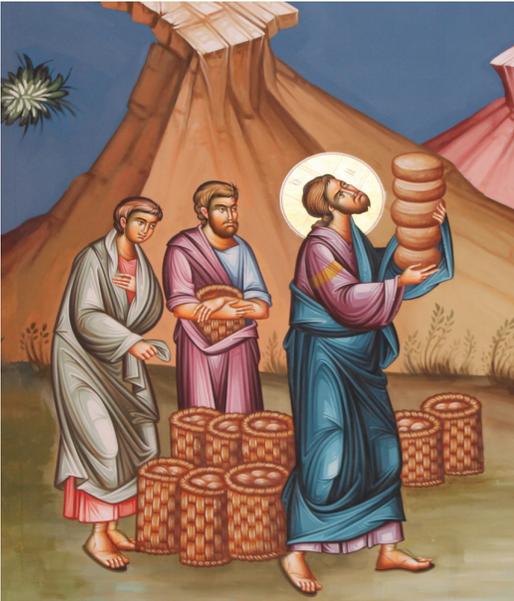


Family Connections

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

I Corinthians 1:10-17 and Matthew 14:14-22



Before the miraculous feeding of the five thousand, the Lord's disciples wanted the people to be sent away, but the Lord said to them, "They need not depart, give ye them to eat" (Matt. 14:16)...The enemy destroys the desire to offer charity, and suggest that perhaps the asker is not worthy of alms. But the Lord did not investigate the worthiness of those who were sitting there. He served everyone equally, while, of course, not everyone was equally devoted to Him. Perhaps even those who later cried "Crucify Him!" were there. Such is God's overall Providence for us: "He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). —St. Theophan the Recluse

EXPLORE TOGETHER:

Dormition Fast—As the month of July expires, our attention turns to the two-week fasting period (August 1-14) that precedes the final great feast day of the ecclesiastical year—the Dormition of the Theotokos (August 15). During this time, it is customary for Church communities to gather and pray the Small and Great Paraklesis services to the Theotokos on most evenings during the fast. Asking for the prayers of the Theotokos is an ancient and pious practice of Orthodox Christians. As the one “with motherly favor,” she is faithfully interceding on our behalf before God's throne. Don't forget to submit the names of family members and friends to your priest so they can be prayed for at the services. The text of the Small Paraklesis can be found at: <http://bit.ly/paraklesis-text>.

**Before church next week, read the scripture passages for the
Feast of the Transfiguration of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
II Peter 1:10-19 and Matthew 17:1-9**

FOR MORE INFORMATION FOR COUPLES AND FAMILIES, VISIT:



Center for Family Care of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America
www.family.goarch.org