

GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES!

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4:6). Sometimes people reach a point of stagnation in their faith. Or they fall into dangerous spiritual practices simply because no one ever taught them what is dangerous. This week I will talk about the opportunities that are will be available to bring your faith alive in the Holy Spirit, and growing in wisdom and love and knowledge.

The overarching mission of Bread Of Life Community is to provide opportunities for people to experience the Living God of the universe in powerful ways and to foster a heart-to-heart relationship with the Trinity through the power and guidance of the Holy Spirit. We want to see a Catholic Church that is as alive in Christ as possible! We have continually sought God for *revival* within the Catholic Church in our diocese and Bread of Life is eager to facilitate that in whatever ways the Holy Spirit leads. We would be overjoyed to have you join us.

A 'word' we received as we prayed for Bread of Life over many years is "Remember". Just as God did not want the Israelites to forget how God had mightily moved among them to deliver them out of Egypt and lead them through the desert, He also prompted us to not forget His mighty works among us. We have said over and over again, "*We remember. Do it again, Lord!*" I know it is hard to relate to other people's memories, but I will do my best to share some of what revival looked like.

We constantly experienced people coming to Mass at BOL for the first time and saying, "*there is something different about this place. I feel so much love here*". To this day the love of God still permeates St Joseph Bread of Life. We are nothing except '*clanging gongs and banging cymbals*' if we are not filled with the love of God. The primary sign of being filled with the Holy Spirit and in love with Jesus is that we are filled with His love.

As we had Mass and other events and worshipped Jesus, the presence of the Holy Spirit would palpably envelop the whole church like the cloud of glory that would descend upon the temple in the Old Testament. There is a beautiful Midnight Mass memory of the lights being low after Communion and singing "I Exalt Thee" for 15 minutes. You could feel the worship swell and ease and swell and ease, etc., with beautiful periods of people singing together in a symphony of soft angelic tongues. No one planned it. The Holy Spirit led it and we followed and it is burned into my memory forever.

Prayer groups met regularly in people's homes. We would worship and we would read the Word and discuss it and pray. We would always start with a basic plan, but from there, the Holy Spirit would take over. The prayer groups were the heart of Bread of Life. We had a time for things to end for anyone who needed to leave, but not infrequently, there would still be

people lingering and continuing to pray until well after midnight. This is when we saw Jesus' robes passing through our midst. And there were times when a beautiful odor of frankincense would waft strongly through the room for long periods of time. There were times when the joy of the Lord would be so present that a holy laughter would break out and people would belly laugh until their sides hurt. We laid hands on the sick and many were healed. We comforted the grieving. We prayed for those afflicted by demonic forces. We supported and exhorted one another in love when necessary. We experienced both joys and trials as a community. But above all we loved each other with the love of God. While we were not without our trials, that love of Jesus that so prevalent in us remains the defining characteristic of St Joseph Church Bread Of Life Community. The nature of God is the love that flows from Him. It's who we are. God is love.

Discipleship

Jesus said, ***Go and make disciples*** (MT 28:19). There is a difference between being a follower and being a disciple. Disciples actively strive to learn and understand all that Jesus taught. The Holy Spirit empowers us to live and walk out our faith as flawed, yet faithful disciples. Bread of Life has a long and rich history of providing opportunities to learn and grow together in our faith.

Healing Masses and Masses: Bread Of Life Catholic Charismatic Community has a unique charism within the diocese of Erie of expressing the Gifts of the Holy Spirit during Mass, specifically during particular times of worship so that it remains free in the Holy Spirit, but also orderly. This unique charism is much the same as having a community set aside who worships using the traditional Latin Mass (TLM).

Bread of Life will host Spirit-Filled Healing Masses several times a year. These Masses have been well attended by many people in our family of churches. The worship is powerful and intimate, with the expression of Gifts of Tongues and Prophecy at appropriate times. The experience of laying on of hands for healing has produced many testimonies. WE BELIEVE THAT GOD STILL WANTS TO HEAL HIS PEOPLE as they seek His face in worship. **Our next Healing Mass will be on November 9th at 6:15pm at Saint Joseph Parish Bread of Life CCC.**

Adoration: *Bread of Life*, as our name implies, has always been a strongly Eucharistic community. We love providing times of powerful and intimate adoration of our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament. We (in conjunction with Faith On Fire!) have our largest adoration worship event of the year coming up soon! **PATH Worship (Praise-Adoration-Thanks-Honor) takes place on Friday September 18th from 7 to 9.** We combine different

styles of worship and music with reading of scripture and conclude with a beautiful Eucharistic procession inside the church. It is absolutely a time of HIGH WORSHIP to our Jesus.

Annual Conference: Bread of Life will be co-hosting with Faith On Fire! Our annual diocesan 'Greater Things!' charismatic conference. This will take place on **Saturday October 17th, from 9am until 3:30pm, in the church at Saint Joseph's.** Back by overwhelming demand is Sister Rita who is the administrator for the Ark and the Dove in Pittsburgh. Sister Rita is absolutely filled to overflowing with the love of Jesus and the desire to share the amazing power of Jesus and the Holy Spirit with everyone she meets. Miracles happened last time she was here and we went into a time of spontaneous prayer. WE COULD NOT BE MORE THRILLED THAT SHE IS BACK WITH US.

Life In The Spirit Seminars: A vital role of Bread of Life and Faith On Fire Catholic Charismatic Renewal has been to provide people with opportunities to experience the wonderful baptism in the Holy Spirit. For many people in the Catholic (and some Protestant) Church, including most of the members of Bread of Life, this was a life-changing and pivotal event in our faith walk. It is as if we saw in only shades of black and white before the baptism, and after we saw in living color for the first time. Regardless of whether baptism in the Holy Spirit took place 3 years ago or 30 years ago, most speak in terms of life before they were baptized in the Holy Spirit versus life after. It is as Jesus said... "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you". Bread of Life experienced the power of God through the Holy Spirit and none of us will ever be the same.

Bread of Life and Faith On Fire! (the diocesan center for charismatic renewal) will host a special **Life In the Spirit seminar called 'The GIFT' for our parish family on the evening of Friday, November 6th and on Saturday November 7th from 9am until 3pm.** We are excited to share this frequently life-changing experience with as many as possible in our parish family.

Bread Of Life, along with other members of our family of churches, will host regular prayer groups. We want to provide information for these groups that have always played an irreplaceable role of fostering growth in our faith walk and in growing in love of each other. Please consider joining a group and watch for more opportunities in the future.

Prayer Groups: A strength of Bread Of Life has been the emphasis on learning and discipleship. In the past, members of Bread Of Life were also members of weekly or bi-weekly prayer groups. The love of God was apparent in all these groups. It was as if we were living in the book of Acts where it says that "they were all in one accord". We loved each other. We helped each other. We worshipped and prayed together. And we saw

God move in powerful ways. God blessed us with many miracles.

PRAYER GROUPS

Son Of God Prayer Group: **Every other Tuesday** (9/2, 9/26, etc): 6:30-8:30 at Holy Rosary Chapel. Praise and worship. Expression of the Gifts of the Holy Spirit. Scripture reading. Sharing. Leader: Pat Montefiori.

God Scouts: **Every other Wednesday 6PM** (9/9, 9/23, etc.). Praise and worship, teaching and discussion of scripture and how we apply it to our lives. Leader: Jaci Sabol. Please call the church for location.

Alpha Prayer Group/Bible Study. **1st Monday 6:30 -8 :30 and 3rd Monday** optional meal at 5:30, bible study 6:30 – 8:30. 3656 Bellaire Drive. Leader: TA Walkiewicz

Bible Sharing: **Saturday (2nd and 4th)** Readings for Sunday Mass. 10am to 12pm. 3656 Bellaire Drive. Leader: TA Walkiewicz

Sacred Heart Alpha Prayer Group: **Mondays 7-8pm.** Sacred Heart Church. Leader: Sharon Bond

Bible Study: **Wednesdays 7PM.** Leader: Ed Root. Community Center upstairs

Men's Prayer Group: **Thursday 6PM.** Bible Study and spiritual readings on the Saints. Leader: Ed Root. Community Center upstairs.

GOD BLESS YOU! Jaci Phillips, Moderator, Bread Of Life CCC

**P-RAISE
A-DORATION
T-HANKS
H-ONOR**

**FRIDAY
9-18-26
7-9 PM**

The 'PATH' to Jesus!

Presiders: Fr Steve Schreiber and Fr Joe Petrone

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147 WEST 24TH STREET, ERIE

**WORSHIP BY
HARMONY'S HOUSE**

**WITH GUEST ORGANIST
BRUCE GINGRICH**

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