

- This Sunday our scriptures present us with some very beautiful messages to hold in our heart.
- In our first reading from the prophet Isaiah we hear our Lord call us to come and spend time with Him. Come to be refreshed; come for some peace of mind; come to be fed physically and spiritually. Bring your hopes and cares and difficulties and share them with the Lord. Come and listen to the Lord and life will be better. Come because God loves and cares for you.
- In our second reading Saint Paul assures us NOTHING can separate us from the love of Christ. God loves you fiercely.
- No worry, no person, no pandemic can pry us away from God. Nothing in this life and not even death can separate us from God. Aren't these some of the most beautiful, comforting words we can hear in our world today? Don't we need to hear this right now?
- In our Gospel today we read over five thousand people came out to see Jesus. They wanted to see Him; hear His words; receive His healing and peace. They were attracted to Jesus because they sensed Jesus offered them something different – that unconditional, powerful and unending love that our first two readings speak of.
- And Jesus didn't let them down. Jesus miraculously fed them. This is the only miracle to appear in all 4 Gospel books, so it requires our close attention. Through the miracle of the multiplication of the loaves and fish Jesus satisfied the crowd's physical hunger.
- Jesus transcended the very "Laws of Physical Nature" – stepping right out of them. Possible? You bet! God can do anything – God is the creator of all things. It's when we forget this fact that fear and worry enter our lives.
- We need to learn from this miracle, especially when we face what seem impossible situations in our lives. Think about it, trees and plants spew out oxygen all day long so we can breath; rain falls so we have drink – all from God. Certainly God can create some more bread and fish to feed the crowd. *(And I know somewhere in our world God is opening someone's mind right now and providing solutions to develop the vaccine that will end this pandemic – because He loves us.)*

- But there was much more to the miracle of the loaves and fish. That crowd came with a spiritual hunger, looking for something beyond physical fulfillment. Jesus fed their spiritual hunger by revealing He was the promised Messiah. The love of God made visible!! He showed them they mattered, they were valuable, they were loved.
- We are so much like those people in today's Gospel.
- We come with a spiritual hunger as well. And as we draw closer to the Lord there is a particular message He has for us. We find that message in two specific sentences in St. Matthew's Gospel reading.
- This is the first sentence: "Jesus said to them (His disciples): There is no need for them (the crowd) to go away; give them some food yourselves."
- Jesus is telling us we have a job to do. No one seeking the love of Christ should ever be turned away. No one – regardless of age, ethnicity, gender, economic means – no one!!
- We are the eyes, ears, hands and heart of the Lord here on this earth. We are to be visible signs of His love. What a tremendous job we have been given. What a tremendous trust God places in us.
- Jesus expects us to find those in need and bring His peace, His mercy, His forgiveness, His love and help into their lives.
- We are asked by our Lord to remember everyone has the right to a home to live in, food to eat, good health care, an education, and a job that pays fairly. Most importantly, everyone must know and experience the love of God and the love of others.
- The Lord expects us, as His disciples, to try our best to do things that improve the lives of others. In other words the Lord expects us to "feed" others. In this way our own spiritual hunger will be satisfied. Think about it, don't you feel most fulfilled, most satisfied, and most alive when you know you helped someone in need.
- If we doubt we can do this, if we think the task is too difficult, listen carefully to the second sentence.
- It reads: "Taking the five loaves and the two fish and looking up to heaven He said the blessing, broke the loaves and gave them to the disciples who in turn gave them to the crowds".
- Notice Jesus gives the food to His disciples to distribute. Jesus is the source – we are the distributors.

- Jesus assures us He will provide what we need (the resources, the strength, the talents) - to do the job He asks of us. You can rely on it!!
- Jesus has given each of us different gifts and talents to use and to share with others.
- This leaves us with only one question to answer each day of our lives:
- Who will I feed today?