

Read, Reflect, and Be Renewed by the Word of God

THE BEGINNING OF EVERYTHING

Everyone recognizes the truth of good proverbs, and so they endure from generation to generation. The Russians have a surprisingly bold one that fits this Sunday's Gospel: "Bread is the beginning of everything."

Judging from the first reading, Elijah might have felt that it was too late for bread—too late for life itself. This great prophet was at the end of his rope and endurance. Then not one, but two angels visit him. One offers food and drink. The other gives startling directions. For Elijah, this food from the angels is bread for his journey. On the strength of the heaven-sent gift of food, he walks to the mountain of God.

In today's Gospel, Jesus offers himself, not just as bread for the journey, but as bread for life itself. He gives his flesh as life for the world. "I am the bread of life" (John 6:48). He is the beginning of everything.

Reflecting on God's Word

The Passover bread that the Israelites made when leaving Egypt had no leaven in it so that it would not spoil and could continue to provide nourishment to them on the road. Thus it is sometimes called bread for the journey. Of course manna also sustained them on their journey through the desert. And so did the Torah. So deliciously nourishing is the Word of God that some young Jewish children begin learning the Hebrew alphabet by licking honey placed on each letter so that the Torah should always be "sweet on the tongue."

The story of Elijah being nourished in the desert beautifully epitomizes the many ways in which God provides bread for the journey. For Christians, Jesus' words, works, and life given for us are the bread we crave. He alone gives us the strength and courage to "be kind . . . [forgive] one another . . . and live in love" (Ephesians 4:32, 5:2). And oddly enough, we can find this ample nourishment from the Eucharist when all we taste is a sip and a crumb.

Living God's Word - The nourishment Jesus gives is meant not to put us to sleep, but to fuel us for action. The selection from Ephesians seems to refer to the perfumed chrism with which the baptized "were sealed for the day of redemption" (Ephesians 4:30). Will others smell the heavenly aroma of Christ's love on us and be drawn to him?

BE PREPARED – St. John XXIII Apologetics Series at Our Lady of the Gulf Catholic Church in Gulf Shores,
August 13 at 7:00 PM with Pat Arensberg.

"Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope," 1 Peter 3:15

Nineteenth Sunday of the Year

August 9, 2015

Mass Intentions

Sunday

8:00 AM Living & Deceased of St. Joseph Parish
10:30 AM ✠ Bro. Joseph Weiss, OSB / Smith Family

Monday

8:00 AM ✠ Bro. Joseph Weiss, OSB / K. of C. Council

Tuesday

8:00 AM ✠ Heather Fitch / Tom & Harriet Shields

Wednesday

8:00 AM Barbara Kuntz / Family

Thursday

8:00 AM ✠ Frank Bouchard / Steve & Peg Misztal

Friday

8:00 AM ✠ Michael Hernandez / Altar Society

Saturday

5:00 PM ✠ Darlene Hasselback / Ernie Hasselback

Sunday

8:00 AM ✠✠ Richard & Mary Sullivan / Deacon Richard & Hope Sullivan
10:30 AM Living & Deceased of St. Joseph

Please contact the secretary for Mass intentions for a deceased loved one or for a special intention.

Office Hours: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEKEND

5 PM = 69 8 AM = 70 10:30 AM = 114 Total = 253

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory gift for August 2 = \$2,632.30

Maintenance = \$605.00

Latin America Collection = \$535.65

2nd Collection – **next week** – Home Missions

(envelopes are in the pews)

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

Kindly pray for our parish family and all those who are journeying in a special way with Our Lord, Jesus Christ.



Stanley Armit, **Larry Bovat**, **Paul Bruechner**, Patricia Caudill, Deacon Pat Clemens, **Gina (Flynn) Colombaro**, Jo Flynn, Ed Dubin, Ed & Eleanor Feeney, **Harry Fletcher**, Ted Geraets, Antonieta Geronilla, June Henderson, Joe Lacoy, Cece LaManna, Germaine LaPlante, Mary Link, **Peg Malone**, Monk Manning, **Sara Manning**, Bob & Margaret Nail, **Vera Patterson**, Marsha Porter, Sr. M. D. Richardson, **Babe Rohan**, Ruth Sas, **Rick Van Norden**, Arloa Whitehurst, Bootsie Williams

~ Prayer Requests ~

Terry Danson – (251-961-2165) or tsdanson@gmail.com

Names will be removed after **two months** unless requested otherwise. To add or remove a name, call the office.

If you are ill or know someone who is ill, due to have surgery, or in the hospital and would like a visit from the pastor, please call the rectory.

This Week's Schedule

Monday	8:30 AM	Rosary Cenacle – IM Hall
Wednesday	9:00 AM	Adult Faith Formation - Bible Study
Wednesday	10:30 AM	Choir Practice – Church
Sunday	9:00 AM	"Coffee with the Padre Between the Masses" (see below)
Sunday	2:00 PM	Benedictine Oblate Holy Hour for vocations – Church Followed by fellowship – IM Hall



ACCW Quarterly Luncheon Meeting - August 27 - 9:15 AM, St. Thomas by the Sea in Orange Beach. **Reservations** for lunch must be made before August 22. Call Margie Schwieterman at 256-0123 for more information.

54-Day Rosary Novena for Reparation to the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary in church at 3 PM every day from Saturday, August 15, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, to Wednesday, October 7, Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary.

"CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME" ~ Six sessions will be held beginning Thursday, September 10, at 7 PM in IM Hall. See flyers at church entrances or the bulletin board for more information, or call Tom & Harriet Shields at 205-405-7499.

CCD Registration is until August 25. **Classes begin** September 2 at 4:30 PM in Immaculate Mary Hall. To register, please call Mrs. Pat Hilderbrandt at 251-961-1010.



Coffee with the Padre Between the Masses

Many thanks to the Altar Society ladies and those who brought goodies last week. If you would like to host a first or third Sunday "Coffee," please call the office and let us know what day. *Come and meet our new pastor, fellow parishioners, and visitors!*



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 50/50 ANNUAL RAFFLE

Tickets are now available for the weekly drawings starting September 6, 2015. Please contact Bill Patton at 850-607-7151 for tickets and additional information.

One Faith, One Family is Saturday, August 22. ~ A bus is available and leaves St. Margaret of Scotland Church at 7:00 AM. For more details, contact Diane Perdue at 251-504-8904. To order tickets and register, check the website onefaithonefamily.archmob.org.

Welcome New Parishioners

Joe and Melissa Avilez
29079 Comstock Rd., Lillian, AL.

Offertory Envelopes are available. If you are a new parishioner or are not receiving envelopes, please call the office at 962-2049.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) is being offered at St. Joseph Church to anyone interested in becoming Catholic. Please call Deacon Richard Sullivan at 850-572-9477 for more information.

CRAFT WORKSHOP NEWS

We are discontinuing workshops until the Monday after Labor Day, September 14.

~ SANCTUARY FLOWERS ~

to provide flowers either for a special occasion or in memory of someone, please call the office. Thank you for all you do to beautify our sanctuary.



***ATTENTION* Liturgical Ministers:** Please continue to check schedules and guidelines on the bulletin board for current changes. Provide a substitute if you are unable to keep your appointed time.

THANK YOU for the material that we have received for our Altar Society "Crazy Quilt," however, we could use a lot more – so keep it coming. For more information, please call Sr. Thérèse at 251-979-6515.

The Old Country Philosopher Sez - Bob Nail

The grave could not contain Him,
This power from on high,
When Jesus conquered death
For the souls of you and I.

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First Friday Memorial Mass Association

Our Loved Ones – Bob & Margaret Nail

Living & Deceased Kaiser, Klein & Murphy Families

Living & Deceased Scott & Weiss Families

Living & Deceased Bush, Alvarez & McAleer Families

Living & Deceased Mullek & McCandless Families

Living & Deceased Patton & Norton Families

Living & Deceased Shields & Self Families

Living & Deceased Kottsick & Krueger Families

✠ James E. Link

✠ Bob House

✠ Joseph LaManna

✠ Anita Warriner

✠ The Holy Souls
in Purgatory

Living & Deceased Allard & Palmer Families

Living & Deceased Chubb & Burns Families

Living & Deceased Fehn Family

Living & Deceased Lacey & Clancy Families

Living & Deceased Kearns & Paterson Families

Living & Deceased Altar Society

For the Baptized Who Do Not Practice Their Faith