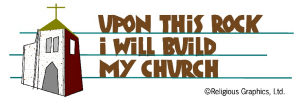


# PARISH CALENDAR

Twenty-first Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

August 27, 2023

Save the servant  
who trusts in you, Lord!



Saturday, August 26	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, August 27	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass ( <b>Live Stream</b> )
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, August 28	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, August 29	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 7:00 p.m.	<b>Finance Council Meeting - Kamiano Trailer</b>
Wednesday, August 30	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, August 31	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, September 1	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, September 2	..... 4:00-4:30 p.m.	<b>Confession - Church</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass

## NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Jer:20:7-9:** Jeremiah only reluctantly spoke God's prophetic word. He tried to hold back, but the word burned like fire in his heart.

**Rom:12:1-2:** Paul urged the Romans to offer their bodies to God as a living sacrifice and not to conform to this age but to be transformed by God.

**Mt:16:23-27:** Jesus said, "Whoever wished to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

## Gospel Reflection

Today's Gospel scene takes place about twenty miles north of the Sea of Galilee outside of Herod's jurisdiction and away from the Pharisees' watchful eyes. This is a private conversation between Jesus and His disciples that took place where they could speak freely. For that reason, this conversation is particularly personal in nature in that the disciples felt free to express their personal convictions without fear of retribution.

As the conversation unfolds, Jesus asks two consecutive questions. First, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Second, "But who do you say that I am?" By asking these two questions, Jesus first invites the disciples to identify the different opinions floating around about Him and then gives the disciples an opportunity to speak their own conviction. Peter responds on behalf of them all when he solemnly professes, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

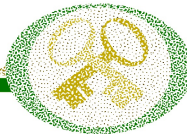
If Jesus were to ask you these two questions, what would you answer? First, what is the general opinion about Jesus that most people have today? When asked, most Christians would give the correct answer. Jesus is God. He is the Savior. He is the Son of the Father. But sometimes those answers are more theoretical than they are personal. Often it is easy to believe things about Jesus rather than believing in Jesus. So if you were to answer the second question, what would you say? Ideally, you would answer that Jesus is your Savior, your God, your Shepherd, your Lord. Faith in Jesus must not only be theoretical, it must be deeply personal, flowing from the depths of your heart.

Deep personal faith in Jesus can only come from one source. It comes from the Father speaking to your heart in a real and personal way. After Peter professed His faith in Jesus, Jesus said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father." Peter's personal faith in Jesus was not just something he heard from others, it was not just a popularly accepted opinion, it was something that the Father in Heaven personally revealed to him. This is the gift of faith.

Peter's personal profession of faith became the rock foundation on which Jesus built His Church. "And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it." This reveals Jesus' plan to establish Peter as the head of the Church and to give to him the keys to the Kingdom of Heaven for the whole Church. Similarly, our personal profession of faith will become the unshakable foundation within our souls upon which God's Church becomes alive in each one of us. When our faith is based upon a personal revelation from the Father in Heaven, spoken within the secrecy of our souls, then nothing can extinguish this faith. The gates of the netherworld cannot prevail against it.

**Reflect, today, upon this holy conversation between Jesus and His disciples. As you do, know that Jesus wants to have the same conversation with you. As Jesus took the disciples away to this quiet and safe place, He wants to take you away through prayer to the privacy of your own soul. There, within you, He seeks to elicit a response of personal faith. He wants you to identify Who He is to you. He wants you to profess your faith to Him. This faith is your personal solid foundation, and upon that foundation our Lord will build up His Church in you and through you.**

Glorious Lord, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. I believe this with all my heart. Please continue to deepen my faith in You by revealing to me Who You are. As You do, I pray that this gift of faith will become a rock foundation upon which You form me more fully in the life of holy virtue and grace. Jesus, I trust in You. .. (**My Catholic Life**)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

**R. C. I. A.:** "Do you or someone you know want to become a Catholic? Do you or someone you know want to complete the Catholic Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Communion, & Confirmation)? Do you want to do your part fulfilling the Church's evangelization goals? The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (or RCIA for short) is the process the Catholic Church uses to achieve these goals for those who desire to participate and become candidates. Here's a few details of the program:

- 1) St. Rita's RCIA program will begin **Sept 10, 2023**
- 2) RCIA candidates will meet roughly every other Sunday night at 6:30 pm in the church.
- 3) RCIA sessions will last for 1.5 hours. These sessions will be based on adult learning principles, with candidate participation a must. However, there will be no formal text or homework.
- 4) RCIA candidates will participate in some or all of the following ceremonies leading up to the Easter Vigil mass:
  - a. Rite of Acceptance (beginning of Advent)
  - b. Rite of Election (beginning of Lent)
  - c. RCIA Scrutinies (during Lent)

If you or someone you know is interested, please call or our **RCIA Director (Don Gerry, (808) 489-9529)"**

**WORD OF LIFE:** "No sin or crime is greater than God's mercy. The sacrifice of the Cross reveals that Christ's greatest desire is to forgive those with a repentant heart." *USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Death Penalty: Catholic Q & A"*

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Aug 27 Sun: 21<sup>st</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*Is:22:19-23; Ps:138; Rom:11:33-36; Mt:16:13-20*

**Aug 28 Mon: Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor**

*1 Thes:1:1-5, 8b-10; Ps:149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a, & 9b; Mt:23:13-22*

**Aug 29 Tue: The Passion of Saint John the Baptist**

*1 Thes:2:1-8; Ps:139: 1-3, 4-6; Mk:6:17-29*

**Aug 30 Wed: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Thes:2:9-13; Ps:139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab; Mt:23:27-32*

**Aug 31 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Thes:3:7-13; Ps:90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 & 17; Mt:24:42-51*

**Sep 1 Fri: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Thes:4:1-8 ;Ps:97:1 & 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12; Mt:25:1-3*

**Sep 2 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

*1 Thes:4:9-11; Ps:98:1, 7-8, 9; Mt:25:14-30*

## NOTES ON STEWARDSHIP

*Saint Paul reminds us in today's second reading that the ultimate origin of everything is God. Since everything comes from God, we are God's own. We can never put God in our debt. There is absolutely no negotiating with God. Every breath we take is a gift. Every good deed we perform is grace. Good stewards realize they are created and called to make the beauty, greatness, compassion and justice of God and his gifts known throughout the world. The stewardship questions for us is whether we are willing to embrace this call, acknowledge our dependence on God and give our lives over to him completely for this purpose. International Catholic Stewardship Council)*

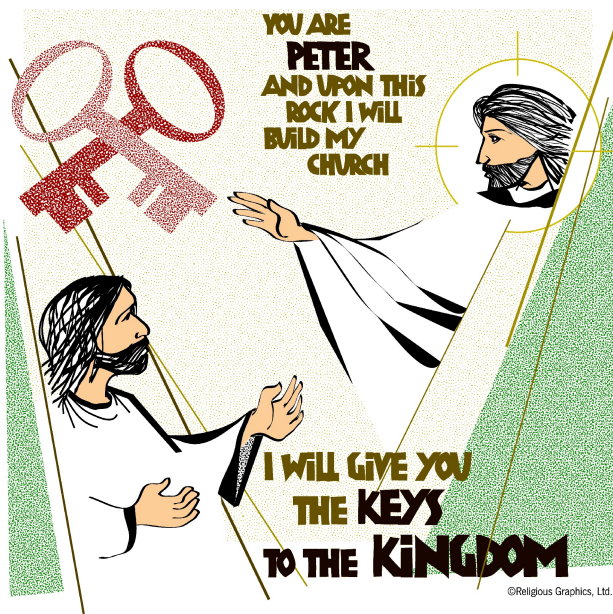
## ACCEPTING RESPONSIBILITIES

*If you have ever received the responsibility somebody else once had, you know the rush of emotions that can come with a transfer of authority. Maybe it was a job you worked hard for. Maybe you were chosen for a task you never envisioned you would do. But there you are, hoping to fulfill the expectations somebody has for you and the work.*

*According to Isaiah, this experience happened to Eliakim, son of Hilkiah. He replaced Shebna as master of the palace. God did not like the job that Shebna was doing. (If God is your supervisor, you had better do the work well.) Isaiah says that God thrust Shebna from office and put Eliakim in his place, dressed him in Shebna's robe, girded him with Shebna's sash, and gave him Shebna's authority. God really did not like Shebna's work.*

*God gave one more sign of authority. God placed the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder. You have heard of getting the key to the city. Eliakim got the key to the nation. When God gives us a responsibility, we may be part of a major transition. But if the work comes from God, we can assume the task with assurance.*

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