

Reflection: 'Wisdom's Feast' By Scott Hahn, Ph.D.

The Wisdom of God has prepared a feast; we hear in today's First Reading. We must become like children to hear and accept this invitation. For in every Eucharist, it is the folly of the Cross that is represented and renewed. To the world, it is foolishness to believe that the crucified Jesus rose from the dead. And for many, as for the crowds in today's Gospel, it is foolishness—maybe even madness—to believe that Jesus can give us His Flesh to eat. Yet Jesus repeats himself with gathering intensity in the Gospel today. Notice the repetition of the words “eat” and “drink,” and “my Flesh” and “my Blood.” To heighten the unbelievable realism of what Jesus asks us to believe, John in these verses uses not the ordinary Greek word for eating but a cruder term, once reserved to describe the “munching” of feeding animals. The foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom. In His foolish love, He chooses to save those who believe that His Flesh is true food, His Blood, true drink. Fear of the Lord, the desire to live by His will, is the beginning of true wisdom, Paul says in today's Epistle. And as we sing in today's Psalm, those who fear Him shall not want for any good thing. Again, today in the liturgy, we are called to renew our faith in the Eucharist, to forsake the foolishness of believing only what we can see with our eyes. We approach, then, not only an altar prepared with bread and wine, but the feast of Wisdom, the banquet of heaven—in which God our Savior renews His everlasting covenant and promises to destroy death forever. Let us make the most of our days, as Paul says, always, in the Eucharist, giving thanks to God for everything in the name of Jesus, the bread come down from heaven.



CONSOLATA SHRINE Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

19th August 2018



First Reading

“Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed.”

Proverbs 9:1-6

A reading from the first Book of Proverbs

Wisdom has built her house; she has set up her seven pillars. She has slaughtered her beasts, she has mixed her wine, she has also set her table. She has sent out her maids to call from the highest places in the town, “Whoever is simple, let him turn in here!” to him who is without sense she says, “Come, eat of my bread and drink of the wine I have mixed. Leave simpleness, and live, and walk in the way of insight.”

Responsorial Psalm

Psalms 34:2-3, 10-15 (R. (a))

R. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

I will bless the LORD at all times,
praise of him is always in my mouth.
In the LORD my soul shall make its boast;
the humble shall hear and be glad. **R**

Fear the Lord, you his holy ones.
They lack nothing, those who fear him.
The rich suffer want and go hungry,
but those who seek the Lord lack no blessing. **R**

Come, children, and hear me,
that I may teach you the fear of the Lord.
Who is it that desires life
and longs to see prosperous days? **R**

Guard your tongue from evil, and your lips from speaking deceit.
Turn aside from evil and do good. Seek after peace, and pursue it. **R**

Second reading

Ephesians 5: 15-20

“Understand what the will of the Lord is.”

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

Look carefully, brethren, how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of the time, because the days are evil. Therefore, do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. And do not get drunk with wine, for that is debauchery; but be filled with the Spirit, addressing one



DAILY READINGS

Monday: Ez 24:15-24; Ps Dt 32:18-21; Mt 19:16-22, Tuesday: Ez 28: 1-10; Ps Dt 32:26-28. 30.35.36; Mt 19:23-30, Wednesday: Ez 34: 1-11; Ps 23: 1-6; Mt 20: 1-16, Thursday: Ez 36: 23-28; Ps 51:12-19; Mt 22:1-14, Friday: Rv 21:9-14; Ps 145: 10.17-18; Jn 1:45-51, Saturday: Ez 43:1-7; Ps 85:9-14; Mt 23:1-12

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another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody to the Lord with all your heart, always and for everything giving thanks in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to God the Father.

Alleluia

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him, says the Lord.

Alleluia.



GOSPEL

John 6: 51-58

“My flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed.”

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

At that time: Jesus said to the crowds, “I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if any one eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh.” The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, “How can this man give us his flesh to eat?” So Jesus said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood, you have no life in you; he who eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me. This is the bread which came down from heaven, not such as the fathers ate and died; he who eats this bread will live forever.”

A LIFE IN THE HOLYSPIRIT SEMINAR is ongoing every Sunday from 2pm to 5pm in the Parish Hall. Come and enrich our faith in Christ Jesus. Open to all

A Novena of 9 Saturdays in preparation to the Feast of Nativity of Our Lady on 8th of September has started at the evening mass, followed by the rosary and a special reflection. We welcome you for the 8th day of novena next Saturday and the theme is “**A New Family**”

Saints of the week

St Bernard, abbot & doctor – Monday 20th
St Pius X, pope - Tuesday 21st
The Queenship of the B.V. Mary – Wednesday 22nd
St Rose of Lima – Thursday 23rd
St Bartholomew – Friday 24th
St Louis, St Joseph Calasanz – Saturday 25th

Our Lady of Fatima SCC has organized a pilgrimage to Fatima from 6th to 16th October 2018. For more details, visit the desk at the gazebo for registration or see the posters on the notice board

Announcements

1. Today we will have Harambee collection in all masses to Support Dr. Samuel Kiruthu our Guest of Honour. The main Mini Harambee will be at 12 o'clock mass. Please attend.
2. Today at 3pm we will have a special Mass for all the hikers and those who have supported them. All are welcome.
3. Next Saturday 25th, there will be **On Going Formation for Children** who received 1st Holy Communion from 10 am to 1 pm.
4. Next Sunday 26th we shall have the children's Mass at 9 am. Therefore, there will be no Sunday Service. All children are encouraged to attend and participate in the Mass.
5. The Single Parents are meeting Next Sunday 26th in the Parish Hall. All Single parents are welcome to join.
6. The remaining Events in support of the Allamano Centre, are as follows:
 - a. Consolata Shrine Dinner by CWA will be on 31st August 2018 at Kshs. 5,000/ per head. Tickets available at the gazebo.
 - b. Various souvenirs, bookmarks are also on sale at the gazebo.Your support, prayers, presence and contributions towards the project is appreciated.

Registration for the **Sacraments of Confirmation** for children and adults is ongoing at the catechist's office. Children who have received their **First Holy Communion** and are aged 11 years this year are asked to register. Please bring the baptismal card and a contribution of 200/=.

The Christian Education Committee are inviting all teenagers to take part in **'THE THEOLOGY OF THE BOCY FOR TEENS'** Tuesday 28th – Friday 31st August. Registration and more information outside the church or parish office during the week.



Next Sunday **Homeless of Nairobi** will be polishing shoes outside the Church. Kindly come with your shoes to support them in this venture of making a living for themselves.