

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

UNLESS YOU EAT THE FLESH OF THE SON OF MAN AND DRINK HIS BLOOD, YOU DO NOT HAVE LIFE WITHIN YOU.

AUGUST 16, 2009

— John 6:53

THE EUCHARISTIC FEAST

Some things about human nature don't change, even over the course of centuries. When we celebrate a holiday, we have a meal; when we celebrate a significant event, we have a feast. In today's first reading, Lady Wisdom is setting a feast, a sign of celebrating the covenant that Israel has with God, Israel's central remembrance of its saving Exodus covenant is the Passover meal. So it is natural—and not coincidental—that the Christian celebration of the new covenant sealed by the blood of Christ on the cross happens at a meal, our Eucharist, offered first by Jesus in the context of Passover remembrance. It is easy for us, sometimes, to forget the very long and rich religious and human origins of our Eucharistic feasting on the bread and cup that are the Body and Blood of Jesus. Today, and for the next few Sundays that we hear the "Bread of Life" discourse from John, let us bring to mind the loving covenant that God makes with us, and be filled with great joy at this marvelous feast that we have come to attend!

CHILDRENS RELIGIOUS ED CLASSES

(ENROLLMENT FORMS AVAILABLE TODAY)

REGISTER NEXT SUNDAY, AUG. 23 (TWO HOURS ONLY)

One of our parish responsibilities is to provide opportunity for students to experience the gospel of Jesus Christ, and to bring Catholic beliefs and values into their lives and the world. We know that through forming a personal relationship with Jesus Christ, children build a strong foundation for lifelong discipleship. **Therefore, we invite you to enroll your children (they must be at least 8 years of age) in our elementary Religious Education Program. Registration forms are available after all the Masses this weekend and next weekend. The completed registration form along with the child's certificate of baptism and \$60.00 fee must be returned to the Parish Hall next Sunday, August 23, between the hours of 2 & 4:00p.m.**

YOUNG ADULT CONFIRMATION PROGRAM

Young men and women between the ages of 13 and 15 who picked up a Confirmation program registration form last weekend are reminded that the completed paperwork **must be returned by YOU (not Mom & Dad) next Sunday, August 23 between the hours of 2 & 4:00p.m in classroom #3. Along with your application you must also bring your:**

Certificate of Baptism
Certificate of First Communion
\$60.00 fee

BACK-TO-SCHOOL SUPPLIES COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND

Next weekend, August 22/23, we will be collecting school supplies to give to the many Long Beach children who cannot afford to go to stores and purchase their own. **Some of the items especially needed are backpacks, 3-ring binders, #2 pencils, blue, black, and red pens, erasers, pencil cases and college-ruled paper.**

PLEASE MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TO DONATE BLOOD ON AUGUST 30

Our dedicated Parish Nursing Ministry along with the American Red Cross are pleased to sponsor a blood drive that will benefit patients at St. Mary's Medical Center. The event will take place in the Fr. Gerald Meisel Parish Hall on August 30th from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. We will gladly sign you up after the Masses this weekend and next. **There is a serious blood shortage and your donation could help save a life, maybe someone you know, possibly a child fighting cancer.**

PLEASE GIVE BLOOD.

PEACE AND JUSTICE MEETING

Please join our Peace and Justice Ministry on August 24 at 7:00p.m. in classroom #2. We will discuss and begin organizing various fall and winter projects that will help advance our mission of affirming human life and human dignity throughout our local, national and international world. All are welcome!

HELP SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

...PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR MEETING TODAY...

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry is in great need of new people who can take part in this ministry which reaches out to many poor families in our community. Meetings are easy to attend; taking place on the first and third Sunday of each month after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. You will find out how *you* can help make difficult times turn into manageable times for families in need.

NEXT SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING: Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

SECOND READING: Ephesians 5:21-32

GOSPEL: John 6:60-69

REFLECTION: *Can I remember a time when I felt especially renewed by partaking in the Eucharist? How did I feel?*