

August 24, 2008

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday



Jesus asks his disciples to answer a critical question. *Who do people say I am?* How did the *disciples* understand him? Peter calls him the *Messiah*. Jesus blesses that insight. Peter and his answer are so important, Jesus will build his church there—a connection of heaven and earth will be rooted there. So why does Jesus tell them not to tell anyone he is the Messiah?

Christians are used to defining *Messiah* through our understanding of Jesus. In the first century, a variety of different expectations and definitions were available.

Zealots wanted to throw off Roman rule. Give us a messiah who will lead us against those destroying our country! Let's go to war like the Maccabees, who fought two centuries earlier. Is God any less on *our* side?

Priests and Sadducees kept the Temple running. Are we not meant to fulfill the law of Moses? The Romans have kept the Temple open. Do we *need* a Messiah? Would that not create real problems?

Pharisees were willing to interpret the Law in new

ways. They are open to new leadership. Notice this group in the Gospels. Jesus often argues with them.

They come to him with questions. He respects those who are arguing on the cutting edge of their tradition. He eats with them. Do they *want* a Messiah? Maybe...

Did the first century want a Messiah? These folks wanted a bunch of them. Depending whom you asked, the job description varied. If the disciples preached the "Messiah," would they understand who Jesus was?

Those who experienced the power of God in Jesus couldn't use any older categories. The sick, the poor, the illiterate who could not read the law, let alone follow it—they were not taken seriously by any of the groups. They were drawn to this preacher from Galilee.

Those who embraced him as the Risen One found a new sort of Messiah.



SHUTTERSTOCK

DAN FINUCANE

sundaybulletins@liguori.org



Today's Readings

Is 22:19–23 • Rom 11:33–36
Mt 16:13–20

Liguori

PUBLICATIONS

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St. Stephen Catholic Church

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9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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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

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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 23	6:00 PM	Pat Wright, RIP	<i>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Sunday	August 24	8:00 AM	J. W. Wright, RIP	<i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Community	<i>21st Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>21° Domingo Ordinario</i>
Monday	August 25	8:45 AM	Margaret Ledbetter, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Louis of France</i>
Tuesday	August 26	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Weekday</i>
Wednesday	August 27	11:00 AM	J. W. Wright, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. Monica</i>
Thursday	August 28	8:45 AM	Marlene Fronk	<i>Memorial of St. Augustine, bishop and doctor of the church</i>
Friday	August 29	8:45 AM	Pat Wright, RIP	<i>Memorial of the Martyrdom of St. John the Baptist</i>
Saturday	August 30	6:00 PM	Guillermo Johnson, RIP	<i>Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i>
Sunday	August 31	8:00 AM	Barbara Bierschenk	<i>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Casey Stephens, RIP	<i>22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>22° 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
August 16 & 17
\$8,992.43
MARYKNOLL
\$3,721.00**

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend
Are a Gift from
The Kechnie Family
In Memory of
Kathy Wilson, Mother of Merrie Kechnie*



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Who do you say that Jesus is? Can you proclaim with Peter,
“You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God?” Pray for
the grace to act on your belief.
(Matthew 16:13-20)

21° Domingo Ordinario
Pedro recibió su llamada especial cuando reconoció a Jesús
como Mesías. Nosotros que creemos en Jesús como Señor y
Salvador recibimos también una llamada especial. Pídele al
Señor que dirija tu corazón.
(Mateo 16:13-20)

“At the heart of the marvel of creation
are you and I, the human family,
'crowned with glory and honor.'”

—Pope Benedict XVI
Welcoming Ceremony World Youth Day

**The Church Office and Parish Pantry
will be closed
Monday, September 1
for Labor Day Holiday.**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. Classes in English will start on **Sunday, September 7 at 9:15 AM.** Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net or 817-613-8008.

LAS CLASES DE EDUCACION RELIGIOSA comenzaran el Domingo, **Septiembre 14.** Las clases disponibles son para ninos de edad Pre-Jardin hasta Confirmacion. Aquellos que asistiran a las clases para **Primera Comunión** (Segundo Grado) deberan presentar copia del Certificado de Bautismo. Aquellos que se registren para **Confirmacion** (Grado 10) deberan presentar copias del Certificado de Bautismo y de Primera Comunión. Por favor presente ambos certificados cuando registre a los ninos. Cualquier pregunta, por favor contacte a Jeanette Houle a doschicas@att.net o llame al 817 613-8008.

CALL FOR CATECHISTS! The following Catechist positions are available for the 2008-09 Religious Education School Year. Training is available. **Children's Gospel—adult needed for the 8 AM.** Any questions, please contact **Jeanette Houle** at doschicas@att.net or call 817-613-8008.

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS (RCIA)

is a process for bringing into the Catholic Church both those who have never been baptized (Catechumens) and those who were baptized in a non-Catholic Church (Candidates for Full Communion). It is also the best way for adult Catholics who have never been confirmed to prepare for that final Sacrament of Initiation. You are welcome to join this group **each Monday at 7 PM in the center.** If this process does not meet your need, call Sr. Mildred at 817-596-9587.

ANNULMENTS. If you are divorced and need a church annulment, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

GOING-AWAY PARTY. We are hosting a going away party for Richard and Deborah Shepherd on **Sunday, Aug. 31, from 2-4 PM** in the Family Center. Richard has accepted a position in Indianapolis, IN, and they will be leaving early in September. Everyone is invited to come wish them well and say good-bye. They will be dearly missed. Please call Carole Malugani at 817-594-4252 if you have any questions.

CENTER OF HOPE. St. Stephen will be serving at the Center of Hope **September 2, 3, and 4.** Please help us assist those in need by donating food or serving. Sign-up sheets will be available after all Masses in the church foyer. *Please do your part! God Bless and Thank you.* For information call Norma Gonzales at 817-596-4876.

MONTSERRAT LADIES RETREAT SEPTEMBER 11-14: Come away and pray on the shores of beautiful Lake Lewisville in a women's retreat. Take time to reflect on God's love for you. Treasure the silence to talk and listen directly to our Lord and Creator. 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 anytime day or night.

Internal Auditor—Catholic Center. The Diocese of Fort Worth seeks a *full-time Auditor* for our Internal Audit Program at the Catholic Center. For a full job description and application, visit www.fwdioc.org. E-mail a resume to misimeroth@fwdioc.org or fax to 817-244-8839 to the attention of Mark Simeroth, Director of Human Resources. **Application due date is September 2, 2008.**

Celebration of the Diocesan 40th Anniversary. The Catholic Diocese of Fort Worth will begin a year of spiritual renewal to commemorate its 40th Anniversary. The observance will **begin on Sunday, August 9, 2009,** with a diocesan Mass at the Fort Worth Convention Center and will **conclude on Monday, August 9, 2010,** with Evening Prayer at St. Patrick Cathedral. Details on activities throughout the anniversary year will be announced later.

New Scripture Study beginning September 8, 2008. Study **St. Paul, His Life and His Letters** at St. Bartholomew, **Monday 7-8:45 PM, September 8—May, 2008.** Call Donna Heim at 817-292-5698.

Manna's Santa's Helpers/Salvation Army Angel Tree. We need volunteers to assist in registering clients for the angel tree as well as people to fill bags with toys. We are especially in need of volunteers who speak Spanish. Please contact Brenda Arnold at Manna, 817-599-6569.

Suicide Survivors: *The Healing Journey After Loss,* will begin a new support group the last week in September for any family members or friends who have had a loss by suicide. Suicide Survivors is a unique grief recovery program for survivors. The groups are facilitated by a trained mental health professional and a trained survivor. **The group runs eight-weeks and is closed to new participants after the second meeting.** Please call for more information regarding the exact date and location at 817-698-9955.

YOUTH GROUP. Mark your calendars!!! Youth Group will begin **Wednesday, September 3** at our usual time of **6 PM** with our **2nd annual PIZZA PAPERWORK PARTY!!!** St. Stephen Youth will be holding a **T-shirt Fundraiser** the weekends of **September 21 and 28 after all Masses.** Proceeds will benefit our Youth 2000 trip in April. Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net. All youth ages 13 and above are invited to participate in the **Youth Music Ministry.** Any questions contact Anthony Lucia at 940-859-1449 or Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net. **The Divine Mercy Chaplet** will continue. *Watch the bulletin for new date and time.* Any questions, please contact Jeanette Houle at doschicas@att.net.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

(All activities held at Bethel Road)

Monday, August 25

7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72

7:00 PM RCIA

Tuesday, August 26

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

7:00 PM Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, August 27

11:00 AM Mass followed by 60+ Covered Dish Luncheon

3:00 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet

6:30 PM Choir Practice

Thursday, August 28

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)

7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

Saturday, August 30

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya (Spanish)

dear Padre

Why do we suffer?



I suffer so much, and I see others suffering even more. Why must we suffer?

Exhausted

Dear Exhausted,

Suffering is a mystery. Sometimes suffering is our own fault, but more often it's beyond our control. Most suffering is inflicted on us from outside; it just *is*, and many times no one or nothing is to blame.

God did not create us and the world only to abandon us. God is present and active in the world, suffering with us like a parent who suffers with a beloved child. Just knowing we are not alone and that God understands and loves us seems to help us make it through times of suffering.

It also helps if we can find meaning in our suffering. In union with Jesus, we can endure suffering in solidarity with all who are in pain. Try to focus on the redemptive aspect of suffering: In his life, death, and resurrection, Jesus has shown us a way *through* suffering and death—not *around* it—to new life and joy.

David Louch, C.Ss.R.

God did not create us
and the world
only to abandon us.



Monday August 25



Weekday

2 Th 1:1–5, 11–12 • Mt 23:13–22

Tuesday August 26



Weekday

2 Th 2:1–3a, 14–17

Mt 23:23–26

Wednesday August 27



Saint Monica

2 Th 3:6–10, 16–18 • Mt 23:27–32

Thursday August 28



Saint Augustine, bishop
and doctor of the Church

1 Cor 1:1–9 • Mt 24:42–51

Friday August 29



The Martyrdom of
Saint John the Baptist

1 Cor 1:17–25 • Mk 6:17–29

Saturday August 30



Weekday

1 Cor 1:26–31 • Mt 25:14–30

Sunday August 31



Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Jer 20:7–9 • Rom 12:1–2

Mt 16:21–27