

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time
July 26, 2015

Salesian Perspective

Every third year at this time, the church reminds us that Mark, the evangelist will run out of gas / slash / gospel before the last Sunday in ordinary time. Mark wrote too short a gospel to stretch until advent arrives in December. The church inserts the magnificent “bread of life” discourse from John’s gospel to fill the gap. For five weeks we hear this marvelous discourse of John’s gospel chapter 6. Great idea; poor timing! When I become pope, I am going to move this to October when everyone is back from vacation and is more settled to appreciate the gem that John 6 is.

Our first reading provides a mini-parallel from the Old Testament. It tells of Elisha feeding 100 people with 20 barley loaves.

The setting for today’s gospel is the place where god and man traditionally meet: a mountain - Mount Sinai where the 10 commandments were given, the mountain of the transfiguration, the mount of the beatitudes, and today, the mountain for the feeding of the 5000. The exact location is not recorded. We know that the place was near the Sea of Galilee. The time is near Passover, which appropriately conjures up the time of the last supper. Although place and time are sketchy, it is a story so important that it is the only miracle story that is found in all four gospels.

The traditional story of their lack of food is the segue for Jesus to begin to speak of himself as the bread of life. A difficulty with the traditional understanding is that it was precisely the temptation to make bread had been a temptation that Jesus rejected outright in the desert before he began his public ministry.

There is an alternative explanation for the miracle that has come more recently. Jews of Jesus’ day were seasoned travelers. They well knew that there were no golden arches of McDonald’s, or KFC’s or other fast food places. Ancient Jews were famous for always carrying a bottled-shaped basket called a kophinos in which they carried kosher food to avoid ritual impurity.

So, an alternative interpretation is that when the Jewish followers saw that Jesus had them sit down and then Jesus took the boy’s barley loaves and fish and shared them, they were moved and followed his good example and also shared what they carried. This interpretation is surely in line with Jesus’ many sayings about sharing: he praised the poor widow who gave the little she had, two pennies. Jesus said that it is more blessed to give than to receive. We recall the Good Samaritan who generously shared with an “outsider” in need. We recall how the enthusiastic Zacchaeus gave half of what he

possessed to the poor.

Which of the two interpretations is correct? The traditional, almost magical interpretation has been preached for a long time, but the innovative interpretation does give us pause. Pause is good. The second interpretation stirs many reminders besides the words of Jesus just mentioned.

- It reminds us of the then current Jewish practice of carrying food.
- It reminds us that the bread came from barley, not wheat; barley was the bread of the poor – a reminder to us of simplicity.
- It reminds us of the difference in two disciples: Phillip, a native of that area, said, in effect, feeding the large crowd was a hopeless endeavor, while Andrew, the apostle famous for bringing people to Jesus, brought the boy to Jesus. He did something – a reminder to us to do something.

It reminds us that our lord can take what we bring and do wonders. Remember Alex’s lemonade stand and how a little girl stole the hearts of us all with her simple, generous, loving heart with amazing results to this day.

It reminds you and me that in our cooperating with our lord in the coming of the kingdom, an even greater miracle than making bread is softening the hearts of others.

Rev. Michael S. Murray, OSFS
Executive Director of the De Sales Spirituality Center

Whatsoever happens, never let go; hold steadfastly to God, in peace, trusting His Everlasting Love for you.

- St. Francis de Sales

The Reading for today’s Mass are found in the **Glory & Praise** at number **849**
1st Reading ~ 2 Kings 4:42 – 44
2nd Reading ~ Ephesians 4:1 – 6
Gospel Reading ~ John 6:1 – 15



Join us **this Friday, July 31st** at Our Lady of the Seas at **7:00 pm** for a **concert featuring vocalist/guitarist Kim Kalman.** "YOU

RAISE ME UP" will accept donations that will benefit the church. Kim will be performing material from her Christian CDs.

Visit www.kimkalman.com for more information.

PLEASE SUPPORT US BY YOUR PARCIPATION.



FLEA MARKET/CRAFT SHOW

OLS will be having a Flea Market/Crafts show **THIS Wednesday, July 29 - 10:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Parish Hall.** Tables are \$20 each. Please

contact Katie Mackall at 995-2441 or Karen Kelmer at 986-2719 for information.



Summer Fund Raiser

Our Church Family has a unique opportunity to pay down our \$465,000 mortgage. A family has generously offered to match our second collection from Memorial weekend through Labor Day weekend, up to a total of \$75,000. Here's how it works: We have individual or group sponsors for each weekend. The sponsors will match the amount in the second collections for their weekend. Our Donor Family will also match the collection. Example... second collection totals \$500, the weekend sponsor or sponsors will donate \$500 and our Donor Family will also donate \$500 ~ \$500 ~ \$500 becomes \$1500. All money collected will be used to reduce the mortgage. **We still need shared sponsors. Call Dave Kelmer at 252-986-2719 if you can help**

Our Stewardship 7/5/2015 Weekend

	<u>Buxton</u>	<u>Spanish</u>	<u>Ocracoke</u>
Offertory	\$2,318.00	\$209.00	\$70.00
Debt Reduction	\$5,279.00		
Attendance	737	42	30

Principal Balance as of 6/30/2015 ~ \$446,451.26



Visitors ~Hanging on the wall at ALL exits of our church ARE ENVELOPES and for your convenience the envelopes are already address. Please take one home and mail it back to our church with a donation. Any support of monetary gift would be greatly appreciated.



DONATIONS ON-LINE

Parishioners & Visitors ~ for your convenience you can now make donations to our church, on-line. Just go to www.ourladyoftheseas.org

On the home page click on 'DONATION' Thank you.



Connect with our Parish!!! "LIKE" Our Lady of the Seas Catholic PARISH



AUTHANIC TACO DINNER

Mark your calendars....Join us on **Thursday, AUGUST 22th Starting at 5:00 pm** at our Social Hall. **4** Chicken or Beef

Tacos including a drink for **\$10.00**. Desserts & Raffle tickets are a \$1.00

Healing Mass for ALL

August 6, Thursday

Healing service with administration of the Sacrament of Anointing of the Sick by Fr Fred will be held 6:00 pm on Thursday, August 6th, right after the Gospel. This sacrament celebrates and carries out the healing ministry of Jesus. If you are in need of the grace that this sacrament offers, then please plan to be at the Mass.



PAVERS FOR THE WALKWAY

The church is working on **OUR LAST BATCH OF PAVERS** for our walkway. If you are interested in purchasing a paver, for your convenience the form is located hanging on the wall at ALL the exits of our church. Or, on the church website, click on the FORMS button on the left, download, fill it in and mail it with your check. <http://www.ourladyoftheseas.org>



Our Local Food Pantry



IF YOU HAVE UNOPENED, NON-PERISHABLE FOOD that you haven't used during your stay, please donate it to the Food Pantry. You can use our 24-hour drop-box on

the porch of the Social Hall anytime. If you prefer to buy food for the pantry, "standard" sizes rather than bulk items are preferred. Checks may be made out to United Methodist Men, PO Box 1591 Buxton, NC 27920. Please do not leave sheets/pillows/or any other items in the box. This is only used for food for the pantry.

Thank you for your generosity!

"The Welcoming Light of Our Lady of the Seas"

Our parish's beautiful limited-edition fine art prints that you see on the cover of this bulletin make lovely remembrances of your wedding, anniversary celebration, child's baptism, or vacation. "The Welcoming Light of Our Lady of the Seas" is signed and numbered by the artist - Linda Browning. Each print comes sleeved, backed, and ready to frame in a 12"x16" mat. Price: \$39.50. Proceeds go towards our debt reduction. Thank you!

~ Mass Schedule ~

Saturday 6:00 pm
Sunday 9:00 am & 11:00 am
Sunday 6:00 pm (Spanish)
Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am



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