY ON TUESDAY EVENING** - All are most welcome to join our Tuesday evening zoom Bible study, which meets online at 7 PM. We typically review the readings of the coming Sunday, which allows all of us to be better prepared to hear God's word when we gather for the Eucharist. To join, please provide me with your email address.

### PASTORAL STAFF

**Monsignor Michael Becker** - [mbecker253@aol.com](mailto:mbecker253@aol.com)

**Deacon Gene Neral** - [gene@lifeinfofocus.net](mailto:gene@lifeinfofocus.net)

**Kristin Hoyne** - Parish Council President [inaugh@aol.com](mailto:inaugh@aol.com)

**Jena Bowman** - Business Manager  
[stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnchurch@atlanticbb.net)

**Deborah Johnson** - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate  
[dj219@msn.com](mailto:dj219@msn.com)

**Mark Krepich** - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults  
[mark.krepich@gmail.com](mailto:mark.krepich@gmail.com)

**Ken Dunmire** - Maintenance

### August Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

#### *The Maritime World*

We pray for all those who work and live from the sea, among them sailors, fishermen and their families.



**ANNUAL WEDDING ANNIVERSARY LITURGY:** Bishop Mark Bartchak and the Family Life Office cordially invite all couples celebrating 1, 5, 10, 25, 40, 50, 55, and 60+ Wedding Anniversary in 2020 (and their families) to attend the Annual Wedding Anniversary Liturgy. Couples may attend Sunday, September 13 in ALTOONA at Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament or Sunday, September 20 in JOHN-STOWN at St. John Gualbert Cathedral. Both locations are handicap accessible. Liturgies in each location begin at 2:00 p.m. Bishop Mark will be the celebrant and homilist at each celebration. Refreshments/snacks will be available after the mass for anniversary couples and their families. *Reservations must be made through your parish for either celebration by Wednesday, August 19.*

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** The disciples in today's gospel looked to Jesus to feed the thousands of people in the crowds and he told them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." When the disciples claimed they did not have enough with only the small amount of five loaves and two fish among themselves, Jesus challenged them to be personally responsible and not allow them to abandon the crowd in their time of need. The simple gifts accepted by Jesus were given in an act of love and trust. No matter how small or limited our gifts seem we must personally share them with generosity. God will make what we offer "enough." Simple gifts were "multiplied." During the past six months we have witnessed thousands of men, women, and children being the giver of simple gifts to the "crowds" throughout our country and beyond who are in very extreme circumstances and levels of need. Will we share our simple gifts of "loaves and fishes" as a habit and not wait for someone else to step forward first?

### **Stewardship at St. John's**

**July 19, 2020**

Envelopes	\$ 2,863.00
Loose	\$ 415.00
Catholic Register	\$ 25.00
Food Bank Donations	\$ 268.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 3,571.00</b>
Online Giving	\$ 1,403.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 4,974.00</b>

### ***Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice***

Payments/Donations \$155,005

Pledge Payment Committed \$22,443

Total Pledges/Donations \$177,448

**Catholic Ministries Drive:** Goal - \$44,423

Last Update: June 30, 2020

Payments/Donations \$ 33,280

Pledge Payments Committed \$600

Total Gifts \$ 33,880

### **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [ginny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:ginny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

**Adam • Aiden • Cari Ann • James Aubrey  
Julie Beiswenger • Scott Brenneman • Robert Cole  
Millie Grace Capon • Betty Dennis  
Michael DeStefano • Jim Duffy • Bernadine Farrell  
Kathy Felty • Christine Finklestine • Mary Ann Flinn  
Helen Fornwalt • Leann Frazier • Molly Grenfell  
Ken Hartman • Denny Horton • Randy Horton  
Brian Kopp • Amy Langenbacher • Lisa  
Sherri Maffettone • Louis Jack Mathias  
Therese Merrill • Bryson Miller • Mildred Miller  
Susie Miller • Barbara Moore • Donna Moyer  
Ailani Myers • Nancy • Stan Neal • Patricia Olson  
Mary Oricko • Linda Pletcher • Karen Price  
Ron Peschock • Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker  
Vicki Riley • Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz  
Cari Roth • Mike Rudolph • Fr. Robert Rustin  
Peggy Seiler • Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter  
Laura Price Spenmark • Tim Temofonte • Patty Teufel  
Rose Wargo • Lois Werfel • Carol White  
William Wieland • Noah Wills • Milan & Family  
Dorothy Yingling**

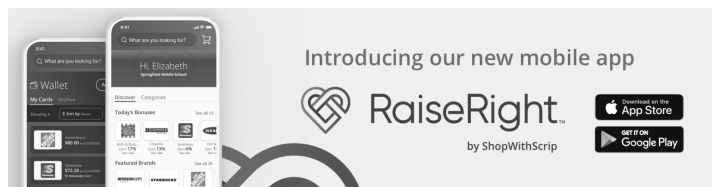
HOME WITH THE LORD: Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

**Dina Temofonte**

May she rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.

*Please respect the person's right to privacy and secure permission before placing a name on the Prayer List.*

**COLLEGE STUDENT MASS:** Mass for students entering or returning to college and their families will be held on Sunday, August 2nd at 7:00 PM outside at the Our Lady of the Alleghenies Shrine in Loretto, next to the Basilica of Saint Michael the Archangel. The Bishop will offer a special blessing to the students. *Recent graduates entering the workforce or the military are also welcome.* Please bring your own lawn chairs. If it rains, Mass will be celebrated inside the Basilica.



**NEW SCRIP APP:** The new mobile app, RaiseRight by ShopWithScrip, is simply the right way to fundraise. Shop gift cards from more than 750 top brands to earn on your daily purchases. Anytime you want, anywhere you go. Get the app: <https://www.raiseright.com/>

## SUMMER MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY - 4:00 PM

SUNDAY - 8:00 AM & 10:00 AM

MONDAY • WEDNESDAY - 6:00 PM

TUESDAY • THURSDAY • FRIDAY - 8:30 AM

We will continue to record Sunday Mass for those unable to attend and post it on our Facebook page and website.

**PLEASE LOGIN AND CHECK YOUR INFORMATION:** Help us keep St. John the Evangelist records up to date. Just visit our parish website at [stjohnsaltoona.org](http://stjohnsaltoona.org) and click on the My Own Church link on the left side of the page. Here you can login and update your information. If you haven't logged in to My Own Church, now is a great time to create an account. Go to [stjohnsaltoona.org](http://stjohnsaltoona.org) and click on My Own Church on the left side of the homepage and create an account. Once our staff has received a request and verified your account, you can update your information. If you have questions, please call the church office at 814-942-5503. Thanks for helping us update our records!

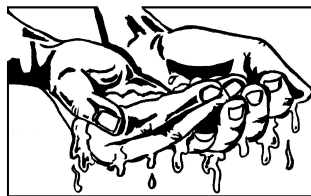


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**facebook**

**ANNUAL FLEA MARKET:** The St. Vincent de Paul Society will hold their annual flea market at St. Therese of the Child Jesus Fr. Kelley Hall on Friday August 7 and Saturday August 8 from 8:00 to 1:00 both days.

**FALL CLASSES:** Faith formation is a life-long endeavor. By virtue of our baptism, we are called to continually grow closer to Christ through a life of prayer, service, and knowledge of our faith. The Office of Adult Enrichment and Lay Ecclesial Ministry has announced the following classes for the 2020 Fall Schedule: **Heart of Faith, Old Testament, New Testament, Wisdom Literature and Psalms.** For a description of classes, locations, times, registration forms and to learn more about our programs visit [www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/](http://www.dioceseaj.org/lay-ecclesial-ministry/) or contact Marybeth at (814) 361-2000. **All are welcome!**

**LENTEN RICE BOWLS:** If you still have a CRS Rice Bowl from Lent that you would like to turn in, you can drop it off in the Gathering Space Catholic Relief Services is the outreach from the Catholic Church in the United States to those in need throughout the world by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies. CRS Rice Bowl proceeds benefit the work of Catholic Relief Services as well as several local charities.



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Eighteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
August 2, 2020

All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!

— Isaiah 55:1a

## Schedule for the Week

### Sunday August 2 – 18<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

10:00 AM - Mass for *Jean Riccitelli* requested by  
David Riccitelli

11:30 AM - Communion in the Front Circle

12:30 AM - Communion in the Front Circle

### Monday August 3 – Weekday

6:00 PM - Mass for *Leroy Musselman* requested by  
Anna Musselman

### Tuesday August 4 – St. John Vianney, Priest

8:30 AM - Mass for *Bill Schmerbeck* requested by  
Rita Horell

### Wednesday August 5 – Weekday

5:00 PM - Confessions

6:00 PM - Mass for *Gussie Inglima* requested by  
Ray & Mary King

### Thursday August 6 – The Transfiguration of the Lord

8:30 AM - Mass for *Shirley Tokar* requested by  
Richard & Joyce Lowe

### Friday August 7 – Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Joe Robeson*

### Saturday August 8 – Vigil of 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 PM - Confessions

4:00 PM - Mass for *Special Intention* requested by  
Ray & Mary King

### Sunday August 9 – 19<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Karl Luckner* requested by  
Bob & Ginny Reeder

10:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102;  
Mt 14:22-36

Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23  
Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14

Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7; Jer 31:10-12ab, 13; Mt 15:21-28

Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 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;  
Mt 16:24-28

Saturday: Hb 1:12 — 2:4; Ps 9:8-13; Mt 17:14-20

Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14;  
Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33



Taking the five loaves and the two fish,  
and looking up to heaven,  
Jesus said the blessing, broke the loaves,  
and gave them to the disciples,  
who in turn gave them to the crowds.

Matthew 14:19

**Eighteenth**  
Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
**August 2, 2020**

## **Sunday Readings**

**August 2, 2020**

## **Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

### **Reading 1**

**Isaiah 55:1–3**

Thus says the LORD:  
All you who are thirsty,  
come to the water!  
You who have no money,  
come, receive grain and eat;  
Come, without paying and without cost,  
drink wine and milk!  
Why spend your money for what is not bread;  
your wages for what fails to satisfy?  
Heed me, and you shall eat well,  
you shall delight in rich fare.  
Come to me heedfully,  
listen, that you may have life.  
I will renew with you the everlasting covenant,  
the benefits assured to David.

### **Responsorial Psalm**

**Ps 145:8–9, 15–16, 17–18**

**R. (cf. 16) The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is gracious and merciful,  
slow to anger and of great kindness.

The LORD is good to all  
and compassionate toward all his works.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The eyes of all look hopefully to you,  
and you give them their food in due season;  
you open your hand  
and satisfy the desire of every living thing.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

The LORD is just in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.

The LORD is near to all who call upon him,  
to all who call upon him in truth.

**R. The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.**

## **Reading 2**

### **Rom 8:35, 37–39**

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.

## **Gospel**

### **Mt 14:13–21**

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, “This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves.” Jesus said to them, “There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves.” But they said to him, “Five loaves and two fish are all we have here.” Then he said, “Bring them here to me,” and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. 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, 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.

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Taking the five loaves and the two fish,  
and looking up to heaven,  
Jesus said the blessing, broke the loaves,  
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who in turn gave them to the crowds.

Matthew 14:19

# Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 2, 2020

## LONGING FOR SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING

The word of God serves up a tremendous feast for us today. Isaiah beckons all who hunger and thirst to come to the Lord for satisfaction. The psalmist cries out, “The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.” Saint Paul tells us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. Finally, in the Gospel, we hear the story of the miraculous feeding of over five thousand people from a mere five loaves and two fish. Most of us have our material needs met on a day-to-day basis. These scriptures, nevertheless, have much to say to the contemporary believer. We must ask ourselves, “Where are my deepest hungers? Where are my thirsts?” After material needs are satisfied and, in some cases, over-satisfied, many people still experience a deep longing for spiritual balance and well-being. As the loaves and fish are multiplied in today’s Gospel, perhaps our prayer can be a longing for the satisfaction of the deepest needs that only God can fill.

## ADMITTING OUR HELPLESSNESS

Jesus’ disciples, after a long day of preaching and healing, find themselves confronted with thousands of hungry people who need to be fed. They themselves were no doubt hungry and thirsty. In desperation, they turn to the Lord and ask him to tell the people to go to the towns and villages to buy food. Jesus tells them to give the people food themselves. They admit that they can come up with only five loaves and two fish, hardly enough to feed even themselves. It was only after the disciples admitted their total helplessness in the situation that the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish occurred. Where is the lesson for us? It is in admitting our helplessness in life’s most difficult moments that a miracle may perhaps be waiting for us.

## MIRACLES OF MULTIPLICATION

Many believers admit that when faced with life-threatening illness, all that can be done in many instances is to throw one’s hands up in total helplessness and, in desperation, call upon God. The miracle that can occur is often not a cure of the illness. The miracle may be the strength and courage given by God to move through the pain and grief with hearts of faith. Remember what Saint Paul tells us today. “For I am convinced that neither death, nor life ... nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.” When we know deep hunger for meaning and direction, when we are at our lowest, let us heed the words of the prophet Isaiah, and come to the Lord, that we may have life. If five loaves and two fish can be multiplied miraculously to feed thousands, then surely the compassion and love of Christ Jesus can be multiplied again and again for those whose hearts hunger and thirst for healing and wholeness.

## TODAY’S READINGS

Isaiah 55:1–3  
Psalm 145:8–9, 15–18  
Romans 8:35, 37–39  
Matthew 14:13–21

**Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes**, undated  
Attributed to Pedro Menay Medrano (Spanish, 1628–1688)  
after Jacopo Robusti, called Tintoretto (Italian, 1519–1594)  
Chicago Institute of Art (CICG)

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# God's Word for Children


A large crowd gathered to see Jesus.

At suppertime, the disciples wanted the people to go find their own food. Instead, Jesus took five loaves of bread and two fish, and did what the signs say.

Find and circle the words in the baskets below the signs and fill in the missing letters.

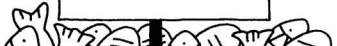
You can read the story in your Bible at Matthew 14:13-21.

H \_




i	e	v	z	q	h	x	c
u	a	p	H	e	w	n	r
f	o	k	t	s	b	g	m

f \_ d




a	u	k	r	c	v	h	s
a	b	n	g	u	w	d	p
f	q	t	e	i	f	e	d

O \_ \_ r




c	s	m	i	z	t	e	j
k	o	v	e	r	u	h	y
d	p	g	q	f	l	a	n

\_ i v \_




e	f	i	v	e	c	g	l
m	m	x	o	c	p	t	d
d	i	b	q	f	a	k	j

th \_ u \_ and



h	f	y	x	n	p	d	g
t	h	o	u	s	a	n	d
c	l	m	b	k	e	i	j

\_ \_ ople



a	v	d	t	f	w	a	b
u	r	h	w	y	s	g	z
c	q	p	e	o	p	l	e

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## Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

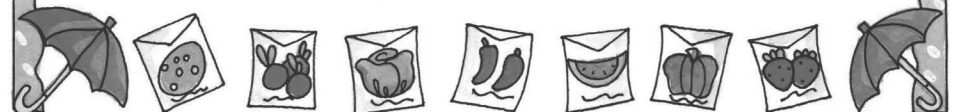
God is all-powerful and the ruler of everything!

Color the first prayer book  
and every third one after that.

The colored books will spell what can  
come between you and God's love.

N	A	Q	O	W
C	T	J	X	H
T	L	E	R	K
N	B	Y	G	

\_\_\_\_\_





"Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."  
 Then (Jesus) said, "Bring them here to me."  
*Matthew 14:17, 18*



## SEVEN SACRAMENTS

The Catholic Church recognizes and celebrates seven sacraments. A sacrament is a sign of God's love and grace, and gives us a share in God's life. Sacraments transform us and strengthen us for the work of building God's kingdom. The seven sacraments are gathered into three groups.

Baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist are **sacraments of initiation**.  
 They bring us into the Church and make us fully participating members.

Reconciliation and anointing of the sick are **sacraments of healing**.  
 They ask God for healing of people's body, soul, and spirit.

Matrimony (marriage) and holy orders are **sacraments of mission**.  
 They acknowledge and honor the ways in which we choose  
 to serve our community and each other.

People celebrate these sacraments at different times during their lives. Which ones have you already celebrated? Ask the adults in your house to name the sacraments they have celebrated. On the lines on this page, name some of the people you know who will be celebrating these sacraments in the coming year. Is someone getting married? Do you know someone who will make their First Communion or be confirmed? Is someone ill who can be blessed and strengthened by the sacrament of anointing of the sick? Every week we all have the opportunity to celebrate the great gifts of reconciliation and Eucharist.

Put the list where you can see it, and remember to pray for your family and friends as they prepare to share in God's life by celebrating the sacraments.

Baptism \_\_\_\_\_

Eucharist \_\_\_\_\_

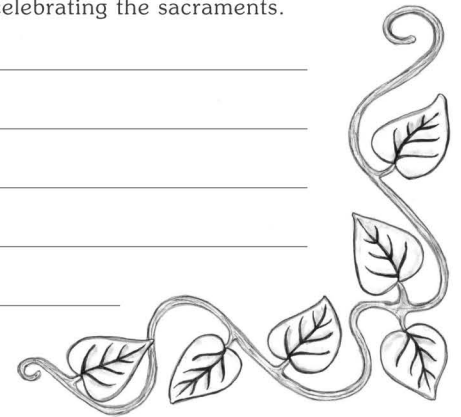
Confirmation \_\_\_\_\_

Reconciliation \_\_\_\_\_

Anointing of the Sick \_\_\_\_\_

Holy Orders \_\_\_\_\_

Matrimony \_\_\_\_\_



### IDEAS FOR LIVING BETTER FROM THE FAMILY LIFE OFFICE

#### *Family Ritual*

The family is the “domestic Church.” What does that mean? It means that your own family is a little Church. And as Church, your family is meant to be a light of the Gospel to the world. What are some ways we can live this calling?

Pray as a family every day – more than just at meals, but have some time in the morning or in the evening where you pray together.

Practice hospitality – Be welcoming and inviting to friends, neighbors and strangers. Even in the pandemic, we can find ways to be welcoming while continuing to practice social distancing.

Serve together – A beautiful way to live our calling as domestic Church is to engage in service projects together. Planting a garden to donate to your local soup kitchen is a great way to do this when you cannot serve outside the home.

Andre McCarville  
Family Life & Missions Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown

#### **William Arthur Ward, *Up Words***

##### *The Mistakes to Avoid:*

- Remorse over yesterday's failures.
- Anxiety over today's problems.
- Worry over tomorrow's uncertainty.
- Waste of the moment's opportunity.
- Procrastination with one's present duty.
- Resentment of another's success.
- Criticism of a neighbor's imperfection.
- Impatience with youth's immaturity.
- Skepticism of our nation's future.
- Unbelief in God's providence.

Reprinted with permission from:  
“Apple Seeds”, Fr. Brian Cavanaugh, T.O.R.

#### Memorial of the Passion of Saint John the Baptist

**August 29, 2020**

St. John the Baptist was truly the forerunner of the Messiah. Always one step ahead of Jesus' ministry. John was born first, began his ministry first, and died a martyr's death first. And it was clear that Jesus loved him, being deeply grieved when he heard the news of his beheading at the hand King Herod. Read: Matthew 14:1-12

Jesus praised John the Baptist highly by saying, “Truly I tell you, among those born of women no one has arisen greater than John the Baptist.”

One of the most highly venerated saints he has two feast days: his *Nativity* on June 24th and his *Passion* on August 29th.

*(left) Baptistry of St. John the Baptist, Florence, Italy*





## ***Families and the Gospel***

### **August 2, 2020: Eighteenth Sunday** (MT 14:13-21)

The apostles were just being practical when they asked Jesus to “dismiss the crowds to go buy food.” Jesus knew there is always enough when we place our trust in the Father, even with just (FIVE) 5 loaves and fishes. Trust is the bridge to miracles.

### **August 6, 2020: Transfiguration**

At the Transfiguration the disciples saw a different side of Jesus. All of us have ‘another side’ which we reveal only to those we trust. A family is the sacred place where we can be transfigured to be our truest self.

### **August 9, 2020: Nineteenth Sunday** (MT 14:22-33)

The demands of family can be so overwhelming we feel walking on water would be easier. When Jesus was pressured, He dismissed everyone, so he could be “by himself and pray.” When overwhelmed and stressed, go to a quiet place and surrender your pressured feelings to the Lord using Peter’s prayer in today’s gospel: “Lord, save me.”

### **August 15, 2020: The Assumption**

“Blessed is the fruit of your womb” can be said of all mothers, because every child is “blessed” and a child of God upon whom God “looks with favor.” This is our deepest identity and destiny. We do not earn this blessing. God’s love is a free gift to each of us.

### **August 16, 2020: Twentieth Sunday** (MT 15:21-28)

The mother in today’s gospel persisted, even when she was ignored and insulted. She would do whatever was necessary to bring relief to her child. Parenting is more than bringing life into the world; it is also about sacrificing daily for your children.

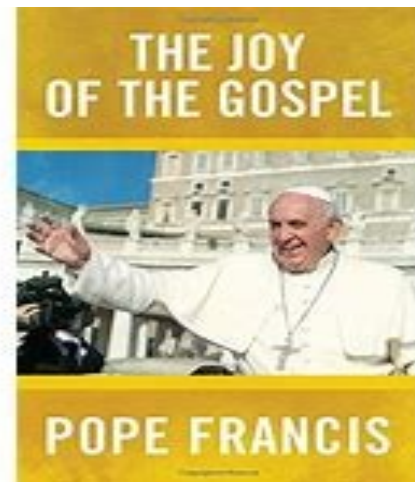
### **August 23, 2020: Twenty-First Sunday** (MT 16:13-20)

Like Jesus in today’s gospel, we are seen by others in different ways. Perhaps the name our family gives us is closest to our true identity. They know us best. Who do they say you are?

### **August 30, 2020: Twenty-Second Sunday** (MT 16:21-27)

Relationships live in a careful balance. If a person changes, the balance is altered requiring a shift in the relationship. In today’s gospel Jesus announced a change and Peter resisted. Sometimes, those we count on for support may actually get in the way. Jesus told Peter: “You are an obstacle to me.”

**Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar**



The Family Life Office has **20** copies of this exciting work, “*The Joy of the Gospel*” by Pope Francis to be given away **FREE!**

Give Maureen a call or email (814) 317 –2643, [mroberts@dioceseaj.org](mailto:mroberts@dioceseaj.org) in the Family Life Office, Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown.

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“Let us not say that things are harder today; they are simply different. But let us also learn from the saints who have gone before us, who confronted the difficulties of their own day. So I propose that we **pause** to **rediscover** some of the reasons which can help us to **imitate** them today.”

Pope Francis, *The Joy of the Gospel* (2014)





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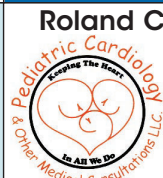
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