



August 31, 2025

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29 | Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a | Lk 14:1, 7-14

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

There's a well-known story about an actor who was asked by an elderly priest to recite Psalm 23. The actor agreed only if the priest also recited the psalm. While the actor's delivery was met with esteem and applause, the priest's was met with raw emotion, stunned silence, and tears. The actor, smiling, said, "I may know the psalm, but the priest, he knows the Shepherd." I can't help but be reminded of this story when reading today's Gospel. Like the Pharisees, the actor represents the one who was the "center of attention" who was humbled whereas the priest, in his humble service to God, found himself exalted. That is where true humility lies, when our actions and our everyday lives are rooted in God first and not ourselves.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

As Jesus reminds us today, "Every one who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." Beyond telling us this truth, Jesus lived it. Scripture tells us that Jesus – the second Person of the Holy Trinity – "emptied himself, taking the form of a slave..." (Phil 2:7), and that he came not "to be served but to serve" (Mk 10:45). Each of us is invited to consider the ways we can imitate the same humble servant-leadership which Jesus showed throughout his life. What does servant leadership look like, practically speaking? Some simple examples: At work, it might look like signing up to do those less desirable tasks that others would prefer to avoid. In our homes, it could look mean letting your children or spouse choose what's for dinner rather than asserting your own preferences over meal planning. In our relationships, it might mean allowing a friend to talk through their struggles without offering advice or sharing how you might have handled things differently. With the eyes of faith, each of us can see countless opportunities to practice the virtue of humility in daily life.

WITNESS

Like the priest in the story above who revealed God to the crowd in his recitation of Psalm 23, you have the opportunity to let God shine through in your life to others. Be a servant leader, seeking to glorify God rather than yourself. When you are humble you "will be exalted" and "repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."



HOLY SPIRIT PARISH

114 Kingsmere Place • Saskatoon • SK • S7J 3V7
(306)374-1425 • info@holyspiritsaskatoon.ca
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 31	SEPT. 1	SEPT. 2	SEPT. 3	SEPT. 4	SEPT. 5	SEPT. 6
<i>Fellowship Sunday!</i> 10a Mass 12p Mass 1-4p Adoration 7p Mass	<i>Church and office closed for Labour Day Holiday</i>	8:30a Mass 6p KofC	8:30a Mass 7p Adoration	8:30a Mass	8:30a Mass 9a-12p Adoration	11a-12p Confession 5p Mass Back Pack Blessing



From 325 to 2025: The Council of Nicaea and Jewish-Christian Relations Today

Join six scholars — three Jewish and three Christian — for a conversation examining how the 1700-year legacy of the Council of Nicaea continues to shape Jewish-Christian relations in the 21st century.

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, 12 noon (Sask time)

To register: https://us06web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_DtZ5Eej2TQyHKmtRkvPxpW



"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%

Str8 Up is a program for people wanting to exit the gang life. Fr. Andre Poillievre created this program. This is an organization that mixes tough love with infinite patience to support those who want to get out and stay out of gangs. There is no age limit but participants are generally over 18 years of age. There are 3 visions or goals: to be responsible citizens, to be a faithful partner, and to be loving parents. There are 5 conditions each participant has to be willing to adhere to: drop colors, deal with their addiction, be honest, be humble, and to be willing to give the program a chance and accept support and partake for four years. Activities involved are: visiting and having meetings with the men in the correctional centre, making presentations in schools, reserves, addiction centers, and basically anywhere that expresses need. The group meets once a week. They learn about healthy lifestyles and positively contributing to and partaking in community. The program also offers support in areas such as looking for housing, employment, and general community errands. Thank you for your support. www.str8-up.ca



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

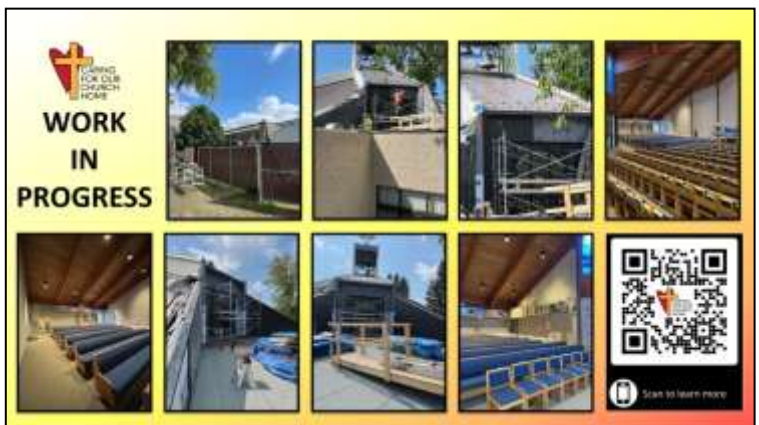
Please RSVP at <https://forms.gle/w6B7fmaUFF5zJcNY7>

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 Soupramania Modaliar, Helen Kemper, Nada Zora, Jocelyn Enriquez, Phil Klassen, Val Mercredi, Joe Kloeble,
- For all those who have died, today we remember: all parishioners who have recently died and for their loved ones left to mourn them
- And on the anniversary of death: Christianna Eruego

We pray to the Lord



Thank you to all the parishioners who have donated to our Caring for Our Church home campaign so far! For all who are still discerning how to donate please see our website: <https://holyspiritsaskatoon.ca/caring-for-our-church-home/> or scan the QR code in the image.

formed
Forming Catholics for Life.



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

Wednesdays 7-8pm

Fridays, 9 am - 12 pm

Sundays, 1 - 4 pm

CONFESSIONS

Saturdays 11 am - 12 noon

or by appointment.





Diocesan Bulletin

1

August 31, 2025 - 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



*In all things we are rooted in Christ,
in His desire to bring God's love to all peoples.*

<https://rcdos.ca>

Upcoming Events

Marian Movement of Priests Cenacle includes adoration, rosary, benediction, hymns and various prayers, 7:30 p.m. **Thursday, Sept. 4** at St. Michael Parish #18-33rd St. E., Saskatoon. For more info, call Edna (306) 382-1680.

Apostolate of the Precious Blood prayer group will meet at St. John Bosco Roman Catholic Church, 1202 Ave. O S., Saskatoon from 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. **every Tuesday in September**. The hour consists of the Rosary, followed by the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Chaplet of the Precious Blood and a hymn.

A Contemplative Mass led by Fr. Kevin McGee, will be held 5 p.m. on **Friday, Sept. 5** (First Friday) at St. Mary's Parish, 211 Ave. O S. Saskatoon. The rhythm of the Contemplative Mass is a gentle, steady flow, marked by 20 minutes of silence after communion to allow space for reflection and recognition of the intimate presence of Christ who comes to us through scripture and the Eucharist. Relax and rest in the abiding presence of God.

Mary's Birthday - The Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes at St. Laurent, SK will celebrate the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary **Sept. 8**, starting at 6 p.m., with Mass at 7 p.m., followed by birthday cake and coffee. Find more information on the shrine website at: www.saintlaurentshrine.com. Learn more about obtaining a Jubilee Indulgence for visiting designated sacred sites: <https://rcdos.ca/jubilee-2025>.

Grief Ministry for Bereaved Spouses - "From Mourning to Dawn" is an eight-week diocesan program offering support and encouragement for widows and widowers, led by those who have also experienced this loss. It is open to participants who have been widows or widowers for more than two months. Two sessions will be offered in Saskatoon: from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. **Tuesday afternoons starting Sept. 9 at the Catholic Pastoral Centre**, 2nd floor of the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, and 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. **Thursday evenings starting Sept. 11 at Saint Anne Catholic Church**, 217 Lenore Drive, Saskatoon. Cost is \$35. Contact Dianna at dknaus@sasktel.net or (306) 382-0535. (Grief ministry is supported by gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal).

What is Returning to Spirit? – Come and find out what this powerful program is all about at this information evening open to all, 6:30 to 8 p.m. **Tuesday, Sept. 23** at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Rd, Saskatoon. Past participants and staff will share how this program can offer renewed hope and powerful personal transformation, plus tools for effective dialogue, whether in your own family or the community that surrounds you. Everyone welcome! For more info, contact Myron Rogal, at mrogal@rcdos.ca or call Justice and Peace at (306) 659-5841. Register at:

<https://form.jotform.com/252118291778262>

Columbus Bosco Saskatoon's annual "Corn Roast Fundraiser" will be held **Thursday, Sept. 11**, starting at 5:30 p.m. at the Farm School, 20 km from Saskatoon: \$25 each. In partnership with Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools, Columbus Bosco Saskatoon provides a Farm School Program for high school students and Family Learning Centres-Parent/Tot Programs for pre-school children and their parents. For tickets, directions, and information contact Lorne at (306) 227-7576 or Chris (306) 221-4686. E-transfer: cboscostoon@gmail.com.

Women's Discernment Night - "Encounters with Jesus in the Gospel" will be held on the second Thursday of each month, from 7-9 p.m. at Our Lady of Lourdes Parish, 1224-12th Street East, Saskatoon Sk. with the next event on **Thursday, Sept. 11**. Open to all young women, the evening includes gospel reflections, discernment questions, adoration time, sharing and community. This is a monthly drop-in gathering for young women from different walks of life who want to stop and reflect on their journey with the Lord together. No registration required.

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 questions to laurencayer@sasktel.net.

Message Board

“Seeds of Peace and Hope” – The World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation on **Monday, Sept. 1** starts the Season of Creation, which continues until the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi on Oct. 4. Find Pope Leo XIV’s message on the Vatican website: www.vatican.va.

Sts. Benedict and Scholastica Formation Program for young adults is accepting applications for 2025-2026. Aimed at forming young adult Catholics in pursuing holiness while living in the world, this year’s program is open to both women and men, students or working, either for a residential or non-residential program. A partial bursary is available upon application. For more information, contact Sr. Malou Tibayan at mtibayan@rcdos.ca or (306) 371-7434. *(Supported by gifts to the Bishop’s Annual Appeal).*

An “Aim for Healing” event in the Eparchy of Saskatoon will be held **Saturday, Sept. 13** at the Millennium Pro-Life Cross site north of Aberdeen (the day before the annual pilgrimage), including an optional 40-km bike pilgrimage to the site starting at 10 a.m. (registration is required before Sept. 7 by e-mailing: info@millenniumcross.ca). From 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Sept. 13 there will then be a ‘Head and Heart’ program at the cross site, about deepening faith through the healing of significant relationships, featuring activities, prayer, and speakers. For more information and/or registration e-mail: info@millenniumcross.ca.

Jubilee Pilgrimage to the Millennium Pro-Life Cross Sunday, Sept. 14: The 100-foot cross is located 10.8 km northeast of Aberdeen, SK. on Highway 41. This year’s Jubilee Pilgrimage will be held at 3 p.m. **Sunday, Sept. 14** on the Feast of the Exultation of the Cross, and includes praying of the Rosary and keynote speaker Bishop Bryan Bayda of the Ukrainian Catholic Eparchy of Toronto and Eastern Canada, with food and fellowship to follow. Bring your rosary, lawn chairs, insect repellent, umbrellas, etc. In the case of inclement weather, watch the Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ProLifeMillenniumCross.

A Pancake Breakfast will be held by Knights of Columbus Council 9538 at 11 a.m. **Sunday Sept. 14** at St. Mary Parish Hall, 211 Avenue O South, Saskatoon (after 10 a.m. Mass).

St. Thomas More College Academic Mass will be held at 3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, Sept. 17** at St. Thomas More Chapel, College Drive, Saskatoon. Everyone is welcome.

Solid Oak Pews for Sale in Lancer, SK in excellent condition: \$20,000, negotiable; with possibility to purchase individual pews. Contact: eam.wagner@gmail.com. The now-closed Lancer church building is also for sale: contact PamBusby@royalpage.ca or (306) 628-7542.



2

Employment opportunity

The Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon is seeking a permanent full-time Executive Assistant to the Curia to work directly with the administration team at the Catholic Pastoral Centre (CPC), 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, carrying out work and ministry related to the offices of the Bishop, Vicar General, the Chancellor and management of the CPC, ensuring the smooth and efficient office administration and operations. For more details see: rcdos.ca/our-diocese/employment.

Pilgrims of hope in the core neighbourhood – Sandi Harper and Ferdinand Gemoh of Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish will speak about the “4 Rs of Reconciliation” – respect, responsibility, relationship and reciprocity – 9:45 a.m. to 11:45 a.m. **Saturday, Sept. 20**, at St. Mary Parish’s lower hall, 201 Ave. O S., Saskatoon. Refreshments served.

Polka Mass - The Lake Manitou Pastoral Region annual Polka Mass will take place at Danceland at Manitou Beach, near Watrous, SK, **Sunday, Sept. 21**, with Mass beginning at 11 a.m. (music starts at 10:30 a.m.), brunch will follow the Mass. Brunch prices are: adults \$10; school-age children \$5. More info: St. Ann Parish, Watrous at: (306) 946-7961.

Community Shelter Worker training - Saskatoon Trades and Skills Centre (STSC) in partnership with the Salvation Army is offering a six-week Community Shelter Worker course Sept. 22 to Oct. 31 to provide participants with fundamental knowledge, practical skills, and certifications needed to gain employment as an emergency shelter worker supporting individuals experiencing homelessness, ensuring their safety and well-being within the shelter environment. Find more information and/or apply at: <https://saskatoontradesandskills.ca/Apply-Now>.

Diocesan Prayer - We pray as a diocesan family for all those in our communities who educate children, as they begin the annual return to classrooms, schools, campuses, and catechism programs. May all who share knowledge with others follow Jesus the teacher in loving service, grounded in truth and love of God.

The Diocesan Bulletin is a publication of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Saskatoon

Catholic Pastoral Centre, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon SK S7S 1H1

Phone: (306) 242-1500 or Toll free: 1-877-661-5005

E-mail: kyaworski@rcdos.ca

<https://rcdos.ca>

<https://news.rcdos.ca>

Communications is supported by the Bishop’s Annual Appeal.

Stay
in
the
know...



ANNOUNCEMENTS

AUGUST 31-- 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday, Aug 31, 2025

Gifts that keep on giving

“Love one another.” “Forgive everyone.” “Give to those who cannot repay you.” These sayings of Jesus seem like a lot of hard work with little reward. But nothing could be further from the truth. Have you ever left a large tip for a tired waitress or waiter? Or smiled at a store clerk who was having a difficult day? Such gestures generate feelings of gratitude and well-being that do not come any other way. If we spent only a few minutes every day thinking of a small gift we could give to someone, just imagine how our world would change! Try it today—then do it again tomorrow.

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14 (126). *“Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.”*

Monday, Sep 01, 2025

Prophetic advice

When Jesus returned to Nazareth and spoke prophetically, his hometown people rejected him. That foreshadowed the reception he would receive from his own people in general. It is a pattern repeated many times in history, from the time of the Jewish prophets who suffered repudiation right through to our own era, when right-to-life and immigrant-rights activists encounter stiff resistance to their prophetic message. It does us well to give folks a second hearing if we find ourselves made uncomfortable by their message. It may be the one we need to hear most. Pope Francis called each of us to be a prophet, who “shows Jesus to others, witnesses him, and helps live today and build tomorrow according to Jesus’ design.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; Luke 4:16-30 (431). *“When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury.”*

Tuesday, Sep 02, 2025

Our small efforts make a splash

What does encouragement look like? A smile, a pat on the back, a kind word, an affirmation of effort or accomplishment. Encouragement is not hard physical labor. Yet at times we find it difficult to overcome our anger or disappointment in how little impact we’ve had. But Servant of God Dorothy Day says, “No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There’s too much work to do.” Her words of encouragement can help us encourage others. “What is the sense of our small effort?” Day asks. “A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words, and deeds is like that.”

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6, 9-11; Luke 4:31-37 (432). *“Therefore, encourage one another and build one another up.”*

Wednesday, Sep 03, 2025

The cure for what ails you

“I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.” This hopeful prayer of Thomas Merton is one to draw on in difficult times. Hope is exactly what we need when we are in pain or despair. It is the foundation of all healing. Our bodies, minds, and hearts are made for healing. That healing may come quickly and completely, or it may be long,

painful, and only partially realized. And for each of us, once in a lifetime, healing ends in death. Yet as Christians, we remain hopeful because we have been promised the forgiveness of sins and eternal life in God’s love. So draw on hope—and let the healing begin.

Colossians 1:1-8; Luke 4:38-44 (433). *“He laid his hands on each of them and cured them.”*

Thursday, Sep 04, 2025

Our happiness is God’s

The biblical scholar Father Jerome Neyrey, S.J. wonders of the Early Church: “What it must have been like to be catechized into the gospel of Jesus, told that in Baptism we die with him and rise with him.” It was a radically new message—yet it remains so. What does it mean to find new life in death? Why do we and how can we feel the presence of the risen Christ? These questions continue to astound and fascinate us. Not to worry if we cannot fathom the depths of the mystery. As Saint Rose Philippine Duchesne says, “We may not understand His Will for us in time, but in eternity the veil will be drawn and we shall see that He acted only for our happiness.”

Colossians 1:9-14; Luke 5:1-11 (434). *“They left everything and followed him.”*

Friday, Sep 05, 2025

Celebrate good times

From the moment you hit the reception hall until the happy couple drives away, tin cans rattling and tissue-paper flowers fluttering, it’s party time. Hors d’oeuvres piled high on plates make the rounds, and sparkling beverages are liberally poured. The food never stops coming, from the first salad to the final slice of much-decorated cake. Music fills the hall and dancers demonstrate how each generation once cut the rug. Cameras capture the joy of the hour with each flash. That is what celebration looks like. Jesus says every hour is worth celebrating, for those who believe. It’s time to party!

Colossians 1:15-20; Luke 5:33-39 (435). *“Can you make the wedding guests fast while the bridegroom is with them?”*

Saturday, Sep 06, 2025

Some rules are meant to be broken

Jesus condemns strict observance of the sabbath when it comes at the expense of life and well-being. Who wouldn’t want to recover an animal that fell down a well on the sabbath or gather grain to feed one’s family? In today’s terms, you’d search for your lost pet on a Sunday or go grocery shopping if you were out of food. Jesus loves the law and understands its value, but he wants to make a larger point about how God’s love comes ahead of strict observances. Simply put, in the words of Saint Thérèse of Lisieux, “Without love, deeds, even the most brilliant, count as nothing.” Show some kindness ahead of everything else, and you’ll make a sabbath of your life each day.

Colossians 1:21-23; Luke 6:1-5 (436). *“The Son of Man is lord of the sabbath.”*

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



© 2025 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Sign up for free daily email available at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.



Bringing Home the Word

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (C)

August 31, 2025

I'm Nobody! Who Are You?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

This is the title of one of Emily Dickinson's most beloved poems. Did she really think she was nobody? Probably not. But neither was she eager to get bogged down by the approval of others. She seems to have been satisfied with who she was and how she lived her life.

Unlike Dickinson, many of us live for the approval of others. In fact, we almost glorify celebrities—and not simply for their accomplishments. Their taste becomes our choice in buying clothes; their opinions shape our thinking; their social lives become our entertainment.

This is a strange turnaround, for the only reason they are famous is that we have given them our approval. We made them celebrities.

We all know people who, in the eyes of the broader society, might be considered “nobodies” but who really are the “somebodies.” They are like Dickinson. They know who they are and do not pretend to be someone or something else. They do not put on airs; they do not expect to be treated better than others. They simply are who they are. These are the people described in today's readings. They have lived as Sirach counsels: “Humble yourself” (Sirach 3:18). This does not mean humiliate yourself or put yourself down. It means be who you are: the you that God made. Don't try to be someone else. The gospel story shows what might happen if you think you are more than you really are. The proud man was literally put in his place.

So, who are you? †

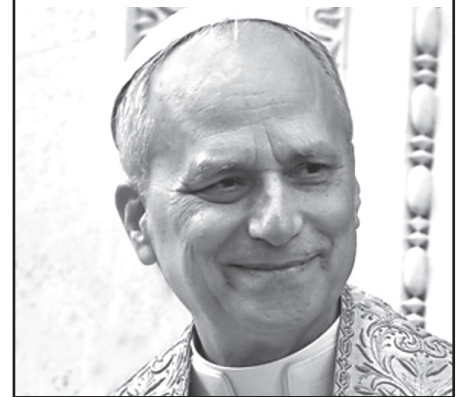


**Be who you are:
the you that God made.
Don't try to be
someone else.**

A Word from Pope Leo XIV

My own story is that of a citizen, the descendant of immigrants, who in turn chose to emigrate. All of us, in the course of our lives, can find ourselves healthy or sick, employed or unemployed, living in our native land or in a foreign country, yet our dignity always remains unchanged: it is the dignity of a creature willed and loved by God.

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



Sunday Readings

Sirach 3:17–18, 20, 28–29

My son, conduct your affairs with humility, and you will be loved more than a giver of gifts.

Hebrews 12:18–19, 22–24a

[Y]ou have approached...the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem...and Jesus, the mediator of the new covenant.

Luke 14:1, 7–14

[Jesus said,] “Everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted.”

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

QUESTIONS REFLECTION

- What do I do to gain others' admiration?
- Am I living an honest life, true to who God made me?



Why They Migrate: Violence

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez

What are parents to do when they live in a community stricken by instability, violence, and crime? For years, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras have had the unfortunate distinction of experiencing some of the highest homicide rates of any countries in the world. Impunity for criminal behavior is common. Crimes against women are a particularly acute problem in these countries, as is widespread violence perpetrated by international criminal syndicates and local gangs.

Gangs often turn to extortion and other forms of criminal behavior to fund their illegal enterprises. Some forcibly recruit women and children into sexual slavery. Others force teenage boys to join gangs and engage in illicit behavior. If the boys fail to comply, more harassment, persecution, and violence often ensue. Government agencies responsible for protecting citizens against these violent perpetrators are often corrupt, inept, or otherwise unwilling or unable to do so.

Families must often fend for themselves and thus are left with the difficult choice to either stay in an unsafe and unstable community or try to escape to a place where they are often unwelcomed, rejected, and marginalized. Given the existential dangers at home, is it surprising that many mothers, fathers, and children decide to flee in search of safety in another land? Given similar circumstances, what would you do?

Our Lady, protectress of immigrants and refugees.... As you and your family fled from Herod in the face of threats of violence and persecution and became refugees in a foreign land, you know the fear of mothers and fathers who flee with their own children in search of a place of safety. For all those who are afflicted by violence in their homes or in their neighborhoods, please intercede on their behalf and lead them to a safe haven. Grant us the wisdom to respond effectively to the sufferings of those who flee violence. May we work to build a world of peace that shuns violence. Amen. †

From *Novena for Migrants to Our Lady of Guadalupe* by Bishop Joe S. Vásquez with Todd Scribner, PhD, Liguori Publications (828324).
To order, call 800-325-9521 or visit Liguori.org.

Grant us the wisdom to respond effectively to the sufferings of those who flee violence.

Wisdom from Catholic Update

From "Devotion to the Sacred Heart: Rekindling Hope in a Troubled World"

In *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us), Pope Francis' encyclical, we find the integration of modern issues with the traditional devotion to the Sacred Heart, presenting Christ's heart as a central unifying force in today's fragmented world, a world Francis describes as having lost heart. He encourages us to ask ourselves important questions: "Who am I, really?... [For] what purpose am I in this world?" (DN 8).

Loving Jesus, as your heart speaks to mine, may it speak to the world the message that everyone is loved, everyone is valued, everyone is embraced in the arms of God the Creator. Jesus, receive my heart today. Soften it where it is hard, open it to whom it is closed, and so that I may be kind, loving, faithful, and strong, please make my heart like yours. Amen.

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



Holy and compassionate God, teach us the freedom of humility, the gratification of surrender, the true joy of compassion for others. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

The Redemptorists

WEEKDAY READINGS

September 1–6

Monday, Weekday:

1 Thes 4:13–18 / Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday, Weekday:

1 Thes 5:1–6, 9–11 / Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday, St. Gregory the Great:

Col 1:1–8 / Lk 4:38–44

Thursday, Weekday:

Col 1:9–14 / Lk 5:1–11

Friday, Weekday:

Col 1:15–20 / Lk 5:33–39

Saturday, Weekday:

Col 1:21–23 / Lk 6:1–5

Bringing Home
the Word 

August 31, 2025

© 2025 Liguori Publications, a ministry of the Redemptorists. Scripture quotations in this publication are from *The New American Bible, Revised Edition*, © 2010, 1991, 1986, 1970 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, Washington, DC. The Pope Francis quotation is used with permission and copyright © 2025 *Libreria Editrice Vaticana*. All rights reserved. 1-800-325-9521. Liguori.org.