

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

John's account of the Gospel often gives a different version of stories told in the Synoptic accounts, Matthew, Mark, and Luke. His account of the Last Supper, for example, is remarkably different. In the Synoptics, we hear the familiar story of breaking bread and blessing wine that is part of our liturgy, but John recalls how Jesus washed her feet at the Last Supper (John 13:1-11). Eucharistic references are plentiful in John's account, however, especially in chapter 6. In the middle of Ordinary Time, the Church takes the time to read John 6 and savor the words and actions of Jesus as he talks about the bread of life and the hunger of humankind.

That chapter opens with the multiplication of five loaves and two fish. This is one of only two stories that all four Gospels relate. Jesus seems to be following in the footsteps of the great prophets like Elisha who multiplied loaves and grain, but two things set Jesus' action apart from the Old Testament prophets. First, he takes the bread and fish and give thanks (in Greek, *eucharisto*, from which our word Eucharist comes) and then distributes them. Second, Jesus has the disciples gather up what is left over. Twelve baskets of fragments are left, one for each of the disciples who doubted they could feed the multitude.

Some commentators refer to this passage as an institution of the Eucharist because of what Jesus does with the bread and the fish. There is no cup of wine, no table ceremony, no transforming words. Nevertheless, the ritual of giving thanks and giving to others to eat is highly symbolic. Later in the chapter, Jesus uses bread as a metaphor for himself.

The crowd follows Jesus because they see the signs he does. Believing only because of outward signs is the most tenuous form of faith. At the end of the passage, the crowd wants to make Jesus King because of what they have seen. They have misunderstood Jesus' person and message. He is forced into hiding because earthly kingship is not what Jesus came for.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. Jerome Kodell, OSB who is former Abbot of Subiaco Abbey in Arkansas and is author of numerous books.

Good leaders know that what people need and what they want are not always the same thing. Their task is to choose whether to cater to people's wants or help them see what they really need.

Sometimes, though, wants and needs are the same thing— for example, when you're hungry, as the people are in today's first reading and Gospel. But as soon as needs are satisfied, wants take over again, and people may go astray.

Jesus has attracted the crowd because of the signs he was working. He will now work a sign which has a meaning beyond what the people want. In John's Gospel, the multiplication of the loaves stands at the head

of the chapter on the Bread of Life, which will feed the people with what they need in a far richer way than the bread they want. Lest we miss the point, John gives a stage setting: "The Jewish feast of Passover was near."

When the people receive the food and comprehend the miracle, they get the point, to a point. They interpret this as a prophetic action, an intervention of the divine. But then their worldly wants take over, and they want Jesus to be not a prophet but an earthly king who will satisfy their earthly wants.

As this chapter of the Gospel unfolds, Jesus will interpret what the multiplication of loaves really means, and some of those who have followed him this far will find he is taking them beyond what they want.

The bread is one thing, but the Bread is another.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Sir. 44:1, 8, 10-15/Mt. 13:16-17  
 Tuesday: Ex. 33:7-11; 34:4b-9, 28  
 Wednesday: Ex. 34:29-35/Mt. 13:44-46  
 Thursday: Ex. 40:16-21, 34-38/Jn. 11:17-27  
 Friday: Lev. 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37/Mt. 13:54-58  
 Saturday: Lev. 25:1, 8-17/Mt. 14:1-12  
 Sunday: Ex. 16:2-4, 12-15, 31a/Eph. 4:17, 20-24/Jn. 6:24-35

### 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.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

In today's gospel Phillip worried about "enough food" for the crowd. What is ENOUGH? When does our ENOUGH deprive another family of their fair share? Jesus performed today's miracle because one child was willing to share and risk living with less. Can your family live more simply so that other families can simply live?

*"Give thanks to the Lord,  
for he is good."  
—Psalm 106:1*

**WORSHIP**

Monday, July 26  
 8:00 am + John E. Auer  
 Tuesday, July 27  
 8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak (Arrnold Family)  
 Wednesday, July 28  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, July 29  
 8:00 am + William Flynn, Jr. (John & Leona Kutz)  
 Friday, July 30  
 8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (PNA Lodge 1540)  
 Saturday, July 31  
 4:30 pm + Peg Styborski (Kathleen Lipkovich)  
 Sunday, August 1  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Sandra Reagle (Frances Giewont)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

**BINGO VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**  
 St. Anthony of Padua will resume their Bingo operations in August. We are in need of volunteers to help run these games  
 Please call Kathleen (814 282-6707) if you have questions or need more information.

**RX FUNDRAISING and RITE AID**  
 Seton School has partnered with RXfundraising and Rite Aid to establish a fundraising program that earns funds every time a registered participant fills a prescription or shops at their local Rite Aid using their wellness+ rewards number. Seton School needs your support! The program is free for participants to use and Seton School will receive funds at the end of each quarter based on the number of prescriptions filled and qualifying purchases that its registered participants make.  
 Please feel free to reach out to Jamie Longo, Advancement/Admissions Director, Seton Catholic School at 814 336-2320 or online at [jclongo@seton-school.com](mailto:jclongo@seton-school.com) with any questions you may have on getting started.

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Tuesday, July 27  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, July 31  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)  
 Sunday, August 1  
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

**CELEBRATING A MILESTONE ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR?**  
 Couples celebrating their 25th, 50th or 60th or more wedding anniversaries are invited to attend the annual Diocesan Anniversary Celebration Liturgies on Sunday, August 8 at 2:00 pm at St. Jude in Erie. Please, if you have not already done so, contact the rectory at 814 398-4234 to let us know if you are celebrating!

*“Thank you, Jesus,  
 for always giving me what I need!  
 Please show me how to  
 share your blessings  
 with everyone else.”*

**GRANDPARENTS DAY**  
 Today, July 25th is Grandparents Day! May the Holy Spirit watch over all grandparents, protect them and care for them. May they know God’s goodness and love always.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$330.00
National Needs	40.00
Candles	3.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$373.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$6,590	Paid: \$6,290

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$792.00
Maintenance	311.00
National Needs	105.10
Candles	81.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,289.10</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$26,250	Paid: \$21,859

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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