

# Dear Padre,

## My elderly aunt is suffering from a terminal illness, and says she wants to die. Is this all right?

Popular psychological writings on death and dying often list the five different stages that people might go through when they are dying, namely: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. For Christians, the last stage of acceptance is saying yes to God's will. They may have been reconciled to God and others, said the things they have wanted to say, finished any unfinished business, and feel ready to leave this world and return to God.

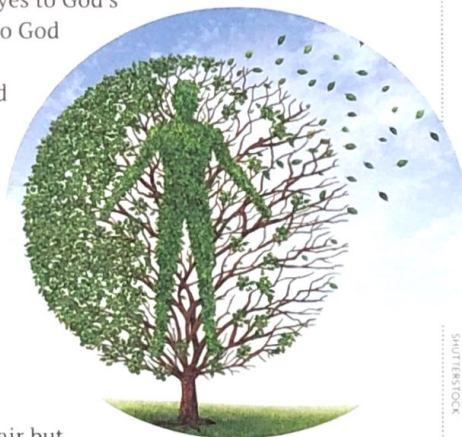
For the dying person with faith, there may come a time when the desire to be fully united to her loving God takes priority over all other concerns and she actually desires to die. Her eyes turn toward the next life and she is not only ready to go but desires to go. This desire to leave this life is not the result of despair but rather the fruit of Christian hope.

We have a different situation when someone is not dying or is in good physical health, for the desire to die may indicate desperation or depression rather than acceptance and hope. Such persons may need personal and professional help to regain a zest for the life God has given them until the time comes that God calls them to himself.

From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices*, © 2011 Liguori Publications

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to share your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



SHUTTERSTOCK

## Calendar

**Monday**  
AUGUST 2  
Weekday  
Nm 11:4b–15  
Mt 14:13–21

**Tuesday**  
AUGUST 3  
Weekday  
Nm 12:1–13  
Mt 14:22–36 or  
Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

**Wednesday**  
AUGUST 4  
St. John Vianney,  
Priest  
Nm 13:1–2, 25–14:1,  
26–29a, 34–35  
Mt 15:21–28

**Thursday**  
AUGUST 5  
Weekday  
Nm 20:1–13  
Mt 16:13–23

**Friday**  
AUGUST 6  
Transfiguration  
of the Lord  
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14  
2 Pt 1:16–19  
Mk 9:2–10

**Saturday**  
AUGUST 7  
Weekday  
Dt 6:4–13  
Mt 17:14–20

**Sunday**  
AUGUST 8  
Nineteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
1 Kgs 19:4–8  
Eph 4:30–5:2  
Jn 6:41–51

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 1, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Ex 16:2–4, 12–15

Eph 4:17, 20–24

Jn 6:24–35

## Bread of Life

Last week's stories about bread take a very different turn this week. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the bread theme as a metaphor. Here bread symbolizes the teachings of Jesus that will nourish us, that will satisfy our deepest needs. Jesus employs a method of interpretation favored by the rabbis of his day. He refers to a passage from the religious tradition (the passage that happens to be the first reading for today), and then, step by step, explains its meaning for the people of his day. His "homily" is really a response to the challenge from those who demanded a sign that would give evidence of the authority with which he spoke.

Those who challenged Jesus did so after they had been filled by the bread that he earlier miraculously provided. Jesus knew they weren't looking for signs of the presence of God in their midst. They simply wanted more food.

Jesus pointed out that the people of Moses' time had been called to trust that, day by day, God would provide them with food—as impossible as that might have seemed. Likewise, Jesus' hearers were called to trust his claims about his unique relationship with God, whom he called Father—as impossible as that might have seemed. This really isn't a story just about bread—the edible kind or the eucharistic kind. It is a story about believing in Jesus and accepting his teaching about the bread from heaven that promises eternal life.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

## FOR Reflection

- ★ Give thanks for God's day-by-day care for you and your loved ones.
- ★ Pray for a deep and solid trust in God.



Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst."

JOHN 6:35

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## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those "who labor and are burdened," and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: "Come to me."

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEBRUARY 11, 2020



Rectory & Parish Office  
 600 Soderberg St. Lakin, KS 67860  
 Mailing Address: PO Box 983  
 Fr. Peter Tran, Pastor—355-6405  
 Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm  
 Email: [saintanthonylakin@gmail.com](mailto:saintanthonylakin@gmail.com)  
 Website: [saintanthonylakin.org](http://saintanthonylakin.org)

Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee	355-6388
Lisa Gannett, DRE	355-6611
RCIA	355-6405
Gwen Waechter, Parish Council Chair	272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance Council Chair	355-6206
Altar Society President, Nanette Rice	355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight	640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek & Nanette Rice	355-1696 355-7676

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday, August 2 8:00 a.m. Charles & Eileen Hoff+**  
**Tuesday, August 3 8:00 a.m. For Rain**  
**Thursday, August 5 8:00 a.m. Harold Smith +**  
**Friday, August 6 12:15 p.m. Private Intention (T.P.)**  
**(Eucharistic Adoration right after 12:15 Mass—5:00 p.m.)**  
**Saturday, August 7 4:00p.m. Private Intention (S.L.)**  
**Sunday, August 8 9:00 a.m. Chuck Sullivan**

July 31, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
Aug. 1, 9:00 a.m.	Julie Kaps
Aug. 7, 4:00 p.m.	Gwen Waechter
Aug. 8, 9:00 a.m.	Mike Broeckelman
Aug. 14, 4:00 p.m.	Karen Burden
Aug. 15, 9:00 a.m.	K of C
Aug. 21, 4:00 p.m.	Tom Bachman
Aug. 22, 9:00 a.m.	Alvin Bergkamp
Aug. 28, 4:00 p.m.	Debbie Frederick
Aug. 29, 9:00 a.m.	Fred Jones

*Thank you so much for your ministry!*

**Reconciliation:** Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. every Friday from 4:15—4:50 p.m. or by appointment.

**Baptism:** Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

**Marriage:** Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

**18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME— AUGUST 1, 2021**



**One does not live on bread alone, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God. Mt4:4**

Jesus tells us this Sunday’s gospel (Jn 6: 24-35), “Amen, amen, I say to you, you are looking for me not because you saw signs but because you ate the loaves and were filled.”

My friends, --- a mature faith, a deep faith, is not fully realized by only asking the question, “God, what can YOU do for ME?” It’s more fully realized and more authentic when we can recognize that God is already showering us with every good thing, already blessing us each and every day with all that we need. In other words, faith is not about waiting for God to do something for us, but rather acknowledging that he already has done something for us and will continue to do so into eternity. And when we can grow into that sort of understanding, our faith will strengthen and deepen and our lives will bloom in ways we can’t even imagine. And we just might find ourselves asking a more important question, a more faith-filled question, a more loving and grateful question . . . .God, what can I do for you?

Fr. Peter Tran

**COLLECTION** for July 25, 2021: Envelopes: \$1283.00; Loose: \$292.00; Online Giving: \$225.60. Total \$1800.60; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under + 39.43.

*Thank you so much to your faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.*

**SINCERE SYMPATHY & PRAYERS** Our deepest sympathy and prayers to you, Judy and your family, on the passing of your beloved husband George Hogan. May the Almighty God wrap His loving arms around you and the entire family and give you peace. May he rest in peace.

**CONGRATULATIONS** We would like to extend our congratulations to our newly Baptized, Adriel Everaldo Hernandez, son of Ruben and Brenda Hernandez, who was baptized on 17th of July, 2021. Welcome to God's family in the Church! May our Loving God continue to pour down His abundant blessings upon Adriel and his family.

**RUMMAGE SALE** Please have any items you are wanting to donate to the parish rummage sale by July 28th. The sale date is scheduled for August 7th. Contact any of the following to meet you at the hall. Thank you for your donations. :

Jana Jenkinson	290-5201	Janet Rooney	640-1946	Tressa Power	260-6247
Jane Sullivan	355-5118	Carolyn Robertson	290-5569	Gwen Waechter	272-1030

**FOOD SALE -SATURDAY AUGUST 7TH** We are asking Altar Society ladies to provide food items to sell during the rummage sale. Please bring your food items to the hall Friday evening August 6th between 6:30 –7:00 p.m. or Saturday morning by 8:00 a.m. Thank you ladies.

**BUDGET SHOP REMINDER** our church is scheduled to work at the budget shop every four weeks. We always appreciate all your help. We will be working on July 31st, August 3, 28th, and 31st and on September 25 and 27th. Please put these dates on your calendar. Your children can qualify for a very good scholarship from the Budget shop by volunteering 12 hours a year. So encourage them to work also. Thank you.

**VOCATION VIEW** "Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord." With these words, St. Augustine recognizes that only in Christ can we find that deep fulfillment; and while we try to find this in the world, that will only lead to emptiness. (John 6:24-35)

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** The crowd in today's Gospel demanded a sign of Jesus and wanted to know what "work" He did to inspire their faith. May our faithful stewardship be a sign to others that we, like the Ephesians in the second reading, have laid aside our former way of life and acquire a "fresh, spiritual way of thinking" in Christ.

**PRAYER OF THE WEEK** adapted from St. Teresa of Avila O Wealth of the poor, how admirably you know how to sustain souls! Without their seeing such great wealth, you show it to them little by little. When I behold majesty as extraordinary as you concealed in something as small as the host, I marvel at wisdom so wonderful, and I fail to know how you give me the courage or strength to approach you. I fall before you in a gratitude that cannot compare to your love. Amen.

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE GOSPEL OF THE WEEK - (John 6:24-35)**

**Moving along** After Jesus gives the people enough food to satisfy everyone, they misinterpret who he is, so he separates himself from them. He crosses a lake, but the people find him. When they ask an irrelevant question (v.25b), Jesus takes the dialogue to a deeper level.

**Work** The people did see Jesus do a sign (vv. 1-15), but they didn't understand it. They thought it meant Jesus was a king who would protect and provide for them physically. Jesus tells them not to put their faith in one who only provides physical sustenance but to believe in the one who sustains them beyond this life. When the people ask about the works of God, they're asking about how best to observe the Jewish law (v.28). Jesus clarifies that faith in him replaces the law.

**Signs they can't see** Jesus is the Son of Man whom God has authorized (set his seal, v.27) to replace the law and bring people to eternal life. God sent no one else, not even Moses, for this mission. Because the people are understandably skeptical about Jesus' bold claim, they ask for a sign. Although Jesus has just given them a sign, they want something bigger, something that goes beyond God's gift of manna to their ancestors. They want Jesus to prove that he really is greater than Moses.

**True bread for everyone** The people would have agreed that it was God and not Moses who fed their ancestors (v.32). Jesus thus makes a distinction between material bread and true bread, a bread that provides more than physical sustenance. Jesus also notes that this true bread is for the whole world and not only for the Jews. The people understand the distinction between the two types of bread, so they ask for the better, more life-sustaining bread. Jesus is happy to oblige: he himself is the bread they want. He will satisfy their every need, their every longing. The difficulty for them will be accepting that he truly is God in the flesh ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

#### **UNDERSTANDING THE FIRST READING** (Exodus 16: 2-4, 12-15)

**Complaining** The LORD has just freed his oppressed people from the mighty Egyptians and led them safely through the Red Sea. Despite the wonders God has done, the people complain about not having enough food, particularly meat (flesh), a luxury that as slaves they would have tasted only rarely.

**Testing** The people aren't starving; they're preoccupied about where their next meal will come from. Instead, they should trust that the LORD will provide for them. One reason God kept his people in the Sinai desert for so long was to teach them to depend on him alone for everything. They, like most of us, were not quick learners.

**Feeding** Quail migrated through the region at certain times of the year and sometimes landed in such exhaustion that they were easy to catch. The manna resembled frost, particularly to the Israelites, who had never seen such food before. Manna is an edible substance that falls from tamarisk trees as insects feed on the trees. Manna doesn't fall in large enough quantities to feed whole groups of people, however. The amount gathered by the Israelites was miraculous ([www.oursundayreadings](http://www.oursundayreadings))

## QUESTION AND ANSWER



### Question:

Killing someone and missing Sunday Mass are both mortal sins, punishable by eternity in hell. This seems to make the two sins equivalent. But in my mind, killing is far worse than missing Mass. Are they really equivalent? — James Becker

### Answer:

No, they are not equivalent. There are degrees to mortal sin just like there are degrees to venial sin. First-degree murder is more grave than missing Mass, or viewing pornography, or any other grave sin that we might imagine. It is true that killing someone and missing Mass are in the same category of mortal (or grave) sin. But they are no more equivalent than a rat is equivalent to, or the same as, a man simply because they are in the same category, mammal. Your description of both sins as being punishable by eternity in hell also implies an equivalence by that fact. However, a distinction is necessary regarding the way you connect the notion of eternity to punishment. That one is in hell eternally is not due to punishment per se. Rather, the eternity of hell (or heaven for that matter) exists because our decision for or against God and the laws and values of his kingdom becomes a decision that is forever fixed at death. That hell is eternal is not by itself a gauge of the punishment involved. We need not presume that everyone experiences hell in exactly the same way, any more than we can presume that everyone experiences heaven in exactly the same way. There may, in fact, be degrees of suffering in hell and degrees of glory in heaven. While there are mysteries involved here, it makes sense that there are some saints who, on account of extraordinary virtue, have a greater capacity to appreciate God's glory in heaven. It also makes sense that for those in hell who have rejected God and his kingdom, there would be degrees of suffering experienced, related to how deep their rejection of the light is. The Scriptures indicate we are judged according to what we have done (see Rv 20:11–15). Therefore, there is at least implied some relationship of reward or punishment rooted in what we have done or not done. Jesus also speaks of places of special honor in heaven, indicating levels of some sort in the afterlife (Mt 20:23). (Catholic and Curious—Msgr. Pope)

## EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### In it to win it?

*Quid pro quo* sounds like a pretty good deal. "This for that": the time-honored barter in which we swap resources or labor for room and board, if not a bit more. Consumer culture initiates all of us into the pursuit of the best trade. No surprise that early followers of Jesus imagined they were swapping their attention to his teaching for free food and even better opportunities down the road. Jesus seeks friends who share his vision, not churchgoers hoping for a celestial deal. When it comes to the religion quest, what's in it for you?

(Prepare the Word)

## DÉCIMO SÉPTIMO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

### ¿Vienes para ganar?

*Quid pro quo* parece un buen trato. "Esto por aquello:" el consagrado trueque en el que intercambiamos recursos o mano de obra por alojamiento y comida, si no un poco más. La cultura del consumo nos inicia a todos en la búsqueda del mejor trueque. No es de extrañar que los primeros seguidores de Jesús imaginaran que estaban intercambiando la atención a sus enseñanzas por comida gratis e incluso por mejores oportunidades en el futuro. Jesús busca amigos que compartan su visión, no feligreses que esperen un trato celestial. Cuando se trata de la búsqueda religiosa, ¿cuál es el beneficio para ti?