

AUGUST 27, 2023

SAINT CECILIA CHURCH, FONDA NY
SACRED HEART CHURCH, TRIBES HILL NY

Father Juanito Asprec, Parochial Vicar

Father Martin Kordel, Administrator



21ST SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

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."
- Mt 16:15-16

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 OGD. ©LPI

~Weddings-Baptisms-Funerals~

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Sandi McCaslin, **Administrative Assistant**

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Sandi McCaslin, **Administrative Assistant**

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Wednesday & Friday, 9 am to 2:00 pm

COLLECTIONS & ATTENDANCE

AUGUST 19 & 20, 2023—WEEKEND TOTALS:

| COLLECTIONS: | SH | SC |
|-------------------|--------|--------|
| WEEKLY COLLECTION | 738.00 | 835.00 |
| OTHER | 30.00 | 105.00 |
| ASSUMPTION | 39.00 | 201.00 |

PARISH TOTAL 807.00 1141.00
 OTHER- E-GIVING, VIA USPS, VOTIVES



Sat. Aug. 26, 4:00 pm (SH) - No Mass

Sun. Aug. 27, 8:30 am (SC) - † Birthday remembrance for Julia Wray, requested by Jim Wray.

Sun. Sept. 3, 8:30 am (SC) - 1.) † Anniversary remembrance for Frank & Marinda Arcesi, requested by their daughter MaryAnn.

2.) † In memory of Jenny Sponnenburg Bushey, requested by Michele Furnare.

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Who Do You Say That I Am?

I once knew a very devout woman whose adult godchild had fallen away from the practice of the faith. This godchild still believed in God, and even felt a sense of belonging in the Church. He was a good and kind person. But poor catechesis and a society that confuses pleasure with joy had left him lax in practice, without an appreciation of the sacraments. He was making choices that threatened his soul.

His godmother wanted more for him. She planned to speak with him about his life, hoping to encourage him to return to the practice of the faith. She knew that, when she brought this up, he would reply that it wasn't important to attend Mass or to receive the Eucharist, that was all just "extra."

She told me that she was going to begin their conversation by asking him the question Jesus poses to Peter in Matthew 16:15 — the critical question in all our lives, the question whose answer will define what we become in this world and the next.

Her godson knew the answer. She was confident, unshakably, that he did. He may have forgotten it or ignored it. He may have tried to convince himself he wasn't entirely sure. He may have refused to give an answer. But he knew it. He knew the answer.

There is a reason that, after Peter's response, Jesus gives him the keys to the kingdom of heaven.

"Who do you say that I am?"

Let our whole lives be our answer.

"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God." - Matthew 16:16

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Lector/Eucharistic Ministers

| | | | |
|-------------|------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|
| Aug 26 (SH) | No Mass | Sept 2 (SH) | No Mass |
| Aug 27 (SC) | Dianne Kierpiec Michele Furnare | Sept 3 (SC) | James Wray Bill Quinn |

Counters Schedule

| | | | |
|-------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|------------------------------------|
| Aug 30 (SH) | Katherine Downing Noreen Brownell | Sept 6 (SH) | Deb Swarczewski Noreen Brownell |
| Aug 28 (SC) | Bette Papa Sandy Hayes | Sept 5 (SC) | Lorna Quinn Pat Galeazza |

Food Pantry

| | | | |
|---|-------------|--|---|
|  | Aug 30 (SC) | Andrea Moran Louise Carville Michele Furnare |  |
| | Sept 6 (SH) | Jamie Lemiszki John Nigro | |

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

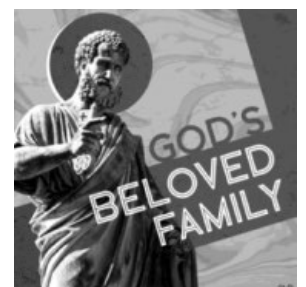
August 27, 2023 - 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Isn't it a bit weird that Catholics call the Pope "papa," father? This Sunday provides us with essential Scriptural background on the papacy, the petrine office. Jesus gives Peter the "keys to the kingdom of heaven," after witnessing to the special grace Peter has to know Jesus' true identity. Many have pointed out that the "keys" refer back to the figure of Eliakim, King David's prime minister. True enough. But notice this is not mere authority or power. It's a family relationship. The Lord says to Eliakim, "He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem" (Isaiah 22:21). David's prime minister was a spiritual *father* to the family of Israel. Peter, and his successors, will be spiritual fathers in the family of the Church.

This means we have a serious obligation to not only recognize the Pope's authority, but also to love him with the affection of children for their papa. We should never speak about him with disrespect or rancor. We should listen to him with trusting hearts, and ignore the slander thrown at him in various media. When we show the world we are loving and obedient to our Holy Papa, perhaps they'll see more clearly that the Church is indeed God's beloved family.

~Father John Muir

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Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist - August 29

The drunken oath of a king with a shallow sense of honor, a seductive dance and the hateful heart of a queen combined to bring about the martyrdom of John the Baptist. The greatest of prophets suffered the fate of so many Old Testament prophets before him: rejection and martyrdom. The "voice crying in the desert" did not hesitate to accuse the guilty, did not hesitate to speak the truth. But why? What possesses a man that he would give up his very life?

This great religious reformer was sent by God to prepare the people for the Messiah. His vocation was one of selfless giving. The only power that he claimed was the Spirit of Yahweh. "I am baptizing you with water, for repentance, but the one who is coming after me is mightier than I. I am not worthy to carry his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire" (Matthew 3:11).

Scripture tells us that many people followed John looking to him for hope, perhaps in anticipation of some great messianic power. John never allowed himself the false honor of receiving these people for his own glory. He knew his calling was one of preparation. When the time came, he led his disciples to Jesus: "The next day John was there again with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, 'Behold, the Lamb of God.' The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus" (John 1:35-37).

It is John the Baptist who has pointed the way to Christ. John's life and death were a giving over of self for God and other people. His simple style of life was one of complete detachment from earthly possessions. His heart was centered on God and the call that he heard from the Spirit of God speaking to his heart. Confident of God's grace, he had the courage to speak words of condemnation, repentance, and salvation.

Each of us has a calling to which we must listen. No one will ever repeat the mission of John, and yet all of us are called to that very mission. It is the role of the Christian to witness to Jesus. Whatever our position in this world, we are called to be disciples of Christ. By our words and deeds, others should realize that we live in the joy of knowing that Jesus is Lord. We do not have to depend upon our own limited resources but can draw strength from the vastness of Christ's saving grace.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mass at Sacred Heart in Fr Juanito's Absence: At this time we are unable to find a temporary replacement for Fr. Juanito during his vacation. Saturday Mass at Sacred Heart will be canceled during this time (Aug 26 through Sept 30). We will alert you if this should change. There is a 4pm Saturday Vigil Mass at St. Mary's in Amsterdam as well as a 4pm Sunday Mass at Our Lady of Martyrs Shrine in Auriesville.

Saint Cecilia Parking Fundraiser: Volunteers are needed for our parking lot fundraiser on Saturday, **Sept. 16**. Please call or text Kelly Viscosi @ 518-774-7250

Saint Cecilia Rummage Sale: Our rummage sale will take place on Friday October 13 and Saturday October 14 with proceeds going to St. Cecilia's. We are asking for donations of gently used clothing, linens, household goods, knick-knacks, toys, books, CDs, DVDs and small furniture. Please, no tires, TVs, computers, broken or dirty items. Items may be dropped off at the detached garage now until Oct. 9.

Help is needed Oct. 10 and 11 starting at 8:30 and the days of the sale starting at 7:45. Any assistance is appreciated. Thank you for your generosity.

Catholic Home Missions Appeal: This week we will take up the Catholic Home Missions Appeal. Today, nearly 40% of dioceses in the United States and its territories are unable to fund the essential pastoral work their communities need. Your support of this appeal helps them meet these faith formation and sacramental needs. Please prayerfully consider how you can support this appeal. More information can be found at www.usccb.org/home-missions

Altar Servers Day of Fun: Many thanks to Jamie Lemiszki for heading up the opportunity for a group of our Altar Servers to take a fun trip to Adirondack Extreme to challenge themselves on the treetop adventure course. The parishes of St Cecilia and Sacred Heart are blessed to have many great kids participating in the Altar Server ministry!

Please Support Our Advertisers: Take a look at the back of your bulletin. The businesses on the back commit to a yearly ad. These ads PAY for the printing and distribution of our bulletin.

Upcoming Second Collections:
Sept 9/10—Fuel & Heat
Sept 16/17—School Assessment

Blessings and Prayers to those Heading Back to School: Blessings to our students, parents, families, teachers, bus drivers and all staff gearing up for a new school year!



Back to School

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