



August 24, 2025

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 66:18-21 | Heb 12:5-7, 11-13 | Lk 13:22-30

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Have you ever felt as though God is punishing you? Throughout the course of our lives, we experience what might seem like a barrage of hardships. This battering down of our interior and exterior fortresses over time can test our faith and weaken our resolve. If you find yourself in this position, read today's passage from Hebrews again: "Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord," St. Paul reminds us, "for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines." In our human nature, we may find these "disciplines" painful (and rightfully so). But Paul urges us to shift our mindset, recognizing that just as a good father disciplines his children for their greater good, so our heavenly Father does the same for us. Paul goes on to explain that we may consider every trial we endure in this sense, as a loving "discipline" — a sign of the Lord's attention and desire for our sanctity.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Modern society loves the concept of a God who is soft, inviting, sweet, and tender. Of course, our Lord in his goodness and mercy can be described by those adjectives. But today's Gospel reminds us of an equally important characteristic of the Lord: He is the supreme and final judge, and at the final judgment we will be held accountable for our lives. In the end, we will stand before the Lord, and he will put all things in proper order. Will it be glorious, loving, and merciful? Yes. Painful and piercing? Perhaps. Our Lord's love knows no bounds, and he withholds his mercy from no one. It is precisely from this place of perfect love and profound mercy that rightful judgment emerges. May we live a life worthy of welcome when we meet him face to face.

REFLECT

In addition to accepting the discipline that the Lord sends our way, we can engage in voluntary practices to strengthen our spiritual lives. These practices are necessary, as Jesus tells us that many "will not be strong enough" to enter through the narrow gate that leads to life. Our second reading exhorts us to "strengthen [our] drooping hands and [our] weak knees." What spiritual disciplines have you found helpful to foster your growth in holiness? What areas are weak or need strengthening?



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

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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 24	AUGUST 25	AUGUST 26	AUGUST 27	AUGUST 28	AUGUST 29	AUGUST 30
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 Fellowship Sunday

A HUGE THANK YOU!
to all of those parishioners who have already generously contributed to the **CARING FOR OUR CHURCH HOME** campaign!

Pursue the Power of Persistent Prayer with St. Monica
Wednesday, August 27, 2025
Dessert, speakers, conversation and prayer
St. Anne's Parish
Free Will Offering
Every family is affected by loved ones who have fallen away, walked away or run away from the Church. Let's gather for fellowship and prayer to hold each other up in hope.
RSVP Brenda brendatryhuba@gmail.com 306-260-3612

Backpack Blessing
at all Masses
Bring your backpack to Mass and receive a blessing and a gift for all students at any age

Fellowship Sunday August 30/31
Last weekend of every month!

Knights of COUNCIL #8905 Columbus PRESENTS
HOLY SPIRIT KOFC CHARITY GOLF TOURNAMENT
SUNDAY SEPT 28, 2025
GREENHAYRE GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB HOLY SPIRIT PARISH HALL
TICKET PRICES
ALL INCLUSIVE: \$115 | DINNER ONLY: \$25 | GOLF ONLY: \$90
FOR TICKET INQUIRIES REACH OUT TO KEITH KRATCHMER @ 306 230 8325

55+ Club
Cards, Friends, Fun!
EVERY OTHER THURSDAY @ 1:30PM
NEXT: September 11

"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."

THE POPE'S
PRAYER
INTENTIONS

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%

Hope Restored has an 8 bed safe house in Saskatoon for women and girls wanting to exit the sex trade. Our home provides support, hope and most importantly, that "safe place to go." In just one year, the program has a graduate who is leaving to further her education. The remaining women are working hard to recover from their years of exploitation, through individual and group counseling. Our mission is to make a measurable impact with those who are sexually exploited and trafficked through education, partnerships, funding and programs. Thank you for your support. www.hoperestoredcanada.org



Sept. 12-14

St. Philomena Mother-Daughter Retreat

Based on biblical wisdom, Catholic teachings, and the theology of St. John Paul II, this weekend retreat is geared towards girls ages 11 to 14 years and their moms.

Presented Sept. 12-14 by Regnum Christi Regina at St. Peter's Benedictine Abbey at Muenster, SK, it runs from 6 p.m. Friday, Sept. 12 (no supper provided) to 1 p.m. Sunday Sept. 14 (after lunch). The fee is \$475 per mother-daughter pair, which includes two nights' accommodations at picturesque St. Peter's Abbey, as well as meals and all retreat materials. Register at philomenaretreat.org or e-mail any questions to laurencayer@sasktel.net

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

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

By Wednesday, September 17

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 Soupramaniam Modaliar, Helen Kemper, Nada Zora, Jocelyn Enriquez, Phil Klassen, Val Mercredi, Joe Kloeble,
- For all those who have died, today we remember: Remetios Remolacio, George Steinbach
- And on the anniversary of death: Matthew Nwaka, Maria Hermandi

We pray to the Lord

formed
Forming Catholics for Life.



The Confessions of St. Augustine | Littlest Saints

A child, a sinner, a saint. Join us as we share the story of St. Augustine, tailored to our children, as he wrestles with God and comes to the faith.



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

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.



For more news and events in our diocese, see the Diocesan Bulletin at rcdos.ca under the News and Events tab.

Stay
in
the
know...



ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 24-- 21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, Aug 24, 2025

The only way to make an impression on God

A teacher asked his class for examples of words that describe the current crop of college students. He expected to hear “highly educated” or “sophisticated” but was surprised at the honesty of a young woman who responded “entitlement. We think everything is owed to us.” An overstatement, yet such an attitude can often be attached to a particular social class, race, gender, ethnicity, or nationality. But scripture makes it clear that simply being a member of a chosen race or having rank upon rank of wealthy, noble, or accomplished ancestors makes no impression on God. Only one thing does: goodness.

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30 (123).

“They shall proclaim my glory among the nations.”

Monday, Aug 25, 2025

Of icons and idols

The First Council of Nicaea, convened on this day in 325, condemned the Arian heresy and affirmed both the divinity of Christ and the Trinitarian nature of God through the Nicene Creed. Four centuries later, the Second Council of Nicaea addressed the Iconoclastic Controversy, condemning the destruction of religious images. The council affirmed the legitimacy of displaying and venerating icons as a way to connect with Christ and the saints, while carefully distinguishing between *veneration*, which honors the person represented, and *worship*, which belongs to God alone. These ancient debates—about who God is and how we approach the divine—echo throughout salvation history. Idolatry, the act of placing anything above God, remains a constant temptation. Consider using religious art as you take time to examine your own life. What false idols might stand between you and God?

1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10; Matthew 23:13-22 (425). *“Blind fools, which is greater, the gold, or the temple that made the gold sacred?”*

Tuesday, Aug 26, 2025

Duty to imitate

To share the gospel is to share a part of yourself. Your life experience brings the word of God to life. We are the living word—witnesses to the gospel in our everyday actions. When you share yourself with others through acts of love, the gospel becomes more real—not only for those you encounter, but for you as well. As Saint Augustine reminds us: “It is the highest duty of religion to imitate Him whom you adore.”

1 Thessalonians 2:1-8; Matthew 23:23-26 (426). *“We were determined to share with you not only the Gospel of God, but our very selves as well.”*

Wednesday, Aug 27, 2025

In her own words

In the early centuries of the church, women’s importance was often tied to the social standing of the men in their lives, and their stories were told through a male voice. Saint Monica’s story comes to us through the writings of her son, Saint Augustine of Hippo. He described Monica as a model of womanly virtue: hard working, persevering, submissive, and holy. Yet we know nothing about Monica in her own words. We do not even know if she could write. Monica, like many women, past and present, lacked the social power to speak for themselves. Perhaps today we can

entrust to her saintly patronage all the people who struggle to find—or to be heard in—their own voice.

MEMORIAL OF MONICA

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13; Matthew 23:27-32 (427). *“You received it not as the word of men, but as it truly is, the word of God.”*

Thursday, Aug 28, 2025

Be inspired by a good book

Looking for a good book? Try Augustine’s *Confessions*, a classic of literature by one of the greatest thinkers of all time. Augustine’s account of his search for God contains all the elements of a great adventure story: exotic locations, decadence and dissolution, complicated maternal relationship, philosophical and theological struggles, despair and confusion, and finally a profound religious experience: “No further would I read; nor needed I: for instantly at the end of this sentence, by a light as it were of serenity infused into my heart, all the darkness of doubt vanished away.” Augustine’s search for the only source of true peace is our search, too. “You have made us for yourself, O Lord,” he wrote, “and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.”

MEMORIAL OF AUGUSTINE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13; Matthew 24:42-51 (428). *“May the Lord make you increase and abound in love.”*

Friday, Aug 29, 2025

Sin doesn’t get the last word

We tend to divide up people into good guys and bad guys. Yet the truth about any given person defies those categories. Just think if you were to be permanently judged and labeled based on a particularly bad day when all your weak points showed up like yellow dandelions on a green lawn. Take Herod for instance, one of the villains of the gospel stories. Despite his bad behavior, Mark presents him as having a heart with at least a reasonable potential for goodness. As *Just Mercy* author Bryan Stevenson says, “Each of us is more than the worst thing we’ve ever done.” And our Christian faith teaches that everyone is worthy of our compassion. Indeed, as Jesus said in one of Saint Faustina’s visions: “The greater the sinner, the greater the right he has to my mercy.”

MEMORIAL OF THE PASSION OF JOHN THE BAPTIST

1 Thessalonians 4:1-8; Mark 6:17-29 (429/634). *“God did not call us to impurity but to holiness.”*

Saturday, Aug 30, 2025

A prayer that speaks to all

Saturdays are not only the traditional day to honor the Blessed Virgin Mary but also the day of the week to pray the Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary, the preeminent “Marian” prayer. In prayerfully meditating on the events of the Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary, the Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth, the Birth of Jesus, the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple, and the Finding of Jesus in the Temple, we “weave our intentions, thoughts, imagination, emotions, and desire for union with Christ,” says Alice Camille in her award-winning article for VISION Vocation Network, “[Full of grace: Reclaiming the Rosary](#).” The Rosary is a prayer that speaks to everyone as the church but also to each person as an individual. What is it saying to you today?

MEMORIAL OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

1 Thessalonians 4:9-11; Matthew 25:14-30 (430). *“Well done, my good and faithful servant.”*

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



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Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 24, 2025

Membership Is Not Enough

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

Just because you belong to a tennis club does not mean you can play tennis. This might sound like a ridiculous statement. Still, it is important to acknowledge that joining a group and paying dues does not mean that you are an active member. Something similar unfolds in the story that Jesus tells in today's gospel passage. The people who have been locked out claim to be known by the householder: "We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets" (Luke 13:26). That may have been true, but evidently

it was not enough. As he tells this story, Jesus is making a point for the sake of his listeners: "Enjoying my company and listening to me is not enough." Then, what is enough?

Returning to tennis, it is not enough to join a club or even to read a book about tennis. You must play it. For many of us, this would mean a lifelong attempt at trying to learn and perfect our game. But then, that is why one joins a tennis club. Christianity is a way of life; we must live it. This is not to say that doctrines and rituals are unimportant. They are very important, but they are important because they inform and then celebrate the Christian life we live. Here too, it might take a lifetime to learn being a Christian. But then, that is why one is a member of the Church—an *active member*. †

Sunday Readings

Isaiah 66:18-21

[Thus says the Lord,] "I am coming to gather all nations and tongues; they shall come and see my glory."

Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13

Do not disdain the discipline of the Lord or lose heart when reproved by him; for whom the Lord loves, he disciplines.

Luke 13:22-30

[Jesus said,] "Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough."



Joining a group and paying dues does not mean that you are an active member.

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

Peace is first and foremost a gift. It is the first gift of Christ: "My peace I give to you" (John 14:27)... It engages and challenges each of us...demanding first of all that we work on ourselves. Peace is built...by eliminating pride and vindictiveness and carefully choosing our words. For words, too, not only weapons, can wound and even kill.

ADDRESS TO MEMBERS
OF THE DIPLOMATIC CORPS,
ROME, MAY 16, 2025



REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- Do I have a desire to live a more authentic Christian life?
- To do so, what changes do I need to make?



Some Assembly Required

Rev. Lawrence E. Mick

The first thing necessary for any liturgy is the assembly of the faithful. Liturgy is, by its very nature, a communal activity, so it requires people to come together with the intention of worshipping together. This is not as simple as it first may seem, especially in our consumer culture, where we tend to approach liturgy as a product we consume rather than as an activity that we help to create. Many people think of the liturgy as something provided by the priest and the other liturgical ministers, and they then decide if they want to “buy” it or not.

Linked to this consumer mentality is our sense of individual rights and preferences. Our culture, perhaps more than any other in history, has exalted the individual above the community or society. While this certainly has many beneficial results in our respect for the rights of the individual, there are also negative effects when it becomes too dominant. The American mythos exalts the Lone Ranger, the self-made men or women, the ones who pull themselves up by their own bootstraps, etc. We are less aware of the vital importance of the community in making and keeping us human and happy. As a result, many people find it difficult to relinquish their individual preferences for the sake of being part of and acting as a community. Any communal activity requires such subsuming of the self into the group, whether it is a sports team trying for victory or a group of farmers at a barn raising. Can you imagine the shape of the barn if every person in the group insisted on doing it his or her own way? In worship, too, we are invited to be part of one communal act, which means none of us really gets to have our own way with it. An assembly is made up of individuals who have agreed to become part of something larger than themselves. †

Our culture, perhaps more than any other in history, has exalted the individual above the community or society.

Adapted From *How We Worship: The Eucharist, the Sacraments, and the Hours* by Rev. Lawrence E. Mick, Liguori Publications (819360).
To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From “Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace” by Most Reverend John C. Wester

When I was installed as the twelfth archbishop of Santa Fe, I never imagined I would publish a pastoral letter on nuclear disarmament. I had not thought about nuclear weapons since the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, when I was twelve years old. Since then, I was like most Americans, lulled into...believing the arms race ended when the Cold War did.... Nonetheless, in January 2022, I issued *Living in the Light of Christ’s Peace: A Conversation Toward Nuclear Disarmament*. It occurs to me now that this letter is indeed about social justice and is quite spiritual—it is about the sanctity of human life, accepting responsibility as stewards of God’s creation, and protecting the common good in a most fundamental way.

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



Faithful God, grant me the grace to believe the truth, to speak what I believe, and to live what I speak. I pray in Jesus’ name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

August 25–30

Monday, Weekday:
1 Thes 1:1–5, 8b–10 / Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday, Weekday:
1 Thes 2:1–8 / Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday, St. Monica:
1 Thes 2:9–13 / Mt 23:27–32

Thursday, St. Augustine:
1 Thes 3:7–13 / Mt 24:42–51

Friday, Passion of St. John the Baptist:
1 Thes 4:1–8 / Mk 6:17–29

Saturday, Weekday:
1 Thes 4:9–11 / Mt 25:14–30

Bringing Home
the **Word** 

August 24, 2025

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