

Reflections of the Rector

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL



Throughout this month's Sundays we will cover the 6th chapter of the Gospel of John. The theme of this chapter is eminently Eucharistic. This is very timely as just a couple months ago our Bishops were discussing a possible document on the Eucharist. Unfortunately the media did not do justice to what was really going on, and reduced

the discussion to one single issue.

Our journey with John chapter 6 actually starts the last Sunday of July. On the 17th Sunday of Ordinary time we are presented with the first 15 verses. In this passage we hear of the feeding of the 5000. After having received 5 loaves of bread and 2 fish, the Evangelist tells us that Our Lord "gave thanks." Saint John Chrysostom, commenting on this passage says, "But why when He is going to heal the impotent, to raise the dead, to calm the sea, does He not pray, but here does give thanks? To teach us to give thanks to God." The action of giving thanks in the original Greek is expressed with the word *εὐχαριστήσας*, which is pronounced *efcharistísas*. Doesn't that sound familiar? Yes, that is the root word for Eucharist, our prayer of thanksgiving.

On the first Sunday of August we hear verses 24 to 35 of the same chapter of the Gospel of John. It is in the passage where we hear Our Lord saying "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." He says this in response to a request by the crowd asking for a sign, like Moses and the manna, which their ancestors had eaten. While manna served as sustenance for the

Israelites; we receive something even greater, the Bread of Life which satisfies all our needs, and feeds us on our journey to eternal life.

On the following weekend we hear verses 41 to 51. Some people cannot believe Our Lord's words saying that He is the Bread of Life. They argue that he is just the son of the carpenter, someone they know. Unfortunately this still happens today, and much more than we would like. Only a third of Catholics believe in the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist. Our excuses today are not that different either; instead of saying this is just the son of a carpenter, 2 thirds of Catholics say that this is just bread and wine, so how can it be Christ's body, blood, soul, and divinity.

On August 15 we will celebrate the Assumption of our Blessed Mother, otherwise we would have heard verses 51 to 58, where Our Lord says. "I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world." People start getting scandalized and ask "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

On the following Sunday, August 22, the scene continues. Now even many disciples say, "This saying is hard; who can accept it?" And the Lord explains again how He is the source of life. "As a result of this, many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him." This is again something that still happens today. How many people abandon the Catholic Church because they do not understand or accept that it is Christ in his body, blood, soul, and divinity who we receive in the Eucharist? My brothers and sisters, I prefer to stay with Peter, who says, "Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."



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As I said last month in this column, one of the primary goals of the Cathedral Parish is to allow the faithful to “experience the sacred.” This means experiencing sacred moments through the sacraments, the devotional life, prayer, and the worship of God. However, fully entering into the mysteries of God and receiving the fruits of worship depends on how well we prepare.

Just like a student studying for an exam or a cook preparing the ingredients for a good meal, we must prepare our souls to receive everything that the celebration of the Mass has to offer us. As important as it is for the faithful to prepare to attend Mass, it is equally as important for the priest to prepare to celebrate the Mass. A priest who is well-recollected celebrates the Mass better and, when he is truly able to enter into the sacred action with his whole body and soul, it benefits the entire congregation.

This is why the Cathedral Parish schedule gives adequate time for the priests to stop confessions or other activities before Mass so that the priest may begin to prepare mentally and spiritually for the celebration of Mass. We all know what it feels

like to be rushed into something, and the result usually suffers because of the lack of preparation. It is the same for the priest who is rushed to the altar without the appropriate time for recollection.

Silence is also key to preparation for both the faithful and the priest before Mass. At the Cathedral Parish, the sacristy is intended to be a space of quiet and prayerful meditation. Too often the sacristy can turn into a chaotic meeting room of various needs. Although there are very concrete and practical things that must be done before the celebration of Mass, the Cathedral Parish always tries to maintain the ideals of uninterrupted prayer and silence in the sacristy.

This is because it is a place where the priest does not simply change clothes for Mass, but where he prays particular prayers as he “puts on Christ” with every liturgical vestment. The sacristy is also a place where the priest formulates his intention for the Mass in his heart and mind.

The priest taking time to prepare before Mass helps sanctify the Christian people, as the Vatican says: “*A priest who fosters personal silence in the time before and after Holy Mass will, by his disposition, encourage meditation.*” At the Cathedral Parish, this is one of the best ways that we can ensure that both the priest and the congregation receive the fruits of this silence and preparation.

Faith and Sacramental Formation

Mrs. Santa Fernandez



Frequently Asked Questions about Religious Education

In what grade do my children have to be in order to start the sacramental preparation of First Reconciliation/Communion?

The program for sacramental preparation and celebrating First Communion is two years, ideally, children should start when they are in the **first grade** of school, although

children who are in **second and third grade** can also begin the program.

What grade in school do my children have to be in to enroll them in Confirmation classes? The Confirmation Preparation program normally takes two years to complete, and it is ideal for students to begin when they are in the **sixth grade**. Students in **grade eleven** may also begin the preparation program, but when they are in **grade twelve** they must complete their second year in the adult class (RCIA).

My kid is in fourth or fifth grade and needs to prepare for First Communion. How can I register him for classes?

Children who are in **fourth / fifth grade** should be registered in Religious Education in the parent / child catechesis program studying together in the classroom, where the catechist introduces the topic and parents and children work together with the material. Throughout the year, this program is for two years. Because we do not have sufficient resources, such as classroom space and volunteer catechists to offer First Reconciliation / Communion classes at the individual level in which each child is found. A parent is required to attend all classes with the child.

How much do I need to pay and do I have to pay each year for my children to attend religious education classes?

The fees to be paid are necessary to be able to maintain the program and provide religious formation to children, youth and adults. The fees are annual and are established as follows: 1 child = \$ 100, 2 children = \$ 100 (each), 3 children or more children = \$ 75 (each). All payments for this 2021-2022 course must be paid in full by the deadline of September 30 of this year, to avoid you paying the \$ 25 surcharge.

Parish Updates

SIUXLAND SOUP KITCHEN

Did you know our parish has had a close relationship with the Siouxland Soup Kitchen since its early days? Yet we do not have parishioners volunteering. If you would like to help coordinate volunteers, please contact Fr. Esquiliano at desquiliano@sccathedral.org.

ONLINE REGISTRATION FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

To register children who will start religious education classes for the first time in this academic year 2021-2022, they must do so on the website www.sccathedral.org/registration. For more information email santa.fernandez@sccathedral.org or call 712 255-1637 ext. 111. Please leave your number, your name and a brief message, and you will be called back shortly.

REGISTRATION OF CHILDREN WHO ATTENDED LAST YEAR

Last month we sent a reminder email to all the parents of the children who were in the 2020-2021, and a registration / invoice form was also sent by regular mail, for the update of the family information in our computers, you can come to our office and bring the sheet that was sent to you along with the registration payment.

The Financial Corner

INCOME		June 2021
Weekly Offerings	\$	49,738.00
Loose Offerings	\$	15,446.88
Prog. Support	\$	7,456.06
Other income	\$	27,669.81
Total Parish Income	\$	78,204.75
EXPENSE		
Salaries & Wages	\$	35,631.46
Administrative Expenses	\$	12,027.30
Ministry Expenses	\$	6,786.93
Utility Bills & Repairs	\$	18,154.26
Assessments	\$	87,809.00
Other Expenses	\$	2,886.62
Total Expenses	\$	163,295.57
NET INCOME	\$	-62,984.82

CATECHISTS NEEDED

We need catechists for Religious Education classes in Spanish and English for children (Holy Eucharist), youth (Confirmation) and adults (RCIA or Pre-Baptismal classes) For more information email santa.fernandez@sccathedral.org, or call at 712 255-1637 ext. 100 or 111.

PRAYER LINE

We have started a parish prayer line. If you would like to sign up to receive alerts when parishioners need prayers, or you would like to request a prayer, go to sccathedral.org/oremus.

MASS INTENTIONS

Mass intention may be offered for a deceased love one or a close family member or friend who is in need of prayers due to illness or other struggle. In order to offer the opportunity for all parishioners to schedule a Mass Intention for their loved ones and to accommodate recently deceased individuals, please go to sccathedral.org/mass-stipends.

August 2021 Events

SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

7, 8 - Retirement fund for religious
28, 29 - Buildings Fund

BAPTISMS

7, 21 - Spanish (11 am, Cathedral)
8, 15, 22, Pre-Baptismal Spanish Classes (9 am, Cathedral Conference Room)

MEETINGS

8 - Knights of Columbus (6:30 pm, Cathedral Hall)
6, 13, 20, 27 - Bible Study (6 pm, Cathedral Conference Room)
1, 8, 15, 22, 29 - Youth Bible Study (6:45 pm, Cathedral Conference Room)

SOCIALS

4 - Luncheon after noon Mass (12:30 pm, Cathedral Hall)
19 - Lunch with parishioners (1 pm, Famous Dave's)

OTHER EVENTS

16 - Deadline to submit items for September Newsletter



Cathedral of the Epiphany

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Sioux City, Iowa 51105

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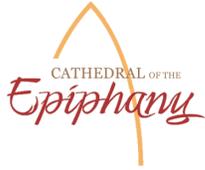
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Cathedral of the Epiphany

Very Rev. J. David Esquiliano, JCL, Rector
Rev. Andrew Galles, Parochial Vicar
Rev. Jeremy Wind, Parochial Vicar

Website www.sccathedral.org
Email info@sccathedral.org
Telephone 712-255-1637

MASS SCHEDULE

MON.-SAT.: 12:00 pm Cathedral *English*
MON.-FRI.: 5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SATURDAY: 4:00 pm St. Boniface *English*
6:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

SUNDAY: 8:30 am Cathedral *Latin*
8:30 am St. Joseph *English*
10:00 am Cathedral *English*
10:30 am St. Boniface *Spanish*
12:00 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
12:30 pm St. Joseph *Vietnamese*
1:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

HOLIDAYS: 9:00 am Cathedral *Bilingual*

HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION

ANTICIPATED / VIGIL:
5:30 pm St. Boniface *English*
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*

THE DAY OF THE SOLEMNITY:

7:00 am St. Joseph *English*
12:00 pm Cathedral *English*
5:30 pm Cathedral *Spanish*
7:00 pm Cathedral *Latin*

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

TUES.-SUN.: 24-Hour
MONDAY: 4:00 pm-10:00 pm
Adoration Chapel - Epiphany Center

CONFESSIONS

SUNDAY: 8:00 am-8:30 am Cathedral
8:00 am-8:30 am St. Joseph
MON.-FRI.: 4:30 pm-5:30 pm Cathedral
FRIDAY: 11:30 am-12:00 pm Cathedral
SATURDAY: 3:00 pm-4:00 pm St. Boniface
5:00 pm-6:00 pm Cathedral

OFFICE HOURS

MON., TUE., THUR.: 10:00 am-4:00 pm
WEDNESDAY: 10:00 am-1:00 pm
2:00 pm-5:30 pm
FRIDAY: 10:00am-5:30 pm
SAT.-SUN.: Closed