



**Blessed Sacrament Parish**  
**Homily by Father Chris Comerford**  
**August 26, 2018 Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Reading I Joshua 24:1-18**

**Psalm 34:2-21**

**Reading II Ephesians 5:21-32**

**Gospel John 6:60-69**

**Homily**

There is so much in our readings today. In the one of the alternative readings there is that one word that if you hear it you will not hear anything during the rest of Mass, so we will save that one for another time. We come to the conclusion that the bread of life is the heart of what Jesus wants for us. He said, "You have to eat my flesh and drink my blood or you have no life within you." This is a hard saying, and that is how our Gospel began today. This was even hard for the disciples to accept and they were murmuring about it. It is a challenge. It isn't easy. It is hard enough to follow the teachings we have and be faithful, but then we hear the difficulties and challenges here in this passage.

Jesus says, "What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before? We know Jesus will ascend to go back to the Father. And he is reminding us of his divinity. He is the Son of God. He talks about, "It is the spirit that gives life, while the flesh is of no avail." He is not talking about, as it is in the Eucharist his flesh, these are the words used to distinguish the Spirit, the Word of God, and flesh. He also talks about in the Eucharist, "My flesh." But in this passage he talks about "the flesh" which is different in the meaning.

In his words he spoke about Spirit and life. These are the words that are to give us trust in Him. It is not easy to believe. It is a challenge when you think about following Him and what that means.

In the First Reading we hear from Joshua. Joshua is challenging the people and he says he has heard that are wanting it both ways. They are worshiping their God, Yahweh, but they are also worshiping the idols of the Amorites, the people in the location of where they are living. Part of that is what was deeply ingrained in them during the years they were in Egypt. God took his people out of Egypt, but it was a lot more difficult to take Egypt out of his people. They were drawn into those ways, and that is one of the reasons it took them so long in the desert so God could show them who He was, and get that false sense of worship out of them.

But they are still struggling here as they are on the threshold of the Promised Land. And Joshua says to them, "You better choose. You can't do both. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." And in that challenge the people are drawn in to make a choice. Follow God and it is important that we do that. Many of us in our lives do continue to go on without really choosing. And that can happen in our faith. Our parents had us baptized usually within a month after we were born,