

FAMILY PRAYER

WEEK BY WEEK



18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Year A
2 August 2020

"They all ate and were satisfied."

Something to Think About

This gospel passage reminds us that Jesus feeds us in many ways.

The people in the story are hungry in many ways - hungry to hear Jesus' message, hungry to feel his healing touch, hungry just to be near him. The disciples, as usual, look to Jesus to do everything and to have all the answers. Jesus says to the disciples, 'Feed them yourselves'. Miracles do happen and will happen more readily if people work together to bring about the kingdom.

The Story

In this week's story, Jesus is looking for some peace and quiet, a place to be alone and take a break. But the crowds follow him everywhere. They will not leave him alone. His reaction to the crowds is not annoyance or anger, but compassion. Instead of sending the people away, Jesus tells the disciples to give them something to eat.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 14:15-21

That evening the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Let the crowds leave, so they can go to the villages and buy some food." Jesus replied, "They don't have to leave. Why don't you give them something to eat?"

But they said, "We have only five small loaves of bread and two fish."

Jesus asked his disciples to bring the food to him, and he told the crowd to sit down on the grass. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish.

He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food.

Then he broke the bread and handed it to his disciples, and they gave it to the people. After everyone had eaten all they wanted, Jesus' disciples picked up twelve large baskets of leftovers. There were about five thousand men who ate, not counting the women and children.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Click to watch the video.

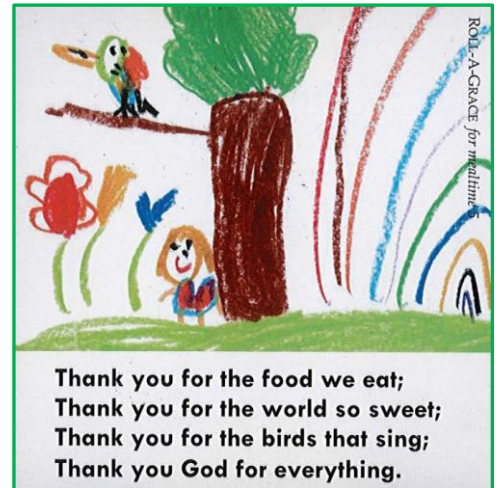
[Kids Respond to Child Hunger](#)



THINGS TO DO THIS WEEK

Prayer

Say this prayer together at meal times this week.



Family Discussion

A key message in today's gospel concerns the great generosity of God. In the end, there was not only enough food for all, but twelve baskets left over. God's love and care for us is indeed abundant. We are called to love in the same generous and abundant way. When the priest blesses the bread and wine at Mass, they become the body and blood of Christ for us to share in the Eucharistic meal. Jesus feeds us so that we may feed one another.

Think about the ways in which different people 'feed' you and help you to grow physically, emotionally, intellectually and spiritually.

Family Activity

We have all we need in abundance.

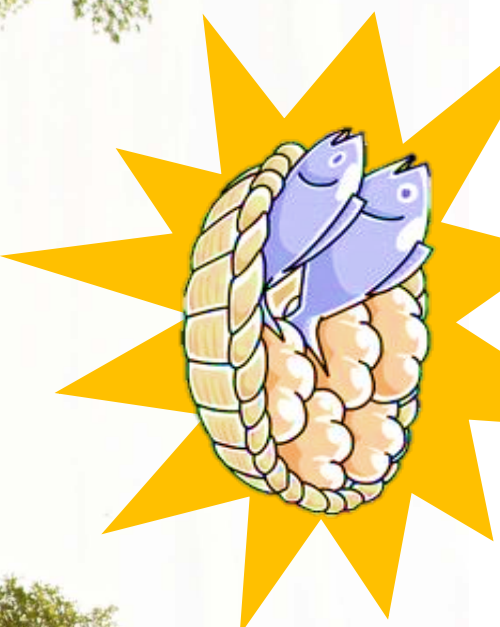
During the COVID-19 lockdown, we have seen many people sharing what they have. Recently we have seen stories of people making masks and sending them to vulnerable people. Other people have shared their food or done shopping for neighbours who have not been able to go out.

This week, gather as a family and let each person talk about what they have in abundance. Make a list and write down how you can share your family's abundance with others during the coming week.



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JESUS HEALED THOSE WHO WERE SICK AND FED THOSE WHO WERE HUNGRY.



**JESUS TOOK THE FIVE LOAVES AND TWO FISH, GAVE GOD THANKS,
BROKE THE BREAD, AND GAVE IT TO THE PEOPLE SITTING ON THE GRASS.
WHAT CAN YOU DO TO HELP THE SICK AND HUNGRY?**

