

# Dear Padre,

## My elderly aunt is suffering from a terminal illness, and says she wants to die. Is this all right?

Popular psychological writings on death and dying often list the five different stages that people might go through when they are dying, namely: denial, anger, bargaining, depression, and acceptance. For Christians, the last stage of acceptance is saying yes to God's will. They may have been reconciled to God and others, said the things they have wanted to say, finished any unfinished business, and feel ready to leave this world and return to God.

For the dying person with faith, there may come a time when the desire to be fully united to her loving God takes priority over all other concerns and she actually desires to die. Her eyes turn toward the next life and she is not only ready to go but desires to go. This desire to leave this life is not the result of despair but rather the fruit of Christian hope.

We have a different situation when someone is not dying or is in good physical health, for the desire to die may indicate desperation or depression rather than acceptance and hope. Such persons may need personal and professional help to regain a zest for the life God has given them until the time comes that God calls them to himself.

From *Life, Death, and Catholic Medical Choices*, © 2011 Liguori Publications

## Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to share your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



SHUTTERSTOCK

## Calendar

**Monday**  
AUGUST 2  
Weekday  
Nm 11:4b–15  
Mt 14:13–21

**Tuesday**  
AUGUST 3  
Weekday  
Nm 12:1–13  
Mt 14:22–36 or  
Mt 15:1–2, 10–14

**Wednesday**  
AUGUST 4  
St. John Vianney,  
Priest  
Nm 13:1–2, 25–14:1,  
26–29a, 34–35  
Mt 15:21–28

**Thursday**  
AUGUST 5  
Weekday  
Nm 20:1–13  
Mt 16:13–23

**Friday**  
AUGUST 6  
Transfiguration  
of the Lord  
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14  
2 Pt 1:16–19  
Mk 9:2–10

**Saturday**  
AUGUST 7  
Weekday  
Dt 6:4–13  
Mt 17:14–20

**Sunday**  
AUGUST 8  
Nineteenth Sunday in  
Ordinary Time  
1 Kgs 19:4–8  
Eph 4:30–5:2  
Jn 6:41–51

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 1, 2021

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Ex 16:2–4, 12–15

Eph 4:17, 20–24

Jn 6:24–35

## Bread of Life

Last week's stories about bread take a very different turn this week. In today's Gospel, Jesus uses the bread theme as a metaphor. Here bread symbolizes the teachings of Jesus that will nourish us, that will satisfy our deepest needs. Jesus employs a method of interpretation favored by the rabbis of his day. He refers to a passage from the religious tradition (the passage that happens to be the first reading for today), and then, step by step, explains its meaning for the people of his day. His "homily" is really a response to the challenge from those who demanded a sign that would give evidence of the authority with which he spoke.

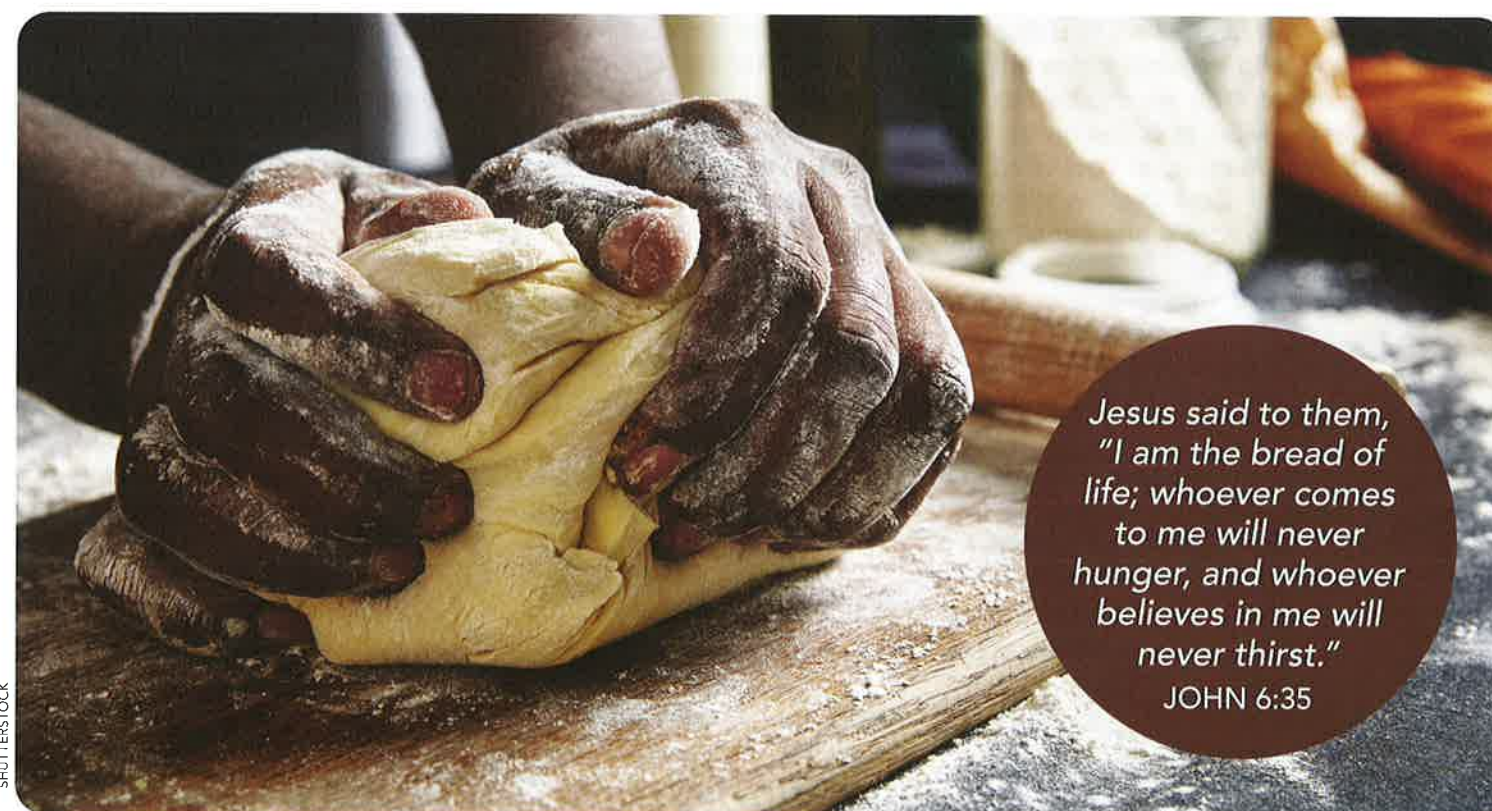
Those who challenged Jesus did so after they had been filled by the bread that he earlier miraculously provided. Jesus knew they weren't looking for signs of the presence of God in their midst. They simply wanted more food.

Jesus pointed out that the people of Moses' time had been called to trust that, day by day, God would provide them with food—as impossible as that might have seemed. Likewise, Jesus' hearers were called to trust his claims about his unique relationship with God, whom he called Father—as impossible as that might have seemed. This really isn't a story just about bread—the edible kind or the eucharistic kind. It is a story about believing in Jesus and accepting his teaching about the bread from heaven that promises eternal life.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ Give thanks for God's day-by-day care for you and your loved ones.
- ★ Pray for a deep and solid trust in God.



Jesus said to them,  
"I am the bread of  
life; whoever comes  
to me will never  
hunger, and whoever  
believes in me will  
never thirst."

JOHN 6:35

SHUTTERSTOCK



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

Dear brothers and sisters who are ill, your sickness makes you in a particular way one of those "who labor and are burdened," and thus attract the eyes and heart of Jesus. In him, you will find light to brighten your darkest moments and hope to soothe your distress. He urges you: "Come to me."

WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, FEBRUARY 11, 2020





St. Mary's Church  
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church  
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church  
Bayard, NE 69334

Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: [allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com) Website: [www.smassh Catholics.org](http://www.smassh Catholics.org)

### The Most Holy Eucharist

So they said to him, "Sir, give us this bread always." Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst." [John 6:34-35](#) They were hungry, and they wanted Jesus to perform a miracle like He had recently done. They wanted Him to multiply loaves and fishes for the crowds. Perhaps they were curious or perhaps they were hungry. But Jesus directs them to so much more.

This passage begins Jesus' discourse on the Bread of Life, which will be read at Sunday Mass for the next few weeks. We will see in this discourse Jesus giving His followers so much more than mere bread and fish. We listen to Him speak of Himself as the true Bread from Heaven. Sadly, many reject this precious teaching and gift and go their own way.

But what about you? How often have you truly pondered these words of Jesus? "I am the Bread of Life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst!" Do you believe this?

Deep within every human heart is a hunger and thirst that longs to be satisfied. We all have this longing and desire. We try to fill it with so many things, but in the end only one thing satisfies. Jesus alone can satiate the deepest longings of our souls.

Again, do you believe this? And if you do believe it in your head, do you believe it with your actions? Do you turn to Him as the source of your daily fulfillment and satisfaction? When you go to Mass, do you long to receive Him and love Him and enter into Communion with Him? Perhaps, but perhaps not. Most likely we all need to redirect our desires toward our glorious Savior, especially as He comes to us in the Most Holy Eucharist.

Reflect, today, upon how deeply you believe in these words of Jesus. Do you regularly meet Him in the Eucharist? Do you allow His presence to consume you as you consume Him? If you cannot say "Yes" to this in a complete and definitive way, resolve today to renew your love for our Lord in this glorious Sacrament.

*Lord, I do love You, and I desire You to come and consume me as I consume You in the Most Holy Eucharist. Help me to believe in You and Your presence in this Most Holy Sacrament. May Your divine presence meet my deepest need and fulfill my deepest longings in life. Jesus, I trust in You.*

Reflections from "My Catholic Life"

### SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
8/2	Monday		No Mass Today	
8/3	Tuesday		No Mass Today	
8/4	Wednesday		No Mass Today	
8/5	Thursday		No Mass Today	
8/6	Friday		No Mass Today	
8/7	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Hal Brown
8/8	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Sunshine and Walter
8/8	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	For People of the Parish

### ALL SOULS 617 P STREET BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

#### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER : MASS

##### TIME

Tuesday — 6:00 PM

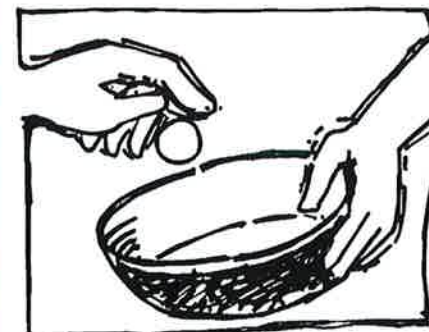
Sunday — 10.30 AM



#### OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$335.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$22.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 357.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 357.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3,615.00
BALANCE	\$2,431.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



### SACRED HEART 1003 AVE B BAYARD NE 69334

#### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER :

##### MASS TIME

Friday — 12:00 PM

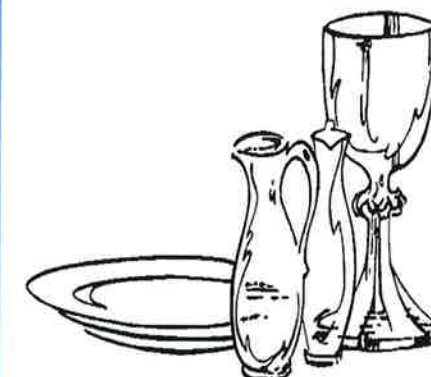
Sunday — 8:00 AM



#### OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$415.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$47.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 462.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 462.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$3,165.00
BALANCE	\$1,742.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



### SAINT MARY'S 718 FRANCIS ST DALTON NE 69131

#### SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER :

##### MASS TIME

Thursday — 6:00 PM

Saturday — 5:30 PM



#### OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$570.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$31.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 601.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 601.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6,439.00
BALANCE	(\$303.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

