



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 20, 2006

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man
and drink his blood, you do not have life within you.

— John 6:53



Upcoming Parish Events

Mon. Aug 21—
**Bible Study &
Prayer Group,**
7:30 pm, Chapel

Fri. Aug 25—
**AACC Youth
Grp,**
6:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall

Prince of Peace,
8:30 pm, Scanlan
Hall

**First Friday
Masses at 8
pm starting
Sept. 1st.**

Comment

In a splendid passage from Proverbs, we find Wisdom preparing the messianic banquet. This is again a prefiguration of the Eucharist. The reading invites us to put away “foolishness” and to sup at the table the Lord God has set for us. Doing so may well seem foolish to others. Who would be so unwise as to celebrate a meal that leads to a cross? Who would be so foolish as to believe that bread and wine are body and blood? All of us “simple” folk, that’s who. All of us who are crazy enough to believe that there is more to life than meets the eye, more to bread and wine than meets the senses, more to the cross than death.

The Gospel contains the third installment of Jesus’ discourse on the Bread of Life (and the fourth consecutive reading from the sixth chapter of the Gospel according to John). In today’s passage, Jesus bluntly states that the bread he will give is his own flesh. The crowd grumbles and misunderstands. However, we shouldn’t be too hard on those folks. Remember, we’re reading John. “Misunderstanding” on the part of Jesus’ hearers is one of John’s favorite ways to help us ask important questions. Thus, the crowd’s misunderstanding leads them to ask Jesus just such a question, which in turn allows Jesus to lead them to deeper understanding.

Jesus is asked a “how” question. He answers a “what” question. The crowd wants Jesus to solve a problem. Jesus wants to draw the crowd into a mystery. So Jesus does not tell his listeners “how” he will give them his flesh to eat. Instead, Jesus tells them “what” eating his flesh will mean for them: real union and real life with God. This is not just a promise, a hope hanging in the future. No, Jesus is saying that the person who eats the bread he gives has union and life now.

Reflection

Over the past few weeks, the second reading at Mass has been taken from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians. Paul has been providing an ongoing instruction on what it means to live and share God’s life now. Paul was writing to people who lived in the midst of pagan activity. Perhaps that is why his words are so applicable to us today. This is not to say that our neighbors are pagans, that our world is monstrously evil, or that everyone is out to get us Christians. That’s not true. What is true, however, is that times are tough. We are a pressured people. Our society constantly pressures us to look out for ourselves, to take the best advantage we can, often without giving much thought to the other guy. Paul also urges us to take the best advantage we can, but with constant regard for the other guy. And the best advantage we can take is to remember that Christ is with us—is in us—now.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK, SAINTS & SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday, Aug 20: Prv 9:1-6; Ps 34; Eph 5:15-20; Jn 6:51-58
Monday: St. Pius X; Ez 24:15-24; Mt 19:16-22
Tuesday: The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary; Ez 28:1-10; Mt 19:23-30
Wednesday: St. Rose of Lima; Ez 34:1-11; Mt 20:1-16
Thursday: St. Bartholomew; Rv 21:9b-14; Jn 1:45-51
Friday: St. Louis of France; St. Joseph Calasanz; Ez 37:1-14; Mt 22:34-40
Saturday: St. Virgin Mary; Ez 43:1-7ab; Mt 23:1-12
Sunday, Aug 27: Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b; Ps 34; Eph 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]; Jn 6:60-69



Full Plate Program: Thanks for your support of this program. Pls. bring your donations of canned foods and dry goods & place them in the green bins at the church entrance. August menu items: 1 bag of rice, 2 cns of vegetables, 1 canned ham (or other canned meat), 1 plastic bottle of cooking oil. No glass items, please. Thanks.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

*Next weekend is the closest weekend to the one-year anniversary of Katrina. Parishes all over the United States will take up a **second collection** to assist in the rebuilding and the recovery of the Church's infrastructure in the Archdiocese of New Orleans and the Diocese of Biloxi. Everyone has already been most generous, however, pls remember how blessed we are to be able to give rather than receive. Your generosity will be most appreciated.

*Some dates are still available for **Mass Intentions** for the rest of the year. You may also want to reserve your dates for next year. If you call the office we will be happy to help with that.

*Devotees to the Sacred Heart of Jesus would be happy to know that we will have **8:00 PM Mass on first Fridays** starting in September. Everyone is invited, invite your friends too.

***Church donations** may now be made to STM **electronically**. Please call the office if you would like to sign up.

*September 8, 9, 10 we will have our **Annual Family Camp at Occidental**. If you are interested to go, please call the office.

Taste and see the goodness of the Lord



***RCIA:** Adult classes for preparation for **Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation** are offered at STM. If you would like to become Catholic or have been baptized but not made your First Communion or your Confirmation, pls call **Suzanne Hockel at (415) 8266834** or e-mail or call the parish for more information.

Pilgrimage to Rome

Fr. Andrew and Fr. Govindu are organizing a **Pilgrimage to the Shrines of Italy** from **November 12-22**. The 11-day Pilgrimage to the Shrines in Rome (including an audience with the Holy Father), Giovanni Rotondo (Padre Pio), Lanciano (Miracle of the Eucharist), Assisi, Florence, Venice & Milan runs to about \$2,680, including airfare. **Pls register your names asap.** Contact Fr. Andrew or Elvira, our Secretary, for further info & registration.

Others

*September is recruitment month for St. Mary's Cathedral Choir of Boys and Girls. The choir is free & open to boys and girls in grades 3 thru 8. No prior experience is necessary. Pls. call Dr. Christoph Tietze at (415) 567-2020 ext 213 or send an email to tietze@stmarycathedralsf.org for more info or to set up an audition.

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug 20—Aug 26, 2006

8/20 Sun 10:00am People of STM
8:00pm Rachelle Guarin, Sp. Int.
8/21 Mon 8:30am Teresa Callan†
8/22 Tue 5:30 pm John Silva (hlg)
8/23 Wed 8:30am Vincent Duc Luu†
8/24 Thu 5:30pm Morneau Family, Sp.Int.
8/25 Fri 8:30am Josephine Ryan†
8/26 Sat 8:30am Peace in the Middle East
5:00pm Poor Souls in Purgatory

Please call the office to schedule. Participating in the Mass you offer is appreciated.



Pray for ..

All the sick people in our parish especially John Silva, Rhona Palencia, Mary

Lee Burke, Florentino Sotto, Jr., Rolando Pineda, George Crawford, Restituto de Guzman, Michael Karney, Majida Totah, William & Deena Tannous, Issa Barakat, Jamileh Massis, Nazzal Nazzal, for deceased Reynaldo Mendoza & Raymond Masaganda. We also pray for the safety of family members of our parishioners who are in the Middle East.

Thank you for your contributions. Please remember us in your prayers.

Your offerings for the weekend of **August 13th:**
\$4,294



Actual Construction and Repairs Money in Bank is:
\$110,172

Please continue to support our Construction fund. We need to repair the Skylight, upgrade the lights in the church and upgrade Carroll Hall. **Thank you!**