



Blessed Trinity

Weekend Magazine

Over 60 YEARS COURAGEOUSLY *Living the Gospel*

August 16, 2026 • Twentieth Sunday In Ordinary Time

Why did Jesus call Peter a “rock”?

published on 06/29/21 | Philip Kosloski



Jesus chose Simon as the "rock" that would be the foundation stone of the Catholic Church.

Jesus gave one of his apostles, Simon, a new name. He called him, "Peter," an interesting word that previously was not used as a proper name.

*Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. 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. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Matthew 16:17-19

The Gospels were originally written in Greek and the word used is *petros*, meaning "rock." An article on *Catholic Answers* explains what this word meant in Greek.

As Greek scholars—even non-Catholic ones—admit, the words *petros* and *petra* were synonyms in first century Greek. They meant "small stone" and "large rock" in some ancient Greek poetry, centuries before the time of Christ, but that distinction had disappeared from the language by the time Matthew's Gospel was rendered in Greek. The difference in meaning can only be found in Attic Greek, but the New Testament was written in **Koine Greek**—an entirely different dialect. In Koine Greek, both *petros* and *petra* simply meant "rock." If Jesus had wanted to call Simon a small stone, the Greek *lithos* would have been used.

Foundation stone

Furthermore, according to the Ignatius Catholic Study Bible, "evidence suggests that Jesus' words to Peter were originally spoken in Aramaic. In this language, the word *kepha* is the equivalent of *Peter* and denotes a 'sizeable rock' -- one suitable as a building foundation. This Aramaic name is preserved [in its Latinized form]

Continued on page 2

Continued from cover....

as **Cephas** 9 times in the New Testament."

This is why the Church continues to teach that Jesus appointed Peter as the foundation stone of the Catholic Church.

Simon Peter holds the first place in the college of the Twelve; Jesus entrusted a unique mission to him. Through a revelation from the Father, Peter had confessed: "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Our Lord then declared to him: "You are Peter, and on this rock I will build my Church, and the gates of Hades will not prevail against it." Christ, the "living Stone," thus assures his Church, built on Peter, of victory over the powers of death. Because of the faith he confessed Peter will remain the unshakable rock of the Church. His mission will be to keep this faith from every lapse and to strengthen his brothers in it. CCC 552

Caesarea Philippi: Temple built on a rock

Jesus also said these words at **Caesarea Philippi**, a city that was literally built on a massive rock!

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* explains, "It was given (20 B.C.) by Augustus to Herod, who **built there a magnificent temple in honor of the emperor**. Soon after, the tetrarch Philip embellished it and dedicated it to his imperial protector Tiberius, whence its new name **Caesarea Philippi** or *Caesarea Paneas*."

This helps give more context to Jesus' actions, who was pointing out how Simon would be the "rock" for his Church, in contrast to the rock that the temple at Caesarea Philippi was built on.

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**"SO LONG AS
SHE IS IN
YOUR MIND,
YOU ARE
SAFE FROM
DECEPTION."**
ST. BERNARD



Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 15, Vigil for Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Marion Giacalone (dec)

Sunday, August 16, Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Dominic Bommarito (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Alice Dviondviak (dec)

Monday, August 17, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Ronald Bento (dec)

Tuesday, August 18, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Robert Wilson (dec)

Wednesday, August 19, Weekday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Mass for Vocations

Thursday, August 20, Memorial of Saint Bernard, Abbot and Doctor of the Church

8:00 a.m. Carol Good (dec)

Friday, August 21, Memorial of Saint Pius X, Pope

8:00 a.m. Evelyn Alice Birchfield (liv)

Saturday, August 22, Vigil for Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Gertrude B. Murray (dec)

Sunday, August 23, Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 a.m. Joseph Marchese, Sr. (dec)

9:30 a.m. Mass for Parishioners

11:30 a.m. Nick Calandra (dec)

August 16, 2026

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6-7 | Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 | Mt 15:21-28

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

I have often wondered why Jesus' words to the Gentile woman in today's Gospel sound so harsh. The woman was simply asking Jesus to heal her daughter, as so many others before her had done. Jesus' reply that he had been sent only to the "lost sheep of the house of Israel" may have been true under the old covenant. But with his coming, Jesus initiated the new covenant where all are invited, all are welcome. Through the woman's gift of faith (whose prayer says simply, "Lord, help me"), she brings herself and her daughter into the joy and goodness of the kingdom. Jesus commends her faith (and her persistence) and heals her daughter. This passage demonstrates the healing God wishes to provide for all of his people.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Thus says the Lord in Isaiah: "My house shall be called a **house of prayer for all peoples.**"

Responsorial psalm: "O God, let all the nations praise you!"

Jesus to the Canaanite (Gentile) woman: "**O woman, great is your faith!**"

Our readings today spell out loud and clear that our God's love and forgiveness is meant for all. Not just the few. This is good news, indeed. What does God ask of us in return? He asks that we strive to do *what is right ... what is just*. In short, we must *join [our]selves* to the Lord, as Isaiah says, and God will welcome us into his holy kingdom. How do we do that? We can start by trying to imitate the generosity of God's grace and welcome those who seek God's mercy and healing. In other words, we reach out in love to each other and seek to build up the unity of his Church, the Body of Christ.

WELCOME

On some level, all the readings today speak of disparate people coming to the faith: foreigners, all the nations, the Gentiles, a Canaanite woman. Does your parish have some form of welcoming ministry – a welcome desk, ushers, greeters? The power of a friendly smile, a warm handshake, a disposition of "we're happy you're here" cannot be underestimated for visitors to our churches. Consider becoming a part of the team that welcomes the stranger to your parish.



Christ and the Canaanite Woman (1594-1599) by Annibale Carracci, public domain



Are You Hoping to Receive One of the Following Sacraments With Us?

Matrimony

Congratulations on your engagement! Every Diocese in Florida requires at least six months preparation before marriage. Please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office for an appointment before setting a date.

Baptism

We are honored that you would like to choose Blessed Trinity Catholic Church for the baptism of your child! We ask that you please call our Pastor, Fr. Wayne Genereux, at the Parish Office to schedule an appointment.

Prayer for Protection during Hurricane Season

O God, Master of this passing world, hear the humble voices of your children. The Sea of Galilee obeyed Your order and returned to its former quietude.

You are still the Master of land and sea. We live in the shadow of a danger over which we have no control: the Gulf, like a provoked and angry giant, can awake from its seeming lethargy, overstep its conventional boundaries, invade our land, and spread chaos and disaster.

During this hurricane season we turn to You, O loving Father. Spare us from past tragedies whose memories are still so vivid and whose wounds seem to refuse to heal with passing of time.

O Virgin, Star of the Sea, Our beloved Mother, we ask you to plead with your Son on our behalf, so that spared from the calamities common to this area and animated with a true spirit of gratitude, we will walk in the footsteps of your Divine Son to reach the heavenly Jerusalem, where a stormless eternity awaits us.

Amen.

Support A CAUSE

that is near and dear to our own Father Jack.

—————  —————

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ST. FRANCIS HELPING HANDS is collecting clothing items for the **BACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE** at Clothes to Kids.

—————  —————

 Donations will benefit **Clothes to Kids.**

NEW PACKAGES UNDERWEAR NEEDED!



UNDERWEAR

We are especially in need of **NEW PACKAGES** of underwear for boys and girls.



 *Thank you for your generosity and support!* 

Together, we can help kids start the school year with **confidence.**

The second collection is for Catholic Ministry Appeal



Weekly Offering

Weekly Giving 08/09/26

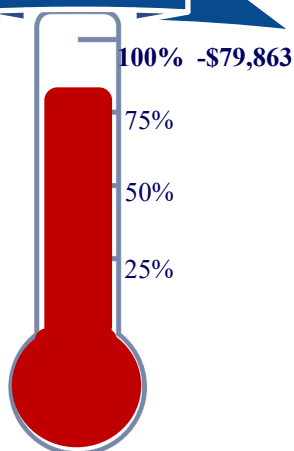
Offertory	\$ 7,440
Other Donations	\$ 1,060
Restoring the Sacred	\$ 388
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 20
Catholic Ministry	
Appeal	\$ 187

Thank you for your generosity!

Catholic Ministry Appeal



2026 GOAL



Collected to date: \$62,447
which is 78%

Amounts pledged or expected:
100.4%

Thank you for your generosity!
Keep up the good work!



Everyday Stewardship

The Jubilee Year of Mercy is now in the history books and looking back I wonder if I have been changed at all by the observance. Certainly the focus on mercy wasn't all about God's mercy toward me? Yes, I focused on my sin and the need for God's forgiveness and grace, but hopefully that changed how I live my life and how I offer mercy to others.

The mercy we receive from God is not something we are to keep bottled up or hidden from others. Jesus taught us to treat others the way we would like to be treated and to love everyone, even our enemies. When Jesus healed the Canaanite woman I wonder what she did next. I would hope she in turn offered mercy and healing to others. Of course, I know she was imperfect just like me so I am sure in no time she was back to needing the mercy of Jesus. Her demon was gone, but there is always a new evil around every corner.

However, the fact that we are a broken people always in need of mercy does not lessen the command for us to offer mercy. Mercy is a gift like so many others that God lavishes on us with great generosity. We are called to cultivate this and share it with others as well. If we cannot do that then what was the real effect of God's mercy in our lives? If we do not allow God to change us into more generous stewards ready to offer mercy and love to all, then perhaps we are fooling ourselves that we are true disciples of Jesus at all.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS
© Liturgical Publications

Upcoming Events

***Church closed due to renovations,
Masses will be held in Parish Hall.**

Saturday, August 15

2:30 pm-3:30 pm Confessions MC

Sunday, August 16

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am Mass only CYH

Monday, August 17

6:30 pm "Life in the Spirit" Prayer Meeting CYH

Wednesday, August 19

4:00 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meeting FF

5:30 pm Adoration PH

Thursday, August 20

11:00 am Book Club FF

Saturday, August 22

2:30 pm-3:30 pm Confessions MC

Sunday, August 23

Coffee and Donuts after the 8:00 am Mass only CYH

Key for Events

PC= Parish Center, MR=Music Room, CYH= Courtyard Hall,
MC=Ministries Center, CYH-1= Courtyard Hall Classroom #1,
CH=Church, FF= Faith Formation Room, PL= Parking Lot



Pastor

Rev. Wayne C. Genereux

Clergy Assistance

Fr. Jack McDowell, OFM

Fr. Randall Roberts, OFM

Fr. Anthony Fortunato, OdeM

Fr. Ken Breen, OdeM

Fr. Victor Bartolotta

Fr. Eric Peters

Mass Schedule

Weekday Masses

Monday - Friday 8:00 am

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil at 4:00 pm

Sunday

8:00 am, 9:30 am and 11:30 am

Follow the Sunday Mass on our website, btsp.org

Confessions

Saturdays 2:30-3:30 pm

Parish Office

Monday—Friday

9:00 am-12:00 pm and 1-4 pm

Closed for Lunch Noon to 1:00 pm

1600 54th Ave S
St. Petersburg, FL 33712

Phone, (727) 867-3663

FAX, (727) 864-2679

Website, <http://btsp.org>

Like us on FaceBook

An Invitation from the Office of the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute (LPMI)



So often, people ask how they might grow in their faith. In response to this searching, the Lay Pastoral Ministry Institute was initiated in 1998. The LPMI provides education and formation for laity in the Catholic faith. The program is designed to enhance personal faith and develop intellectual aptitude to enrich personal ministry. It is a four-year program: an informal year of discernment and three years of formal academic training and spiritual growth. Upon completion of the program, participants are formally "commissioned" by the Bishop.

The initial segment of the program, the **Year of Discernment**, consists of eight Saturday sessions from 9:30 am to 3:00 pm. The classes meet at Christ the King Parish, located at 821 S. Dale Mabry Hwy, Tampa. Classes begin in September, and will meet once monthly through April 2027.

For anyone interested in attending the LPMI Year of Discernment, the registration form and program information can be found on the LPMI web site at: <https://www.dosp.org/lpmi/year-of-discernment/> or call the LPMI office at (727) 344-1611.



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btsp.flocknote.com

Preventing Skin Cancer



You can help protect yourself and your family from skin cancer – the most common type of cancer. Limit your exposure to harmful UV rays all year-round.



Stay out of direct sunlight.

Especially between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Wear protective clothing.

- ✓ Long-sleeved shirts and pants
- ✓ Sunglasses that block UV rays
- ✓ Wide-brimmed hat



Cover up children, too.

They burn more easily. And babies younger than 6 months old should be kept out of direct sunlight.

✗ Avoid tanning beds or lamps.

These indoor tanning devices give off harmful UV rays.



Use sunscreen and lip balm with SPF.

What to look for:

- ✓ Broad spectrum
- ✓ SPF 30 or higher
- ✓ Not expired

How to apply sunscreen:



Use about 1 ounce
(a palmful) on exposed skin



Reapply every
2 hours



Reapply more often if
swimming or sweating



For more information and support, visit the American Cancer Society website at cancer.org/sunsafety or call us at **1-800-227-2345**. We're here when you need us.

Understanding THE SCRIPTURES

Is the third book of The Didache Series to be published; Is a complete and comprehensive examination of Holy Scriptures and their relation to the Roman Catholic Church – **a complete course on Bible Study.**

As one more part to restoring the Sacred, and increasing individual knowledge of Sacred Scriptures among parishioners of Blessed Trinity Catholic Church, Pastor Father Wayne Generoux has authorized Parishioner Charles W. Ankerberg, Jr. to host this ongoing course of Bible Study at his private home. Why?

Today we live in a troubled world with multiple natural disasters, wars and calamities. Signs of Jesus 2nd coming and end times. Need we list them? We know them by name. Jesus spoke to the Apostles about these signs in the “Olivet Discourse” the week before He died. It is presented in Matthew Chapter 24. Jesus called it “birth pains, the beginning of sorrows.”

Never before in the history of mankind was it more important to know and understand the Word of God to bolster our faith than in these times. We find faith in the Word of God and Jesus Christ in the BIBLE. BUT we must read it and we do need it.

There are many ways to study the Bible. You can read it yourself and employ lots of techniques to mark or memorize passages or write them down. But really how many of you actually read it or study it on a regular basis or memorize passages or quote them to others? You know we are supposed to do that; it's called Evangelization and guess what? **ITS IN THE BIBLE. AND YOU CAN MAKE YOUR READING A HABIT BY JOINING CHARLES A's BIBLE STUDY GROUP.** Make friends and learn God's Word.

One of the best programs to begin in many Catholic churches today has been the development of Bible Study Groups in private homes. Study groups help provide an organized, safe, regular and disciplined approach to reading the Bible.

The study is to be held **WEEKLY** on **WEDNESDAYS**, starting **September 23rd**, 2026
From 11:00 AM until 1:30 PM.

The **address is 5190 – 44th Street South**, St. Petersburg, FL 33711.

Phone (House): 727-864-1308

Participants are to **bring their Bible, a Brown Bag Lunch, note pad & pen.**
Beverages and light dessert will be provided.

Participation is limited to a maximum number of 10. There is no charge. Parties are asked to **RESERVE** a seat by calling the phone above.

Arnold, Barbara
Baker Family
Barhorst, Brady
Barhorst, Rosemary
Becker, Mary
Brown, Bob & Beverly
Calamita, John
Christ, Kathryn
Clark, Christine and Henry
Clark, Brittany Noel
Clark, Matthew Pierce
Comeau, Teresa
Cortez, Patrick
Coughlin, Bernadette
Curcio, Louis
Daniels, Joshua
DeLong, Judy
DeLong, Todd
Distefano, Michael
Ellis, John
Feltes, Lauren
Fitzgerald, Dan
Gawlik, Frank and Sofia

Genereux, Carol
Grimberg, Carol
Gutske, Karl
Hawkins, Ashlyn
Hawkins, Barbara
Helbig, Len
Hoffman, Bette
Hoskins, Kevin
Hurley, Scott
Joyal, Christina
Kartsaklis, Michael
Klima, Sue
Kraynak, Gary
Lague, Norbert
Lashley, Diana
LeVan, George
Lewis, Cynthia
Mays, Hank
Membreno, Mary & Gus
Narinelly, Sarah
Newcomb, Jeff
O'Connor, Mary
Parillo, Ceil
Parillo, Dave

Parmigiani, Valerie
Preeper, Helen
Riordan, Donald
Romani, Angelo
Sacks, Laura
Shelby, Montez
Smith, Elizabeth
Stankiewicz, Cy
Vanderbeck, Cindy
Vanderbeck, Jay
Wagoner, Diane
Walsh, Thomas
Watson, Linda
Weselowski, Chris
Youngman, Ruth

Anointing of the Sick



To request the Anointing of the Sick for yourself or a loved one, please contact the parish office, 727-867-3663.

Grief Support

At this time, individual/one-on-one *Grief Support* is available by calling Rachel at the church office. Group support meetings will take place when a group is formed. For more information call 867-3663.

If you or a close family member would like to be added or removed from our prayer list, please contact the parish office at 727-867-3663.

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