

August 4-5, 2018

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exodus 16:2-15

Ephesians 4:17-24

John 6:24-35

If one is traveling to Washington, D.C., the National Mall beckons, as it always does, with an abundance of museums, memorials, impressive structures and shrines. Within the relatively new (and spectacular) Museum dedicated to the assorted Native American Indian Tribes that have inhabited our continental landscape throughout the centuries, is the ability to purchase and enjoy the NATIVE FOODS that would have defined each individual tribe. For example, the Northwest Tribes had a diet rich in Salmon while those in the Midwest hunted bison, while those in the Northeast lived on a variety of deer, elk, and native vegetables along with shellfish and plenty of oysters; restaurant meals, on each level of the Museum, featuring these items, along with their native manner of preparations, are available to be purchased and enjoyed. In our selection from Exodus this weekend we hear the remembrance of the Jewish people, that, following their ancestors' exodus from Egypt, God provided them with food by which to be sustained: quail for meat and manna for bread. In the Gospel selection, as we do every year in these latter weeks of Summer, we hear of Jesus describing HIMSELF as the BREAD OF LIFE. This weekend begins a series of weeks when we are invited to consider the gift of EUCHARIST, the flesh and blood of Jesus in the consecrated bread and wine, offered us at Mass. As each Native American tribe had their own specialty diet, we too, as Roman Catholic people of faith, have a diet meant to nurture our communion with one another as well as binding us more intimately with Jesus. Honoring the instructions given at the Last Supper to 'do this in memory of me', we are encouraged to appreciate the DIVINE which exists within the external image of bread and wine and ponder what the invitation to 'take and eat, take and drink' means? Sometimes received by rote as part of a spiritual routine, the gift of Eucharist has depths only fully understood outside of Mass within our personal silences as well as our conversations with Jesus. We will be TASTING of these Eucharistic themes for the remainder of the month...so, settle in, clean your palate, prepare to savor what you receive at Mass and start to remember when your Eucharistic diet gave you the strength you needed at different times in your life.

Thank you for sharing prayer, worship and Eucharist with our Santa Clara community this weekend. Please keep those Married Couples on retreat in the desert this weekend in your prayers. The Bulletin has other news and tidbits of information for your 'consumption' so please take a copy home with you. Enjoy these beginning days of August, especially considering that for many, school will be soon resuming and remember, you are loved. FKB