

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time A

Who was Shebna? Who was Eliakim? Why did Shebna lose his job to Eliakim? Why should we care? These questions are pretty irrelevant. Today's reading from Isaiah was clearly selected only because of its reference to keys.

The questions in today's Gospel, on the other hand, are far from irrelevant.

Can you imagine a head of state or a pope asking his closest associates, "Who do people say that I am?" The more normal question would be, "What are people saying about me?"

The disciples felt no need, apparently, to ask what Jesus meant, and they gave precisely the kind of answer he was looking for: "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." (How anyone could think he was John the Baptist, whose death was so recent, is beyond me.)

When Jesus asked the disciples the more pointed question, "Who do you say that I am?" again they understood, and Simon responded accordingly, "You are the Christ, the Son of the Living God."

It is amazing how many different answers are given today to this question. Over the years there have been articles in print or on-line making some interesting claims.

Some argue that Jesus was a married man, because men in his day were expected to marry, and the Gospels never say that he was not married. (Mary Magdalen is usually the most likely candidate as his wife.)

Or: Jesus was a vegetarian. This idea is supported, among others, by the scene of Jesus casting out the sellers, which is interpreted as showing that Jesus was opposed to animal sacrifice. This is from an author associated with a group called "Denver Vegans." There is even a book, published in 2003 by the Law and Business Institute, with the following title: *Judith Christ of Nazareth: The Gospels of the Bible, Corrected to Reflect that Christ was a Woman*. Unlike the previously

mentioned articles, the authors make no attempt to justify their claim from Scripture.

As you can imagine, there are similar positions taken by various other interest groups, each claiming Jesus as one of their own.

In a way, that is a compliment to him. It shows how important it is to believers to have Jesus "on their side." One could even claim that Simon's response was similar. Who was "the Christ," after all? In Hebrew the word is "Messiah," and the Messiah was the one who would ultimately "restore the kingdom to Israel" (Acts 1:6). Who could be more desirable as "one of ours" for the Jewish people?

Simon's statement could perhaps be seen as politically self-serving, except that Jesus says, "Blessed are you..., flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father."

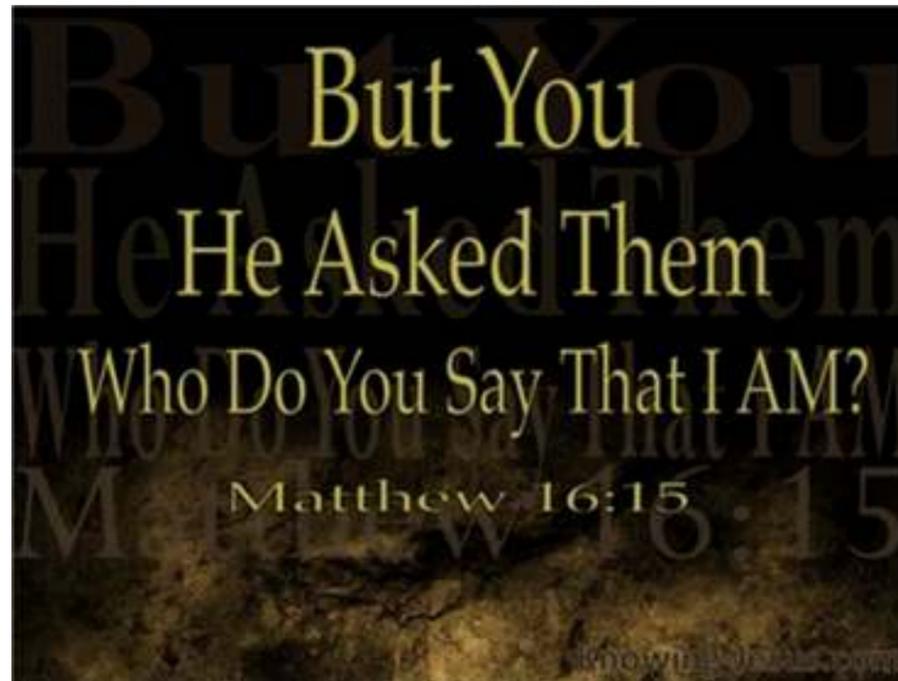
After Simon, under divine inspiration, has named Jesus correctly as the Christ, Jesus repays the compliment. In effect he says, you have told me who I am, now I will tell you who you are: "You are Peter." The name means Rock. The interpretation of this name varies, naturally, according to the presuppositions and/or desires of those interpreting it.

In the Creed we profess our faith in Jesus: Lord, Son of God, born of a virgin, risen from the dead, etc.

Imagine Jesus saying to you after that, "Thank you for your expression of faith, and for recognizing me for who I am. Now let me tell you who you are."

What does he say next?

St. Benedict the Moor Church



Our Mission

St. Benedict the Moor is a Catholic Christian Community that celebrates its African-American heritage and welcomes cultural diversity. Join us at the Table of the Eucharist as sisters and brothers in the Lord. We are committed to grow and diversify the Church through the new evangelization, family, catechesis, young adult ministry and outreach to the poor. In the spirit of the prophet Joshua, we can say:

"As for me and my household; we will serve the Lord."

August 23, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

*"Lord, your love is eternal;
do not forsake the work of your hands."*

St Benedict the Moor Parish

Sunday Mass: 10:30 am
Daily Masses: Mon.-Fri. 12:00 noon
Saturday: 8 am
Holy Days of Obligation:
Mass: 12 noon & 6:30 pm
(Exceptions will be posted)
Sacrament of Penance: Divine Mercy
Room Saturday 8:30-9:30am
or by Appointment

Emergencies:
call Fr.Noel: 410-818-8149
Office: 706- 323-8300

Communications
Address: St. Benedict the Moor
2935 9th Street
Columbus, Georgia 31906

Pastor

Fr. Noel Danielewicz, OFM Conv.
tau1226@gmail.com
410-818-8149

Staff

Administrative Assistant
Deborah Thompson

Director of Religious Education
Gail Buffong
706-536-8468

Director of Outreach
Beverly Casimier

Music Ministry
Mary Beth Kozee/Joe Saulsbury

Office Hours:
Pastor: Monday-Friday 10-11:30 am
1:00-3:00 pm

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stbenedict07@knology.net
Phone: 706- 323-8300
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Website
stbenedictthemoorcolumbus.org

Church
2930 Thomas Street
Columbus, GA 31906
Community Hall/Office
2935 9th St.
Columbus GA 31906

Altar Flowers



Flowers were donated in memory of
Concepcion Bishop

by
Celia Mason-Ferguson

Update

Fr. Noel sends his blessings to all. He is continuing therapy and is continually improving. He is looking forward to returning and seeing you all. Keep praying for total recovery.



Sunday Mass

Priests from St. Anne will be celebrating Sunday Mass at the regular time of 10:30am each Sunday until Fr. Noel's return. Safety measures are in place for your comfort and protection. The Church is cleaned and sanitized after each use. Pews have been sectioned off for safe seating.

Stewardship Report

Week of Aug. 16, 2020

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| Offertory envelopes | \$2436.00 |
| On-line | 375.00 |
| Utilities On-line | 50.00 |
| Kitchen Renovation | 25.00 |
| Church Repair | 25.00 |
| Friars in Formation | 220.00 |
| Repast | 15.00 |
| Altar Flowers | 100.00 |

August Saints

St. Monica, born in what is known now as Algeria in 322, was married by arrangement to a pagan official in North Africa, who was much older than she, and although generous, was also violent tempered. His mother lived with them and was equally difficult, which proved a constant challenge to St. Monica. She had three children: Augustine, Navigius, and Perpetua. Through her patience and prayers, she was able to convert her husband and his mother to the Catholic faith in three-hundred seventy. Her husband died a year later. Her children Navigius and Perpetua entered religious life, but, Augustine was much more difficult. She prayed and cried for 17 years for Augustine to change from a life of sin. She had the joy of seeing him convert to Christianity after 17 years of resistance when he was baptized by St. Ambrose in three-hundred eighty-seven. She died that same year. Her son, Augustine, went on to do great things.

Her feast day is August 27. St. Monica is known as the patron saint of abuse victims, wives, alcoholics, and widows.

The city of [Santa Monica, California](#), is named after Monica.

St. Augustine of Hippo, the famous son of St. Monica, was born in Africa and spent many years of his life in wicked living and in false beliefs. Though he was one of the most intelligent men who ever lived and though he had been brought up a Christian, his sins of impurity and his pride darkened his mind so much, that he could not see or understand the Divine Truth anymore. Through the prayers of his holy mother and the marvelous preaching of St. Ambrose, Augustine finally became convinced that Christianity was the one true religion.

He was baptized, became a priest, a bishop, a famous Catholic writer, founder of religious priests, and one of the greatest saints that ever lived. He became devout and charitable, too.

St. Augustine overcame strong heresies, practiced great poverty and supported the poor, preached very often and prayed with great fervor right up until his death. "Too late have I loved you!" he once cried to God, but with his holy life he certainly made up for the sins he committed before his conversion.

His feast day is August 28th.

St. Augustine is the patron saint of brewers.

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING 1 Is 22:19-23

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace: "I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

READING Rom 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! *For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid?* For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

GOSPEL Mt 16:13-20

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "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." Then he strictly ordered his disciples to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Food Distribution

Distribution of food for our community will continue every Thursday at 8:30am. We will be receiving food from "**Feeding the Valley.**" If you know someone in need, please get the word out. If you would like to volunteer, please call the office and let us know of your availability. In addition, the Outreach Program will be serving a hot lunch on Tuesdays. These will be go-plates and will be distributed from 12 noon to 12:45pm.

Spiritual Communion

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

"Lord Jesus Christ, you promised to be with your church always, until the end of time. We long to experience your presence more deeply and more intimately even when we cannot gather in person as church to celebrate Eucharist. We believe that you are present when we gather to worship.

We believe that you are present in the ordained minister and in your sacred Word when the scriptures are proclaimed. And we believe that you are present when your sacred body and blood become our food and drink. Our relationship with you is truly grace. When I am not able to be physically present at the Eucharist with the community, help me to strengthen and deepen my relationship with you as I seek to encounter and serve you, not only in prayer but in all I meet, especially in the poor and needy of our world. Amen!

IN OUR PRAYERS

Our sick list is for parishioners, family and friends in need of prayer. Please keep our list current by calling the office to add or remove a name.

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| Fr. Noel Danielewicz | Ida Ruth Lane |
| Sr. Agnes, fsma | Mittie Lewis |
| Sr. Delores Anne, cssf | Sr. Maximiliana, PC |
| Helen Bell | Fr. Jeremiah McCarthy |
| Amanda Cole | Delores McLeod |
| Mik Cole | Ruben Meinhofer & Fam. |
| Robert Cole | Denvey Nelson |
| Robert Dozier | Sr. Norberta, fsma |
| Bertha Gibbs | Cordell Parker |
| Yvonne Gilberti | Gwendolyn Parker |
| Elizabeth Grey | Debra Pough |
| Ginnette Hughes | Evelyn Pough |
| Clarence Johnson | Marcus Ransom |
| Donald Julien | Lydia Sliva |
| Paul Julien | Madeline Smith |
| Earl King | Dorothy Stewart |
| Elvia King | Friar Jude Winkler |
| Michael King | |
| Lenny Korona | |