



A Free Meal, but with Demands

When God invites you to a meal, you never have to pay. It might be free, but it does have its demands. In fact, you are expected to open yourself to a total transformation. In the first reading, Isaiah mentions the renewal of an everlasting covenant. Perhaps a small dinner fee might be easier to handle.

This reading is quite tender. The needy are invited to a meal of grain, wine, and milk. Their neediness might explain why the meal is free. The invitation is magnanimous: "Come to me...that you may have life" (Isaiah 55:3). The Gospel story of the multiplication of the fishes and loaves reveals the same magnanimity. Jesus feeds all those who have followed him, no questions asked. This story follows a long tradition of miraculous feedings, which include the manna in the wilderness (Exodus 16) and Elisha multiplying bread (2 Kings 4:42-44). It's natural to wonder just how that bread and those fish were able to satisfy so many, but there is another aspect of the story that should not be overlooked. The words, "He said the blessing, broke

the loaves, and gave them to the disciples" (Matthew 14:19) will appear again in the account of the Last Supper (Matthew 26:26). Though this was the ritual performed at the daily Jewish meal, the eucharistic allusion is unmistakable.

Perhaps it is the psalm response that throws light on the primary focus of the readings. There the graciousness and kindness of the Lord are acclaimed: "You open wide your hand / and satisfy the desire of every living thing" (Psalm 145:16).

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- Think of the good things in your life that have been given to you free of charge. How grateful are you?
- Think of the times God has used you to bless others. How grateful are you for this?

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

August 2, 2020

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Fr. Jaime Mencias,
Parochial Administrator
907-306-1158

Mass Times

Saturday 5:00 p.m.
St. Peters 7:30 p.m. (summer only)
Sunday 11:00 a.m.
St. Peters 8:30 a.m.
Tues., Thurs., Friday 12:00 p.m.
St. Peters Wed. 10:00 a.m.

Church Office:

235-8436 st.john@gci.net
Parish secretary: Therese Lewandowski
Office Hours: Tues-Fri, 10:30 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
St. Peter the Apostle, Ninilchik:
907-567-3490, st.peter136@gmail.com
Parish secretary: Debbie Maclean

Pastoral Council Members

Next Meeting: TBA, 7pm

Rick Abboud, Grace Halstead, Anita Harry, Bryan Hawkins, Rick Hoover, Francis Neville, Terry Plant

Finance Council Members

Next Meeting: July 14, 7:15pm

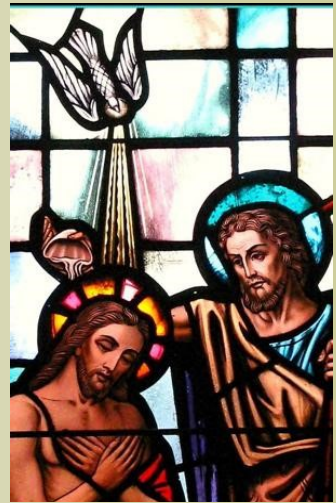
Clyde Boyer, Jay Cherok, Van Hawkins, Courtney Kiel, Leslie Lord-Coffing, Cinda Martin, Alex Sweeney

Please thank these council members for their service and pass on to them any thoughts, suggestions or concerns.

All are also welcome to attend council meetings but please let the office know ahead of time.

If you wish to address the councils please provide a statement of your topic.

*O God, come to my assistance;
O Lord, make haste to help me!
You are my rescuer, my help;
O Lord, do not delay. - Ps 70(69):2,6*



Weekend and weekday Masses are being celebrated following the Archdiocese approved guidelines.

You must be free of any COVID-19 symptoms. We ask that you wear a face mask, sanitize your hands upon entering, enter at the front door, exit the side door. And please seat allowing for social distance spacing. There will be some modifications to the mass to limit contact. Communion will be given as you exit at the end of mass. Our mass will be livestreamed via FB which you can link to from our website.

Calendar

Pic'n Pay is open on Saturdays again, we have only one volunteer so it may be sporadic.

Sunday Social Hours have been suspended.

Mission Statement

St. John the Baptist Catholic Community is united through the Eucharist and the Sacred Scriptures and inspired by the Holy Spirit to know Christ and to make Christ known through worship, service and fellowship.

St. John the Baptist

255 Ohlson Lane, Homer, AK 99603
907.235.8436 st.john@gci.net
www.stjohnthebaptistcatholicchurch.org

St. Peter the Apostle

PO Box 39290, Ninilchik, AK 99639
907.567.3490 st.peter136@gmail.com

SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

By appointment

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Contact parish office one month prior to date

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE

Contact parish office six months prior to date

PRAYER CHAIN REQUESTS

Please call Elaine Grantier 299-1424 with your prayer request.

MINISTRY FOR THE HOMEBOUND

If you or a parishioner you know is unable to attend Mass, please call the office at 235-8436. Arrangements can be made for Holy Communion, meals, or for a visit.

Community FOOD BASKETS

Non-perishable items for the local Food Pantry can be left in the baskets at the church entrances.

Pic'n Pay is now open - Sat. 10am-2pm

Our thrift store is now open!

Please consider helping with Saturday sales. The store is open 10am-2pm. Customers are asked to wear face masks, sanitize hands upon entry, enter 3-5 at a time at the back door and exit at the front after paying.

Please contact the office or Terry Plant if you would like to help.

WOMEN'S GUILD

The Women's Guild oversees total volunteer operation of Pic'n Pay. Low-cost second-hand items are sold; proceeds go towards local and state charities

Next meeting:
TBA

President—Terry Plant
V. Pres.—Melodie M.
Secr.—Therese L.
Treas.—Marie Walli



Knights of Columbus

If you are interested in joining the Knights of Columbus see Rick Hoover or www.kofc.org or contact Rick Hoover 907-227-1674, rallenho@yahoo.com

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

August 8— Saturday

Lector: Vivian Finlay

Greeters: Bob Bond

Ushers: Knights of Columbus



August 9— Sunday

Lector: Alex Sweeney

Greeters: Rick Hoover

Ushers: Knights of Columbus

We have a modified Ministry need at this time. If you have a desire to be a Lector who reads the Word of the Lord, or a greeter who gets to know all the parishioners, please let the office know.

Archbishop-Elect Installation

The inauguration of the new Archdiocese of Anchorage-Juneau and the installation of the Most Reverend Andrew E. Bellisario, C.M., as the first archbishop of the new archdiocese will take place at 2:00 pm on Thursday, September 17, 2020. The installation will take place at the Co-Cathedral of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Anchorage, Alaska.

Further details will be forthcoming as arrangements are made for the celebration.

See someone you haven't noticed before?
Introduce yourself and welcome them!

Mass Intentions

August 1 —Jeff White, dear friend.
Rest In Peace d. May 2020

August 8 — Chauncey Hoover, beloved father.
Rest In Peace

Aug. 4-Oct. 6 — Lucille Pepin, beloved mother.
Rest In Peace d. March 2020

July 2020-June 2021 — Rest In Peace for
Anthony & Philomena Peragine



Eternal rest grant onto them O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.



Archdiocese News and Events

Archbishop's Golf Tournament | Registration closes next Sunday!! Join Bishop Bellisario on the course and tee-up for the 2020 Archbishop's Golf Tournament to support seminarian formation! Join us Thursday, August 13, 2020, at Moose Run Golf Course (Hill Course) near JBER, AK. Tee times start at 8am. Register today at archdioceseofanchorage.org/golf

Seminarian Night Fundraiser | Join us for this virtual fundraiser on Aug. 26, from 6:00 – 7:30pm to support our seminarians through the endowment and in their next year of education and formation. Keep our seminarians in your prayers, and consider how you can support them. Learn more or give online early at archdioceseofanchorage.org/seminarian-dinner

Meet the Seminarians

Madison Hayes was stationed as an airman to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson and is co-sponsored by the Archdiocese of Military Services. He will continue his studies in Rome and will be ordained to the diaconate this fall.

Luke Daniel was born in Sitka, Alaska and moved to Washington state during his childhood. After returning to Juneau as an adult, he discerned a call to the priesthood. He will attend seminary at Mount Angel Seminary in Oregon this fall.

Ed Burke is from Kenai, Alaska and just completed undergraduate studies at Saint John Vianney College Seminary in Saint Paul, MN. He will also be attending Mount Angel Seminary this fall.

St. Francis Stewardship Awards | The Annual St. Francis Stewardship Awards celebrate groups, couples, and individuals who embody excellent stewardship in the local community. We are now accepting your nominations of those who have gone above and beyond the call to serve in the spirit of St. Francis. Even when we can't gather together, we are still doing good together! Who would you like to nominate? Tell us their story! Form due: August 31, 2020. Paper forms at the parish office or online: archdioceseofanchorage.org/sfsa

Dear Padre

August 2, 2020

Recently a visiting priest went completely off script during the eucharistic prayer at Mass. Is this allowed?

The eucharistic prayer is the summit of the entire Mass, culminating in what it means for the Church to celebrate the Eucharist. The Roman Missal offers ten options in English: Eucharistic Prayers 1, 2, 3, and 4; two for reconciliation; and four for various needs. Also, an additional three are available for Masses with children. Not all of these options appear regularly in missalettes.

In exercising his office of celebrant, the priest is allowed to offer brief explanations, such as before the preface to the eucharistic prayer, but never during the prayer itself (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 31). In general, "the Priest will remember that he is the servant of the Sacred Liturgy and that he himself is not permitted, on his own initiative, to add, to remove, or to change anything in the celebration of Mass" (*GIRM* 24). The mystery of the Mass "is too great for anyone to permit himself to treat it according to his own whim, so that its sacredness and its universal ordering would be obscured" (*Redemptionis Sacramentum*, 11).

Overall, presiders desire a meaningful ritual experience for those hungering and thirsting for holiness to encounter the living presence of Christ. If some actions and proclamations by presiders appear misguided, they're seldom due to a lack of genuine pastoral care.

—Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR

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