



AUGUST 27, 2023
Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sun	8/27	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	In Memory of June Linsmeyer ~Anniversary of Death by Dean & Pat Ullmer Mass at St John's David & Rosemary Vande Hei
Tues	8/29	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's For Schools, Teachers & Students
Wed	8/30	8:15 AM 9:00 AM 9:30 AM	Mass at St John's Jordan Schadrie Communion Service Faith Formation
Thurs	8/31	8:15 AM	Mass at St John's For College Students Leaving Home
Fri	9/1	8:15 AM	For Schools, Teachers & Youth
Sat	9/2	4:00 PM	Mass at St John's LaVern & Helen Leisgang
Sun	9/3	8:00 AM 10:00 AM	Dan Roskom & Karen Vander Velden by Shirley Roskom Mass at St John's Don Raymaker

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

Isn't it a bit weird that Catholics call the Pope "papa," father? This Sunday provides us with essential Scriptural background on the papacy, the petrine office. Jesus gives Peter the "keys to the kingdom of heaven," after witnessing to the special grace Peter has to know Jesus' true identity. Many have pointed out that the "keys" refer back to the figure of Eliakim, King David's prime minister. True enough. But notice this is not mere authority or power. It's a family relationship. The Lord says to Eliakim, "He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem" (Isaiah 22:21). David's prime minister was a spiritual *father* to the family of Israel. Peter, and his successors, will be spiritual fathers in the family of the Church.

This means we have a serious obligation to not only recognize the Pope's authority, but also to love him with the affection of children for their papa. We should never speak about him with disrespect or rancor. We should listen to him with trusting hearts, and ignore the slander thrown at him in various media. When we show the world we are loving and obedient to our Holy Papa, perhaps they'll see more clearly that the Church is indeed God's beloved family.

— Father John Muir

Catholic Trivia – Just for Fun

Question: What is the term used to describe the denial of God the Father's existence?

Answer: Atheism

Question: Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer: Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us,

"As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10).



DAY/TIME	LECTOR	DISTRIBTORS	GREETERS	SERVERS	USHERS
SUNDAY	Dan Rynish	Dcn Rich Matuszak		Preston VanderHeiden	Ron Matuszak Sr
September 3				Clara VanderHeiden	Steve Hackl

INCOME FOR WEEK:

Church Support	\$ 801.46
Loose Collection	\$ 129.00
Votive Candles	\$ 13.00
Christian Women	\$ 5.00

* NO BILLS SUBMITTED *

Everyday Stewardship

Sometimes when I ask one of my children about who they were with or about a classmate at school they answer me with, "You don't know them." Apparently, since I do not know him or her personally, I do not need to know the person's name. I may not know this person but I do know that he or she exists in the everyday life of one of my children. If my children don't share with me anything about their friend or classmate, I can only assume he or she has no great impact on my sons' or daughter's daily lives. Of course, sometimes the response I get is simply my teen being a typical teen.

Has Jesus had a significant impact on your life? Do you know Jesus personally? If someone asked you about him what would you say?

My children respond the way they do to me because they are still young and immature. However, some adults are immature as well: immature in faith. We shy away from any discussion of God in our lives and we rarely share our faith. Most days

we will not be asked the question, "Who is Jesus?" But we will be in situations where we are being called to share a little bit about ourselves. If Jesus has truly changed our lives and we never seem to want to share something about him with others, they may as well assume that he has had no real impact on us. On the other hand, if we are mature disciples in Jesus Christ, I suspect that others can't help but know about the great friend we have in him. ~ Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

**The NEW Community Homeless Shelter meal is Saturday September 16th for lunch.
We are trying to feed 200 people.**

We could use your help with donations of hamburger, buns, hot dogs, buns, potato chips, sloppy joe sauce, cookies, pickles, bake beans, sliced cheese, assorted fruit and helper to cook and serve the meal.



There is a sign-up sheet in the back of church. Your donations of food and help is greatly appreciated!!

REGISTER FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

©LP

Registration packets for religious education have been mailed.

If you did not receive yours yet, you should soon.

Please complete the registration form and return.

Please notify the parish office if you do not receive one.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Who Do You Say That I Am?

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn't important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just "extra."

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives, the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn't entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.

There is a reason that, after Peter's response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

"Who do you say that I am?"

Let our whole lives be our answer.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."

— Matthew 16:16

**Thank you Mary Linsmeyer,
for sponsoring our August Bulletin,
in loving memory of
Gerald Linsmeyer**



Ministry of the Sick: Please notify the parish office if a member of your family is confined to their home or is hospitalized. Also, please inform the hospital of your affiliation with your parish.

Baptisms: Please call the parish office two months in advance.

Marriage: Please call St. John's parish office eight months in advance.

Funeral Arrangements: Please call St. John's parish office.

Anointing of the Sick and Dying: Please call St. John's parish office.

**Fr. Sengole Dass
St. John Parish Office - 833-6140**

**DC. Richard Matuszak
833-2294 or 609-5292**

**St Sebastian Parish Office - 833-2558
Current Hours: Mon & Thurs 8:00 – 4:00
Wed: 8:30 – Noon, Closed: Tues & Fri**