

17th Sunday of Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:42-44
Ps 145:10-11,15-18
Ephesians 4:1-6
John 6:1-15

Monday, July 26
Sts. Joachim & Anne
Exodus 32:15-24,30-34
Ps 106:19-23
Matthew 13:31-35

Tuesday, July 27
Exodus 33:7-11;34:5b-9,28
Ps 103:6-13
Matthew 13:36-43

Wednesday, July 28
Exodus 34:29-35
Ps 99:5-7,9
Matthew 13:44-46

Thursday, July 29
St. Martha
Exodus 40:16-21,34-38
Ps 84:3-6a,8a,11
John 11:19-27
or Luke 10:38-42

Friday, July 30
Leviticus 23:1,4-11,
15-16,27,34b-37
Ps 81:3-6,10-11ab
Matthew 13:54-58

Saturday, July 31
St. Ignatius of Loyola
Leviticus 25:1,8-17
Ps 67:2-3,5,7-8
Matthew 14:1-12

Sometimes people de-supernaturalize John 6:1-15 with explanations such as: "The real miracle is that Jesus got the people to share the food they had brought with them", and even this: "There wasn't enough food for everyone to have their fill, but what they had was offered to everyone, and the people were just so appreciative and willing to make sacrifices that they ate very little and thus there was food left over."

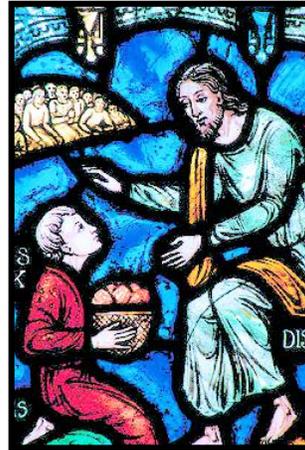
Yeah, r-i-i-ight. As if God can't multiply food miraculously.

The multiplication of the loaves and fish into a meal that not only satisfied everyone but was more than what they needed is an important foreshadowing of the Eucharistic banquet we celebrate today. If we pay close attention to what's going on in Mass, and if we take it to heart, Jesus satisfies our hungers and gives us more than we need. What did you

need from him before you arrived at church? He's trying to give it to you or lead you to it -- in abundance!

Receiving all that he wants to miraculously give us requires that we trust him to provide for us. We have to expect the unexpected. We have to wait on his perfect timing. But rest assured that he wants to give us more than we need.

Maybe some of the folks on that ancient hillside wanted steak instead of fish, but what they received was a Messiah who filled their hearts with more than enough faith to grow spiritually, more than enough hope to become stronger in their trials, and more than enough love to share as they went forth to reveal Christ to others.



In our Liturgies of the Eucharist, there's a lot more abundance to receive from Jesus than just a little wafer of his Body and a sip of his Blood. What do you really need from

Jesus? More faith? More hope? More love? It's a good idea to think about this on the way to Mass so that you can participate in Mass more expectantly.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. Why do you go to Mass? Was there ever a time when you didn't go, and if so, why didn't you? What motivated you to start attending Mass again?
2. How satisfied are you now? What's missing? How might God provide for those needs?
3. What is available from Jesus during Mass other than his real presence in the Host and Precious Blood of the Eucharist?
4. How are the various elements of Mass gifts from God that can help satisfy our spiritual, emotional, and even physical needs?