

From the Desk of Father Ed:

Dear Parishioners,

This is always my favorite time of the summer season, that is, the beginning of August, the time of the corn harvest; there is nothing like fresh sweet corn on the cob with a little butter and salt. My father grew up on a corn farm in Flushing Meadows in Queens way back when there were farms in New York City. Perhaps that is why I enjoy the taste of fresh corn in August. We are blessed here in Sussex County to have such an abundance of fresh corn and many other vegetables.

In our first reading this weekend from the Book of Exodus the Jewish people were grumbling against Moses and Aaron. God had freed them from their harsh slavery in Egypt and brought them out into the desert. However, the selection of food was very limited for the wandering Israelites. They longed for their fill of meat and bread. They had forgotten all the many wonders and powerful signs that God did for them and so rather than trust in His providence they complained and accused God of bringing them into the desert to die of starvation.

God was certainly angry with them for their grumbling and lack of trust but He continued to provide powerful signs for them and gave them quail to eat in the evening. He also gave them manna, which was the bread made of fine flakes like hoarfrost on the ground for them to eat in the morning. Sadly, even though God fed them they still hardened their hearts to His love and care. That generation wandered in the desert for 40 years and never entered the Promised Land, rather they died in the desert.

In our Gospel this weekend, the crowds were following Jesus and they too were looking for food. They were looking for more food because Jesus fed the 5,000 men with only 5 loaves of bread and two fish. They wanted to stay with Jesus not because of the powerful signs He performed or His teaching but rather they thought He would continue to feed them. Whenever Jesus performs mighty signs or miracles they are given to help His people believe in Him and turn from their sinful ways. 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."

We are truly blessed by our God to be living here in Sussex County where we have such an abundance of so many good things. Let us not grumble or complain against our God, rather let our hearts be filled with gratitude and thanksgiving. God will continue to provide for our needs if we believe in Him and place our trust in His care for us. He is the Bread of Life; He feed us with His Word; man does not live on bread alone but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of God.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us,
Father Ed,
Pastor