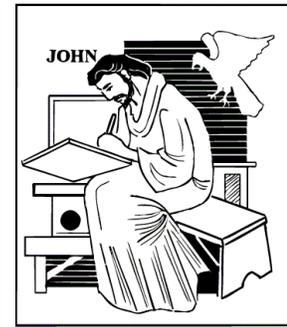
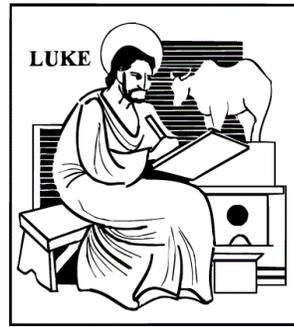
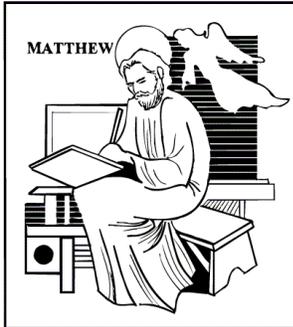


Breaking Open the Word



August 16, 2015 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time Lectionary: 119 Gospel [Jn 6:51-58](#)

Jesus said to the crowds: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me. This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever." Top of Form

Spiritual Reflection: During my theological training, I took three major courses on the Eucharist and, afterwards, decided that I didn't understand the Eucharist. But the fault was not in the courses, which were excellent. The fault, which is not a fault, at all, lies in the richness of the Eucharist itself. In the end, it defies not just the theology professors, but metaphysics, phenomenology, and language itself. There is no adequate explanation of the Eucharist for the same reason that, in the end, there is no adequate explanations for love, for embrace, and for reception of life and spirit through touch. Certain realities take us beyond language because that is their very purpose. They do what words cannot do. They also are beyond what we can neatly nail down in our understanding. - Fr. Ronald Rolheiser

Spiritual Questions

1. If God is greater and smarter than we are should there not be things in our life that we have to take on faith?
2. What does the Eucharist teach us about God?
3. I don't have to understand how electricity gets to a light bulb in order to enjoy the light. How can I enjoy the Eucharist despite only having a limited knowledge of how it works?
4. How does the Eucharist enrich the Catholic faith?
5. How would the Church be different if we did not believe in the Eucharist?