

Loaves and Fishes Weekends

We are familiar with the “routine” of the cycle of feasts and seasons in the Church year. We know Advent will come, then Christmas and Epiphany, later Lent and Easter. The routine is familiar, and at the same time, always new.



There are other routines as well that are part of our observance. One is called “*Loaves and Fishes Weekend.*” Every month on the Second Sunday, we encourage parishioners to remember the Parish Food Pantry when shopping and to bring some items to church with them on the weekend. Our pantry, tended by Parish Outreach, offers an important service to many persons each day. Most of us don’t realize the scarcity that is the daily struggle of many of us.

We keep this observance of *Loaves and Fishes Weekend* so that caring for the poor and hungry will be an ordinary routine- not an occasional event. People are hungry all year long.

The Food Pantry is stocked with dry and canned goods, household items such as paper goods and dish detergent, baby supplies, toiletries for men and women. Products especially needed are cereal, tuna fish, soup, diapers, and the ever-popular- mac- and- cheese.

When something is a routine, we might say “I can do that in my sleep.” We are so used to it that we do it without thinking. But here’s a routine for which we need to be awake.

Be awake in the supermarket- when you look into your own kitchen cabinets at home. Can you reach out from there to the hungry in our community? Can you teach this sensitivity to children, inviting them to choose a “kid-friendly” food to share?

The designation “Loaves and Fishes Weekend” is linked to the Gospel stories of the multiplication of the loaves and fishes. Scripture scholars suggest that the “miracle” of these gospel events- may have been the moral miracle of people being moved to share their lunch. Those little plastic bags with some food items are part of the big story of God’s compassion reaching into the human situation.