

WORDS FROM THE PASTOR

Sixteenth Sunday Ordinal Time

July 25th, 2021

Calendar:

- **07/24/21 Saturday:** 8AM Mass for Azalea Weinand Baptism
- **07/24/21 Saturday:** 2PM Wedding Young/Waskom – Warsaw
- **07/26/21 Monday:** St. John's Roof Repair begins
- **07/29/21 Thursday:** 6AM Daily Mass due to Radio Broadcast
- **07/29/21 Thursday:** 9AM to 11AM Fr. Lefor hosts Real Presence Radio 1370AM. Call 1-877-795-0122 for call in at 9:30AM to 10AM.
- **07/30/21 Friday:** Friday Men's Prayer Breakfast St. John's: 5:30 Breakfast; 6AM Discussion and Prayer; 7AM Eucharistic Adoration; 8AM Holy Sacrifice of the Mass

Words from the Pastor

- Pope Francis and Bishop Folda have dedicated this Sunday as Universal Day for Grandparents. They are asking that we do something special today to honor these members of the Church who have made such great sacrifices to hand on the Catholic faith.
- Thank you, Joey Miller, for repairing the broken window last week while I was gone.
- Congratulations to Johnathan Young and Emma Woskum upon their marriage on Saturday, July 24th. Please pray for all couples preparing for the sacrament of marriage.
- Condolences to Allen and Joy Zidon upon the death of Allen's mother Jane Zidon. The funeral will be this Wednesday at St. Luke's in Veseleyville. May her soul and the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace!

Why did Jesus feed the 5,000 (inspired by Mark Ballenger): “When Jesus looked up and saw a great crowd coming toward him, he said to Philip, ‘Where shall we buy bread for these people to eat?’ He asked this only to test him, for he already had in mind what he was going to do.” Jesus wanted to know what would happen if he asked them to do something ridiculously difficult.

Jesus was trying to teach them the lesson that when God asks you do something, he's not asking you to do it in your own strength. Jesus really did want the disciples to feed the 5000 – as we will see when Jesus gives the food to them to then give to the people – but he also wanted them to use his power to do it. It was as if he was presenting them with a

near impossible challenge to show how little power they had without him. When Andrew came up to Jesus, he asked, “Here is a boy with five small barley loaves and two small fish, but how far will they go among so many?” I like how there is such an emphasis on it being a “boy” (not a man) with five “small” (not big) loaves and two “small” fish followed with the question, “but how far will they go among so many?” It is as if when John is writing this he is really stressing how little chance they had at doing what Jesus wanted in their own strength. I love it! As all the grown men are sitting around trying to solve this problem, it is a little child who is starting to understand what Jesus is trying to teach them. When directed to love thy neighbor, the adults are looking to themselves. This child, however, is looking to Jesus. Jesus shows what he can do when someone is actually trusting in his power. By rejecting their offer to feed the 5000 in their own strength and then by taking the offer of a little boy who so foolishly offered up his meager little lunch, Jesus is showing everyone that it’s not about how little or how much one has, it’s about how much of it one is willing to give to him. The disciples discover that Jesus plus a little boy with faith is thousands of times more powerful than the disciples trying to do things on their own.

The scripture also emphasizes the amount the child gave to Jesus. Five loaves plus two fish equals seven. Seven is the number of completion. No matter how little you have, when you give it all to Jesus, it is always completely enough. Jesus is pointing out that when he asks us to do something, he wants us to rely on his power to do it. It didn’t really matter what the disciples had. Jesus could have rained down bread from heaven if he wanted to just like he did for the Israelites with the manna. Remember, he asks them the question of how they are going to feed all these people to test them. Every question God brings into our lives is meant for the same reason. God doesn’t ask us to produce loving actions because he needs them; he asks us to do loving things to see if we will turn to him first to do them. When Jesus asked the disciples to feed the 5000 and they said all they had was five loaves and two fish, that wasn’t true. They had Jesus right by their side. He was testing them, hoping they would say, “We can’t feed the 5000! But you can! Here’s all we have. Do with it what you want.”

God asks us to do impossible things for him but always expects us to rely on him to do it. God desires to display his majesty by giving us the power to do what he commands. God used the disciples in feeding the 5000, but the glory clearly belonged to God. This is what God wants for us in our own lives as well. Why are we limited? Why are we so insignificant? Why do we have so little to offer? For the glory of God!

In May of 2021 the Diocese of Fargo granted St. John Nepomucene an emergency loan for \$82,100 for the repair of its roof. \$70,850 plus 3% interest remains on this loan. **This week we received a \$500 donation.** Thank you for everyone’s immediate and generous response to this unforeseen need! **Thank You!**

St. John Nepomucene, St. Joseph, and Sts. Peter & Paul, Pray for Us!