

What Your
Child Is Learning This
Week
February 5, 2012



**Jesus Feeds 5000:
The Miracle of the Loaves and Fishes**

"Then, Jesus took the loaves, gave thanks, and distributed them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted. When they had their fill, He said, 'Gather the fragments left over.' So they...filled 12 wicker baskets from the five barley loaves" *John 6:11-13*

Sharing Our Faith

Tell your children that the miracle of the Loaves and Fishes is also referred to as *The Feeding of the Five Thousand*. It is so important that it is the only miracle (besides the Resurrection) recounted by all four gospel writers.

The huge crowd
from any place
buy food, so
on people who were both physically and spiritually hungry.



was miles from
where they could
Jesus took pity

Helping Them Remember....

Young children learn best through review. Try talking about this miracle at suppertime this week. Ask your child who brought the loaves and fishes to Jesus.

- *Why couldn't they buy any food?
- *How many loaves and fish were there?
- *Where did Jesus get the fish and bread?
- *How did it happen?

Explain that we don't *know* how this happened. The concept of a "miracle" is as difficult for adults to understand as it is for children. It is ok to say that God loves us and takes care of us even though sometimes we don't understand how He does it. We want them to believe in miracles!



February 12th Class
February 19th Class
February 26th Class

Saying Grace
**This week concentrate on
teaching your child the grace we
say before meals.**



**Emphasize how important it is
for us to thank God for
everything we have, including
our food.**

Growing in Faith Together

In an uncertain world, people of faith know that the one constant is the love of God. He anticipates our needs and cares for us. While it's enough for our young children to appreciate that part of this miracle, as they grow older, we want them to learn a number of other features:

- Jesus' breaking and blessing of the bread corresponds to the **Last Supper**.
- Jesus told the apostles that this miracle reflects God in the Old Testament **feeding his people with manna** when they were lost in the desert.
- Jesus tells us that He is the Bread of Life, and **whoever comes to Him will never hunger**.
- When Jesus asks the disciples to count the baskets of leftovers, there are 12, just as there were 12 tribes of Israel and 12 apostles. Jesus wants us to know that this number was no accident. In the gospel of Mark, Jesus reminds the apostles long after the miracle how many baskets of leftovers were picked up, and comments, "Do you still not understand?"



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<http://stmariagoretti.org/SMG/>

Questions or concerns?

Please call the Religious Ed office.

Our door is always open to help you in any way we can.

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