



You Are Invited to a Special Mass!

Who: Fr. David

What: Fr. David being installed as pastor by Bishop Rice

Where: St. Eustachius in Portageville

When: 6:30pm mass on Thursday

Come this **Thursday, August 4th** to St. Eustachius Church to the installation mass for Fr. David as Pastor of St. Cecilia (and St. Eustachius).

There may be a small reception in the gym

afterwards...there usually is, but at the time of this printing, there is nothing firm.

Come rejoice!

Monthly Calendar of Events

August 1 Collection for Mother's House in Hayti

August 4 Parish Council Meeting

August 21 Saturday Youth Group Car Wash

Delta Fair Note: We need water and soda donations! Please drop these items off before or after mass from now until September 27th. The Delta Fair is scheduled for **September 28 to October 2**. Thank you all and God bless you.

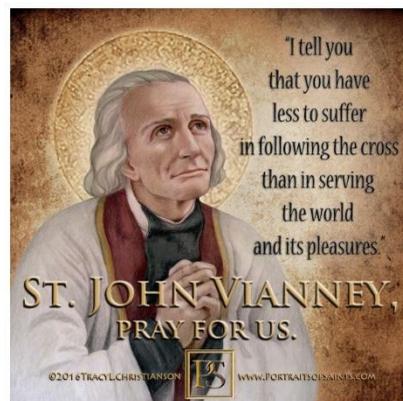
Saints This Week

St. John Vianney, Patron of Priests-August 4th
Feast of the Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor-August 6th

Collection Information

Adult Collection: \$1992.00

Loose: \$185.00



St. Cecilia Catholic Church

1226 College Avenue

PO Box 306

Kennett, MO 63857

August 1, 2021

Fr. David Baunach, Pastor

417-851-7136 davidbaunach@gmail.com

Luis Hernandez, Hispanic Ministry

(417) 496-5622

Lynnette Anderson, Parish Secretary

Vanessa Cowart, PSR Director (561) 351-1380

Magda Cazares, Youth Group Director

Weekly Schedule

Sunday Masses: 10:30am Mass in English

(10am Rosary; Divine Mercy Chaplet the first Sunday of the month)

1pm Mass in Spanish

Monday: Adoration 5:30-6:30

Wednesday: Adoration at 5; mass at 6

Fr. David is available for the **Sacrament of Reconciliation** during Adoration or by appointment.

If you would like to receive the Holy Eucharist and are unable to attend mass, please contact Fr. David at his number above.

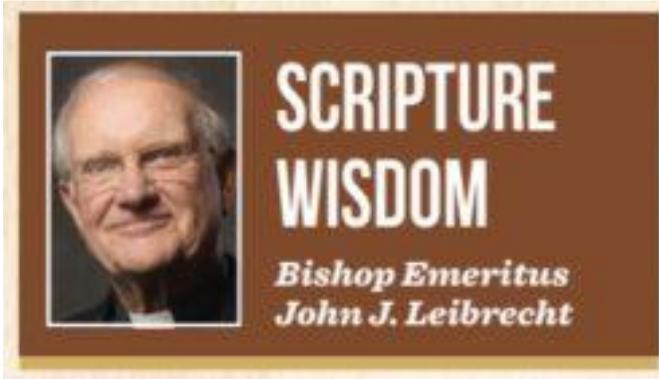
Please pray for /Oramos para:

+Mary Gurley, Deanne Cole, Sandy DeLisle, Greg Bradley, Bob and Sharon Hines, Vera Gleuck, Kathy Larsen. Especially let us remember the deceased, our clergy and bishop, Covid quarantined parishioners, our chronically ill, and our homebound.

Fr. David's Parish Office Hours:

Kennett Monday and Wednesday 10-4, Tuesday off,

Thursday and Friday in Portageville 10-4



It turns out that God is a God beyond our most imaginative human expectations. For instance, after sending Moses, Jeremiah, Elijah, and others as leaders and teachers of Israel, God chose eventually to come to earth himself as a man. Who could have ever expected that? This God-man Jesus born of Mary of Nazareth, after only a few years of teaching about God's way to live and working

many miraculous signs, was condemned to death by crucifixion by political and religious leaders. How could that have been anticipated?

In the Gospel story today, Jesus reveals to us that he is "the bread that came down from heaven." Whoever eats this bread, he said, "will live forever," and the bread he will give us is "my flesh for the life of the world." Could we have expected that the Lord Jesus, risen from the dead and glorified at the right hand of the Father in heaven, as a memorial of his life, suffering, death, and resurrection, would create a way of truly remaining with us on earth? What an utterly unexpected gift of himself.

We might understandably think that whatever God wanted to do and accomplish for us would somehow happen within our ordinary human expectations.

This is where faith enters the picture. Faith in God makes it possible for us to believe the inspired Scriptures as the written word of God and Jesus Christ as the human Word of God. With open minds and hearts, faith allows us to be "taught by God" as Jesus puts it in today's Gospel.

Faith is an unmerited gift offered to us by God, which we personally decide to accept as the light guiding our daily lives. Human intelligence is an integral presence within our faith in God. However, faith extends beyond our powers of human reasoning and expectations about God.

Prophet Elijah

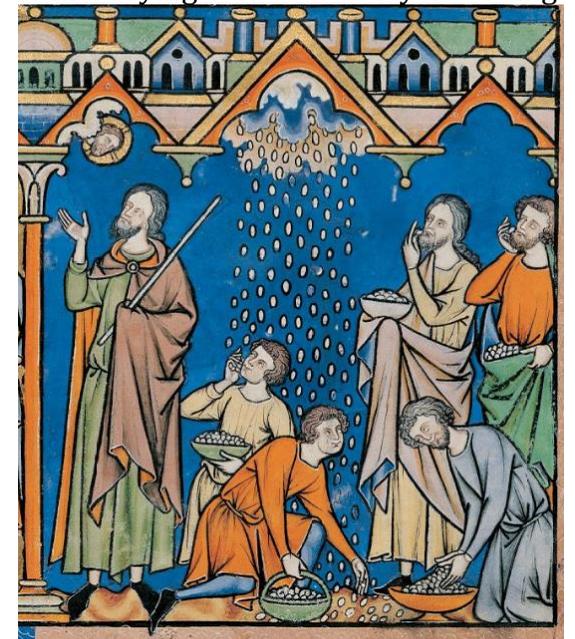
Of course, we know from our personal experiences that Faith in God can be tested. We read about faith being tested in today's Old Testament story about Elijah. One of the greatest of all prophets, Elijah had become despondent and discouraged to the point

that he wanted to die. However, he learned from an angel of the Lord that he should not end his life but rather continue his mission as a prophet. Elijah eats the hearth cake and drinks the water provided him so that he can continue his journey to Mount Horeb where God wants him. Elijah had to make a new and fresh decision about his faith in God. In our own lives, whenever faith in God is tested, we, too, need to make new and fresh decisions to go forward in our journeys of faith in God.

Saint Paul teaches us in his letter to the Ephesians that faith in God, faith in Jesus Christ, requires love of neighbor. Faith in action includes kindness and compassion toward our neighbor. It also includes forgiveness, even though that may be difficult at times. Further, Paul says that we are not to inflict anger or bitterness on our neighbor, clearly reflecting the commandment from Jesus to Love God with all your heart, love your neighbor as I love you. Faith in God and love of Jesus Christ serve as the foundation of a more selfless and inclusive love of our neighbor.

Our faith in God is centered in Jesus Christ, the visible revelation on earth of our invisible God. Jesus is our way, our truth, and our life. Trying to live each day according to his teachings and example—spiritually guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit—gives us a beautiful purposeful way to live. Jesus Christ enlightens the way through our earthly joys and sorrows, our successes and failures. He helps us journey toward an eternal life which "eye has not seen, and ear has not heard, what has not entered the human heart, what God has prepared for those who love him" (1 Cor 2:9). This is what Jesus, the bread of heaven and our spiritual food, promises in today's Gospel.

After you and I draw our last breath on earth, it turns out that God has a wondrous future gift for us, one beyond our most extravagant human expectations. Let us Rejoice!



The Most Rev. John J. Leibrecht is the retired Fifth Bishop of the Diocese of Springfield-Cape Girardeau. He lives in Springfield.