

August 3, 2008

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# Sunday



“You that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price!” (Isaiah 55:1b).

Sounds like quite a sale. Come and shop and leave the wallet and credit cards behind. Really—this one is on us. Want something to eat or drink? The buffet is free today!

The problem with some biblical passages is not that they are hard to understand; it's that they are hard to believe. The message of Isaiah is crystal clear. It offers something for nothing. An offer we “can't refuse”? Is this an offer we can accept? We are pretty sure about one thing: if a deal sounds too good to be true,



it probably is. So the biblical message of getting something free has to be shoved into the safe storage bin of religious symbols, where it can sound good, maybe be made into a hymn or two, and then leave us alone.

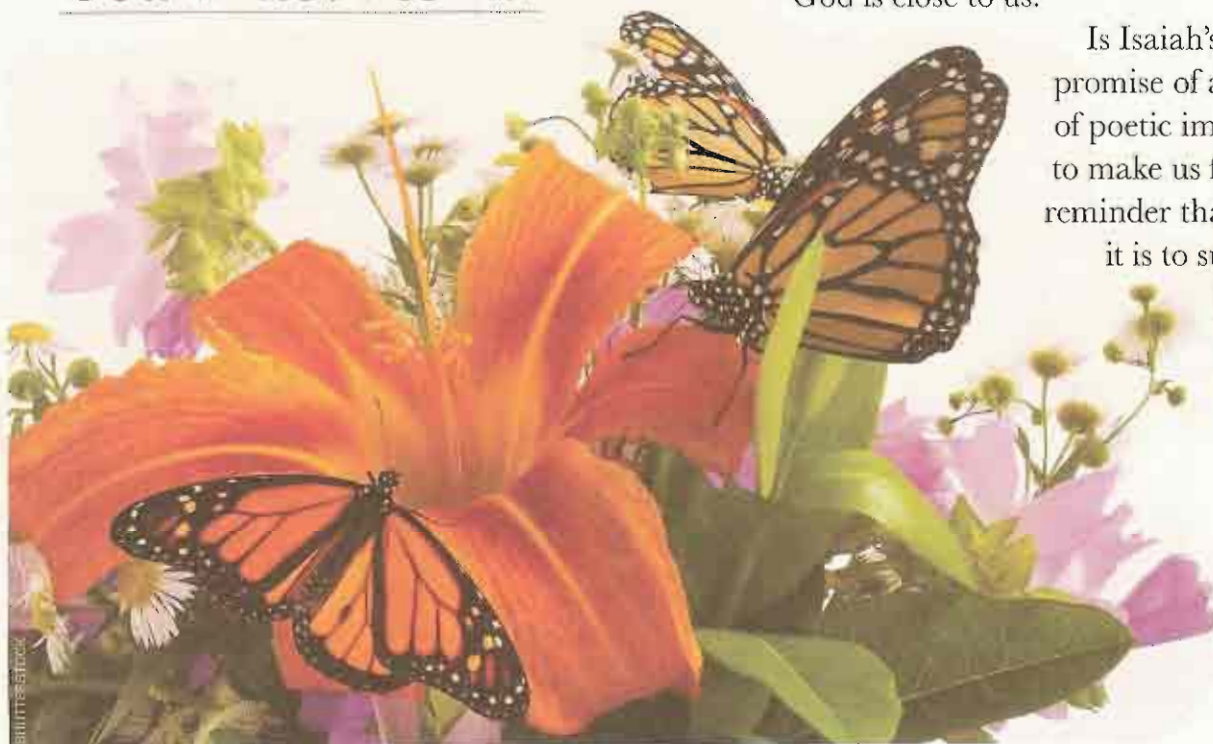
But alone is exactly where Saint Paul's letter to the Romans finds us. Paul asks—rhetorically—what can separate us from the love of Christ? He seems to say that nothing can. He lists anguish, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, the sword. Do any of these sound close to home? Are we or someone we care about taken up with worry, stress, competition, emptiness, vulnerability, fear, and abuse? These can be overwhelming. They defeat us. They are not normally the qualities of life that remind us God is close to us.

## God is close to us.

Is Isaiah's message—the promise of a free lunch—some sort of poetic image, some metaphor to make us feel better? Or is it a reminder that Christ knows what it is to suffer? We *can* embrace his offer even when—especially when—we have nothing to offer in return. And *that's* the deal. We have *nothing* to offer. He offers *life*.

DAN FINUCANE

[sundaybulletins@liguori.org](mailto:sundaybulletins@liguori.org)



### Today's Readings

Is 55:1–3

Rom 8:35, 37–39

Mt 14:13–21

## Liguori

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# St. Stephen Catholic Church

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**Office Hours – Monday through Friday**  
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

**Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road**  
817-596-9586

**Web Page – www.ss-cc.org**

**Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM**

Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM

Noon to 12:30 PM

## MASS SCHEDULE

*All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted*

**Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM**

**Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)**

**Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM**

**Daily Mass 8:45 AM**

## WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

*Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!*

## MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	August 2	6:00 PM	Lucy Nevels	<i>Memorial of St. Eusebius of Vercelli, bishop</i>
Sunday	August 3	8:00 AM	J. W. Wright, RIP	<i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Community	<i>18th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>18° Domingo Ordinario</i>
Monday	August 4	8:45 AM	San Juana Torres	<i>Memorial of St. John Mar Vianney, priest</i>
Tuesday	August 5	8:45 AM	<b>Communion Service</b>	<i>Memorial of the Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome</i>
Wednesday	August 6	8:45 AM	Marlene Fronk	<i>Feast of the Transfiguration of the Lord</i>
Thursday	August 7	8:45 AM	Violeta Cruz, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Sixtus II, pope and martyr, and his companions, martyrs</i>
				<i>Memorial of St. Cajetan, priest</i>
Friday	August 8	8:45 AM	Tommy Lucia	<i>Memorial of St. Dominic, priest</i>
Saturday	August 9	6:00 PM	Violeta Cruz, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, virgin and martyr</i>
				<i>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Sunday	August 10	8:00 AM	Enrique Loaldi, RIP	<i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Sharmayne Bierschenk	<i>19th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>19° Domingo Ordinario</i>

**Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. Aviso para el Matrimonio – seis meses es necesaria**

**Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)**

**Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass regularly – please see Fr. Casey**

**Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)**

**Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins.** Contact the church office to be on the schedule.

**Census Information—**Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.

**Bulletin Notices** are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

## REGULAR COLLECTION

July 26-27

\$10,421.13

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend*

*Are a Gift from*

*Jeanette, Marci & Maria Houle*

*in Memory of Marcel F. Houle*

*And*

*The Ladies Altar Society*

*In Honor of Bob & Marlene Fronk,*

*50th Wedding Anniversary*



**18th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

*“Come to me heedfully, listen, that you may have life. I will renew with you the everlasting covenant.” Trust God’s promise. God nourishes us abundantly. (Isaiah 55:1-3, & Matthew 14:13-21)*

**18° Domingo Ordinario**

*Nada podrá apartarnos del amor de Dios. Si Dios te está llamando a una vida de servicio en la Iglesia no temas.*

*El Señor está contigo.*

*(Romanos 8:35-39)*

## SECOND COLLECTIONS

*August 2nd & 3rd*

*Property Purchase*

*August 9th & 10th*

*Priest Care Fund*

## AROUND THE DIOCESE

**BLOOD DRIVE.** Fourteen people signed up and 44 people came to donate. Forty-one pints were credited to St. Stephen's account. If you missed the drive, you can go to the Bloodmobile at CVS Pharmacy on Friday and Saturday, and they will credit our account. *The next blood drive is November 10.* Thanks to all who donated and/or participated in any way.

**CALL FOR CATECHISTS!** The following Catechist positions are available for the 2008-09 Religious Education School Year. Training is available.

**5th grade - 1 position**  
**6th grade - 1 position**  
**Children's Gospel—adult needed for the**  
**8 AM and 10:45 AM Mass**

Catechists must be willing to prepare weekly for Religious Education classes, must be reliable and on time, must have completed all Sacraments through Confirmation, be a practicing Catholic, and have completed the Diocesan requirement "*Keeping Children Safe.*" Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net).

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION REGISTRATION** will begin this weekend August 2nd and 3rd, and will continue next weekend August 9th and 10th, after all masses. Those registering for FIRST COMMUNION class (2nd grade), a copy of your child's BAPTISMAL certificate is REQUIRED. Those registering for CONFIRMATION class (10th grade) copies of your child's BAPTISMAL and FIRST COMMUNION certificates are REQUIRED. Please have these copies when registering. Classes will start on Sunday, September 7, 2008. Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net) or 817-613-8008.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES.** St. Stephen will also be collecting school supplies that will be made available to our parishioners. The following is an official supply list. These items can be left in the church foyer in the pantry basket or brought to the church office. If you have questions, please call the office at 817-596-9585: #2 pencils; colored pencils; map pencils; black, blue and red pens; markers; crayons; watercolors; construction and manila paper; notebook paper; spirals notebooks; composition notebooks; solid colored plastic pocket folders with brads; erasers; glue and glue sticks; rulers; school boxes; and scissors.

**MONTSERRAT LADIES RETREAT SEPTEMBER 11-14:** Come away and pray on the shores of beautiful Lake Lewisville in a women's retreat. Experience the famous Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius Loyola in both the inspiring prayer conferences and the quiet prayer periods. Take time to reflect on God's love for you, how you have responded, and hope to respond in the future. Treasure the silence to talk directly to our Lord and Creator, and LISTEN. Call Helen Taaffe at 817-594-6697 or Carole Malugani at 817-594-4252 to register, or call Montserrat directly at 940-321-6020 to register by phone. It is also possible to register online at [www.montserratretreat.org](http://www.montserratretreat.org) anytime day or night.

**LAS PERSONAS QUE DESEAN CASARSE** por la iglesia favor de ponerse en contacto con el Sr. Mauricio Hernandez o con el Diacono Carlos.

This year Bishop Vann is presenting a "Family Matters" seminar on September 6 at 8:30 AM until 4:30 PM at St. Bartholomew in Fort Worth. "Family Matters" includes educational information about breast cancer and the theology, biology and psychology of family planning issues and choices. Reservation forms are available in the church office. Reservations are due by September 2. For additional information contact 817-623-2430 or 817-680-3535.

**Golden Anniversary Celebration.** On Sunday, October 12, the Family Life Office will host the 3rd annual Golden Anniversary Celebration for all couples who have been married 50 years or more by the end of this year. The celebration will take place at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church in Fort Worth. Bishop Vann will preside at a special Mass which will begin at 3 PM and will include an opportunity for you to renew your marriage vows and receive an anniversary blessing. A reception with cake and punch will follow immediately afterward in the parish Family Life Center. If you were married before 1958 and want to be part of this special celebration, call the parish office and leave your names, address, and date of marriage with the parish secretary.

**Making the Connection.** A Two-Weekend Formational Program in Ministry with Young Adults; Part 1: August 16-17 (8:30 a.m.) with Joan Weber; Location: The Catholic Renewal Center; Schedule: 9 AM—5 PM Saturday (lunch Noon); 9 AM—3 PM Sunday (lunch Noon). Contact Kevin Prevou at 817-560-2452, ext. 261 [kprevou@fwdioc.org](mailto:kprevou@fwdioc.org).

**YOUTH GROUP.** The next scheduled Youth Music Ministry practice is Monday, August 4, 5-7 PM. All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate. Any questions contact Anthony Lucia at 940-859-1449 or Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net).

The Divine Mercy Chaplet will continue on Wednesday, August 6, 3 PM in the Church. Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at [doschicas@att.net](mailto:doschicas@att.net).

### WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (All activities held at Bethel Road)

#### Monday, August 4

5:00 PM Youth Music Ministry  
9:30 AM Parish Pantry  
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72  
7:00 PM Instrucción del Bautismo Española  
*Copia de Nacimiento Certifica Requirió*

#### Tuesday, August 5

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)

#### Wednesday, August 6

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet  
6:30 PM Choir Practice

#### Thursday, August 7

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament  
10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)  
7:00 PM English Baptism Instruction  
*Copy of Birth Certificate Required*  
7:00 PM Hora Santa en Espanol primer jueves de cada mes

#### Saturday, August 9

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya (Spanish))

# Dear Padre

## What does the Church teach about making Sunday a day of rest?



How does the way most Americans spend their Sundays—shopping, doing housework, mowing the yard, catching up at the office—fit with Church teaching on keeping the Lord's day holy and making it a day of rest?

Sunday Gardener

Dear Sunday Gardener,

The *Code of Canon Law* says Catholics are to “abstain from those works and affairs which hinder the worship to be rendered to God, the joy proper to the Lord's day, or the suitable relaxation of mind and body” (1247). This means that

when planning weekend activities, your first obligation is to attend Mass on Saturday evening or Sunday. After that, the spirit of the law is to keep Sunday different from the rest of the week.

The Church tends not to be as legalistic about what constitutes “rest” and “work” as the people of the Bible were. If washing your car or doing yard work relieves the

stress of the work week, feel free to do them on Sunday. Other activities that might be seen as work, like doing laundry, cleaning the house, or shopping for groceries, are acceptable even if they don't exactly bring you joy because they involve caring for your family.

It's good that you look for guidance when your experience doesn't fit totally into a long-held Catholic practice. To find answers, you must go deeper into sources like the Scriptures. In this case, ask yourself, “What is the point this commandment is making?” The answer is that this commandment involves keeping perspective on one's relationship with God and others. Therefore, if you choose activities that bring you joy and a break from your everyday routine or unite you with your family, you'll be following Church teaching on keeping the Lord's day holy.

Rick Potts, C.Ss.R.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
□	■ □	□	■ ■ □	□	■ ■ □	■
<b>August 4</b>	<b>August 5</b>	<b>August 6</b>	<b>August 7</b>	<b>August 8</b>	<b>August 9</b>	<b>August 10</b>
<i>Saint John Mary Vianney, priest</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>The Transfiguration of the Lord</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Saint Dominic, priest</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
Jer 28:1-17 Mt 14:22-36	Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22 Mt 14:22-36 or 15:1-2, 10-14	Dn 7:9-10, 13-14 2 Pt 1:16-19 Mt 17:1-9	Jer 31:31-34 Mt 16:13-23	Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7 Mt 16:24-28	Hb 1:12-2:4 Mt 17:14-20	1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a Rom 9:1-5 Mt 14:22-33

