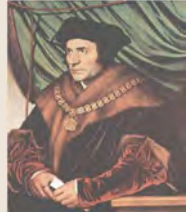




# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

51 MARKETPLACE IRVINE, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · WWW.STMIRVINE.ORG



Saint Thomas More Welcomes All



**Welcoming all**, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.

**Pastor**

Parochial Vicar  
Pastor Emeritus  
Parochial Vicar Emeritus  
Weekend Assistants

Deacons

**Rev. Eugene J. Lee**

Rev. Kiet Ta  
Rev. John E. Janze  
Rev. William Krekelberg  
Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem  
Rev. Joseph Justice  
Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite  
Deacon Stan & Mrs. Fran Necikowski  
Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen  
Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun  
Deacon John & Mrs. Michelle Selig

**Office Information:**

Office: 949-551-8601  
After hours emergency: 949-228-2127  
Fax: 949-551-5879  
Religious Education: 949-551-8029  
Youth Ministry: 949-551-8602



**Office Hours:**

Monday-Friday: 8:30am-5:00pm  
Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm

## July 25, 2021 • Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JESUS TOOK  
THE LOAVES,  
GAVE THANKS,  
AND DISTRIBUTED  
THEM TO THOSE WHO  
WERE RECLINING,  
AND ALSO AS MUCH  
OF THE FISH  
AS THEY WANTED.

JOHN 6:11





JULY  
**25** 2021 SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY  
 IN ORDINARY TIME

Andrew said to Jesus,  
 "There is a boy  
 here who has  
 five barley loaves  
 and two fish;  
 but what good  
 are these  
 for so many?"

John 6:8-9



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## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — Elisha feeds a hundred people with twenty barley loaves (2 Kings 4:42-44).

**Psalm** — The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs (Psalm 145).

**Second Reading** — Paul urges the Ephesians to live in a manner worthy of the call they received (Ephesians 4:1-6).

**Gospel** — Jesus feeds a large crowd with five barley loaves and two fish (John 6:1-15).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from the Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

**Daily Mass:**  
**Monday – Saturday: 8:00 AM**

**Vigil Mass Times**  
 4:00 PM Vietnamese/English  
 6:00 PM English

**Sunday Mass Times**  
 8:00 AM English  
 10:00 AM English  
 12:00 PM Spanish/English  
 5:00 PM English

**Morning Prayer:** Wed & Fri 7:30am to 7:50am

**Adoration:** Every Friday 6:00pm to 7:00pm

**Saturday Confessions:** 1:00pm to 3:00pm

**Mass will be available online for the sick and homebound on Sundays at 10:00am and Monday-Saturday at 8:00am**

**For spiritual advisement, please contact the priest to schedule an appointment.**

## MASS INTENTIONS

*Please call the front desk to request a Mass Intention*

Monday 7/26	8:00am	Brandon Mortenson
Tuesday 7/27	8:00am	†Ariel Gonzalez
Wednesday 7/28	8:00am	†Robert Muñoz
Thursday 7/29	8:00am	†Libby Ringo
Friday 7/30	8:00am	Fr. Bill Krekleberg
Saturday 7/31	8:00am	†Emmanuel Pinga
	8:00am	†Reynaldo Antolin
	8:00am	Diane Nguyen
	8:00am	Annie Nguyen
	8:00am	Tuyen & Amy Nguyen
	8:00am	†Carmelita Lizardo
	8:00am	†Felicisimo O. Antonio
	8:00am	†Renita Cruz-Filo
	8:00am	†Richard Lopez, Sr.
	8:00am	†Virginia Kircher
Sunday 8/1	4:00pm	†Antonio Maralit
	6:00pm	†Angelito Cortez
	8:00am	†Anton & Virginia Machado
	10:00am	†Duong Nguyen
	12:00pm	Pro Populo
	5:00pm	Nga Phan



St. Thomas More Catholic Parish  
 Knights of Columbus  
 Msgr. Timothy J Doyle  
 Council # 13111



## "MASS ON THE GRASS"

### Potluck Picnic

*Following the*  
**Feast of the Assumption Mass**

The Knights of Columbus are hosting a *Potluck Picnic*  
**Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> after the 5:00 pm Mass**

*The Knights will be serving free hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks. Parishioners requested to bring side dishes or desserts to share. All are welcome.*

**Join us for good food and fellowship.**

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Thomas More Parish,

**Today's theme on the readings:** ONE LORD, ONE FAITH

Do you suppose the authors of the four Gospels were aware of today's first reading from the second book of Kings? Of course they were. The prophet Elisha fed a hundred men with twenty barley loaves in order to prove God's power. This same miracle, now multiplied by more people fed by fewer loaves, is attributed to Jesus in all four Gospels. In today's passage from John we even have the detail that the loaves were barley, reminding every pious Jew of that miracle that Elisha worked. Yet Jesus went into hiding when they wanted to make him king. It is the passage from Paul's Letter to the Ephesians that gives us the reason for this. The power of Jesus comes from God. It is not meant merely to feed us, or to provide one group with a king. There is one Lord, one faith, one God and Father of all who works through Jesus Christ and through us all.

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Sincerely In Christ,  
Father Eugene

**Collections and Expenses**

7-12-2021 to 7-18-21

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$15,726	\$13,090	\$28,816
Believe & Grow	\$4,348	\$1,979	\$6,327
BGT- Phase 2	\$350	\$2,321	\$2,671
Building Fund	\$556	\$1,118	\$1,674
Other income	\$1,145	\$766	\$1,911

Regular Expenses      \$32,589

We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Building Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property. **Thank you for your generosity!**

***Rest in the Love of Christ***

Alfredo Aguinaldo  
Mary Nguyen  
Carmelita Weiner



***READINGS FOR THE WEEK***

**Monday:** Ex 32:15-24, 30-34; Ps 106:19-23; Mt 13:31-35  
**Tuesday:** Ex 33:7-11; 34:5b-9, 28; Ps 103:6-13; Mt 13:36-43  
**Wednesday:** Ex 34:29-35; Ps 99:5-7, 9; Mt 13:44-46  
**Thursday:** Ex 40:16-21, 34-38; Ps 84:3-6a, 8a, 11; Jn 11:19-27 or Lk 10:38-42  
**Friday:** Lv 23:1, 4-11, 15-16, 27, 34b-37; Ps 81:3-6, 10-11ab; Mt 13:54-58  
**Saturday:** Lv 25:1, 8-17; Ps 67:2-3, 5, 7-8; Mt 14:1-12  
**Sunday:** Ex 16:2-4, 12-15; Ps 78:3-4, 23-25, 54; Eph 4:17, 20-24; Jn 6:24-35



**Baptisms**  
By The Holy Spirit

**Welcome to God's Family**  
 Paris Jane "PJ" Tomer  
 Catherine Michaela Tseng



***PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING***



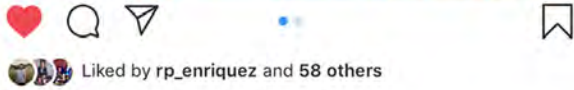
- |                          |                     |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Sally Acosta             | Lois Gorman         | Susan Navarrete           |
| Stacey Allen             | Alice Green         | Ramon Navarro, Jr.        |
| Richy Altuna             | Tina Halberg        | Exy Ner                   |
| Mike Anderson            | Baby Johanna Harris | Benjamin Nicanor          |
| Renee Andrade            | Mike Harvey         | Karen Norton              |
| Judy Anselmo             | Shirley Hecker      | Nam Van Nguyen            |
| Alicia Arrellano         | John Heffernan      | Thuy-Lieu Nguyen          |
| Ed Baldyga               | Robert Henry        | Kyle Osbourne             |
| Sam Baniqued             | Annette Hills       | Agnes Pamintuan           |
| Zicky Baniqued           | Margaret Hills      | Den Tony & Mary Patronite |
| Jesus Barragan           | Clara Honea         | Regina Park               |
| Blanca Bermudez          | Dominador Hontucan  | Norma Jeanne Parrish      |
| Maria Botello            | Sue House           | Gabby Paz                 |
| Michele Bradley          | Linda Hughes        | Charlie Perrea            |
| Bill Burk                | Angela Jack         | K. Nga Phan               |
| Lisa Busch               | Elsa Jatwani        | Ngocle Phung              |
| Mary & Joe Bush          | Theresa Johnston    | Zachary Quick             |
| Baby Zane Cabazon        | Sharon Jones        | Norma Quyang              |
| Linda Carter             | Doris Jordan        | Fr. Jim Reis              |
| Ellen Chang              | Quinn Kelly         | Paula Reno                |
| Cyrus Charna             | Jim Kendall         | Lorraine Reyes            |
| Marietta Charbonneau     | Houman Khaghani     | Ponciano Reyes            |
| Hui-Mei Chen             | Jett Knight         | Robert Arnold Rull        |
| Clara Connor             | Ty Vivian Knisely   | Sheila Russo              |
| Alexandra Conti          | Elizabeth Kulas     | Terry Rute                |
| Petra Cordova            | Richard Kulas       | Anita Ruwaldt             |
| Francisco Cortez         | Deborah Kurilchyk   | Debashish Sarkar          |
| Jim Danaher              | Larry Lathrum       | Jackson & Gerri Scharff   |
| Mark Daniel              | Damian Ledesma      | Michelle Suh              |
| Rick Denham              | Todd Leeds          | Tara Summers              |
| Diana & Liberato DeVeyra | Jack Light          | Liz Thomas                |
| Larry Doan               | Minerva Lopez       | Gail Tierney              |
| Chela Echenique          | Aida Lopez-Tan      | Xuan Tran                 |
| Linda Emanuel            | Gloria MacCormack   | Denise Trujillo           |
| Meynard Encarnacion      | Myrna Malazarte     | Jack Troung               |
| Thomas Erhard            | Kristin Mann        | Kimberly Truong           |
| Richard Erhard           | Mercedes Mantilla   | Baby Catherine Tseng      |
| Jacob Espinoza           | Cherry Marinas      | David Valentine           |
| Lena Fisher              | Cavan McGaffney     | Daniel Villareal          |
| Cynthia Fox              | Kathleen McKinley   | Jim Vessey                |
| Howard Frankel, MD       | Anne McNally        | Hanh Vu                   |
| Ken Freund               | Connie Mellott      | Alicia Walters            |
| John Frisch              | Durvalina Menezes   | John Weber                |
| Claudia Fuentez          | Stephanie Mispagel  | Michele Wills             |
| Mike Garibay             | Elena Monico        | Mike Winchester           |
| Lillian Gibson           | Linda Moore         | Jim Wood                  |
| Jose Gonzales, Jr.       | Agnes Motley        | Linda Yipp                |
| Marisela Gonzalez        | Marie Moya          |                           |

**Please call the office when it is time to remove a name.**





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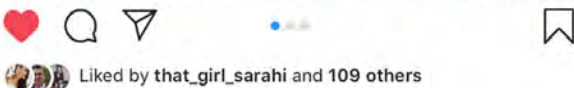


Liked by rp\_enriquez and 58 others

**Life Teen Bible Studies** continue to meet on Mondays at 7pm in Room 3. We always go over the readings for the following Sunday's readings. We hope to see you there!

**Endless Summer Life Nights** are on Wednesdays at 7pm in the Courtyard of the church. Below are the list of dates for the summer Life Nights:

- June 23 - Summer Kick Off
- June 30 - Movie Night
- July 7 - STM Serve Day
- July 14 - Carnival Day
- August 4 - the Grand Finale "STM's Got Talent"



Liked by that\_girl\_sarahi and 109 others

**Confirmation Classes** for the 2020-2021 year are now over. Thank you to all our catechists who made this year a success despite the struggles of the pandemic. We appreciate you!

**High School Confirmation Registration** for the 2021-2022 is NOW OPEN! Please visit [STMIRVINEYM.ORG](http://STMIRVINEYM.ORG) to register.

**Confirmation Catechists** are needed for next year's classes. If you have a heart for the young people of the parish and want to help in the sharing of our Catholic faith, please email [Abraham@stmirvine.org](mailto:Abraham@stmirvine.org).

## R.E.P. CORNER



ALL ABOARD!!!

ROCKY RAILWAY —

Jesus' Power Pulls Us Through  
is pulling into the STM Station this Monday!  
Please make sure to keep all of the campers  
and volunteers on the Engineer Crew  
in your prayers!



## REP Registration News

We are so excited that REP is returning to in person classes this Fall, and registration is NOW OPEN!!



Please visit: [rep.stmirvine.org](http://rep.stmirvine.org) to register your students in Grades K-8.  
Please contact the REP Office with any questions.

For any questions, call the REP Office at (949) 551-8029.

## The Library Corner

17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

The St Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Happy 17<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary time. The Library is open today from 9 – 12.

Today I would like to introduce you to a book by Scott Hahn entitled, 'the Lamb's Supper'. The book is about twenty years old, but it is more relevant today than ever.

The author seeks to bring together scriptural explanation and the Sacrament of the Eucharist in fruitful dialogue. Hahn divides this subject into three main sections: considering the Scripture in the Canon of the Mass, an interpretive approach to the Book of Revelation and the mutual illumination of the Catholic Mass, according to John's Apocalypse. St. Pope John Paul II described the Mass as Heaven on Earth.





Considering whether to join the Catholic Community?  
Just want to know what it is about from an adult perspective?  
Baptized Catholic but not yet Confirmed even though you are an adult?

The parish will offer a series of gatherings to explore our Catholic faith in an adult perspective.

These gatherings focus on the needs of the following groups of people:

- Those wishing to prepare themselves to make an adult choice whether to become a Catholic Christian via Baptism.
- Those who have been baptized as a Catholic or baptized as a member of another denomination and wish to prepare themselves for complete initiation into the Catholic Church through Confirmation and/or First Communion.
- Those Baptized and/or Confirmed as a child but not educated as an adult in Catholic Christianity.
- Those wishing to just find out more about Catholicism from an adult perspective, whether one is already a Catholic or not.

**Our first gathering will be on  
Sunday, September 12th at 7:30 PM  
In the Parish Hall**

The first meeting will be focused on organization determining our future meeting days and times.

For more information, please call **Mike Michalek at 949-551-2304.**

If you cannot make the organization meeting, please call or email Mike at [michalekm@sprintmail.com](mailto:michalekm@sprintmail.com) to let him know when you are available to attend the sessions.

## *Deacon Assignment Changes*

Bishop Vann has reassigned two of our deacons and their wives to new churches, effective August 1, 2021.

Deacon Stan and Fran Necikowski are being assigned to Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Westminster.

Deacon John and Michelle Selig are being assigned to St. Nicholas Catholic Church in Laguna Hills.

All four of them have been invaluable to this community and they have served honorably in a variety of ministries. We are deeply grateful for their years of service here. When you see them around, please be sure to thank them sincerely for all their years of dedication to the St. Thomas More family!

Please keep them in prayer as they start their assignments at their new parishes and we hope to still see them around St. Thomas More from time to time!

*Thank you*







(Y L I)



# The Young Ladies Institute Schools Supply Drive



the weekend of



**August 21st and 22nd**

**It's time to shop for school supplies to  
benefit schools in need.  
Monetary donations will also be accepted**

## Saturday Receptionist Needed

Would you like to work at the parish for a few hours each week? The parish office is in need of a Saturday receptionist. The Saturday office hours are 9:00am to 2:00pm. We are looking for someone who is reliable, has a positive attitude, and has a welcoming and compassionate nature. Duties would include, but are not limited to: answering phones and assisting parishioners with various requests.

If you would like to learn more, please contact Lisa Bergler, Office Manager. Lisa can be reached at 949-551-8601 or submit your resume by email at

[Lbergler@stmirvine.org](mailto:Lbergler@stmirvine.org).



The eyes of all look hopefully to you,  
and you give them their food  
in due season.  
— Psalm 145:15

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# I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS

## WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

#IAMWITHYOUALWAYS

July 25



### PRAYER FOR THE FIRST WORLD DAY FOR GRANDPARENTS AND THE ELDERLY

I thank You, Lord,  
for the comfort of Your presence:  
even in times of loneliness,  
You are my hope and my confidence,  
You have been my rock and my fortress since my youth!

I thank You for having given me a family  
and for having blessed me with a long life.  
I thank You for moments of joy and difficulty,  
for the dreams that have already come true in my life and for  
those that are still ahead of me.  
I thank You for this time of renewed fruitfulness to which You  
call me.

Increase, O Lord, my faith,  
make me a channel of your peace,  
teach me to embrace those who suffer more than me,  
to never stop dreaming  
and to tell of your wonders to new generations.

Protect and guide Pope Francis and the Church,  
that the light of the Gospel might reach the ends of the earth.  
Send Your Spirit, O Lord, to renew the world,  
that the storm of the pandemic might be calmed,  
the poor consoled and wars ended.

Sustain me in weakness  
and help me to live life to the full  
in each moment that You give me,  
in the certainty that you are with me every day,  
even until the end of the age.

Amen.



Prayer





## Catholic Charities' Cantlay Food Bank is in need of volunteers

They are currently serving around 600 families per day at a drive-thru distribution.

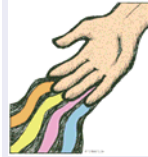
### Volunteers are needed on:

- Tuesday 7am-12noon
- Wednesday 7am-12noon
- Thursday 7am-12noon



And can sign up here: [stmirvine.org/CCVolunteers](http://stmirvine.org/CCVolunteers)

Once you sign up, you will get an email with the volunteer forms and all other needed info.



## FEAST OF FAITH The Preface Dialogue

“Lift up your hearts.” “We lift them up to the Lord.” “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.” “It is right to give him thanks and praise.” With this ancient dialogue we enter the Eucharistic Prayer, the heart of the Mass. These venerable words have been part of the Christian liturgy almost from the beginning—by the time of Hippolytus of Rome (c. 215) they were already fixed in the liturgy. Several times during the Mass the priest has invited us to pray. There is something different here. We are invited to be “lifted up,” to ascend, to climb the Lord’s mountain, as it were, to go to a new place for this most solemn part of the Mass. And we are invited to a new frame of mind, a sense of joy, of focused dedication: our hearts must not be cast down, but lifted up, and lifted to the Lord. Why? Because we are going to give thanks—we are going to “eucharist!” It is right and just that we do this.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

# ALL ABOARD!!

## BIBLE CAMP STARTS MONDAY!

Please keep all of the campers and Engineer Crew in prayers throughout the week!

saint snippets

The poor stretch out the hand, but God receives what is offered.

St. Peter Chrysologus

5th-century Italian Bishop known for his powerful homilies; his reputation led the Emperor to give him the surname “Chrysologus”, meaning “golden-worded”

July 30

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## SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly

**Monday:** Ss. Joachim and Anne

**Thursday:** Ss. Martha, Mary, and Lazarus

**Friday:** St. Peter Chrysologus

**Saturday:** St. Ignatius of Loyola



# James

Pearls for Wise Living

JEFF CAVINS and SARAH CHRISTMYER

### NEW SUMMER BIBLE STUDY!

#### James: Pearls for Wise Living

James is one of the most practical books of the Bible. Its teachings speak loudly to those who feel torn between the competing demands of this world and their faith.

This study is an 11-week video study program offering “pearls for wise living” by applying the wisdom of James to our current day. For anyone who has struggled to live a truly Christian life, James offers a wealth of practical solutions for handling and even sanctifying everyday circumstances.

St. Thomas More will begin a brand new Saturday Bible Study on **June 5th at 9:00 AM**

Participants will view a video during the week and meet via Zoom every Saturday for a lively group discussion and fellowship.

To register, contact **Deacon Tony** at [tpat7747@gmail.com](mailto:tpat7747@gmail.com)



## Ways to Give to STM:

- Secure e-giving on our website: [www.stmirvine.org](http://www.stmirvine.org)



- In basket at Mass
- Mail your check or drop it off in our parish lobby



- Use your smartphone via GivePlus app (Vanco)



- Donate stock, life insurance or retirement plans
- Employer Matching Gifts



- Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchases to STM!

Thank you for your continued support!

# ST. THOMAS MORE MINISTRIES

## Liturgy Support

Altar Servers	Tina Le	(7) 356-7607
Eucharist to the Homebound	Dn. Stan & Fran Necikowski	(7) 505-4816
Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion	Jerry Donaldson	(9) 552-5485
Lectors	Tara Reynaud	(7) 925-9992
Music Director, Including Wedding Music	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Ushers	Steve Luchetta	(9) 733-1192

## Sacraments

Baptism Coordinator	Windy Lozano	(9) 551-8601
Confirmation	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
First Communion	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
First Reconciliation	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)	Michael Michalek	(9) 551-2304
Marriage Case Support	Michael Michalek	(9) 551-2304
	Mary Patronite	(9) 551-8601
Marriage Encounter	Jim & Cheryl Skudlarski	(9) 551-9156
Marriage In The Lord	Meredith & Keith Rattay	(9) 559-6464
Wedding Coordinator	Michelle Selig	(9) 551-8601

## Service

Bereavement	Rosie Muñoz	(9) 551-8601
Children's Homeless Lunch Ministry	Kim Le	(9) 551-8601
Chinese Community	Deacon Leonard Sun	(7) 932-1689
Corazon	Norma Jean Womack	(9) 559-5639
Filipino Community	Charlie Torres	(9) 551-8601
Hispanic Ministry	Frank Ornelas (9) 857-9044	Patty Trujillo (7) 270-5073
Homeless Lunch Ministry	Margaret Cunningham	(7) 552-8711
Knights of Columbus Council #13111	Ed Francis	(858) 229-2490
Respect Life	Chris Gonzales	(9) 551-8601
STM Veterans	Sgt. Bob Kohler	(9) 552-1895
St. Vincent de Paul	Bill Chacon	(9) 331-1020
Vietnamese Ministry	Huan Le	(7) 261-9893
Young Ladies Institute	Mary O'Leary	(9) 305-6810

## Parish

Believe and Grow Together Campaign	Lisa VanDorpe	(7) 357-3080
Bulletin Editor	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Building Committee	Keith Rattay	(9) 551-8601
Deacons	Tony Patronite, Stan Necikowski,	(9) 551-8601
Deacons	Tin Nguyen Leonard Sun, John Selig	(9) 551-8601
Parish Business Manager	Stephanie Miller	(9) 551-8601
Parish Office Manager	Lisa Bergler	(9) 551-8601
Welcoming Committee	Vince Salico	(7) 389-7726

## Spiritual Development

Adult Faith Formation / Bible Study	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Life Teen – High School & Young Adults	Abraham Villela	(9) 551-8602
Religious Education	Barbara Catiller	(9) 551-8029
Christ Renews His Parish	Tony Patronite	(9) 307-6215
Cursillo and When Women Pray	Susan Navarrete	(9) 551-8601
Legion of Mary	Linda Hughes	(9) 559-1124
Library	Sam & Diana Adams	(7) 321-2405
Spanish Bible Study	Teresa LeMire	(7) 832-1770

**If you are feeling called to serve in one or more of our ministries, please send an email with your contact information to: [serve@stmirvine.org](mailto:serve@stmirvine.org)**



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California



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If you own a business or know of a local business that might like to support your local Catholic parish by advertising in its parish bulletin, please contact J.S. Paluch. Grow your business by advertising in the church bulletin and create strong connections with your target audience. Benefits include:

**GREAT COVERAGE - 97%** of all households attending church take at least one church bulletin home every Sunday.

**GREAT VALUE - 70%** of all households are aware of and look at the advertising in the church bulletin and 68% of households surveyed when making a choice between businesses are inclined to choose the one who advertised in the church bulletin.

**GREAT LOYALTY - 41%** of households do business with a company specifically because they are advertising in the church bulletin.

**GREAT PRODUCT - 62%** of households keep the church bulletin the entire week as reference.

## Advertise With Us!



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Company

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Email: [sales@jspaluch.com](mailto:sales@jspaluch.com)



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Andrew said to Jesus,  
“There is a boy here who has  
five barley loaves and two fish;  
but what good are these for so many?”

JOHN 6:8-9

## GOD FEEDS AND CARES FOR US

Today’s message could be summed up in psalm 145, “The hand of the Lord feeds us, he answers all our needs.” Each reading shows how carefully God feeds and cares for us, in an up-close and personal fashion. Elisha fed the crowd from twenty barley loaves. Jesus blessed a few loaves and thousands were fed. Perhaps this seems far-fetched, but we read stories in the news about chefs taking the leftovers from fancy restaurants and feeding many people in a soup kitchen. As a schoolgirl, one of my favorite stories was “Stone Soup,” the tale of a couple of war-weary soldiers convincing the people of a frightened and starving little country village to bring out their meager supplies and share them to make a marvelous soup to feed the town. The second reading asks us to “Consider well our call.” How do we respond to those in need around us?

## MIRACLE OR MAGIC?

It can be easy to just say, “Oh yes, this is the story of the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes, when everybody decided to share the bits of food they had.” But how much of it is really about feeding the crowds? “Jesus said to Philip, ‘Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?’ He said this to test him, because he knew what he was going to do.” It must have been very hard to trust Jesus, especially when the disciples often didn’t understand him. This year has been challenging for us, too, to trust that God will provide, and also challenging for us to ask for help.

In the Rule of Saint Benedict, there is a chapter called “The assignment of impossible tasks.” It says, in essence, that when your superior tells you to do something impossible, it is fine to go talk to them about it, but in the end you may still be asked to do this task. In what situations are we called to trust? When are we asked to act in faith or to do the impossible task?

## HOW WILL WE KNOW WE ARE DOING THE RIGHT THING?

Miracles are seldom as obvious as the multiplication of loaves and fishes. Many years ago, I overheard a family conversation in a restaurant at the end of a long holiday weekend. At the register was one of those collection jars saying, “For just fifty cents a day you can feed a child.” The little girl asked her folks about it and they explained it. She said, “I have money left from my weekend, could I put it in the jar?” The parents said yes and let her go on the adventure for herself. She came back and sat down, and they chatted some more. She said, “If fifty cents feeds a child for a day, then I was able to feed one for three days, because I had \$1.50 left from the weekend.” When we follow this child’s example and go beyond the minimum, when we give all we can, we know we are doing the right thing, and we have understood the test that Jesus posed to Philip so long ago.

## TODAY’S READINGS

2 Kings 4:42-44  
Psalm 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18  
Ephesians 4:1-6  
John 6:1-15

Seventeenth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

JULY 25, 2021

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