

August 17, 2025

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 | Heb 12:1-4 | Lk 12:49-53

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

Today's readings acknowledge the real challenges of living our faith. Following Christ will sometimes put us at odds with others – an uncomfortable reality that many will face in our broken and divided world. Yet we can find strength knowing that Jesus understands the constant opposition (both inward and outward) that we face. The second reading says, “Consider how he endured such opposition from sinners.” Jesus knows what it's like to face opposition, but he endured it “for the sake of the joy that lay before him.” That is our calling too. We are made to know the joy that awaits us beyond our crosses. We find the strength to persevere through our trials by “keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus.” Keeping Christ as our focus, we will be able to overcome any obstacle we may face and run toward the goal of heaven.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In today's Gospel, Jesus said, “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing.” Jesus' desire is that the whole world be set aflame with his love, and yet, he knows that this will not come easily. The good news is that Jesus is with us in the midst of the struggle. He too knows the deep longing and even anguish (the Gospel today uses that word!) that we experience as we work so that others may come to know God's love. We can take comfort in the fact that as much as we want to see others come to faith, God desires it even more than we do, and he is also pouring out his grace continually upon us. In the midst of any discouragement we may feel about those who seem opposed to God and to faith, may we remember the burning love that Christ has and his immense desire to draw all people to himself.

PRAY

Pray for those whom you may know who seem closed to the Gospel, or who are away from the Church. Invite the Holy Spirit to touch your heart with a particular love and zeal to pray for them, that those who may seem the most opposed to faith might come, one day, to embrace it.

“
*I have come to
set the earth on
fire, and how
I wish it were
already blazing!*
”

LK 12:49



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

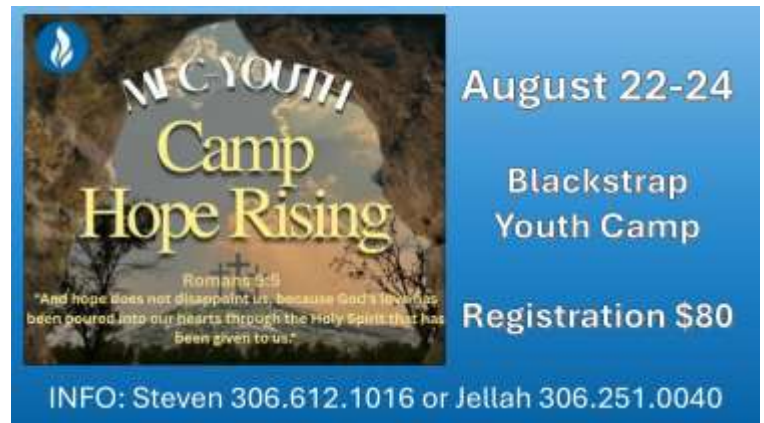
114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7
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holyspiritsaskatoon.ca

OUR MISSION

‘Inspired by the Holy Spirit we are a Eucharistic community called by God
To share the love of Jesus Christ and create a welcoming parish of renewal and mission.’

THIS WEEK

AUGUST 17	AUGUST 18	AUGUST 19	AUGUST 20	AUGUST 21	AUGUST 22	AUGUST 23
10a Mass 12p Mass 1-4p Adoration 7p Mass		8:30a Mass	8:30a Mass	8:30a Mass	8:30a Mass 9a-12p Adoration	11a-12p Confession 5p Mass



"As we gather here today, we acknowledge we are on Treaty 6 Territory and the Homeland of the Métis. We pay our respect to the First Nations and Métis ancestors of this place and reaffirm our relationship with one another."

PASTOR • Fr. Joseph Salihu jsalihu@rcdos.ca

ASSOCIATE PASTOR • Michael Magaji mmagaji@rcdos.ca

For mutual coexistence.

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons. AUGUST 2025

WE PLEDGE 5%

The Micah Mission exists as an expression of the church's calling to **"do justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God."** (Micah 6. 6-8). Guided by the principles of Restorative Justice, Micah is motivated to create a world where individuals and communities are restored to caring and respectful relationships in the wake of harm from crime. Our mission is to transform the lives of incarcerated individuals, formerly incarcerated individuals, and their families. We do this by being **"tough on crime one friendship at a time"**. How is friendship being tough on crime? It is a vital part of community restoration, and offers individuals who cause harm an opportunity to understand the harm they have caused and develop plans to take appropriate responsibility by valuing personal change, accountability, and encouraging collaboration and reintegration rather than coercion and isolation. www.themicahmission.org

Saskatoon Pregnancy Options & Support Centre Fall Gala

SAVE THE DATE

September 26

For any enquiries please contact us at **306-665-7550**
contact@saskatoonpregnancyoptions.com

Identity Theft & Fraud Prevention Seminar

A seminar for anyone who wants to prevent fraud whether through scam phone calls, emails, text and more.

Saturday, September 20 9:15am to 11:30am at College Park Covenant Church
909 Acadia Drive, Saskatoon, SK

Facilitated by Maggie Gao and Stephanie Burkell (trained facilitators provided by the Saskatchewan Association of Credit Unions)

Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/w6B7fmaUFF5zJcNY7>

By Wednesday, September 17

We'd love to have you!

- CPCC leaders

LET US PRAY

- For the sick and all those who care for them, today we pray for: Callam Olver, Bob Kudel, Sandy Disanayake, Vera Wolkosky, Evangeline Manzon, Frederick Vizeacoumar, Vijaykumar Soupramania Modaliar, Helen Kemper, Nada Zora, Jocelyn Enriquez, Phil Klassen, Val Mercredi, Michael Scott, Roger LeMay, Joe Kloeble, Elizabeth Godino, Arie Johannes Schiltmans
- For all those who have died, today we remember: Eileen McGartland
- And on the anniversary of death: Patrona Domingo, Anthony Gomes, Manuel Galo, Rosa Vu Thu

We pray to the Lord




Mary, Queen of Heaven | Brother Francis

This beautiful Italian film depicts the life of St. Anthony of Padua, including his preaching, his love for the poor, and the wonders of his miracles. It will doubtless help you cultivate devotion to this beloved saint.

Our parish has a Formed subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.
Scan the QR code to download the Formed app to your phone.



WATCH FR. JOSEPH'S SUNDAY REFLECTION EVERY WEEK

Subscribe to @Fr.JosephSalihu on YouTube

MASS TIMES

Saturday 5 pm

Sunday 10 am, 12 noon, 7 pm

Weekdays Tues. - Fri. 8:30 am

ADORATION

NO Wednesdays JULY & AUGUST

Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm

Sundays, 1 - 4 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon

or by appointment.





ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 17 -- 20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

CANADA'S *Life-Changing!* CATHOLIC GAP YEAR

sttherese.ca

Begin your journey

- ✓ **inquire** on the website
- ✓ attend an **open house** event
- ✓ arrange a **personal retreat**



ST. THERESE
INSTITUTE OF FAITH AND MISSION



Bringing Home the Word

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 17, 2025

A House Divided

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

One of the heaviest burdens people are forced to carry is the distress of “a house divided.” When Abraham Lincoln said, “a house divided against itself cannot stand,” he was referring to the division within the country during the Civil War. We experience a similar, though not as lethal, separation when our two-party system of government engenders obstinate division—not merely political diversity. But perhaps the most heartbreaking example of division is a family in which members are alienated from each other.

Sunday Readings

Jeremiah 38:4–6; 8–10

“[Jeremiah] ought to be put to death. He is weakening the resolve of the soldiers...and of all the people, by saying such things to them.”

Hebrews 12:1–4

Consider how [Jesus] endured such opposition from sinners, in order that you may not grow weary and lose heart.

Luke 12:49–53

[Jesus said,] “I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”

There are as many reasons for family division as there are families: the betrayal of one member by another, inheritance disparity, parental favoritism, sibling rivalry, to name a few. One might think that those involved should be able to resolve such differences—after all, isn’t blood thicker than water? But how are serious family rifts to be repaired if the reason for division is one’s faith or commitment to God? That is the situation Jesus describes today.

We might wonder how faith in God can tear families apart. It often happens when someone leaves the religion of one’s family and converts to another tradition. This might be judged as a betrayal of the family’s values. This may be what many of Jesus’ Jewish followers faced when they claimed that Jesus fulfilled their religious expectations while other family members did not share their belief. That was a terrible price to have to pay for fidelity to their faith, but they paid it. †



A heartbreaking example of division is a family in which members are alienated from each other.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

The deepest purpose of the Church’s social doctrine [is] a contribution to peace and dialogue in the service of building bridges of universal fraternity.... [T]he Risen Lord always goes before us, even at times when injustice and death seem to prevail. Let us help one another...“build bridges through dialogue and encounter, joining together as one people, always at peace.”

ADDRESS, ROME, MAY 17, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Are there steps I can take to heal a rift in my family or community?
- What is stopping me?



Stay Close to the Blessed Mother

Rev. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR

The story of the wedding feast at Cana has always been one of my favorite biblical stories. Although some biblical commentators suggest it should not be taken at face value, I prefer not to get caught up in those kinds of details. I interpret it as a story that speaks of the intimacy between a mother and a son. Reading it, I see in the exchange between Jesus and the Blessed Mother an illustration of their relationship.

Our Blessed Lady knew she could call upon her Son, and he would respond.

It is not primarily the knowledge of his divinity that drove her but rather her knowledge of Jesus as a person. It was Mary who had taught him what it meant to be a human person. It was at her knee that Jesus had learned about respect, obedience, and love. Mary knew her Son was a man who understood the meaning of love, what it meant to be in need, what it meant to be potentially embarrassed. She was confident in her statement: “They have no wine” (John 2:3). She was certain Jesus would respond in a way that was both right and generous, lessening the couple’s embarrassment and refocusing the guests’ attention. Mary knew Jesus, and because of that, she was able to ask.

My mother would always end conversations with the reminder, “Remember to stay close to the Blessed Mother.” When I first heard her say this, I simply wrote it off as an expression of her strong and constant devotion to Mary. Now, however, there seems to be more to unpack... Perhaps it was a reminder that many people, despite their best intentions, do not end up with lives reflective of their desires. Perhaps it is a reminder to be gentle, accepting, patient, and kind. I recall all of this when I hear the story of the wedding feast at Cana. †

From *A Guide for the Scrupulous: Spiritual Practices, Critical Beliefs, Helpful Prayers* by Rev. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR, Liguori Publications (828751). To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Schedule moments for reflecting, pondering, musing, and mulling it over.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “*Quinceañera: A Celebration of Faith and Family*”

The Hispanic tradition of the *quinceañera* is just one of many faith traditions contributed by one of the ethnic groups that is part of the mosaic of America. The word *quinceañera* (pronounced keen-seh-ahn-YEHR-ah) comes from the Spanish word *quince* (“fifteen”). It is the ceremony for a Latina girl at the age of fifteen (*quince años*) that marks her transition to adulthood. The celebration is rich in both religious and cultural elements. Its origin in our hemisphere goes back to the Indigenous people whose cultures had various rites of passage for girls passing into womanhood. The Spanish missionaries, when they began evangelizing the Indigenous peoples, borrowed regional cultural customs to help teach the faith.

Catholic Update—a subscription newsletter published eleven times a year—explores Church tradition and teaching on contemporary topics. Liguori.org • 800-325-9521



Saving God, when the world is frightening, when we worry about those we love, help us to remember that you love them even more. We pray always in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 18–23

Monday, Weekday:

Jgs 2:11–19 / Mt 19:16–22

Tuesday, Weekday:

Jgs 6:11–24a / Mt 19:23–30

Wednesday, St. Bernard:

Jgs 9:6–15 / Mt 20:1–16

Thursday, St. Pius X:

Jgs 11:29–39a / Mt 22:1–14

Friday, Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary:

Ru 1:1, 3–6, 14b–16, 22 / Mt 22:34–40

Saturday, Weekday:

Ru 2:1–3, 8–11; 4:13–17 / Mt 23:1–12

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

August 17, 2025

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Sunday, Aug 17, 2025

Make no small plans

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire,” says Saint Catherine of Siena. But who is it that God wants you to be? The search for that answer is what the church calls the “process of discernment.” At various points in our lives, each of us must pause to ask: Where am I being called? What will ignite a fire within me—and set the world ablaze? As you determine your fiery course, consider this exhortation from Pope Francis: “We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals.”

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53 (120).

“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”

Monday, Aug 18, 2025

Check your security system

Why does having many possessions stand in the way of our spiritual freedom? If that is the case, why do we go to such great lengths to acquire things, and why is it so difficult to part with them, even when their usefulness to us is long gone? Perhaps it’s because we all need something we can hold onto, and holding onto things we can see and touch is certainly an understandable response to insecurity. But ultimately perishable things will fail to deliver the hoped-for security, as each of us learns sooner or later in life. Our relationships with God and our fellow human beings are the only sources of security that can endure. As spiritual giant Thomas Merton put it, “In the end, relationships save everything.”

Judges 2:11-19; Matthew 19:16-22 (419). *“He went away sad, for he had many possessions.”*

Tuesday, Aug 19, 2025

Believe in the big picture

“With God all things are possible” is surely one of the most well-known of Jesus’ statements. It’s short, optimistic, and, most important, we want it to be true. But when we look at the world around us, the words of the ancient Israelite Gideon more likely capture what’s on our minds, “If the Lord is with us, why has all this happened?” What Gideon didn’t know and we forget is that God holds the entire picture of creation, while we see only a very small piece. It’s like viewing a corner of a painting and wondering why we can’t make sense of the whole canvas. What’s a believer to do? Believe. Believe in a loving, merciful God who makes all things possible. That’s what Gideon did.

Judges 6:11-24a; Matthew 19:23-30 (420). *“Alas, Lord GOD, that I have seen the angel of the LORD face to face!”*

Wednesday, Aug 20, 2025

Cultivate your calm

Bernard of Clairvaux, a French abbot of the 12th century, had a profound influence on the course of Catholicism at a time of great strife and intrigue in the church. He reformed monastic life, brought Marian devotion to the forefront of popular piety, and mediated between princes and popes. He was also instrumental in the founding of the Knights Templar, who came to embody the medieval ideal of a Christian knight. Amid the tumult of his age, he held fast to the conviction that the “three most important virtues are humility, humility, and humility.” Our own time is no less turbulent.

Perhaps a touch of Saint Bernard’s contemplative spirit—and his humility—could help us find calm today

MEMORIAL OF BERNARD, ABBOT, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

Judges 9:6-15; Matthew 20:1-16 (421). *“Go into my vineyard, and I will give you what is just.”*

Thursday, Aug 21, 2025

Turn the table on tyrants

The concept of freedom is intrinsically linked with the struggle against tyranny. In the Lincoln-Douglas Debates, Abraham Lincoln explores two principles that, he says, have stood face to face from the beginning of time: the common right of humanity and the divine right of kings. It is an eternal push and pull of right and wrong, of a spirit that says, “You toil and work and earn bread, and I’ll eat it.” Whether in the context of a ruler or enslaver, “it is the same tyrannical principle,” says Lincoln. Jesus describes a different type of reign where the king invites everyone to the table and defies norms by making the last first and the first last. This upside-down world is the one our Baptism in Christ calls us to espouse.

Judges 11:29-39a; Matthew 22:1-14 (422). *“Behold, I have prepared my banquet.”*

Friday, Aug 22, 2025

The royal we

Though Mary was never crowned Queen of Heaven in scripture, she has long reigned as queen in the hearts of the faithful. Still, the question remains: In what way is her queenship *real*? Mary’s royal stature holds meaning for us, apart from whatever it signifies in the divine realm. “She is a most tender and kind Queen,” writes Saint Alphonsus Liguori, “eager to help us in our miseries. So much so that the church wants us to call her a Queen of Mercy.” We, too, are invited to be a holy and royal people, shaped by divine mercy and loving-kindness. What Mary already possesses is a vision of what we can be. Give yourself and others the royal treatment. Start with a touch of love.

MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Ruth 1:1, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40 (423). *“Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”*

Saturday, Aug 23, 2025

Mary, most honored

You may be familiar with the 16th-century Litany of Loreto, which gathers wonderful images of Mary such as Mother Admirable, Mystical Rose, Tower of Ivory, Gate of Heaven, and Morning Star. Saint Francis of Assisi in the 13th century had a similar litany, his “Salutation of the Virgin,” which hails Mary as Christ’s Palace, Tabernacle, Home, and, perhaps the most striking, Mary as “Virgin made church.” Mary is the model for Christian discipleship. “Let it be done unto me according to God’s word,” she prays. Listen to Mary. She is always directing us toward her son, saying again and again, “Do what he tells you.”

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Ruth 2:1-3, 8-11; 4:13-17; Matthew 23:1-12 (424). *“The greatest among you must be your servant.”*

Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time



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