



ALL SAINTS' CHURCH

"Our mission is to bring the good news of Jesus Christ's love to our entire community through traditional Anglo-Catholic worship, fellowship, outreach, and Christian formation."

Our Vision: *"We strive to be a haven of healing, reconciliation, joy and peace in service to our wider community and beyond, so that our example in prayer and practice may reflect Christ's love for us all."*

THIS SUNDAY — July 18 & Beyond

How Many Loaves Have You? Go and See.



The story of the feeding of the multitude by Jesus was unquestionably a highly relevant one in the oral tradition before the gospels were written. So much so that it appears in the four gospels, and Mark also includes an additional story of the feeding of the 4,000.

In the readings for this coming Sunday we find the feeding of the 5,000 according to Mark's gospel.

Biblical scholars and interpreters have written a lot about this story and the parallel accounts in the rest of the gospels, and three main trends can be found in the way they interpret the event.

One trend is to simply treat the event as it is recounted by the evangelists, and acknowledge that for them this event was seen as one of the great signs of the coming Kingdom of Heaven made by Jesus while He was on earth.

Another trend has been to rationalize the event, making assumptions that are not in the text. Some interpreters have said the people were moved by Jesus' words to share what they had brought with those who did not have anything, and in this way everyone had more than enough.

The third main trend is an allegorical interpretation of the event in which the physical feeding of the multitude is seen as the spiritual feeding with the bread of life.

Instead of affirming or refuting a particular interpretation, it may be more fruitful to focus on some of the deep messages that this story conveys, and which are often overlooked by focusing only on the veracity of the "multiplication".

When reading this text, we notice that the encounter with the multitude was not planned. What Jesus had planned for his disciples and Himself was to find a resting place, a well-deserved resting time after a lot of fruitful life-giving activity. Even so, Jesus' reaction when meeting the multitude is not one of disappointment, as could be expected. Mark tells us "He had compassion for them, because they were like sheep without a shepherd, and He began to teach them many things."

Mark does not explicitly tell us how the disciples felt about his unexpected encounter, but we can somehow perceive that they were not so happy. When it got late, they suggested to Jesus that He send them away to buy their own food in the neighboring villages.

That was not likely to happen. Who would be selling food at that hour anyway? It is clear that the disciples' purpose was to get rid of the problem (out of sight, out of mind). But Jesus had other plans. He instructed them to take care of the situation. "You give them something to eat.", He said.

At this, the disciples reacted with a remark whose purpose was to ridicule Jesus' proposal, making it look like an impossible task. They said to Him, "Are we to go and buy two hundred denarii worth of bread, and give it to them to eat?"

It is unlikely that Jesus missed the sarcasm in their words, but He did not reply with harsh words. He simply said to them calmly, "How many loaves have you? Go and see."

These are the words that made the disciples start to find possible ways of dealing with the situation from within, instead of trying to make it go outside of their concern.

When facing a situation that affects our fellow human beings, it is a natural tendency to try to make it go away, to get rid of it, to pass it on to others. But this is not what our Lord and Savior is asking us to do.

The first thing He is asking us is to take a look at our own resources, at what we already have, no matter how little we may think it is. Then He is asking us to trust that if we put these resources into His loving hands, He will find the way to make them work and be an abundant blessing for those who are in need.

Jesus has given us proof that when we put our time, our talents, or our material wealth trustfully in His loving and caring hands, He can always multiply what we bring, making it work in such a powerful way that the blessings may reach thousands, and even more.

Small personal contributions have always been the starting point of great charitable projects throughout the history of the Church and of humankind. Even if we have no material wealth to offer, our time translated into work, and our unique talents put at the service of a good cause, can work wonders in bringing welfare and joy to the needy.

Next time we are faced with situations of people in great need, before we start planning how to dismiss them or pass them on to others because we do not have the means to help, let us ponder on Jesus' question for a moment, "How many loaves have you? Go and see." More often than not, we will find that in deep prayer and trust, small beginnings can go a long way in bringing about abundant blessings for all.

Fr. Carlos E. Expósito, Rector

Readings for this Sunday – The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 57:14b-21 Psalm 22:22-30 Ephesians 2:11-22 Mark 6:30-44

CALENDAR

Note: We are worshipping in our historic church. The service will also be on Zoom. The service time is 10am. Tuesday Noon Mass and Friday Morning Prayer are held in All Saints' St. Mary's Chapel.

SUNDAY The Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

TUESDAY Noon Mass in St. Mary's Chapel

FRIDAY 10:00am Morning Prayer in St. Mary's Chapel

SUNDAY The Ninth Sunday after Pentecost
10:00am Mass in All Saints' Church
Join Zoom Meeting from our web site at www.allsaintschurch.org
Recording of Mass available before noon at www.allsaintschurch.org

OUR CORE VALUES:

- Welcoming Strangers like Old Friends
- Embracing the Anglo-Catholic tradition
- Being Dependable Members of a Caring Community
- Respecting Each Other's Differences
- Being Faithful Stewards of God's Gift
- Remembering that God Loves Everyone Unconditionally