

August 18, 2019

Ordinary Time
Twentieth Sunday



A Cloud of Witnesses

That Jesus would have his disciples fully aware of the cost of discipleship is clearly enunciated in today's gospel. He had come to kindle fire, to experience a baptism of suffering and death and to cause a crisis of decision that would divide and sever even the deepest of human blood bonds. Those who would follow him would become shareres in all three aspects of his saving work, in the fire, the baptism and the crisis of decision and division. To accept this ultimatum is to accept that we, his faithful witnesses on earth are also dead men and women walking towards a life that never ends, surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses who have already made the trip.

MASS INTENTIONS



Saturday, August 24
4:30 p.m. Ernest Kubenka & Steve Kubenka
Sunday, August 25
8:00 a.m. In Thanksgiving To God For a Successful Picnic

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Isaiah 66:18-21
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 117
Second Reading: Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13
Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

**The Sanctuary Light
will be lit this week
in memory of Sylvia E. & Fred H. Holub**



REFLECTION

Fire! Baptism! Division!

The words of Jesus in today's gospel are confrontational and adversarial in tone. By announcing his purpose on earth in terms of *fire*, *baptism*, and *division*, Jesus made it clear that those who would follow him would, by their decision, become vulnerable to the same suffering that he would bear for the salvation of sinners. Baptism, in this particular context, did not refer to the sacrament through which believers would be initiated into dying and rising of Jesus. Rather, baptism in this gospel refers to the suffering which Jesus would endure for the salvation of sinners.

From the outset and through his infancy narratives, Luke had presented Jesus and his mission in such terms. Recall the prophecy of Simeon: "Behold this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel and to be a sign that will be contradicted so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed" (Lk 2:34-35). In other words, through Jesus, and hinging on their acceptance and/or rejection of him, mankind will become divided into believers who will share in his life and disbelievers who have chosen death. Moreover, an individual's acceptance of Jesus' words and works will set him/her at odds with those who reject him; even familial bonds are less binding than those formed by faith.

Until Jesus comes again to definitely and universally establish the Kingdom of God, the twin specters of fire and division will confront his followers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



August 20 – Charlie Bartos, Sarah Hill
August 21 – Kimberlyn Michalec
August 23 – Doris Kalina
August 24 – Marilyn Cerny

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



August 19 – Johnnye & Jack Jameyson

Picnic Update

Judging by the size of the size of the crowd on Thursday, the Picnic was a success. We thank all parishioners and out-of-town friends of the parish who contributed to the success of the Picnic. We are working on the final Picnic figures.

The Moulton Church Picnic is less than a month away – September 15. Do not forget to support the Moulton Picnic. Many Moulton parishioners donated, worked and helped in various ways to make the Praha Picnic successful. Again, thank you for your support.