

## Sunday August 12, 2018 - 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the first reading, an angel brings food to Elijah and says to him: *Get up and eat!*

In the Gospel, we read: *Is this not Jesus, the son of Joseph, whose father and mother we know? How can he now say, 'I have come down from heaven?'* (Jn 6:4). That was the crowd's reaction to Christ's words.

*Not that anyone has seen the Father except the one who is from God; he has seen the Father ... I am the bread of life ... Whoever eats of this bread will live forever... The bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh* (Jn 6:47-51).

There was a dialogue between Christ and the crowd: their questions and his answers but it was not an exchange. The crowd only whispered and objected but didn't pursue the conversation. They repeatedly pointed out that he was the son of Joseph, the carpenter.

People want to have answers: they do not want to remain on the outskirts of faith. How would you react if an acquaintance made similar statements concerning the *bread of life*, or *words to believe*, and *this bread of life is Christ's flesh*? Jesus spoke about the *bread of life*, about the *Word that is his flesh*. God was revealed in broad daylight! People found Jesus' words difficult to comprehend. Christ referred to himself as bread, the *Bread of Life* that would feed humanity.

The crowd also questioned Jesus' divine origin. Wasn't he the son of Joseph, the carpenter? The crowd wanted answers. This situation reminds us of the Hebrews' acceptance of the gift of manna in Exodus Chapter 16, bread from heaven that enabled them to survive. Similarly, the crowd in St. John's Gospel was not curious about this *Bread* and where this mysterious nourishment came from. They were not ready to listen.

The gift of manna that fed the Hebrews in the desert was readily accepted. The multiplication of the loaves that fed the crowds was similar, yet the crowd did not grasp the significance. They had eaten their fill and were not interested in hearing about bread from heaven. They asked: *How can this man give us his flesh to eat?* Their hunger had been satisfied. They were not ready to listen or attempt to understand. They moved on to their next preoccupations.

When we are open to Christ's teachings, we already acknowledge the Bread that will provide true nourishment. Jesus is the *Word made flesh*. The miracle of the multiplication of the loaves reminded us of the manna from heaven in Exodus. As with Elijah in the Book of Kings, we need to be nourished and strengthened to continue on our life-long journey. Jesus is the Bread of life ... the Bread we need to sustain us.

*Yvon Cousineau, c.s.c.*



## St. Lucy Parish

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## Sunday August 5, 2018 - 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

On the street where my parents live is a very active, elderly gentleman. Though he retired years ago, he works constantly. He plants flowers; he works in his home and garage. When I see him carrying his ladder and tools, I often think: "This is someone who is not afraid of hard work!" The neighbors have a funny way of admiring his energy! They say: This gentleman likes to create *masterpieces*! This expression may be a bit *over the top* to describe someone who weeds his garden and prunes his trees! But the expression *masterpiece* indicates how much the neighbors value his work, though it will never be displayed in a museum. The neighbors say the *retired* gentleman still heads off to work every day. They never complain since his presence and efforts have a positive effect on the neighborhood.

These comments highlight the superior value of mundane realities and remind me of the dialogue between Jesus and the crowd that had gathered to hear him. In the Gospel, Jesus invites them to work for food that will guarantee eternal life. They replied by asking: "*What must we do to perform the works of God?*" Jesus does not list any exhausting or grandiose endeavors they would need to accomplish. He didn't attempt to overwhelm his listeners. Not at all! Jesus responds by saying they would have to believe in God's Envoy. It was that simple. How can we work for food that *endures for eternal life*? What must we do to encounter God? What works of piety should we perform? What prayers should we say? What liturgies should we follow? According to Jesus, there is only one way: Believe in God's Envoy. Do we really want our lives to be *masterpieces*? Do we really, from the bottom of our hearts, *want to do God's work*? We will have to put all our eggs in the same basket ... We will have to place our trust in God's Messenger.

The people who ate the bread multiplied by Jesus were looking for the One who would solve their immediate food dilemma. They thought they only had to look to Him. They called him *Rabbi, Teacher, Master* and *Prophet*. They asked specific questions: *What sign are you going to give us then, so that we may see it and believe you? What work are you performing?* Were these people expecting Christ to perform like a magician? They wanted to know what to do and Jesus responded: *I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.*

The relationship with our world nourishes and sustains us. People cannot live without a relationship of faith with others, and with God. This is what Christ meant. Jesus' answer to those who witnessed the multiplication of the loaves (which we read in last week's Gospel) corresponds to the final passage of St. John's Gospel: *But these [signs] are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name* (Jn 20:31).

Alain Faucher, priest

## The Week at a Glance

Sun Aug 5 9:00 am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Pauline Moyen**  
 11:00am Mass in Arborfield **For the people**  
 Mon Aug 6 *Fr Travis' day off*  
 Tues Aug 7 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Wed Aug 8 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Thurs Aug 9 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Fri Aug 10 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Sat Aug 11 7:00pm Mass in Carrot River **For the people**  
 Sun Aug 12 9:00 am Mass in Zenon Park **For Famille Wassill  
 & Leblanc**  
 11:00am Mass in Arborfield **For †Matthew  
 Munson**

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Mon Aug 13 *Fr Travis' day off*  
 Tues Aug 14 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Wed Aug 15 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Thurs Aug 16 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Fri Aug 17 *Fr Travis holidays*  
 Sat Aug 18 7:00pm Mass in Carrot River  
 Sun Aug 19 9:00 am Mass in Zenon Park **For †Yvan Potie**  
 11:00am Mass in Arborfield **For the people**

### **Cleaning Schedule**

Aug 6 - 12, 2018	Don & Jeanne Hoiland
Aug 13 - 19, 2018	Bob & Lisa Hamelin
Aug 20 - 26, 2018	Flo & Mary Ann Perrault

## Announcements and Activities

<u>Ministry</u>	<u>Aug 5</u>	<u>Aug 12</u>	<u>Aug 19</u>
<b>Commentator</b>	Neil	Liz	Lisa
<b>Reader</b>	Mary	Jean	Jeanne
<b>Cup</b>	Neil, Guy	Sue, James	Neil, Beatrice
<b>Hospitality</b>	Liz, Guy	Louis, Jean	Bronners
<b>Offerings</b>	Gabe, Mary	Brian, Pam	Liz, Guy
<b>Sacristan</b>	Mary	Pam	Jeanne

### Mass time for July/August

Sat 7:30pm – Carrot River  
 Sun 9:00am – Zenon Park  
**Sun 11:00am – Arborfield**

Last week's collection total: **\$543.00** July 22  
**\$540.00** July 29 **Thank You**

New correspondence from our **sponsored child April Jhon Embac** from Cotabato, Phillipines was received. Please see the bulletin board for more details and an updated picture.

Bring the whole family to Serena Saskatchewan's 7<sup>th</sup> annual **Run for the Family** on Saturday, September 15/18 at 10 am at Meewasin Park North in Saskatoon. Choose from 1km, 3km, or 5 km (run, walk, strollers welcome). Pledges can be collected in support of Serena; prizes awarded (20% of collection). Register by Aug 25th for early bird rates; family rates available. To register visit [www.runningroom.com](http://www.runningroom.com)

There will be a **Family Gospel Jamboree** October 12/18 at St. Joseph parish in Prince Albert. See the bulletin board for registration form and more information.