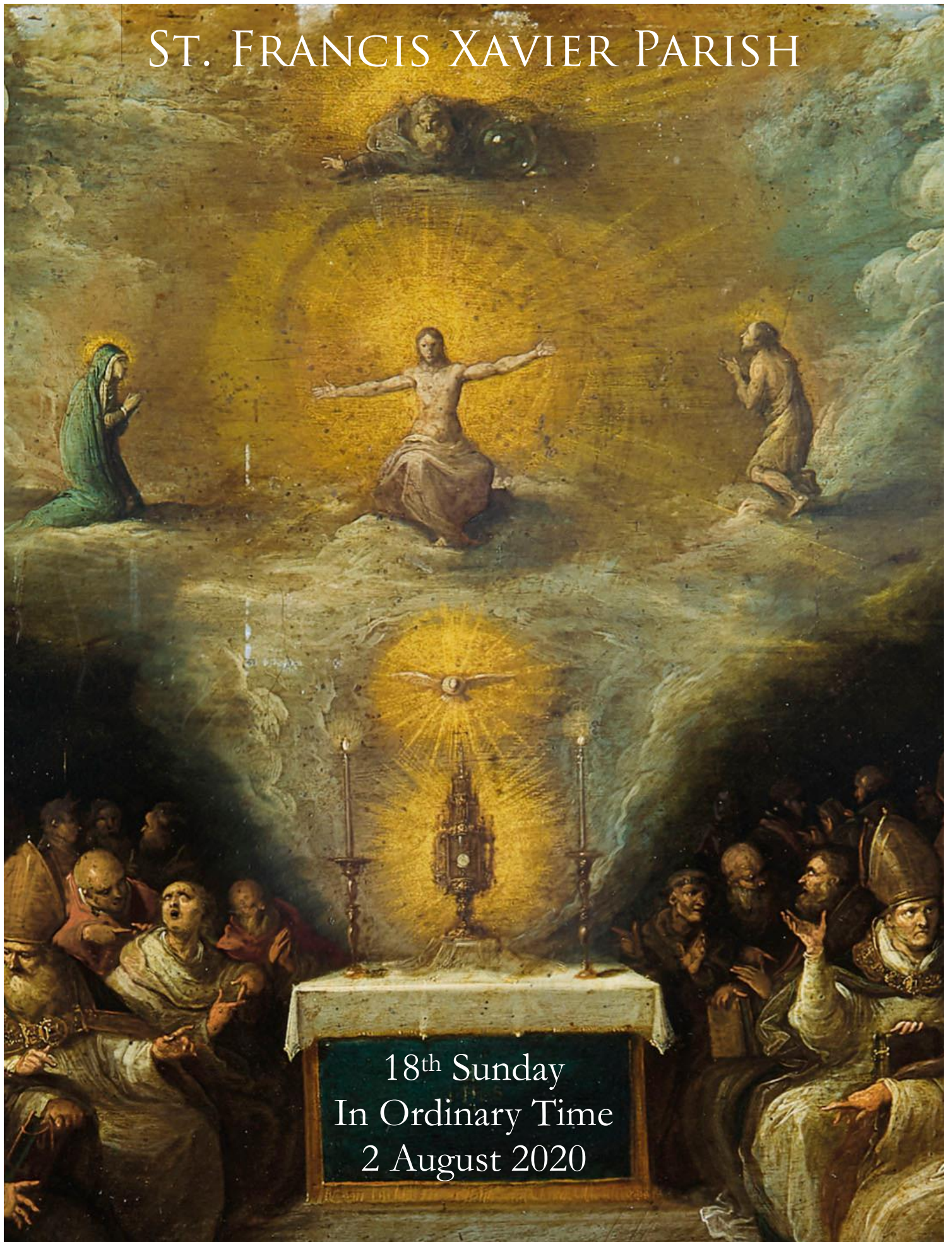


ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH



18th Sunday
In Ordinary Time
2 August 2020

St. Francis Xavier, Acushnet – Diocese of Fall River

Mass Schedule

(August 1st - August 9th)

Sat.	Aug 01	18th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) Manuel & Rosa Frias
Sun.	Aug 02	18th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr) 8:00am Sarah Feeney 10:30am <i>Pro Populo</i>
Mon.	Aug 03	Feria (Gr) 9:00am Bob Vigeant
Tues.	Aug 04	St. John Vianney; Priest (Wh) 9:00am Brother Armand & Elianne & Philippe Binette
Wed.	Aug 05	Dedication of St. Mary Major (Wh) 9:00am Antonio & Ana Resendes
Thurs.	Aug 06	Transfiguration of the Lord (Wh) 9:00am Eudore & Irene Gaudette
Fri.	Aug 07	FIRST FRIDAY: St. Sixtus I; Pope & Martyr (Rd) 9:00am Domingos & Maria Gomes 6:00pm Daniel Wynne
Sat.	Aug 08	St. Dominic; Priest (Wh) 9:00am Emma, Eleanor & Eugene Frias
Sat.	Aug 08	19th Sunday (Vigil) (Gr) 4:00 pm <i>Pro Populo</i>
Sun.	Aug 09	19th Sunday In Ordinary Time (Gr) 8:00am Inez Amaral 10:30am Month's Mind

Financial Report

Income:

17 th Sunday in Ordinary Time	\$3,612.70
Diocesan Assessment	\$1,798.50

Prayers Please

... for all the sick of our parish: those homebound, in the hospital, and nursing facilities; and for all the souls in purgatory.

Sanctuary Lamp

During this time of our absence away from Eucharistic Adoration please pray at home for the following person/s for whose intention the Sanctuary Candle at the main altar still burns this week: Daniel Wynne

CONFESSION

Monday: 5:30 to 6:30 pm
Saturday: 9:30 to 10:00am
Saturday: 3:00 to 3:45pm

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

REMEMBERING THE HOMEBOUND

I'm sure we are all happy that things continue to open up and the number of new infections, if not declining, are at least remaining at a low level. As our lives begin to resume their normal patterns, it's important that we don't forget those who are still sequestered.

Some of these are homebound at all times, and others are staying home out of a legitimate concern for their health. By now, they have been isolated for over four months. As Christians, part of our following Jesus Christ involves our watching out for the lonely, marginalized, and abandoned, for "whatever you did unto one of these least of mine, you did for me" (Mt. 25:40).

Last Sunday was the feast of Ss. Joachim and Anna, the parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary and the grandparents of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Pope Francis took the occasion to reflect on the importance of keeping in contact with the elderly in our lives in the midst of this ongoing situation. In particular, he encouraged the young to make a gesture of love and outreach towards the elderly. "Don't leave them alone!" he implored. Whether by in-person visits or using technology such as phone or video calls, any outreach is important, so long as we make it.



It is important for those who are becoming more active to think about how we can serve those who are still staying at home. A few questions for reflection:

- How often do I call my elderly relatives to check in on them?
- When is the last time I checked in with my elderly neighbors, both to talk to them and to help with any necessary errands?
- Have I allowed myself to be available to the homebound – even if it's just to talk or help them in some small way?

Whatever we do, it's important just to do something!

PARISH INFORMATION

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri: 9:30am – 4:00pm

Please make an appointment to meet with

HELPFUL CONTACTS

Religious Education: 508-998-7445

School: 508-995-4313

School Fax: 508-995-0456

ACCESSIBILITY

- Open for Prayer Every Day
- Wheelchair Lift
- Cry-room

St. Francis Xavier Parish **125 Main Street** **Acushnet, MA 02743**

tel: (508)-995-7600 fax: (508) -995-1794

email: info@sfxparish.com

Fr. Riley J. Williams, Pastor

[rjw@sfxparish.com]

Deacon David Pepin

[dbp@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Janine Hammarquist, Rel. Ed. Coordinator

[jlh@sfxparish.com]

[ministry@sfxacushnet.com]

Mr. Steven Guillotte, Director of Pastoral Services

[sng@sfxparish.com]

Mrs. Michelle Russo, Parish School Principal

[mrusso@sfxacushnet.com]

Mrs. Anabela Shaughnessy, Asst. Principal

[ashaughnessy@sfxacushnet.com]

HOLY MASS

Sunday 8:00am & 10:30am

Saturday Vigil 4:00pm

Monday-Saturday 9:00am

First Friday 9:00am & 6:00pm

Latin/Extraordinary Form: As Announced

CONFESSIONS

Monday 5:30-6:30pm

Saturday 9:30-10:00am

Saturday 3:00-3:45pm

First Fridays 6:45-7:15pm

Any Time by Appointment

ADORATION

Monday 9:30am-8:30pm

Wednesday 6:00pm-7:00pm

Friday 9:30am-8:30pm

Saturday 9:30 am-2:45 pm

VESPERS & BENEDICTION

Monday & Wednesday: 6:30 pm

ON THE COVER

Thus says the LORD... Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. (1 Kg 3:5,9,10)

Heedfully is not a term we use in daily conversation. You won't tell your children to do their homework "heedfully" although perhaps you should, since besides teaching them a new word you would be telling them to be especially attentive to their assignment. However, perhaps it is best that we don't use this word too often in common speech. In this way we can reserve it for Sacred Scripture and for God's use in encouraging us to be especially attentive to him.

This week (August 3rd) we are reinstating some of our overnight Eucharistic Adoration hours so that we may be *heedful* of the Lord. Throughout the pandemic our parish church has been open every day for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament in the tabernacle. Many have availed themselves of this opportunity. However, our parishioners and Eucharistic friends have been ever eager to return to the contemplation of the Real Presence of the Lord fully exposed in our beautiful monstrance, thus to come to Christ "heedfully" that they may have a fuller life of grace.

In today's first reading God calls us to be especially attentive in listening to him. If we want to know everything that God has to say, then we must listen to Jesus. Further, God calls us to his table telling us to "eat well" that we "may have life". In our gospel reading Jesus signals this divine banquet in His "multiplication of the loaves", a foreshadowing of the Holy Eucharist in which Christ offers His Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity to all who believe that He can do this (and that He *does* do this at every Holy Mass). Now Eucharistic Adoration is not Holy Communion. It does not hold as high an honor as the substantial reception of Christ's Sacred Body & Blood. Yet, Adoration has its own high office as a *heedful* waiting upon Jesus; a special devotion that upholds and increases in us the Eucharistic life we are called to live.

For this 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time we place on our bulletin cover a work by the Flemish painter **Frans Francken the Younger** entitled *The Disputation of the Holy Sacrament*, a work of oil and gold on copper. Francken came from a family of painters and his work varies from genre to religious to allegorical. We might say that this work is a Eucharistic allegory. It does not portray a classical myth or a historical event but a revelation of what is actually occurring during Eucharistic Adoration.

Francken was especially apt at creating lovely altarpieces. Here the church altar itself becomes the central feature of his painting. Francken lived during the latter part of the Protestant Reformation when the horizontal debate (which he paints here) over the Real Presence of Jesus in the Eucharist was at its contentious height. Beside this argument Francken proposes in pigment the incontrovertible vertical truth: that Jesus is wholly present in the Blessed Sacrament. In fact, he paints this mystery as fully Trinitarian, such that the Real Presence of Jesus proceeds to us from the Father through the Holy Spirit. Francken even places the Blessed Mother and John the Baptist as witness to this truth, as he illuminates the Holy Host with the same brightness as the divine figures.

Let us be ever-heedful to the mystery of the Most Blessed Sacrament in Eucharistic Adoration.

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 2, 2020

Religious

Education



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION: The church is open for Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament on Mon. & Fri. 9:30am - 8:30pm so please stop in, even if only for a few minutes, to be with the Lord throughout the summer. He doesn't forget about us we should also not forget that He is there for us if we only open our hearts to let Him in. *Don't forget your mask.*

Does your summer include taking a vacation from Mass?

This is a question that has been asked in years past and this year it has a different meaning to us all. Let us not forget that we can take an hour out of our weekend to view Holy Mass on television or on the internet. Even though the Pope has instituted a dispensation from actually attending Mass during this time due to the pandemic we can still view it and take part in kneeling and standing and responding to the prayers at home. *God commanded us to keep holy the Sabbath, and Mass is the way a Catholic fulfills that requirement. And if God tells us to do something, we should do it.*

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus,

I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things,

and I desire to receive You into my soul.

Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.

I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You.

Never permit me to be separated from You.

Amen.

Stay Safe and Healthy

God Bless, Mrs. Hammarquist



The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes (detail)

Jacopo Robusti (1550)

(The Met - New York)

But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. (Mt 14:17-19)

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER
PRESCHOOL - GRADE 8



ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
ACUSHNET, MASSACHUSETTS

August already?? *Please say it isn't so!* We continue to plan for reopening at the end of this month and look forward to seeing our students even though their smiles will be masked. This past week's highlight was a socially distanced gathering of our most recent alumni. Our 8th grader parents traditionally put on a celebration of their children's years at SFX. This had been delayed but was quite special nonetheless. Even seeing our 2020 graduates masked and distanced, was wonderful! This past year's unexpected turn also forced us to reschedule our annual and major fundraiser. **Embrace Grace**, this year's auction, has been pivoted to an online platform so that you may "virtually" bid, buy raffles, and continue to support our parish school. More details will follow. Your participation and support is greatly appreciated...as are your continued prayers

God Bless, Michelle Russo/Principal

UPCOMING SECOND & SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

August 23rd - Building Fund

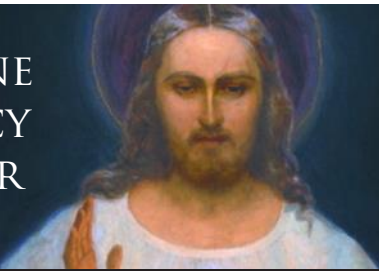
August 30th - Diocesan Assessment

PARISH ANNUAL APPEAL: We thank everyone who gave to our last year's annual appeal which concluded on June 30, 2020. We collected **\$27,475** during last year's appeal. This money was especially necessary this year due to the drop-off in collections that resulted from the pandemic.

In just one more month, on September 1, we begin our **2020-2021 Annual Appeal** campaign (for FY 2021). We hope to mail out the donation/pledge cards around the last week of August. You should also receive in the mail a letter from our pastor Father Williams explaining the appeal along with a 2020 FY (financial) report.

Every penny of the Annual Appeal is used to support our parish operations. Not only do the funds pay for upkeep of our facility operations, they also assist the Church and diocese in keeping up a strong Catholic presence in Acushnet. This is the most vital point of the appeal in that it provides for an outpost for Christ and for telling His message to a world which is being challenged, even compelled, to give up Christianity in favor of another way that seeks neither truth or peace. Please help us to continue to uphold and increase this community of Christ, especially a beautiful liturgy and sacramental intervention for the salvation of souls.

DIVINE MERCY HOUR



Since our initial plea and announcement we have received a steady stream of responses by parishioners willing to offer Divine Mercy prayers daily at 3:00 pm on behalf of St. Francis Xavier Parish. If you would like to join in, we still have days and prayer opportunities available.

We would like to cover the following prayers daily: Divine Mercy Chaplet, Stations of the Cross, Three O'Clock Prayer to the Divine Mercy and Act of Consecration of the Family to the Divine Mercy. **Please note** that these prayers can be said at home and should be said for the intention of our parish.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Carol Eccleston - lovepeaceprayers@yahoo.com

OVERNIGHT EUCHARISTIC ADORATION: will take place again Monday night into Tuesday morning and Friday night into Saturday morning. On **Monday, 3 August**, Eucharistic Adoration begins after the 9 am Mass and continues until just before the 9 am Mass on Tuesday. On Friday, Adoration begins after the 9 am Mass and runs continuous until 2:45 pm on Saturday. This is our first step going forward in the pursuit of linking up our Adoration program again from Monday through Saturday. If you are interested in taking a regular Holy Hour with all its graces, please see Mary Cardoza or call Steve in the parish office at 508 995-7600.



Also WANTED...

If you see this cagey character hiding out on a nearly empty shelf in a grocery or department store, make a citizen's arrest and bring him in!

We'll lock him up for

READINGS FOR WEEK OF AUGUST 2, 2020

Sunday: Is 55:1-3/Ps 145:8-9, 15-16, 17-18 [cf. 16]/Rom 8:35, 37-39/Mt 14:13-21
Monday: Jer 28:1-17/Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102 [68b]/Mt 14:22-36
Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22/Ps 102:16-18, 19-21, 29 and 22-23 [17]/Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7/Jer 31:10, 11-12ab, 13 [cf. 10d]/Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14/Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9 [1a, 9a]/2 Pt 1:16-19/Mt 17:1-9
Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7/Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41 [39c]/Mt 16:24-28
Saturday: Hb 1:12—2:4/Ps 9:8-9, 10-11, 12-13 [11b]/Mt 17:14-20

PORTIUNCULA INDULGENCE

Sunday
2 August



This plenary indulgence initiated by St. Francis of Assisi is granted to those who pray the Our Father, the Creed, and for the Pope in the parish church and follow the usual conditions for an indulgence. Please copy and use the link below for more information:

https://web.archive.org/web/20100904004036/http://franciscanfriarstor.com/archive/stfrancis/stf_portiuncula_indulgence.htm

7 August
9 am & 6 pm

FIRST FRIDAY MASS



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time - August 2, 2020

THE SACRED LITURGY FOR 18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, 2 AUGUST

ProceSSIONAL Hymn: Praise My Soul, The King of Heaven

Praise my soul, the King of heaven; to his feet thy tribute bring; Ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven, ever more his praises sing. Alleluia! Alleluia! Praise the everlasting king.

1st Reading: Is 55:1-3

Thus says the LORD: All you who are thirsty, come to the water! You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; Come, without paying and without cost, drink wine and milk! Why spend your money for what is not bread; your wages for what fails to satisfy?

Heed me, and you shall eat well, you shall delight in rich fare. Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant, the benefits assured to David.

Responsorial Psalm: *The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs*

2nd Reading: Rom 8: 35, 37-39

Brothers and sisters:
What will separate us from the love of Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?
No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things, nor future things, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gospel Reading: Mt 14:13-21

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself. The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns. When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick. When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves." But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here." Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass. Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds. They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over — twelve wicker baskets full. Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

Offertory Hymn: Immortal, Invisible God Only Wise

Communion Hymn: Lord of All Hopefulness

*Lord of all hopefulness, Lord of all joy,
Whose trust ever childlike, no cares could destroy,
Be there at our waking and give us we pray,
Your bliss in our hearts Lord, at the break of the day.*

Recessional Hymn: Let All Things Now Living

Let all things now living A song of thanksgiving to God our Creator triumphantly raise, who fashioned and made us, protected and stayed us by guiding us on to the end of our days...