

Pastor's Letter

August 11, 2024—19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

“Get up and eat, else the journey will be too long for you.” (1 Kings 19:7)

It's good for us to remember that when we are having a bad day, a nap and a little something to eat can make it feel not quite so bad. In our first reading today, the prophet Elijah is having a really bad day. He has scored a great victory over the prophets of Baal at Mt. Carmel, but now he is a hunted fugitive and Queen Jezebel is after his head. He's on the run, alone, and at the end of his rope. But he's not really alone. God sends his angel messengers to bring Elijah food and drink and, strengthened by this food from heaven, he is able walk forty days and nights and arrive safely at his destination, Mt. Horeb.

In our Gospel reading Jesus reminds us that he came from heaven to give himself to us as living bread, viaticum, food to sustain us on the journey of life. That journey is meant to lead us to eternal life with God through faith in Christ, holiness, love and service to God and our neighbor. Sometimes that journey can feel like it's too much for us. If we don't experience the kind of success and progress that we might like or if we face opposition or misunderstanding from people who don't share our beliefs, we might be tempted to give up. Swimming against the cultural current is hard. Our Lord comes to us as the angels came to Elijah with just what we need to keep moving forward. He feeds us with his body and blood and accompanies us every step of the way.

And as Christ gave himself to strengthen us, we also are called to strengthen each other and help each other along the way by loving, showing compassion, and forgiving as our Lord has done for us. As we imitate Jesus in this way we become God's angels, God's messengers, giving to others and receiving from others the support we need. As we rest in Christ and are nourished by Christ we walk with Christ and our brothers and sisters to complete our journey to God.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

“Journey of Faith” Starting This Fall

If you or someone you know would like to learn more about the Catholic faith, we have just the thing for you. Journey of Faith is a class that meets from September to May at St. Brigid Church Hall on Monday nights at 7 p.m. Curious about Catholicism? Do you have loved ones who are Catholic and want to understand where they are coming from? Are you Catholic and want to know your faith better? Thinking about becoming Catholic? Journey of Faith is for you. This class is the place for you to bring your questions about the teachings, practices, and history of the Catholic church. Interested? call St. Brigid Church office at 217-645-3444 or email Fr. Scott at pastor@stsbej.org"