



HOLY FAMILY
CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

Small Christian Communities Gathering in Grace

*Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity
May 31, 2026*

through

*23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
September 6, 2026*

*“For where
two or three
have gathered
together
in my name,
I am there
in their midst”*

(Matthew 18:20)

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Small Christian Community Guide

The Most Holy Trinity through 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Solemnity of The Most Holy Trinity May 31, 2026

FIRST READING

Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

Early in the morning Moses went up Mount Sinai as the LORD had commanded him, taking along the two stone tablets.

Having come down in a cloud, the LORD stood with Moses there and proclaimed his name, "LORD."

Thus the LORD passed before him and cried out, "The LORD, the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity."

Moses at once bowed down to the ground in worship. Then he said, "If I find favor with you, O Lord, do come along in our company. This is indeed a stiff-necked people; yet pardon our wickedness and sins, and receive us as your own."

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 13:11-13

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters, rejoice.
Mend your ways, encourage one another,
agree with one another, live in peace,
and the God of love and peace will be with
you. Greet one another with a holy kiss.
All the holy ones greet you.

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ
and the love of God and the fellowship of the
Holy Spirit be with all of you.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity • May 31, 2026

GOSPEL

John 3:16-18

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Moses was able to speak directly to God. How do you develop your personal relationship with God?
- God is merciful, gracious, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness. Which one of these qualities do you find most comforting? Why?

SECOND READING

To “agree with another” is not a command that we all think alike, but rather, an invitation to live for others through acts of love and service.

- Name one way you serve with love. Who serves with you in love?
- What does it mean to live in peace? What actions/behaviors can you do, big or small, to lead to peace?

GOSPEL

- How in your life do you show that you are a believer?
- While the first reading says God is merciful and abounding in steadfast love, the Gospel says those who do not believe in Jesus are condemned. How do you reconcile those statements?
- Trinity: one God in three distinct persons. Which “person” is in your mind’s eye when you pray? Why that one?

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ June 7, 2026

FIRST READING

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy.

Moses said to the people:

"Remember how for forty years now the LORD, your God, has directed all your journeying in the desert, so as to test you by affliction and find out whether or not it was your intention to keep his commandments. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does one live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the LORD.

"Do not forget the LORD, your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery; who guided you through the vast and terrible desert with its saraph serpents and scorpions, its parched and waterless ground; who brought forth water for you from the flinty rock and fed you in the desert with manna, a food unknown to your fathers."

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a participation in the blood of Christ?
The bread that we break, is it not a participation in the body of Christ?
Because the loaf of bread is one,
we, though many, are one body,
for we all partake of the one loaf.

Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ • June 7, 2026

GOSPEL

John 6:51-58

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the Jewish crowds:

"I am the living bread that came down from heaven; whoever eats this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give is my flesh for the life of the world."

The Jews quarreled among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus said to them, "Amen, amen, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you do not have life within you. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food, and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me and I in him. Just as the living Father sent me and I have life because of the Father, so also the one who feeds on me will have life because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven. Unlike your ancestors who ate and still died, whoever eats this bread will live forever."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- When have you been in the "desert?" How did God lead you out, feed you manna, and quench your thirst?
- In the desert, Israel had to learn to depend solely on God, not on "bread alone" or their personal preferences. When has God taken care of you? Did you recognize it at the time?

SECOND READING

- How does the Eucharist strengthen your sense of community with the Church?
- Do you think we are "one body" in the Church today?

GOSPEL

- Receiving the Body and Blood of Christ is not a past event, but a present gift. How do you experience the Body and Blood of Christ both as a gift and an obligation?
- When you hear the words "Body and Blood of Christ" and receive the host and cup of wine, how *real* is this for you? Do you believe it?

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 14, 2026

FIRST READING

Exodus 19:2-6a

A reading from the Book of Exodus.

In those days, the Israelites came to the desert of Sinai and pitched camp. While Israel was encamped here in front of the mountain, Moses went up the mountain to God. Then the LORD called to him and said, "Thus shall you say to the house of Jacob; tell the Israelites: You have seen for yourselves how I treated the Egyptians and how I bore you up on eagle wings and brought you here to myself. Therefore, if you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine. You shall be to me a kingdom of priests, a holy nation."

SECOND READING

Romans 5:6-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
Christ, while we were still helpless, yet died at the appointed time for the ungodly. Indeed, only with difficulty does one die for a just person, though perhaps for a good person one might even find courage to die.
But God proves his love for us in that while we were still sinners Christ died for us. How much more then, since we are now justified by his blood, will we be saved through him from the wrath. Indeed, if, while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of his Son, how much more, once reconciled, will we be saved by his life. Not only that, but we also boast of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received reconciliation.

GOSPEL

Matthew 9:36-10:8

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At the sight of the crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out and to cure every disease and every illness.

The names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew, Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddeus; Simon from Cana, and Judas Iscariot who betrayed him.

Jesus sent out these twelve after instructing them thus, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

As you go, make this proclamation: 'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'

Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse lepers, drive out demons. Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- When have you felt lifted "on eagle wings" by God?
- As "a kingdom of priests," how are we called to mediate in this chaotic world?

SECOND READING

- Salvation does not simply mean forgiveness of sins, but a once-and-for-all liberation from sin. Discuss what this means to you.
- We receive salvation through reconciliation. How would you explain this statement to a friend?

GOSPEL

- Why do you think Jesus instructed the disciples, "Do not go into pagan territory or enter a Samaritan town. Go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel...?"
- Jesus tells his disciples, "Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give." How does this resonate with you?

12th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 21, 2026

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:10-13

A reading from the book of the prophet Jeremiah.

Jeremiah said:

"I hear the whisperings of many:

'Terror on every side! Denounce! let us denounce him!'

All those who were my friends are on the watch for any misstep of mine.

'Perhaps he will be trapped; then we can prevail, and take our vengeance on him.'

But the LORD is with me, like a mighty champion:

my persecutors will stumble, they will not triumph.

In their failure they will be put to utter shame, to lasting, unforgettable confusion.

O LORD of hosts, you who test the just, who probe mind and heart, let me witness the vengeance you take on them, for to you I have entrusted my cause.

Sing to the LORD,

praise the LORD,

for he has rescued the life of the poor from the power of the wicked!"

SECOND READING

Romans 5:12-15

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

Through one man sin entered the world, and through sin, death, and thus death came to all men, inasmuch as all sinned—for up to the time of the law, sin was in the world, though sin is not accounted when there is no law.

But death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who did not sin after the pattern of the trespass of Adam, who is the type of the one who was to come.

But the gift is not like the transgression. For if by the transgression of the one the many died, how much more did the grace of God and the gracious gift of the one man Jesus Christ overflow for the many.

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:26-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to the Twelve:

"Fear no one. Nothing is concealed that will not be revealed, nor secret that will not be known. What I say to you in the darkness, speak in the light; what you hear whispered, proclaim on the housetops. And do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather, be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in Gehenna. Are not two sparrows sold for a small coin? Yet not one of them falls to the ground without your Father's knowledge. Even all the hairs of your head are counted. So do not be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows. Everyone who acknowledges me before others I will acknowledge before my heavenly Father. But whoever denies me before others, I will deny before my heavenly Father."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Jeremiah faces mockery and conspiracy from those close to him, who whisper, "Terror on every side" and wait for him to slip. He laments over the intense personal persecution he suffered because of his loyalty to God's message.

- Have you ever felt constrained or uncomfortable in sharing your faith with others?
- Have you ever been distressed over persecutions or the betrayal of friends because of your faith?
- What lesson from Jeremiah might cause you distress and enable you to declare faith in God as your 'mighty warrior'?

SECOND READING

Romans teaches us that while sin and death entered the world through Adam's disobedience, Jesus Christ brings life to all those who accept His 'free gift' of grace.

- How do you think sin is associated with the law?
- Do you believe that through Jesus, God's grace is more powerful and far-reaching than the consequences of Adam's sin? How does this make you feel?

GOSPEL

Jesus emphasizes that no form of life falls outside of God's care. He highlights that 'the very hairs of your head are all numbered', which reassures us of our immense value in God's eyes.

- Have you ever experienced this immense unconditional love? Does this reading make you feel more worthy?
- The Gospel tells us, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul." Have you ever felt disconnected from your soul? How did you feel?

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time June 28, 2026

FIRST READING

2 Kings 4:8-11, 14-16a

A reading from the Second Book of Kings.

One day Elisha came to Shunem, where there was a woman of influence, who urged him to dine with her. Afterward, whenever he passed by, he used to stop there to dine. So she said to her husband, "I know that Elisha is a holy man of God. Since he visits us often, let us arrange a little room on the roof and furnish it for him with a bed, table, chair, and lamp, so that when he comes to us he can stay there." Sometime later Elisha arrived and stayed in the room overnight.

Later Elisha asked, "Can something be done for her?" His servant Gehazi answered, "Yes! She has no son, and her husband is getting on in years." Elisha said, "Call her." When the woman had been called and stood at the door, Elisha promised, "This time next year you will be fondling a baby son."

SECOND READING

Romans 6:3-4, 8-11

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?
We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death, so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might live in newness of life. If, then, we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him. We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more; death no longer has power over him.

As to his death, he died to sin once and for all; as to his life, he lives for God. Consequently, you too must think of yourselves as dead to sin and living for God in Christ Jesus.

13th Sunday in Ordinary Time • June 28, 2026

GOSPEL

Matthew 10:37-42

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his apostles:

“Whoever loves father or mother more than me is not worthy of me, and whoever loves son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me; and whoever does not take up his cross and follow after me is not worthy of me.

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. “

“Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives the one who sent me.

Whoever receives a prophet because he is a prophet will receive a prophet’s reward, and whoever receives a righteous man because he is a righteous man will receive a righteous man’s reward.

And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple—
amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In this first reading, the woman provided unselfish generosity, and God rewarded her with her deepest, unspoken longing – to bear a son. God saw and honored faithful service.

- How do we make space in our daily lives for God’s presence?
- The woman sought nothing in return for her kindness. Have you been surprised by unexpected divine blessings in your life that you feel are related to your free acts of service?
- Do you feel God hears us in our prayer? Can you testify to a miracle God brought about?

SECOND READING

- How do you live your baptism? What does that mean to you?
- Paul urges baptized believers to walk differently. What does it mean to live for God?

GOSPEL

- Do you ever find yourself loving someone or something more than Jesus? How can you prioritize Jesus over other life interests?
- Jesus is clear. The way to live is through sacrifice, self-denial, and our daily cross. Surrendering personal ambition for Jesus leads to finding true life, whereas selfishness results in spiritual ruin. How have you experienced this to be true?
- Jesus emphasizes that selfless service, even small acts of kindness, bring divine rewards. Describe your experience with the recent Holy Family Parish Kindness Initiative.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 5, 2026

FIRST READING

Zechariah 9:9-10

A reading from the Prophet Zechariah.

Thus says the LORD:

Rejoice heartily, O daughter Zion,
shout for joy, O daughter Jerusalem!
See, your king shall come to you;
a just savior is he, meek, and riding on an
ass, on a colt, the foal of an ass.
He shall banish the chariot from Ephraim,
and the horse from Jerusalem;
the warrior's bow shall be banished,
and he shall proclaim peace to the nations.
His dominion shall be from sea to sea,
and from the River to the ends of the
earth.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:9, 11-13

**A reading from the letter of Paul to the
Romans.**

Brothers and sisters:

You are not in the flesh;
on the contrary, you are in the spirit,
if only the Spirit of God dwells in you.
Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ
does not belong to him.
If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus
from the dead dwells in you, the one who
raised Christ from the dead will give life to
your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit
that dwells in you.
Consequently, brothers and sisters,
we are not debtors to the flesh, to live
according to the flesh.
For if you live according to the flesh, you
will die, but if by the Spirit you put to
death the deeds of the body, you will live.

14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 5, 2026

GOSPEL

Matthew 11:25-30

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time Jesus exclaimed:

"I give praise to you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, for although you have hidden these things from the wise and the learned you have revealed them to little ones.

Yes, Father, such has been your gracious will. All things have been handed over to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal him."

"Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.

Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves.

For my yoke is easy, and my burden light."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Picture in your mind this prophecy of a king riding into town on a service animal, like a donkey, rather than a military horse or chariot of war. What might a humble leader look like today?

SECOND READING

- Paul teaches us that those who belong to Christ, live by the Spirit, not the flesh. What does living a *life in the spirit* mean to you? What does this look like in your life?

GOSPEL

- Jesus invites the weary, burdened by sin or life, to take up His "yoke" of discipleship by developing a personal relationship with Him. He reassures us that His "yoke is easy" and life-giving. What have you learned during Lent about Jesus' character, and what have you done to imitate Him?
- How do you lay down your burdens in Christ? How has this provided you with peace?

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 12, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:10-11

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:
Just as from the heavens
the rain and snow come down
and do not return there
till they have watered the earth,
making it fertile and fruitful,
giving seed to the one who sows
and bread to the one who eats,
so shall my word be
that goes forth from my mouth;
my word shall not return to me void,
but shall do my will,
achieving the end for which I sent it.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:18-23

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
I consider that the sufferings of this
present time are as nothing compared
with the glory to be revealed for us.
For creation awaits with eager
expectation
the revelation of the children of God;
for creation was made subject to futility,
not of its own accord but because of the
one who subjected it, in hope that
creation itself
would be set free from slavery to
corruption
and share in the glorious freedom of the
children of God.
We know that all creation is groaning in
labor pains even until now; and not only
that, but we ourselves, who have the
firstfruits of the Spirit,
we also groan within ourselves as we

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:1-23

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

On that day, Jesus went out of the house and sat down by the sea. Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat down, and the whole crowd stood along the shore. And he spoke to them at length in parables, saying:

"A sower went out to sow. And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up. Some fell on rocky ground, where it had little soil. It sprang up at once because the soil was not deep, and when the sun rose it was scorched, and it withered for lack of roots. Some seed fell among thorns, and the thorns grew up and choked it. But some seed fell on rich soil, and produced fruit, a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold. Whoever has ears ought to hear." The disciples approached him and said, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He said to them in reply, "Because knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven has been granted to you, but to them it has not been granted.

To anyone who has, more will be given and he will grow rich; from anyone who has not, even what he has will be taken away. This is why I speak to them in parables, because *they look but do not see and hear but do not listen or understand*.

Isaiah's prophecy is fulfilled in them, which says:

You shall indeed hear but not understand, you shall indeed look but never see. Gross is the heart of this people, they will hardly hear with their ears, they have closed their eyes, lest they see with their eyes and hear with their ears and understand with their hearts and be converted, and I heal them.

wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

"But blessed are your eyes, because they see, and your ears, because they hear. Amen, I say to you, many prophets and righteous people longed to see what you see but did not see it, and to hear what you hear but did not hear it.

"Hear then the parable of the sower. The seed sown on the path is the one who hears the word of the kingdom without understanding it, and the evil one comes and steals away what was sown in his heart.

The seed sown on rocky ground is the one who hears the word and receives it at once with joy. But he has no root and lasts only for a time. When some tribulation or persecution comes because of the word, he immediately falls away.

The seed sown among thorns is the one who hears the word, but then worldly anxiety and the lure of riches choke the word and it bears no fruit.

But the seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit and yields a hundred or sixty or thirtyfold."

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time • July 12, 2026

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

In this reading from Isaiah, the Lord says "rain and snow" that come down from the heavens, **serve their purpose to water crops**, then the precipitation returns to the heavens.

- Through our actions, sometimes we have the opportunity to "water God's crops" and help the growth of seeds He planted. Share a time when your actions were the "rain or snow" that fell to earth on God's crops. What happened? Did you see the results?

SECOND READING

Paul wrote this letter to the Romans around 57 AD. Christians in Rome were a minority, viewed with suspicion because they refused to take part in state-sponsored religion. They faced great persecution under Emperor Nero. Yet, their faith endured. Despite the intense suffering, Paul's letter encourages endurance during suffering, in the hope of God's restoration.

- Share a time when you have endured suffering of some kind, OR a time that you experienced personal/spiritual growth from suffering, and what was the result? How did it change you?

GOSPEL

In this parable, Jesus says, "And as he sowed, some seed fell on the path, and birds came and ate it up."

- If you are the soil in this parable, who or what are your own personal "birds?"
- What are the seeds of faith that God has planted in you? How have you seen them grow in the past year?

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 19, 2026

FIRST READING

Wisdom 12:13, 16-19

A reading from the Book of Wisdom.

There is no god besides you who have the care of all, that you need show you have not unjustly condemned.

For your might is the source of justice; your mastery over all things makes you lenient to all.

For you show your might when the perfection of your power is disbelieved; and in those who know you, you rebuke temerity.

But though you are master of might, you judge with clemency, and with much lenience you govern us; for power, whenever you will, attends you. And you taught your people, by these deeds, that those who are just must be kind; and you gave your children good ground for hope that you would permit repentance for their sins.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:26-27

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

The Spirit comes to the aid of our weakness;

for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes with inexpressible groanings.

And the one who searches hearts knows what is the intention of the Spirit, because he intercedes for the holy ones according to God's will.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:24-43

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus proposed another parable to the crowds, saying:

"The kingdom of heaven may be likened to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While everyone was asleep his enemy came and sowed weeds all through the wheat, and then went off.

When the crop grew and bore fruit, the weeds appeared as well. The slaves of the householder came to him and said, 'Master, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where have the weeds come from?' He answered, 'An enemy has done this.' His slaves said to him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?'

He replied, 'No, if you pull up the weeds you might uproot the wheat along with them. Let them grow together until harvest; then at harvest time I will say to the harvesters, 'First collect the weeds and tie them in bundles for burning; but gather the wheat into my barn.'"

He proposed another parable to them. "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'"

He spoke to them another parable. "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed with three measures of wheat flour until the whole batch was leavened."

All these things Jesus spoke to the crowds in parables. He spoke to them only in parables, to fulfill what had been said through the prophet:

*I will open my mouth in parables,
I will announce what has lain hidden from
the foundation of the world.*

Then, dismissing the crowds, he went into the house. His disciples approached him and said, "Explain to us the parable of the weeds in the field."

He said in reply, "He who sows good seed is the Son of Man, the field is the world, the good seed the children of the kingdom.

The weeds are the children of the evil one, and the enemy who sows them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the age, and the harvesters are angels. Just as weeds are collected and burned up with fire, so will it be at the end of the age.

The Son of Man will send his angels, and they will collect out of his kingdom all who cause others to sin and all evildoers.

They will throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth. Then the righteous will shine like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Whoever has ears ought to hear."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Wisdom tells us that God rules absolutely yet exercises careful judgment and governs with amazing restraint. He extends infinite grace to change our hearts and minds. He teaches us that we, too, must follow His example and extend grace to one another. How can you do this right now in your life?

SECOND READING

- In our second reading from Romans, Paul assures us that even when we aren't sure how to pray, the Holy Spirit prays for us! When have you experienced the Holy Spirit guiding you in prayer?
- When we can't find the right words, the Holy Spirit speaks to the Father with groans, those prayers that can't be put into words. What is your experience with prayer during difficult times?

GOSPEL

In the Parable of the Weeds and the Wheat, Jesus describes the Kingdom of God on earth as a maturing wheat field with emerging weeds. The mixed nature of God's Kingdom on earth is like our own gardens. It can be frustrating if we let ourselves be disappointed and distracted by weeds that grow alongside our plants.

- In the garden of our life, do we focus on the growth of our plantings and enjoy the beauty of the flowers, or are we overwhelmed and frustrated with the weeds?
- What does the Kingdom of God look like to you?

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time July 26, 2026

FIRST READING

1 Kings 3:5, 7-12

A reading from the First Book of Kings.

The LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream at night. God said, "Ask something of me and I will give it to you."

Solomon answered:

"O LORD, my God, you have made me, your servant, king to succeed my father David; but I am a mere youth, not knowing at all how to act. I serve you in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a people so vast that it cannot be numbered or counted. Give your servant, therefore, an understanding heart to judge your people and to distinguish right from wrong. For who is able to govern this vast people of yours?"

The LORD was pleased that Solomon made this request. So God said to him:

"Because you have asked for this—

not for a long life for yourself,

nor for riches,

nor for the life of your enemies,

but for understanding so that you may know what is right—

I do as you requested.

I give you a heart so wise and understanding that there has never been anyone like you up to now, and after you there will come no one to equal you."

SECOND READING

Romans 8:28-30

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

For those he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, so that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

And those he predestined he also called; and those he called he also justified; and those he justified he also glorified.

GOSPEL

Matthew 13:44-52

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field, which a person finds and hides again, and out of joy goes and sells all that he has and buys that field.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant searching for fine pearls.

When he finds a pearl of great price, he goes and sells all that he has and buys it.

Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net thrown into the sea, which collects fish of every kind. When it is full they haul it ashore and sit down to put what is good into buckets. What is bad they throw away.

Thus it will be at the end of the age.

The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where there will be wailing and grinding of teeth.

"Do you understand all these things?"

They answered, "Yes."

And he replied, "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- What do these verses suggest about God's priorities versus human priorities?
- What are the practical ways to seek wisdom from God in everyday life?

SECOND READING

- If we are saved by faith alone, where do good works fit into the Christian life?
- What do you feel God is calling you to do to fulfill your destiny?

GOSPEL

- The Christian life involves hard work. It requires us to give up whatever endangers our relationship with God. What "treasures" or priorities in your life compete with the value of God's Kingdom?
- What personal treasure have you spiritually buried that you can share with our faith community?

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 2, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 55:1-3

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:
All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!
You who have no money,
come, receive grain and eat;
Come, without paying and without cost,
drink wine and milk!
Why spend your money for what is not
bread;
your wages for what fails to satisfy?
Heed me, and you shall eat well,
you shall delight in rich fare.
Come to me heedfully,
listen, that you may have life.
I will renew with you the everlasting
covenant,
the benefits assured to David.

SECOND READING

Romans 8:35, 37-39

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:
What will separate us from the love of
Christ?
Will anguish, or distress, or persecution,
or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the
sword?
No, in all these things we conquer
overwhelmingly through him who loved
us. For I am convinced that neither death,
nor life, nor angels, nor principalities,
nor present things, nor future things,
nor powers, nor height, nor depth,
nor any other creature will be able to
separate us from the love of God in Christ
Jesus our Lord.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:13-21

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

When Jesus heard of the death of John the Baptist, he withdrew in a boat to a deserted place by himself.

The crowds heard of this and followed him on foot from their towns.

When he disembarked and saw the vast crowd, his heart was moved with pity for them, and he cured their sick.

When it was evening, the disciples approached him and said, "This is a deserted place and it is already late; dismiss the crowds so that they can go to the villages and buy food for themselves." Jesus said to them, "There is no need for them to go away; give them some food yourselves."

But they said to him, "Five loaves and two fish are all we have here."

Then he said, "Bring them here to me," and he ordered the crowds to sit down on the grass.

Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds.

They all ate and were satisfied, and they picked up the fragments left over—twelve wicker baskets full.

Those who ate were about five thousand men, not counting women and children.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- In this passage, God calls each of us with a personal invitation to the heavenly banquet ("All you who are thirsty"). If you hear this invitation today, would you accept? Why might you decline?
- Hearing is a theme in this reading, but we don't just hear with our ears. As St. Benedict said, we must listen with the "ears of our heart." Have you ever experienced this? What did you hear?

SECOND READING

- Pause, breathe, and take time to contemplate the span of the oceans, the height of the mountains, the sheer number of planets and stars, the vastness of the universe. God's love is larger than any of them. Breathe that idea into the core of your being. How does this make you feel? Where can you bring this feeling into your life right now?

GOSPEL

- How does Jesus show that grief and compassion go hand in hand? In your own grief and suffering, do you turn inward to yourself or outward toward others?
- How can this story of an invitation to fully participate in the Lord's Supper in the Eucharist help you prepare for the next time you are fed by the miracle of the Body and Blood of Christ?

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 9, 2026

FIRST READING

1 Kings 19:9a, 11-13a

A reading from the First Book of Kings

At the mountain of God, Horeb, Elijah came to a cave where he took shelter.

Then the LORD said to him,

“Go outside and stand on the mountain before the LORD; the LORD will be passing by.”

A strong and heavy wind was rending the mountains and crushing rocks before the LORD—

but the LORD was not in the wind.

After the wind there was an earthquake—

but the LORD was not in the earthquake.

After the earthquake there was fire—

but the LORD was not in the fire.

After the fire there was a tiny whispering sound.

When he heard this, Elijah hid his face in his cloak and went and stood at the entrance of the cave.

SECOND READING

Romans 9:1-5

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

I speak the truth in Christ, I do not lie; my conscience joins with the Holy Spirit in bearing me witness that I have great sorrow and constant anguish in my heart.

For I could wish that I myself were accursed and cut off from Christ for the sake of my own people, my kindred according to the flesh.

They are Israelites;

theirs the adoption, the glory, the covenants, the giving of the law, the worship, and the promises;

theirs the patriarchs, and from them, according to the flesh, is the Christ, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen.

GOSPEL

Matthew 14:22-33

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

After he had fed the people, Jesus made the disciples get into a boat and precede him to the other side, while he dismissed the crowds.

After doing so, he went up on the mountain by himself to pray. When it was evening he was there alone. Meanwhile, the boat, already a few miles offshore, was being tossed about by the waves, for the wind was against it.

During the fourth watch of the night, he came toward them walking on the sea. When the disciples saw him walking on the sea they were terrified.

"It is a ghost," they said, and they cried out in fear.

At once Jesus spoke to them, "Take courage, it is I; do not be afraid."

Peter said to him in reply, "Lord, if it is you, command me to come to you on the water."

He said, "Come."

Peter got out of the boat and began to walk on the water toward Jesus. But when he saw how strong the wind was he became frightened; and, beginning to sink, he cried out, "Lord, save me!"

Immediately Jesus stretched out his hand and caught Peter, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?"

After they got into the boat, the wind died down. Those who were in the boat did him homage, saying, "Truly, you are the Son of God."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

Another translation of "a tiny whispering sound" is "a voice of silence."

- When and why do you seek silent time? Where do you go?
- How do you experience God in the silence?

SECOND READING

Paul argues that God always keeps his promises. We can trust that God's promises will never change or be revoked.

- When has it been difficult to trust God's love and promises? What helped you to work through that?

GOSPEL

This is a beautiful story of Jesus' invitation to be with him in times of trouble. The following practice is called "imaginative gospel contemplation" by the Jesuits. Have one person read the gospel aloud one more time while the rest of the group imagines the scene.

- As you listen, close your eyes and imagine you are in the boat with the disciples. Jesus turns and reaches out his hand and speaks to you. Take a moment of silence to stay with Jesus. Then open your eyes and return to the room.
- Take a moment to write down Jesus' message. You may also choose to have each person share His words.
- Keep Jesus' words close to your heart in the coming week.

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time August 16, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Thus says the LORD:

Observe what is right, do what is just;
for my salvation is about to come,
my justice, about to be revealed.

The foreigners who join themselves to the
LORD, ministering to him,
loving the name of the LORD,
and becoming his servants—
all who keep the sabbath free from
profanation and hold to my covenant,
them I will bring to my holy mountain
and make joyful in my house of prayer;
their burnt offerings and sacrifices
will be acceptable on my altar,
for my house shall be called
a house of prayer for all peoples.

SECOND READING

Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Brothers and sisters:

I am speaking to you Gentiles.

Inasmuch as I am the apostle to the
Gentiles, I glory in my ministry in order to
make my race jealous and thus save some
of them. For if their rejection is the
reconciliation of the world, what will their
acceptance be but life from the dead?

For the gifts and the call of God are
irrevocable. Just as you once disobeyed
God but have now received mercy because
of their disobedience, so they have now
disobeyed in order that, by virtue of the
mercy shown to you, they too may now
receive mercy.

For God delivered all to disobedience,
that he might have mercy upon all.

GOSPEL

Matthew 15:21-28

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

At that time, Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

And behold, a Canaanite woman of that district came and called out,

"Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!

My daughter is tormented by a demon."

But Jesus did not say a word in answer to her. Jesus' disciples came and asked him, "Send her away, for she keeps calling out after us."

He said in reply,

"I was sent only to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."

But the woman came and did Jesus homage, saying, "Lord, help me."

He said in reply, "It is not right to take the food of the children and throw it to the dogs."

She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters."

Then Jesus said to her in reply,

"O woman, great is your faith!

Let it be done for you as you wish."

And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- Verses 6-7 talk about "forgiveness" and being welcomed. Have you ever felt like an outsider in a faith setting? What did that experience teach you?
- How does this passage challenge us to embrace a more inclusive understanding of hospitality in our communities and welcome others?

SECOND READING

- How do you respond or feel when you see others receiving grace or opportunities you don't think they deserve?
- Who are your Gentiles?

GOSPEL

- Jesus initially ignores the woman. Why do you think Jesus initially seems unresponsive or even resistant to the woman's situation?
- Where do you see yourself in this story: as the pleading woman, a dismissing disciple, or someone waiting for a miracle?
- How does this passage challenge us to see faith in unexpected places or people?

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time August 23, 2026

FIRST READING

Isaiah 22:19-23

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah

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."

SECOND READING

Romans 11:33-36

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

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

Matthew 16:13-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

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.

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

The reading focuses on one person, Shebna, an official in the royal palace, who tried to glorify himself and his family. Isaiah calls him out on his duplicity.

- We live in a world that glorifies money, status, and appearance. What can we do to avoid falling into these traps and becoming like Shebna?

SECOND READING

This passage marks the end of Paul's argument about how the final salvation will take place.

This is his concluding statement on the manner.

- Do you think salvation is universal or limited to certain groups?
- How do you interpret Paul's words in this context, "for who has known the mind of the Lord?"

GOSPEL

This is a well-loved gospel passage that asks us to consider who Jesus is in our personal faith journey. But it is also a call to public discipleship. We can name Jesus as the Messiah for ourselves, but then we must walk the road to Jerusalem alongside him.

- What are the gifts and challenges of following Jesus for you?
- What are the growing edges of your faith journey right now? Where would you most like to grow in your faith?

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time August 30, 2026

FIRST READING

Jeremiah 20:7-9

A reading from the Prophet Jeremiah

You duped me, O LORD, and I let myself be duped; you were too strong for me, and you triumphed. All the day I am an object of laughter; everyone mocks me.

Whenever I speak, I must cry out, violence and outrage is my message; the word of the LORD has brought me derision and reproach all the day.

I say to myself, I will not mention him, I will speak in his name no more. But then it becomes like fire burning in my heart, imprisoned in my bones; I grow weary holding it in, I cannot endure it.

SECOND READING

Romans 12:1-2

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

I urge you, brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God, your spiritual worship.

Do not conform yourselves to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect.

GOSPEL

Matthew 16:21-27

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus began to show his disciples that he must go to Jerusalem and suffer greatly from the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed and on the third day be raised.

Then Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke him, "God forbid, Lord! No such thing shall ever happen to you."

He turned and said to Peter, "Get behind me, Satan! You are an obstacle to me. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

Then Jesus said to his disciples, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me.

For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.

What profit would there be for one to gain the whole world and forfeit his life?

Or what can one give in exchange for his life?

For the Son of Man will come with his angels in his Father's glory, and then he will repay all according to his conduct."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- In the reading, Jeremiah complains that his work is met with utter rejection, something we might all be able to relate to. Like Jeremiah, have you ever been criticized for your faith? When have you spoken out to defend your beliefs?
- In the last verse, God's call surges up in Jeremiah. When have you had a spiritual experience when you felt "a fire burning in your heart?" What were the circumstances?

SECOND READING

- Paul talks about spiritual transformation as an ongoing process. How have you evolved spiritually over time? What has changed in your spiritual beliefs?

GOSPEL

- Jesus explains that discipleship is a three-part movement: denial of self, taking up the cross, and following him. How would you explain the meaning of each of these?
- Why do you feel it is necessary to deny oneself and take up the cross to follow Jesus? On a practical level, how can we do this?

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time September 6, 2026

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 33:7-9

A reading from the Prophet Ezekiel

Thus says the LORD:

You, son of man, I have appointed watchman for the house of Israel; when you hear me say anything, you shall warn them for me.

If I tell the wicked, "O wicked one, you shall surely die, " and you do not speak out to dissuade the wicked from his way, the wicked shall die for his guilt, but I will hold you responsible for his death.

But if you warn the wicked, trying to turn him from his way, and he refuses to turn from his way, he shall die for his guilt, but you shall save yourself.

SECOND READING

Romans 13:8-10

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters:

Owe nothing to anyone, except to love one another; for the one who loves another has fulfilled the law.

The commandments, "You shall not commit adultery; you shall not kill; you shall not steal; you shall not covet, " and whatever other commandment there may be, are summed up in this saying, namely, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

Love does no evil to the neighbor;

Hence, love is the fulfillment of the law.

GOSPEL

Matthew 18:15-20

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.'

If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church, then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector.

Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.

Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

FAITH SHARING QUESTIONS

FIRST READING

- What kind of relationship would it take for you to be a watchman or guide for someone else?
- Recall a time when you were called to lovingly intervene on someone's behalf. How does that relate to the idea of being a guide or watchman?

SECOND READING

- The reading states that love is the fulfillment of the law. When have you found it difficult to love another?

GOSPEL

- How has your idea of sin and reconciliation evolved over time?
- The Catholic Church teaches that the Sacrament of Reconciliation is done through a priest. What are other methods of reconciliation you find meaningful?