

Reflection for the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

God of might, giver of every good gift, put into our hearts the love of your name, so that by deepening our sense of reverence, you may nurture in us what is good and, by your watchful care, keep safe what you have nurtured. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Collect for the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time

This Sunday on the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time our Gospel reading is taken from the Gospel of Mark. Knowing that we are in year B of the Sunday cycle of readings this would seem normal. But the last time we have a Sunday Gospel reading from the Gospel of Mark was July 18, 2021, when we celebrated the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, that was 6 weeks ago. In these six weeks that follow we had Sunday Gospel readings from the chapter 6 of the Gospel of John for all the Sundays but one. On Sunday, August 15, 2021, we celebrated the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the Gospel reading was from the Gospel of Luke the "*Canticle of Mary.*" Five of these Sundays, with the Gospel reading from the Gospel of John Chapter 6, the message and theme was, Jesus the "*Bread of life.*" On the Sunday that we had the Gospel reading from the Gospel of Luke we hear of Mary visiting her cousin Elizabeth. In this Gospel reading we witness Mary bringing Jesus, the "*Bread of Life,*" to Elizabeth and her unborn child, John the Baptist. This Gospel reading affirms and confirms what is stated and known to be true in the 5 Sundays this year that have the Gospel reading taken from chapter 6 of the Gospel of John, that Jesus is the "*Bread of Life.*"

It is also interesting to note that on the July 18, 2021 the last time we had a Gospel reading taken from the Gospel of Mark the reading was from chapter 6 verses 30 thru 34. In this Gospel reading we hear of Jesus welcoming His 12 Apostles back after they had gone on their mission trip to preach a message of repentance, driving out demons and anointing the sick with oil curing many. At the end of this Gospel reading Jesus looks out on a vast crowd and His heart in moved with pity for them, for they are like sheep without a shepherd and so Jesus begins to teach them many things. In Jesus sending out the 12 Apostles to preach a message of repentance and as Jesus teaches the vast crowd, we discover what is in the heart of Jesus. Jesus has love for all humanity and a desire to help them find the way and purpose of life. Chapter 6 of the Gospel of John and the Canticle of Mary also present Jesus as loving all humanity and not only having a desire to help them find the way and purpose of life, but helping them find the way, as the "*Bread of Life.*"

In not just our Gospel reading this Sunday taken from the Gospel of Mark 7:1-8,14-15,21-23, but also our first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy 4:1-2,6-8, and our second reading from the Letter of St. James 1:17-18, 21b-22,27, and lastly our Responsorial Psalm taken for Psalm 15:2-3,3-4,4-5 in all our readings this Sunday on the 22nd Sunday of Ordinary Time we are informed that it is only with a pure and just heart that we can truly follow Christ. All the Gospel readings from 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time, July 18, 2021, to the 21st Sunday of Ordinary Time, August 22, 2021, prepare and lay the groundwork for the readings this Sunday in which we are reminded that our hearts must be pure, and our minds must seek just ways for us to truly be able to follow Christ. Jesus the "*Bread of Life,*" is here for us in the Sacraments, and in Sacred Scripture to help us overcome our short coming and become pure and just of mind and heart.

It is important to note that the New Testament buildings on the Old Testament, and each Sacrament that we receive builds of on the ones we have previously received. Also, our readings and prayers each Sunday of the Liturgical year builds of the prior Sundays of the Liturgical Year. Today way we learn from our pasts as we live in the present looking forward to the future.