

# Church of the Holy Angels

August 22, 2021, Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

855 Scott Street, Kulpmont, PA 17834-1811  
 Phone: (570)373-1221 Fax: (570)373-1226  
 email: [oneangel@ptd.net](mailto:oneangel@ptd.net)

WEBSITE: [www.HolyAngelsKulpmont.org](http://www.HolyAngelsKulpmont.org)

MASSES OF OBLIGATION: SATURDAY 4:00PM, 5:30PM  
 SUNDAY 8:30AM & 10:30AM

CONFESSIONS: HALF HOUR BEFORE WEEKEND  
 MASSES OR BY APPOINTMENT

PARISH OFFICE HOURS:

MONDAY THRU THURSDAY 9:00AM-4:00PM

OFFICE CLOSED FRIDAYS

Rev. Andrew Stahmer, Pastor

Deacon Thomas Conlin

Sister Teresa Catherine, Pastoral Assistant

Mary Kay Bartol, Administrative Assistant

Joseph Fesniak Organist, Choir Director

Joette Foris, Director of Religious Education, Guitarist

Robert Balonis, Maintenance

## FINANCIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

Charles Kaminsky, Chairman, Mary Ann Daya,  
 Kathy Nolan, Frank Mirarchi, Peter Avellino

## MASS INTENTIONS

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Saturday, August 21

8:00am Richard Cafferty  
 4:00pm People of the Parish  
 5:30pm Geraldine Shimko

Sunday, August 22

8:30am Bruno, Louis, Anthony &  
 James Scicchitano  
 10:30am Rose Bango

Monday, August 23

8:00am Joseph Coroniti

Tuesday, August 24

8:00am Living and Deceased Women and Girls  
 of the Chesney & Yonkovig Families

Wednesday, August 25

8:00am Irene McCarthy

Thursday, August 26

8:00am Joseph & Josephine Zinda

Friday, August 27

8:00am Ann Yanchuck

Saturday, August 28

8:00am Edward G. Teevan  
 4:00pm Sonia Rakowski  
 5:30pm Deceased of the Ortona Family

Sunday, August 29

8:30am Patricia Zlocki  
 10:30am People of the Parish

## Parish Mission Statement

*We, the family of Holy Angels Parish, a diverse community of ethnic and cultural backgrounds, are united through the Holy Spirit to proclaim the Word of God to all peoples by following the teachings of Jesus Christ.*

*Working together in wisdom and love we commit ourselves in the following ways: protecting the unborn; fostering faith development in our youth; planting new seeds of evangelization throughout our parish family through prayer, spiritual works, education and outreach activities; ministering to the needs of our aging parishioners; promoting holiness through celebration of the sacraments, worship in liturgy, communal prayer, and our faith traditions.*

*Through these actions rooted in charity and mercy, we pledge to pass on our customs and beliefs to future generations, thus preserving our faith traditions for the greater glory of God and as a sign of Christ's love.*

## PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Jim Nolan, Chairman, Joe Meyer, Vice-Chairman,  
 Jeanne Avellino, Pat Bingaman, Sherry Bozza, Maria  
 Foris, Teresa McCabe, Juliann Wanzie, Kathy Pupo,  
 Jeff Kruleski, Alex Clayberger, Lena Leaveck

## Sacrificial Offering

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Weekend of August 15

Number of registered households	864
Sunday Offering (183 Households)	\$3,445.00
Loose Cash	\$77.00
Youth Offering	\$17.00
Shortfall- Debt Reduction & Plus One	\$33.00
Votive Candles	\$62.00
Energy	\$175.00
Assumption of the BVM	\$1,035.00

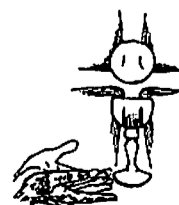
Amount Budgeted	\$8,333.00
Amount Contributed	\$4,844.00
Weekend of August 15	-\$3,489.00

Improvement Fund	
Previous Balance	\$23,321.00
Weekend of August 15	+\$66.00
Balance	\$23,387.00

Air Conditioner Replacement Campaign	
Goal	\$60,000.00
Donations to date	\$29,576.00
Balance	\$30,424.00

*Mass intentions are available for the remainder of the year. Please call or stop by the parish office if you would like to schedule a Mass.*

*Of Your Charity, please pray for the repose of the soul of Vincent P. Shovlin, Sr., a member of Holy Angels Parish Family. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace.*



### Welcome to All!

This church is our heavenly Father's house, a place of solace and grace, so feel at home here. Enter reverently, pray quietly, sing joyfully, listen attentively, give cheerfully and come back gladly. Remain in the church after Mass for some personal quiet time with the Lord and come early before Mass to pray the Rosary with others. If you ever feel unwelcome-let the pastor know! And if the pastor makes you feel unwelcome, let him know!

### Active Parishioner Status

*We receive many requests for parishioners to be godparents or sponsors for the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation and to rightfully enjoy the number of services offered at Holy Angels Parish. Part of the request is to be able to verify that a person is an "active member"*

An "Active Member" is:

1. Properly registered on the parish rolls.
2. Faithfully attends Mass on Sundays and Holy Days.
3. Participates in parish activities/ministries when possible.
4. Uses the parish envelope system for donations. These are the main factors that will be considered in making the determination that someone is an "active member." Other criteria are also taken into consideration when requesting a sponsor certificate.
5. Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation and Holy Eucharist
6. If single, should not be co-habiting with significant other.

### Couples Planning Marriage

For couples who are planning to marry, please check the availability of our church prior to arranging venues.

### Adoration at the St. Pauline Center

Fridays and Saturdays 10:00AM- 4:00PM.

With Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at the St. Pauline Center, join us Fridays at 3:00 pm for praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet followed by recitation of the Rosary. Prayers are lead by one of the BF Associates of Holy Angels. All are welcome.

### Vigil Lights

August 15 thru August 21

Sanctuary Light: *Special intention*

St. Anthony: *In loving memory of*

Joseph Coroniti by Family

St. Anne: *Special intention*

St. Casimir: *Special intention*

St. Theresa: *Special intention*

St. Kateri: *In loving memory of*

*The Deceased of the Roberts Family by Joan Roberts*

St. Marziale: *In loving memory of*

*The Deceased of the Mattis Family by Joan Roberts*

Sacred Heart: *In loving memory of*

Elaine Duran by husband, Michael



### Parish Council Meeting

September 2, 2021 at 7:00PM  
in the rectory

### Finance Council Meeting

September 9, 2021 at 7:00PM  
in the rectory

### Adult Choir

Practice will be held on Wednesday, September 1,  
2021 at 7:00PM.

### Back to School Party

Students of Holy Angels Parish are invited to the Parish Back to School Party on Sunday, August 29 at 1:00PM in the Activity Center. School supplies will be given to each student and all can enjoy some goodies!

### K of C Wine Fest

Tickets are available at Holy Angels Parish Office for the K of C Wine Fest which will be held Saturday, October 16, 2021, 1:00-5:00PM on Holy Angels Picnic Ground. Donation \$20.00 pre-sale. (\$25.00 at the gate)

### Mount Carmel Area

Ministerium Food Pantry

Tuesday, September 7, 4:00-6:00PM

Wednesday, September 23, 1:00-3:00PM

Each household may visit the pantry once each month.

### PREP INFO

Registration forms for PREP Classes 2021-2022 are in the vestibule of the church. Anyone that has not registered, please complete a form and return it to the rectory ASAP. A student cannot be admitted without a completed registration. Also, remember that prior to First Communion a child must have 2 years of instruction. Any questions, call J. Foris at 570-490-0099.

### St. Pauline Society Annual Purse + More Raffle and Homemade Food Sale

Friday, September 10, 2021, 12:00 Noon-6:00PM

Saturday, September 11, 2021, 11:00AM-4:00PM

St. Pauline Center

1150 Chestnut Street, Kulpmont, PA

\$20 for a sheet of 26 tickets. After initial purchase, additional sheets of 26 tickets can be purchased for \$10.

Need not be present to win

Homemade food will be available for purchase as well as baked goods. Handicap accessible, parking in rear.

### Manna For The Many

Manna For The Many is a food pantry located at St. John's U.C.C. Church, 117 North 8<sup>th</sup> Street in Shamokin. This food pantry will now be serving the residents of the Mt. Carmel Area School District in addition to the Shamokin Area, Southern Columbia Area and Line Mountain Area School Districts. If you know of a person or family in need please share this information with them. The schedule is:

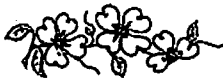
September 7, 9:00-11:00AM

September 8, 1:00-3:00PM

September 9, 6:00-8:00PM

The Harrisburg Diocesan Council of Catholic Women invites all women of the Diocese to join us at the Fall Mini Retreat on Saturday, September 25, 2021 at Saint Catherine Laboure Church, 4000 Derry Street, Harrisburg, PA 17111. The theme is "Joined in Our Faith". The day begins with registration at 8:15 a.m. Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. followed by 2 morning workshops, lunch and 1 afternoon workshop. The day will end with the Divine Mercy Chaplet and closing prayer. Register by contacting Brenda Wolf at 717-658-8191 or email: [brendaangel.musicwithmama@gmail.com](mailto:brendaangel.musicwithmama@gmail.com). Please make checks payable to: "Seton District Council of Catholic Women" Registration deadline is September 15, 2021. Please bring a Rosary and bible. See the HDCCW website, [hdccw.webs.com](http://hdccw.webs.com) for additional details and other Diocesan CCW information.

Our Lady of Hope Parish  
 Spaghetti Dinner  
 Friday, September 17, 2021  
 Parish Hall-Oak & Chestnut Street  
 Coal Township  
 4:00-6:00PM  
 Donation \$10.00  
 Includes: Spaghetti, meatballs, bread, salad & dessert.



**Annual Chicken BBQ**  
 Mother Cabrini Church, Shamokin will hold their Annual Chicken BBQ on Sunday, October 10, 2021 from 11:00AM – 1:00PM at the "Cabrini Shed", (corner of Race & Cherry Streets). The dinner will include a ½ chicken, baked potato, baked beans, cranberry sauce, roll and "a sweet". Donation \$10.00. Tickets can be purchased by calling Mother Cabrini Parish Office, 8AM to 4PM at 570-648-4512, ext. 1. Deadline to place an order is 12Noon on Friday, September 24<sup>th</sup>. (Take Out Only).

**Let us make our choice for Christ and live it:** We Christians have accepted the challenge of following the way of Christ and making choices for Christ, fortified by the Bread Jesus gives and relying on the power of the Holy Spirit. The Heavenly Bread and the Holy Spirit will give us the courage of our Christian convictions to accept the Church's teachings and to face ridicule, criticisms and even social isolation for our adherence to sound Christian principles in our lives. When the priest gives us Holy Communion saying, "*The Body of Christ*," we respond, "*Amen*." That "*Amen*," that "*Yes*," is not just an act of faith in the Real Presence; it is a total commitment of ourselves to Jesus in the community of which we are members. We must accept him totally, without any conditions or reservations. Christ's thoughts and attitudes, values, and life-view must become totally ours, and must govern and shape our lives. Above all, we are to identify with Jesus in the Self-gift of God's Love for us, Christ's Crucifixion, death and Resurrection, sealing the New Covenant with all mankind in His Blood, a Self-gift of Love extended to us in the Eucharist with Jesus' Body and Blood becoming our spiritual Food and Drink. 2) Let us not choose other gods as unfaithful Israelites did. The other gods we choose are money, sex, power and social influence, ego and so many others. They separate us eternally from God who loves us and continues to save us through Jesus His Son and through the grace of His Holy Spirit

### JULY 2021 REVENUE OPERATING INCOME

	Current Month	Year-to-Date
<b>Ordinary Income</b>	<b>\$17,697.00</b>	<b>\$17,697.00</b>
<b>General Fund Raising Activities</b>	<b>\$1,031.31</b>	<b>\$1,031.31</b>
<b>Extraordinary Income</b>	<b>\$4,539.00</b>	<b>\$4,539.00</b>
<b>Total Operating Income</b>	<b>\$23,267.31</b>	<b>\$23,267.31</b>
<b>Non-Operating Income</b>	<b>\$5,529.57</b>	<b>\$5,529.57</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$28,796.88</b>	<b>\$28,796.88</b>

### EXPENSES OPERATING EXPENDITURES

<b>Salaries</b>	<b>\$10,422.10</b>	<b>\$10,422.10</b>
<b>Employee Benefits</b>	<b>\$5,265.35</b>	<b>\$5,265.35</b>
<b>Purchased Services</b>	<b>\$20,830.63</b>	<b>\$20,830.63</b>
<b>Other Expenses</b>	---	---
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$36,518.08</b>	<b>\$36,518.08</b>

<b>Non-Operating Expenses</b>	<b>\$981.00</b>	<b>\$981.00</b>
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>\$37,499.08</b>	<b>\$37,499.08</b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenditures</b>	<b>(\$8,702.20)</b>	<b>(\$8,702.20)</b>

Ending Cash Balance for July was \$8,702.00 in the red. Funds taken out to pay \$8,702.20 from the Parish Fund-raising Account. Should be in the black for the end of the month.

## 2021 HOLY ANGELS BASKET WINNERS

Basket	Winning Number	Name	Basket	Winning Number	Name
1. Money Fan	86	Ashley Koschoff	63. Nifty Nails	2544	Liberty Picorelli
2. Italian Delight	4399	Donna Lazarski	64. Polka Dots	1820	Maria Callahan
3. Fire Safety	755	Diane McAndrew	65. Little Nittany Lion	1466	Deb Mazer
4. Patio Décor	669	Juliet McHale	66. Almost Autumn	1046	M. Stellar
5. Penelope's Garden	3997	Bernice Martin	67. Be Mine	302	Claire Smith
6. Just in Case	3923	Sandra Nahodil	68. \$100 Detail Package	1032	Amanda Horan
7. Gone Fishin	2510	Karen Blue	69. Salon 42	2211	Jill Olah
8. Make a Splash	2198	Tiffany Straub	70. Lucky Lotto	333	Roseann Anderson
9. Relaxing in the Woods	63	Marie Conlin	71. Trolls	1534	Marge Yakim
10. Decorative Table & Lamp	3896	Michelle Varano	72. Playing with Sand	1434	Sandy Berge
11. Around the Campfire	1047	S. Baker	73. Clean Cut	4074	Nancy Troxell
12. Blanket & Stand	2076	Helene Niglio	74. Party on the Deck	4450	Kathy James
13. Online Shopper	2087	Bizzness	75. Hearth and Hand	3582	Kerry Trent
14. Creative Kids	660	Olivia Depka	76. Pizza Party	4275	Lisa Lamothe
15. Libson Medallion	338	Brooke Karycki	77. Happy Tails	964	Chaide Worhach
16. Italian Dining	2559	Marge Coleman	78. Springtime	3934	Mackenzie Stewart
17. Salon Touch	1738	Jean Gasperetti	79. Pasta Party	1490	Ginny Kimmel
18. All About Hair	3629	Phoenix Lehman	80. Berry Lucky	1954	April Rhoads
19. Game Day	4207	Jennifer Dobszyn	81. Snowy Fun	1449	Maria Williams
20. Mix it Up	3933	Mackenzie Stewart	82. For your Dining Pleasure	2030	John Ayers
21. Bathing Beauty	437	Kristin Bullock	83. Christmas is Coming!	2088	Bizzness
22. Scratch-n-Snack	833	Judy Mehlbaum	84. Pioneer Woman	793	Melissa Kinn
23. Totally Towels	1605	Louise Beirschmitt	85. Let's Go Phils!	2793	Elaine Baksi
24. Patriotic Picnic	143	Barb Kranzel	86. Decorating for Fall	4265	Deb Bordell
25. Squeaky Clean	688	Tammy Drumheiser	87. Outdoor Fun	229	April Flederbach
26. Let's Brew	2324	Sue Mannello	88. Back to School (Girls)	2317	Joanne Templin
27. Back to School (Boys)	3794	Faith Bolick	89. All Aboard	162	Brenda Toter
28. Cat's Meow	2674	Eric McCabe	90. Baking Delight	891	Jessica Conlin
29. Head to Toe	4020	Becky Schmidt	91. Home Sweet Home	873	Mary Jean Sulham
30. Bath & Body	1972	Renee Scicchitano	92. Yankee Candle	773	Laurie Stewart
31. Maggie & Zoe	4708	Sophia Gownley	93. Red Raider	965	Chaide Worhach
32. Luck of the Irish	41	Stephanie Strayer	94. Save It	3663	Michael Zlotorzynski
33. 20" Boys Bike	18	Harper Morgan	95. Coach Wallet	2417	Carol Ennis
34. Silver & Gold	3606	Reggie Poplaski	96. K-Elite Keurig	253	Jeanette Tomcavage
35. Golf & Lunch	2909	Krystal Miner	97. Keep on Scratchin	3745	Morcella Nahodil
36. Serenity	3020	Catherine	98. Home	3739	Annette
37. Wooden Musical Nativity	2859	Matthew	99. Keeping Cool	3526	Dixie Reed
38. Function of Beauty (2)	3782	Joan Yeager	100. God Bless America	1840	Jackie Moncavage
39. Beverage Refrigerator	921	Lisa Kelly	101. Serene and Clean	3306	Lori Schwartz
40. Shimmering Wic	1576	Kathy Cipriani	102. Let's Shop	1854	Patty Quinn
41. Sip Away	1114	Elizabeth Arbogast	103. HESS	896	Tommy Conlin
42. Maize Medallion	71	Kelly	104. Let's Order Out	3435	Robert Wesloskie
43. Fun, Food & Fantasy	2353	Tammy Gratti	105. Summer Wreath	246	Deb Betz
44. American Picnic	3807	Eileen Zarski	106. Huffly Girls Bike	3422	Jack Gasperetti
45. Tiny Paws	1385	Missy Muldowney	107. Christmas Angel	4184	Elizabeth Sassani
46. Diamond & Sapphire	1222	Cindy Saukaitis	108. Good Times	2512	Brenda Przekop
47. Subway	1976	Jeanette Seeley	109. Beach Day	3561	Mary Genetti
48. No Big Deal	650	Karla Zlocki	110. Purity	4151	Ellen Jane Knerr
49. Feeling Pampered	2582	Sue Horan	111. The Difference	2681	Ashley Carnuccio
50. Happy Hundred	3720	Diane Sosnoski	112. Goodnight	4758	Dena Serovich
51. Bissel Zing	4198	Tasha Williams	113. Catino Vino	1872	Rebecca Razzis
52. Cut & Fry	954	Kathy Hoffman	114. Clean Cooking	3120	Linda Harris
53. Happy Easter	17	Harper Morgan	115. Cozy with a Book	289	Richie Ringes
54. Frozen	1819	Maria Callahan	116. Shimock's Flag	2859	Matthew
55. Tony Romo Helmet	1265	Tina Hoffman	117. Independence Day	2912	Krystal Miner
56. Wine A Little	2455	Jennifer Dobrzyn	118. We Can Build a Snowman	2985	Mary Yost
57. Swimming with Friends	2507	Karen Blue	119. Garden & Patio	2221	Jose Gonzalo
58. Merry Christmas	1274	Tom Williams	120. Thanksgiving	325	Thomas Moser
59. Penn State Dooney	2633	Danielle Arbogast	121. Collect Your Thoughts	1159	Cindy Derk
60. Summer Picnic	2098	Andy Zubal	122. Restful Night	1592	Nicole Komara
61. Country Decor	4722	Mary Mag	123. Mary's Grotto	2209	Chris Lutz
62. Kenny Chesney Album	1531	Marge Yakim	124. Summer Fun	3658	Tora Cohak
			125. Family Dinner	1375	Frank Miller
			126. Household Chores	1530	Marge Yakim

- 127. Gadgets 4378 Deb Ortona
- 128. Bed & Bath 2804 Kathy Bowden
- 129. Melissa & Doug 342 Aaron Walter
- 130. We Are Penn State 1429 Peyton Worhach
- 131. Working From Home 2367 Amy Deitrick
- 132. Laundry Day 1764 Carol Pachutskie
- 133. Sunday Fun 4405 Trisha Kazmerski
- 134. Baking Bonanza 4463 M.A. Dormer
- 135. Fall Wreath 984 Maggie Popson
- 136. Angel Statue 628 Jeannie Sheganoski
- 137. Getting Crafty 1176 Gerry Moran
- 138. Puppy Love 1684 Maura Frasch
- 139. Project Platform 1648 Joe Miller
- 140. Little Guy 3035 Weston Reuter
- 141. Complete Bathroom 65 Marie Conlin
- 142. Fun For Kids 1068 Don Combs
- 143. Welcome to Our Garden 2316 Joanne Templin
- 144. Simple Human 2272 Paula Bernini
- 145. Game Night 2823 April Domanskie
- 146. Function of Beauty (1) 4285 Jennifer Morris
- 147. Our Lady of Fatima 4097 Deb Adams
- 148. Making Christmas Fun 2303 Debbie Perles
- 149. Pancakes-N-Waffles 4040 Paige Coulter
- 150. Big Ben 2395 Madison Grosser
- 151. Fun On-The-Go 2025 Theresa Korenkiewicz
- 152. Car Care 2613 Bob Heraty
- 153. Blue Chair Bay 1308 Tim Wargo
- 154. College Bound 2238 Jill Fisher
- 155. Landscape Services 4119 Ruth Ann Helfrick
- 156. \$75 Cash 3773 Jackie Butler
- 157. Girls Bike & Helmet 1765 Carol Pachutski

- A. TV 668 LUKE
- B. Kayak 99 Davion Bradley
- C. Gas Grill 686 Lucy Kaminsky
- D. Griddle 97 Jason Johns
- E. \$500 145 Cecelia Rose

**Winner of the 50/50 Money Raffle  
Erica Mirarck!  
\$4,153.00**

# Dear Padre,

**My husband has vascular dementia and is unable to make an examination of conscience. Part of the anointing of the sick involves the confession of sins, so will it be valid when he receives it?**

If circumstances permit, the sacrament of anointing of the sick may be preceded by the sacrament of penance and followed by the sacrament of the Eucharist (*Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1517).

However, when conditions such as your husband's don't allow this, judgment on the suitability for anointing is to be made prudently and without scruple (*Pastoral Care of the Sick*, 8).

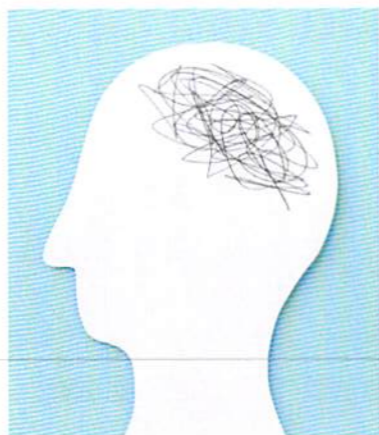
For example, anointing is conferred on people who have lost consciousness or the use of reason if, as Christian believers, they would have "at least implicitly asked for it when they were in control of their faculties" (PCS 14). Therefore, because of the degree of brain-function loss in this circumstance, the sacrament of anointing also absolves any sins.

When a habitual desire to die as a faithful Catholic is implied before a person's illness, the special grace of the sacrament of anointing has this as one of its effects: "the forgiveness of sins, if the sick person was not able to obtain it through the sacrament of Penance" (CCC 1532).

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR | [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

**Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to submit your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.



## Calendar

**Monday**  
AUGUST 23  
Weekday  
1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10  
Mt 23:13-22

**Tuesday**  
AUGUST 24  
St. Bartholomew,  
Apostle  
Rv 21:9b-14  
Jn 1:45-51

**Wednesday**  
AUGUST 25  
Weekday  
1 Thes 2:9-13  
Mt 23:27-32

**Thursday**  
AUGUST 26  
Weekday  
1 Thes 3:7-13  
Mt 24:42-51

**Friday**  
AUGUST 27  
St. Monica  
1 Thes 4:1-8  
Mt 25:1-13

**Saturday**  
AUGUST 28  
St. Augustine,  
Bishop and Doctor  
of the Church  
1 Thes 4:9-11  
Mt 25:14-30

**Sunday**  
AUGUST 29  
Twenty-second Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
Dt 4:1-2, 6-8  
Jas 1:17-18,  
21b-22, 27  
Mk 7:1-8, 14-15,  
21-23

# Ow'r Parish COMMUNITY

August 22, 2021

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Jos 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b

Eph 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32

In 6:60-69

Simon Peter answered... "You have the words of eternal life.  
We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God."

JOHN 6:68-69

## Make Up Your Mind

One can say that life is a series of choices. You have to make up your mind; which shall it be? Some of these choices are insignificant: red or green? Others are much more important: To what shall I commit my life? Shall I get married? There are some choices that are even more momentous: What kind of a person do I want to be—trustworthy or crafty? Should I even bother with God and religion?

Having spent a lifetime in the wilderness, the Israelites were poised in the land of the Amorites, ready to enter the land promised to them by God. Before they moved forward, a pressing decision had to be made. Which god were they going to worship? A Canaanite god who presumably made the land before them fertile and inviting? Or the God who delivered them from Egypt, fed them in the wilderness, brought them safely to this point, and yet with whom they

quarreled throughout their wilderness sojourn? Joshua voiced his decision: "As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD" (Joshua 24:15).

Jesus' declaration of himself as "the bread of life" (John 6:35) troubled many people. It was then, and still is today, a difficult saying. It was repulsive to many, and they thought that Jesus sounded blasphemous. Those who could not accept his claim, left him. He asked his closest followers, as he asks us today: "Do you also want to leave?" Speaking for all, Peter replied: "Master, to whom shall we go?" (John 6:67-68). How might you answer?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ★ What decisions of conscience has life placed before you? How did you decide?
- ★ Trust in God's care and protection even if you might have chosen better.



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

When someone is sick, we at times think: "Let's call for the priest to come"; "No, then he will bring bad luck. Let's not call him."...The idea is floating about that the undertakers arrive after the priest, and this is not true....It is Jesus himself who comes to relieve the sick person...and also to forgive his sins.

GENERAL AUDIENCE, FEBRUARY 26, 2014