

# Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 12, 2018

## Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, August 14\*: St. Peter: 6pm  
St. John: 7:15pm

\* There will be no morning Masses.

Wednesday, August 15: St. Peter: 8am  
St. John: 9:30am

## Only Two Weeks Left!

Backpack Project deadlines: August 27 donations need to be dropped at First Presbyterian Church on Clinton Street (box outside their office) or August 26 items dropped at St. Peter:

Pencils (colored & regular), crayons, markers, pens, folders, erasers, full-size generic backpacks, plastic crayon/pencil boxes, college-ruled loose-leaf paper, spiral notebooks, scissors, glue sticks, dental picks, juice boxes, child-size mittens, character band aids, male/female deodorant, mini shampoo bottles, toothbrushes/mini toothpaste, Chapsticks®, & other useful school items.

Checks, made out to "First Presbyterian Church," are also welcome and appreciated (*please note 'school supplies' on check memo line*).

## MARRIAGE ENCOUNTERS

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven," says the Lord. Put God in your marriage by attending Marriage Encounter. The next two weekends are close by: September 28-30 in Oneonta and November 3-4 in Albany.

For more information, call Ed & Rhonda Staats at 518.279.3243 or visit them at [wwmenyalb.org](http://wwmenyalb.org).

## DELHI FOOD BANK

Requested items: powdered milk, condiments, canned meats, biscuit mix, and dried herbs/seasonings.

## Take and Eat

1 Kings 19:4-8; Psalm 34:2-9  
Ephesians 4:30-5:2; John 6:41-51

Sometimes we feel like Elijah in 1 Kings 19. We want to lie down and die, keenly aware of our failures - - that we seem to be getting no better at doing what God wants of us. We can be tempted to despair as the prophet was on his forty-day journey in the desert. We can be tempted to "murmur" against God, as the Israelites did during their forty years in the desert (Exodus 16:2, 7, 8; 1 Cor 10:10).

The Gospel today uses the same word, "murmur," to describe the crowds, who reenact Israel's hardheartedness in the desert. Jesus tells them that prophecies are being fulfilled in Him, that they are being taught by God, but they can't believe it. They can only see His flesh, that He is the "son" of Joseph and Mary.

At the altar in every Eucharist, the angel of the Lord, the Lord Himself (see Exodus 3:1-2) touches us. He commands us to take and eat His Flesh given for the life of the world. This taste of the heavenly gift (Hebrews 6:4-5) comes to us with a renewed command -- to get up and continue on the journey we began in Baptism to the mountain of God, the kingdom of heaven. He will give us the Bread of Life, the strength and grace we need as He fed our spiritual ancestors in the wilderness and Elijah in the desert.

So let us stop grieving the Spirit of God, as Paul says. If we believe, if we seek Him in our distress, He will deliver us from our fears as Psalm 34 tells us. Let us say to God as Elijah did, "Take my life." Not in the sense of wanting to die, but in giving ourselves as a sacrificial offering -- loving Him as He has loved us, on the Cross and in the Eucharist. Dr. Scott Hahn

Frequent visits to Jesus Christ in the  
Sacrament of the Altar  
are a great help the souls that love Him.

~ St. Alphonsus Liguori

## Youth Retreat

What is required of a disciple? Courage. As Blessed Titus Brandsma once said, "Those who want to win the world for Christ must have the courage to come into conflict with it."

Fearless Retreats are for teens in grades 8-12 and bring them to the foot of the Cross, inviting them to sainthood, and setting them on fire for Christ in the Eucharist. Activities: basketball, laser tag, ultimate frisbee, soccer, Mass, praise and worship, Eucharistic Adoration, along with talks and testimonies by guests including the Franciscan Friars and Sisters of the Renewal, other clergy and religious.

Dates: September 28-30. Place: Coleman Catholic High School, Hurley, NY. Cost: \$45. Registration deadline: September 21 at [fearlessretreats.com](http://fearlessretreats.com).

## BIOGRAPHY: ELIJAH

• Elijah was from Tishbe in Gilead and suddenly appears during King Ahab's reign to proclaim a drought in punishment of the cult of Baal that Jezebel was promoting in Israel.

• Elijah meets 450 prophets of Baal in a contest of strength on Mount Carmel to determine which deity is the true God of Israel. The pagan prophets' appeals to Baal to kindle the wood on his altar are unsuccessful, but Elijah's prayers to Yahweh are answered by a fire on His altar. The Israelites slay the priests and prophets of Baal under Elijah's direction. The drought then ends.

• Elijah flees the wrath of the vengeful Jezebel by undertaking a pilgrimage to Mount Horeb, where he is at first disheartened and then miraculously renewed.

• King Ahab's judicial murder of Naboth and confiscation of his vineyard arouse Elijah, who denounces Ahab for his crimes.

• Ahab's son, King Azariah, appeals to Baal to heal him, and Elijah once more upholds the exclusive rights of Yahweh by bringing down "fire from heaven."

• After bestowing his mantle on his successor, Elisha, the prophet Elijah is taken up to heaven in a whirlwind.

## FAMILY PERSPECTIVE Bud Ozar

"*Stop murmuring,*" Jesus told His disciples in the Gospel. Complaining is a dead-end, and constant complaining is nagging. We might feel better, but others feel bitter. Silence or grumbling will not resolve the problem. Address differences honestly and respectfully -- don't make them personal attacks.

## *Hearts Aflame Eucharistic Congress*

Hearts Aflame is only one month away! It is important to register in advance. This historic gathering is for everyone in our diocese. Led by Bishop Scharfenberger, the event's primary focus is on our Lord Jesus in the Eucharist. It will be a time of joy, fellowship, prayer as well as a time of spiritual renewal for our whole diocese. The day will include:

- Mass with the Bishop
- inspirational speakers
- activities for children and youth
- Eucharistic Adoration and procession
- tours of the shrine
- fellowship & unity with other Catholics

When: September 22 from 9 am to 3 pm. Where: Shrine of the North American Martyrs in Auriesville. Registration: [rcda.org/heartsaflame](http://rcda.org/heartsaflame), 518.453.6690.

## MARRIAGE MOMENTS Susan Vogt

*God created man in the image of himself, in the image of God he created him, male and female he created them* Genesis 1:27

Pronouns can be confusing and so can the differences between males and females. How does your spouse fit gender stereotypes? How not? More importantly, how do they reflect something of the Divine to you?

## PARENTING POINTERS Susan Vogt

"All the things that have happened to me have been important in making me who I am. To wish that certain things didn't happen is to wish that I am not myself." ~Author unknown

Help your child unravel the mystery of how mistakes and problems teach life lessons to be used for future success.