

# The Church of Saint Pascal Baylon

Fr. John Mitchell, Pastor: Sunday Homily Notes

1757 Conway Street • St. Paul, Minnesota 55106 • phone 651.774.1585 • e-mail church@stpascals.org

---

## Homily Notes – 17th Sunday in Ordinary Time – July 29, 2018

1. In Max Lucado's book "Small Gifts in God's Hands", the author writes a fictional story about the boy in the Gospel story today who gave Jesus the 5 loaves of bread and the 2 fish the Jesus used in the miracle of the loaves and the fish. Max Lucado gives the boy the name of Elijah, and Lucado writes that Elijah didn't have much to give to Jesus other than the small gift of bread and fish, but Jesus took that gift and did something miraculous with it.
2. We might think that we are small and don't have much to give to Jesus. But any gift we give to Jesus can be used by our Lord for something wonderful.
3. I have seen the way that this parish has welcomed me and welcomed visitors to our community, and that might seem like a small thing, but it makes a big difference in my life and other people's lives, especially to newcomers and visitors.
4. I have seen the way we have Donuts & Coffee every Sunday after Mass, and that is a small thing, but it provides people with friendship, fellowship, a way to visit and meet people, and that's a good thing.
5. Parents, when you pray for your children, that is a small thing, but it makes a big difference in their lives, even if you don't see the results of your prayers.
6. Children, when you do something small for your parents such as doing what they ask you to do the first time they ask, that is a big thing. It helps reduce stress in your parent's lives when you respect them and do what they say, especially the first time they ask you.
7. When all of us do the small thing of showing up on time for work and putting in an honest day's work, that isn't always seen by people, but given to God as a small gift, it makes a positive difference in our work environment.
8. Anything we give to God out of love, even a small gift of ourselves, or a small word or action, can be used by God for something miraculous, just like Jesus took the small gift of 5 loaves and 2 fish and worked a miracle with them.

-Father John Mitchell