

AUGUST 22, 2021

THE TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FIRST READING — (JOSHUA 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b). Joshua challenges the Israelites to serve either the Lord or other gods. They choose the Lord

PSALM 34 — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

SECOND READING — (EPHESIANS 5:21-32 [2a, 25-32]). Paul reflects on how husbands and wives should reverence and love each other.

GOSPEL — JOHN 6:60-69. Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life.

GOD'S WORD TODAY: Jesus, you came from the Father and returned to the Father and remain ever near the Father's heart. You remain the Father's Word of love to us, the Word of the Father's commitment to us; draw us into being "Amen" as you were also "Amen" to the Father's will. Amen.



INTENTIONS FOR OUR WEEKLY LITURGIES

MONDAY-8/23

8:00 A.M.

Frank & Josephine Larosa (Maureen B Smallacombe)

Saint Rose of Lima, Virgin

TUESDAY-8/24

8:00 A.M.

Deceased of the Butwill Family (Ursula & Jessica Davis)

Saint Bartholomew, Apostle

WEDNESDAY-8/25

8:00 A.M.

Frank Ryczack Sr (Paul and Karen Konosky)

Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest

THURSDAY-8/26

8:00 A.M.

Margaret Mary Barlow (4th Grade C.C.D)

FRIDAY-8/27

8:00 A.M.

David L. Tressler (Annette O'Bell)

Saint Monica

SATURDAY-8/28

4:00 P.M.

Peter & Marie Spalnick (Diane & Bob Chelik)

SUNDAY-8/29-THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

8:00 A.M.

Frank Ryczack (Louise Fritchey)

10:30 A.M.

Jerry Gilhooley (Andy & Margaret Franks)

12:00 P.M.-SPANISH MASS

People of the Parish



WORD OF LIFE: "God's love: individual, real, unchanging; is the true source of our Worth, identify, and dignity. It really is not a question of who we are, but rather Whose we are. Because his love will never change, nothing can reduce our God-given Dignity, and nothing can diminish the immeasurable worth of our lives."

USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities



MASS INTENTIONS 2022: The Mass Book for 2022 is now open and available to schedule Masses for your deceased loved ones. We are in need of Masses for this year and next year. Please consider Masses for your loved one's intentions.

OUR WEEKLY COLLECTION AUGUST 22, 2021

OFFERTORY	\$3,081.50
ON-LINE GIVING	\$210.00
DUES/SALARY	\$206.00
SECOND COLLECTION	\$115.00
INCOME	=\$3,601.00
AVERAGE WEEKLY EXPENSES	=\$7,213.50

COUNTERS FOR MONDAY AUGUST 23, 2021

Dorothy Perry
Mary Fran Smith
Sandra Mullen



Simon Peter answered him,
 “Master, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life.
 We have come to believe
 and are convinced that you are the
 Holy One of God.”

If you have ever read a book on parenting, you know the power inherent in presenting choices to a child. No matter the method or style, most childrearing gurus worth their salt will tell you that raising kids is all about helping them handle choices. Their life, after all, will surely be full of important ones, large and small, and the parent who seeks to shelter a child from making his own choices is living in denial of that inevitable future.

Our God is no different. He is the ultimate father — which is precisely what sets Him apart from false deities. God lets us choose Him. He does not trick us. He does not lie in wait. He does not blackmail or entrap us. He has all the strength in the universe, but He does not use an ounce of it to force us to do anything. His authority over us is the kind that never chafes, because it is entirely divorced from the concept of power. The choice to obey is ours.

In fact, at the single most important moment of salvation history — the Incarnation — He even gave the Blessed Mother a choice. The salvation of humanity hung upon the decision of a teenage girl to obey the will of God, but still, He did not force it upon her. He gave her a choice.

Ironically, it is the devil who doesn't seem to want to give us a choice — probably because he knows that if we had a choice, a real and fair choice, we would never decide to be separated from the love of our Creator, the only One in whom our restless hearts can ever find rest. It is the devil who wins souls through deceit and coercion, who preys on feelings of desperation, isolation, and confusion.

In today's Gospel, we see many of Jesus' disciples reject him because they could neither understand nor accept the teaching about eating his flesh and drinking his blood. Instead of mocking, chastising, or berating them, Jesus instead shows gentleness, and asks his remaining disciples if they, too, wish to leave.

There was a time in my life when I thought that perhaps I would be happier without religion. I was plagued by doubts. I was tired of fighting them, and tired of this idea that because I submitted to religion, I was not “making my own choices.” I wanted to be the one in charge. I wanted to be the head of my own destiny. I didn't want to rely on this God I wasn't sure I could trust. I wasn't sure I liked or understood the rules He had and thought I might be the first human in history to figure out some better ones.

But in the end, I realized that by believing in God and following His laws, I had indeed been making my own choices. I had never been enslaved — quite the opposite, I had been exercising my free will. Christ had been asking me all along, the same as he did with Simon Peter: “Do you also want to leave?”

And the message I heard coming from deep within myself was the same one that sprang from the lips of Simon Peter in response to Christ: “Master, to whom shall I go? Only you have the words of eternal life.” *Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR WEEK-END AUGUST 28

	<u>4:00 P.M.</u>	<u>8:00 A.M.</u>	<u>10:30 A.M.</u>
E. MINISTER	J. Rzucidlo	M. Sparato	J. Owen
LECTOR	J. Joyce	S. Serniak	K. Owen

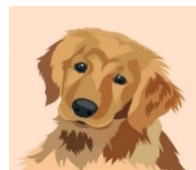
MASKS ENCOURAGED: Bishop Bambera strongly recommends masks for all parishioners at Mass due to the continued spread of the virus, regardless of their vaccination status, while masks are not be mandated at this time, we all have a responsibility to be humble, put aside our pride, and political beliefs and just wear the mask to protect our friends and neighbors.



CHRISTMAS CASH UPDATE: Congratulations to Elliannia Vietneier, the first Christmas Cash Early Bird winner! Thanks to your generosity, we are just a few tickets away from 300 tickets sold! If you have friends or family who haven't purchased a ticket, it's not too late, the more tickets sold, the greater the profit for the church!



BAKE SALE: The annual Mary Perrault Memorial Bake Sale will be held before and after all Masses on the weekend of September 11-12. Baked goods can be dropped off on Friday, September 10, between 3-5PM in the church basement. Please contact Mary Malec (home; 570-319-1028 or cell: 570-862-4725) if you are able to bake for the sale. ***Please note: baked goods should not need to be refrigerated.*** Thank you in advance for your generosity and support!



SONNY SAYS: What was Adam and Eve's phone number?
 Answer- 1-800-I-8-1 A-P-P-L-E.



THANK YOU: To all who made our Yard Sale a success. All seemed to have a great time. Thank you to the Holy Name Society for another wonderful parish picnic. All the planning and hard work are much appreciated.



CONGRATULATIONS TO: Mr & Mrs. John Paul Gregory who were married last Saturday. God bless you.



Solemn Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT: Will be celebrated this last Thursday of the month, August 26 from 7-8PM. Come spend 1 hour with our Lord.

RAYE