

The Work of the People  
*The Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

With little fanfare, we move into August this weekend as we continue through Ordinary Time. I have not had the opportunity to experience what some call the “slowing down of life” this summer but there is still time to recharge for the business of the coming months. The Opening Prayer (Collect) for this Sunday points to how God constantly gives life to his creation: he creates, and he also restores what he creates and keeps safe what he restores. This is the reason we glory in our God as our “Creator and guide.”

In the Reading from the Book of Exodus today God provides bread for the complaining people, but they don't know what it is. Happily, Moses could tell them. How often does God answer our prayers or meet our needs and we fail to recognize the gift being offered? Who has helped us see a gift in what at first appear to us to be strange?

In the Gospel reading today we continue Jesus's Bread of Life Discourse in John's Gospel. In the reading from the Book of Exodus today we hear of God feeding the people of Israel. The people following Jesus have just been fed. The message from John's account of the Gospel complements what we hear in the Reading from the Letter to the Church at Ephesus today. Jesus, who said, "My food is to do the will of the One who sent me," says that he himself can be our sustenance. Christ, in his message and in his living Body, is the heavenly bread God continues to send to us.

In the Letter to the Church at Ephesus we hear the author say: "You learned Christ," not "You learned about Christ." The knowledge the author is talking about here is comparable to the difference between knowing what a bicycle is and knowing how to ride one. To learn Christ means to let Christ so influence our heart and mind that others will know Christ by watching us. That demands a lot of practice.

The reflection for this week is from Sr. Melannie Svoboda, a Sister of Notre Dame of Chardon, Ohio, who has written *Everyday Epiphanies* and other books. She also gives talks and retreats nationally. You may visit her blog “Sunflower seeds” at [www.melanniesvobodasnd.org](http://www.melanniesvobodasnd.org).

“One thing I really like about the Bible is this: it is densely populated with imperfect people. People like me. And (I'm assuming) people like you. Take today's reading from Exodus. God has

just delivered the Israelites from their many years of slavery in Egypt. And God did it in an amazing way: by leading them smack-dab through the Red Sea—with dry feet, no less. But now the people are whining to Moses that their former way of life in Egypt was better than their current state of affairs. (How soon we forget!) The people complain. They grumble. Finally, to stop their whining, God sends quail and manna for them to eat. As I read this story, I asked myself: Can whining be a substitute for trust in God? Can complaining be a substitute for faith? Can grumbling be a substitute for action? I think they are for me at times.

St. Paul reminds the Ephesians, and us, of this important reality: discipleship with Jesus calls for continuous conversion. Continuous. What's more, conversion is hard work. It entails ‘putting off the old self and putting on the new self.’ No easy task. But Jesus gives us an incredible gift to help us with the work of continuous conversion: the Eucharist, the Bread of Life. Under the appearances of bread and wine, we receive Jesus himself, our nourishment and strength for the journey.

We are not perfect, but we are incredibly blessed.”

#### **READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Num. 11:4b-15/Mt. 14:13-21  
 Tuesday: Num. 12:1-13/Mt. 14:22-36  
 Wednesday: Num. 13:1-2, 25-33; 14:1-2b, 26-29, 34-35/  
 Mt. 15:21-28  
 Thursday: Num. 20:1-13/Mt. 16:13-23  
 Friday: Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14/Mk. 9:2-10  
 Saturday: Deut. 6:4-13/Mt. 17:14-20  
 Sunday: 1 Kings 19:4-8/Eph. 4:30; 5:2/Jn. 6:41-51

#### **CELEBRATING MILESTONE ANNIVERSARIES**

*Richard & Frances Marks - 50 years*  
*James & Diana Sagan - 50 years*  
*William & Kathleen Crawford - 50 years*  
*Paul & Mary Lou Pacoe - 25 years*  
*Jeremy & Rita Chaffee - 25 years*  
**Congratulations and God Bless**

“Jesus,  
 help me to be meek, as you are.”

## WORSHIP

Monday, August 2  
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Tuesday, August 3  
8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of Baker/Nowak Family  
(Rita Baker & family)

Wednesday, August 4  
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, August 5  
8:00 am + Pete Weidner (Ginger (Weidner) & Dick Kester)

Friday, August 6 - FIRST FRIDAY  
8:00 am + In Mem. of Kevin Orr (Father & Mother)

Saturday, August 7  
4:30 pm + Casimir Olszewski  
(Christine & Richard Bidwell)

Sunday, August 8  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Living & Deceased Parishioners  
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Michael H. and Michael R. Milligan  
(Barb Milligan)

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, August 2  
5 pm - Doors open for BINGO

Tuesday, August 3  
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, August 7  
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, August 8  
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

### BINGO BINGO BINGO

Bingo is returning to St. Anthony of Padua Parish Center on Monday, August 2, 2021. Doors & kitchen open at 5:00 pm. Early Bird Bingo begins at 6 pm and Regular Bingo at 6:30 pm.  
August dates for BINGO are August 2, August 16 and August 30.

### ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$450.00
International Needs	10.00
Candles	4.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$464.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
Pledged: \$6,590    Paid: \$6,290

### CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS Documentation for Safety

Working alongside the Bishop, the Office for the Protection of Children and Youth reinforces the ongoing implementation of policies and procedures that protect children. All employees, volunteers and clergy in the Diocese of Erie who work with children must undergo criminal record checks. The diocesan Policy for the Protection of Children and Youth screening guidelines and abuse prevention training programs emphasize the importance of knowing the employees and volunteers who have access to children in our schools and parishes. Parents should remain vigilant in insisting that those with access to their children have gone through an application process and obtained the required clearances and trainings before being granted access to their children. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to see what documentation and training is required for those who work with children and youth in our parishes/schools/agencies.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Jesus tells us: "Do not work for what perishes." Give your life to what endures such as the family history you are creating, the love and mutual respect which bonds you together, the memories you share and the forgiveness generously given. These are the true treasures that are worth working and dying for.

### DISPENSATION BEING LIFTED

Bishop Persico is reinstating the obligation to attend Mass in person on Sundays and holy days in the Diocese of Erie beginning on Sunday, August 15, 2021, the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. As always, the obligation does not apply to those with serious illness or health risks, as well as their caregivers.

### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,159.00
Maintenance	286.00
Candles	44.00
International Needs	36.00
Latin Mass	269.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,794.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
Pledged: \$26,250    Paid: \$21,859

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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