

ENRICHMENT: SACRED ART

The Gathering of Manna, by a follower of Pieter Coecke van Aelst

Full-page image available on page 116 or on the parent portal.

When we pray while looking at this painting, we can give thanks to God for feeding us with the Bread of Heaven, Jesus in the Eucharist. [Begin with the Sign of the Cross.](#)

Look at the clothes worn by the people in the painting.
Why do you think the artist painted the people this way?

The people in the painting are dressed in fine clothes. These clothes were worn by people during the time of the artist. In this way, the ancient story of the Book of Exodus comes close to the people of the artist's day.

Can you imagine yourself as the child in this painting?
What are the blessings God has given to your family?

Look at the person in red clothes at the center of the scene.
What do we learn about the Israelites in the Book of Exodus?

The Book of Exodus tells about how God rescued the people of Israel from slavery in Egypt. God chose Moses as their wise and holy leader. Moses, dressed in red, stands at the center of the painting. Moses led the people of Israel into the desert away from Pharaoh. In the desert, the people started to grumble against God. They complained to Moses that they had no food to eat. They thought it would have been better if they had remained in Egypt. They did not want to grow weak from hunger in the desert, but God was always taking care of them.

Does this remind you not to complain?

Notice the bread from Heaven falling to the ground.
How do you think the bread shows God's care for the Israelites in the desert?

God told Moses that He heard the complaints of the people. God promised Moses that He would feed the people. They would eat meat in the evening and bread in the morning. Each morning they would find bread from Heaven called manna. This bread was scattered on the ground like snowflakes. In the painting, we see the bread from Heaven falling to the ground. A woman gathers the bread in a large tray. Other people gather the manna in their hands. Every day the people of Israel would have enough food to eat. This was God's gift of manna, or bread from Heaven.

Does this remind you that God will always provide for you?

How do you experience God's generosity in your life?

[Conclude by thanking God for His generosity in your life. Pray the Our Father as a family.](#)

