

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle



St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:00 AM (*Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays*)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 PM

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Baptism & Wedding Preparation

Contact the Parish Office

Parish Office Hours at St. Columban Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM

First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

August 27, 2023

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



Mass Propers for the 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Entrance Antiphon: *Turn your ear O Lord and answer me; save the servant who trusts in you, my God. Have mercy on me O Lord, for I cry to you all the day long.*

1st Reading: Isaiah 22: 19-23

Responsorial Psalm: *Lord, your love is eternal, do not forsake the work of your hands.*

2nd Reading: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel Acclamation: *You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.*

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

Communion Antiphon: *Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, remains in me and I in him says the Lord.*

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Welcome to St. Columban

Parish Staff

360-458-3031

Fr. Brian Thompson Priest Administrator
frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 6

Jennifer Langham PA for Admin, Liturgy, and Music
jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 1

Matthew Tolar PA for Admin, Bookkeeping, & Records
matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 4

Gabriela Makinster Elementary & Adult Faith Formation
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org habla Español Ext. 2

Chad Lucero Youth Ministry
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org Ext. 3

Steve Slater St. Columban Maintenance
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino St. Peter Maintenance

St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

St. Peter Advisory Commission

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston
stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

St. Columban Parish Finance Council

Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY August 28 **St. Augustine, Bishop & Dr.**
Rosary Prayer Group 7:00PM Church

TUESDAY August 29 **Passion of St. John the Baptist**
Daily Mass 9:00AM Church
Daughters of Mary Meeting 6:00PM Parish Hall
Spanish Prayer Group 6:30PM Church

WEDNESDAY August 30
Daily Mass 9:00AM Church

THURSDAY August 31
Daily Mass 9:00AM Church
Altar Society Weekly Church Cleaning 9:30AM
Choir Practice 6:00PM Church

FRIDAY September 1
First Friday Mass 9:00AM St. Peter Mission, Tenino
First Friday Devotions 6:30PM Church

SATURDAY September 2 **B.V.M.**
Confession 3:30PM Church
Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 PM Int.: Pro Populo Church

SUNDAY September 3 **22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
Confession 7:30-7:45AM St. Peter
Sunday Mass 8:00 AM Int.: Pro Populo St. Peter

Sunday Mass
 10:30 AM Int.: Pro Populo Church

From the Parish Office

Week of August 13, 2023

Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$2,518.00	\$770.00
Online Giving	\$1,470.00	\$15.00
Net	(\$1,812.00)	(\$215.00)
Special Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals (Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)	\$28.00	\$0.00
Flowers	\$390.00	\$25.00
Building Fund	\$4,102.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$20.00	\$0.00
Library Fund	\$212.00	\$0.00

We are in the process of moving to a new Church Management software. One of the first things you may see are messages from a new email address:

archseattle@ccbchurch.com

As always emails directly from our staff will always be from our domain saintcolumbanyelm.org and messages from ministries for the time being will come from mail@flocknote.com.

This process is also causing a delay with the mailing of the monthly offering envelopes, we apologize for the inconvenience.



The Parish Office will be CLOSED Monday Sept. 4th
 in observance of Labor Day.

Tuesday Sept 5th
NO DAILY MASS

Thank you for your generosity! May God reward you.

A Word from Father Thompson



A few years ago, I saw one of the more recent Disney movies, It was called *Luca* and was about a pair of young boys (actually fish-people have run away from the sea and turned into boys; It's a cartoon) and a girl (a normal human being) who become friends during a school summer break. It was a pretty sweet family-friendly story about the love of friendship and finding one's place in the world.

When the movie first came out, I remember hearing that some advocate for aberrant sexual ideologies had written an article interpreting the film as portraying budding romance between the boys. This is totally not the case, but someone interpreting such an innocent story in such a repulsive way reminded me of a worrying trend I have lamented for a very long time, and which is really harming young people, especially boys: the death of Philia in our society.

Philia is one of the several Greek words for love, and includes the platonic sort of love between friends. There are other kind of love: Storge—the natural empathy that comes from familial and human bonds, Xenia—affection and duty to guests and strangers, Eros—passionate and romantic (often, but not only sexual) love, Agape—selfless sacrificing love, and a few other rarer terms, but they all have a place in a healthy soul and life. Philia is the widest ranging sort of love that can span from delighting in a mere object on the lowest end, to one's closest life-defining friendships; what makes the difference in the intensity of Philia is the degree to which it is reciprocal. An object cannot love you back and lasts only as long as your appetite for it, but with a person one can delight in him and he can delight in you, and that delight and affection (perhaps which began with a mere object-like delight, such as a shared interest) can lead each of you to feel comfortable enough to make yourselves vulnerable to one another, exposing inner fears and dreams and joys and sorrows. If and as that risk of one's inner self is respected, and the friend reciprocates with trust in kind, the friendship deepens and grows (exploring this deeply but also in a profoundly innocent way is the real charm of that movie I mentioned).

Philia is part of most healthy relationships even when other kinds of love are present. Spouses, bound by Storge and hopefully Eros (though that waxes and wanes through life), should also be friends. Some of the great monastic or clerical saints, who were known as beacons of Xenia and Agape, often were extremely (spiritually) intimate friends with other holy people, sometimes helping them to be saints themselves. Yet, Philia remains its own kind of love and should continue alongside others even when other loves have blossomed; Philia is often the constant baseline and foundation upon which different and even higher loves build.

The story of Peter reconciling with Jesus after the Resurrection is a great example of this: Jesus asks Peter if he loves him three times, to repair Peter's three denials on Good Friday morning, but Jesus and Peter are using different words to talk about that love. The first two times Jesus asks "do you [Agape] me?" and Peter says, "Lord, you know that I [Philia] you," and Jesus calls him to deepen that love by continuing Jesus' mission and leading the Church. The third time, Jesus compromises and asks for mere Philia, and Peter gives it, but Jesus then describes what Peter's love will one day require: the total self-sacrifice of Martyrdom, which requires Agape. Jesus is not asking Peter for Agape instead of Philia, but that Peter needs his Philia to deepen enough to become a foundation for Agape.

With that foundation laid: more to come on the brokenness of our world and the death of Philia next week.

In Christ,

Remember in Your Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sisters and those who have asked for our prayers:



The Sick and Homebound

Jessica Nash, Mary Taylor, Vivienne Hayden, Eitan Hadayo, Stan Villadelgado, Pam Henslee, Robert Fisher, Tom & Kate Randal

The Deceased

Teresita Aguon

Extraordinary Intentions

- + All those in harm's way, especially those experiencing natural disasters and terrorism.
- + All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes. St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. To join, contact the parish office.

THE POPE'S PRAYER INTENTIONS August 2023: For World Youth Day We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

Faith Formation

Registration for First Communion and Confirmation is filling up! If you have not yet registered your child please do so ASAP. **Please note: Year 2 students DO need to register again to be included on the roster.**



**FAITH FORMATION
REGISTRATION NOW
OPEN!**

CLASSES START IN SEPTEMBER 2023

At St. Columban, we provide an opportunity for children and youth to learn about their Catholic faith and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and community service.

We have Faith Formation classes available for every grade level!

Children ~ Grades K-5

Youth ~ Grades 6-12

Our curriculum, developed by the Archdiocese of Seattle, is built upon the four pillars of the Catechism of the Catholic Church.

Recent revisions place an intentional focus on all dimensions of faith formation: knowledge of faith, liturgical life, moral formation, prayer, belonging to a community and the formation of a missionary spirit. The curriculum is very comprehensive.

Combined with the love and guidance of dedicated volunteer catechists, the children and youth learn to See as a Catholic, Celebrate as a Catholic and Live as a Catholic.

The sacraments are efficacious signs of grace, instituted by Christ and entrusted to the Church, by which divine life is dispensed to us.^[2]

- ✙ In **Confirmation** the baptized Christian is sealed with the gift of the Holy Spirit and is strengthened for service to the Body of Christ
- ✙ **Reconciliation** is the sacrament by which sins committed after Baptism are forgiven.
- ✙ **Holy Communion** is the receiving of Jesus Christ body, blood, soul, and divinity in the Holy Eucharist.

Catechesis for these sacraments first begins in the family...

- ◆ Where love and forgiveness are modeled daily.
- ◆ And as participants in the Sunday Eucharist (Holy Mass) and in the life of the parish.

First Reconciliation & First Holy Communion

Formal catechesis is a **two year** program.

- ◆ Formation begins in first grade.
- ◆ Must complete a full first year in first grade before advancing to year two.

Second Graders: Immediate preparation for First Communion

normally occurs in the second grade after fulfilling year one in first grade.

Pre-teens and older teens are also invited to simultaneously prepare for Confirmation. Reception of the sacraments would be during the second full year of preparation.

Christian Initiation (RCIA), adapted for Children & Youth (Ages 7+)

RCIA adapted for children ages 7+

The Christian Initiation of these children requires both a conversion that is both personal and adapted to their age, education or degree of social development. The process of initiation must also be adapted to both spiritual progress, that is to the children's growth in faith and the catechetical instruction they receive.

This program requires two years of formation here at St. Columban.

Read more about this program on our website
saintcolumbanyelm.org/RCIA-for-Children.

Confirmation

Strengthening our youth with the gifts of The Holy Spirit!

In the Archdiocese of Seattle, Confirmation is given in the 7th grade. Preparation for Confirmation is a **two year program**. Our program is structured with preparation beginning in the 6th Grade. Older teens are welcome to enroll and prepare for Confirmation.

A main part of the journey towards the Sacrament of Confirmation is establishing a sense of community among the youth. They will be expected to attend and/or volunteer for various ministries and participate in Youth Ministry activities over the course of the **two years of Confirmation prep**.

RCIA (Christian Initiation for Adults)

Non-Christians and other non-Catholics seeking full communion into the Catholic Church are invited to discern through the Order of Christian Initiation for Adults (OCIA) program. Classes resume Fall 2023 and meet weekly. Contact Gaby for more information and how to sign-up.

Save the Date! Classes begin September 10



Questions of the Week

Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Readings

First Reading: *"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."* (Is 22:22)

The Lord condemns Shebna (the master of King Hezekiah's palace) for ignoring Isaiah's prophetic warning and gives to Eliakim the authority and honor that belonged to Shebna. What helps you stay focused on following God's commandments?

Second Reading: *For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.* (Rom 11:36)

Paul celebrates the wisdom and knowledge — the mystery — of God. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

Gospel: *"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."* (Mt 16:18-19)

In Peter confessing Jesus as "the Messiah, the Son of the living God," Jesus gives him the authority to hold the keys to the kingdom of heaven. How do you use authority in your life?

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Reflections ©LPi

This week on FORMED

Our parish pays for a subscription to FORMED.org, a streaming service from the Augustine Institute and Ignatius press. Go to formed.org/signup and enter our parish name to redeem your FREE membership. Once logged-in, access these suggestions at watch.formed.org/this-week-on-formed

Restless Heart: The Confessions of Augustine

This film on the life of St. Augustine offers a message of conversion and redemption. It is the story of a gifted man who pursues fame and fortune without a moral compass - and the dramatic changes that occur in his soul when challenging events lead him to see the light of truth.

Confessions of Augustine: Who Is St. Augustine? (Part 1 of 6)

Join these two patristic scholars as they help viewers learn how to read this classic text and draw from the riches of the spiritual life of the doctor of the Church, Saint Augustine.

St. John the Baptist | Catholic Saints

Join Dr. John Sehorn and Taylor Kemp as they talk about St. John the Baptist, the forerunner to Christ.

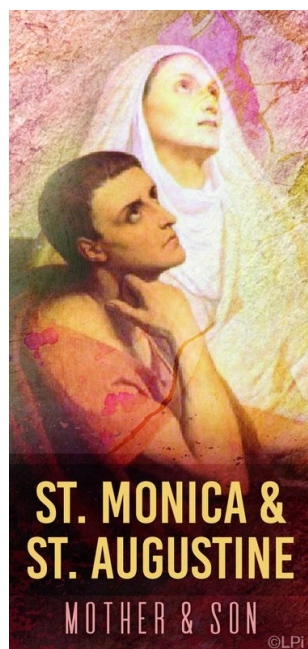
Saint of the Week:

St. Monica c. 332 - 387

Feast day: August 27

Holiness Runs in the Family

Raising faithful children is no easy task. For St. Monica, it seemed nearly impossible. Her husband wasn't Christian and often mocked her faith. Their son, Augustine, fell quickly into wild ways. He and his friends drank, stole, and caroused throughout town. Monica never stopped praying for Augustine, no matter how far he strayed. Augustine became swept up in heresy, a false form of Christianity. He lived with a mistress and had a child out of wedlock. All the while, Monica kept



praying. Conversion came slowly to Augustine, but at age 32, he was finally baptized. Augustine would go on to become a priest, then bishop, then world-renowned theologian whose works have stood the test of time. May St. Monica and St. Augustine inspire us to never stop praying for our loved ones.

© LPi

From the Catechism of the Catholic Church

Prayer as covenant

2562 Where does prayer come from? Whether prayer is expressed in words or gestures, it is the whole man who prays. But in naming the source of prayer, Scripture speaks sometimes of the soul or the spirit, but most often of the heart (more than a thousand times). According to Scripture, it is the heart that prays. If our heart is far from God, the words of prayer are in vain.

2563 The heart is the dwelling-place where I am, where I live; according to the Semitic or Biblical expression, the heart is the place "to which I withdraw." The heart is our hidden center, beyond the grasp of our reason and of others; only the Spirit of God can fathom the human heart and know it fully. The heart is the place of decision, deeper than our psychic drives. It is the place of truth, where we choose life or death. It is the place of encounter, because as image of God we live in relation: it is the place of covenant.

2564 Christian prayer is a covenant relationship between God and man in Christ. It is the action of God and of man, springing forth from both the Holy Spirit and ourselves, wholly directed to the Father, in union with the human will of the Son of God made man.

Wisdom from St. Columban

"We, indeed, are, as I have said, chained to the Chair of Saint Peter."

Youth Ministry

For all students grades 6-12. Activities, retreats, bible Studies, and social event times vary throughout the year. Additional fees may be required for activities held outside the parish.

Upcoming events:

First weekly Youth Ministry Wednesday meeting: September 27

First monthly Youth Ministry Service Saturday: September 30

High School Youth Convention at St. Michael, Olympia: Nov. 4

Our Youth Ministry Values at St. Columban

1. Our primary identity is as beloved sons and beloved daughters of God, no matter what. You are here because God wanted you here. Willing our existence, God create each of us out of love to love and for love.
2. We glorify God by striving to fully live our state in life. God gave us families and communities where we learn our faith, pray for each other's needs, and build virtue together as members of his Church, the Body of Christ.
3. As pilgrims on a journey together we are always on mission. We attend Holy Mass and receive the sacraments to better endure the trials of life, train us to be of service to one another, and to prepare us for eternal life in Heaven.



Parish Ministries & Events

Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years, we encourage you to share your time, talents and treasures in support of the mission of our parish community.

Contact Jennifer Langham at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with a group:
360-458-3031x1 / jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Daughters of Mary

**Next meeting is August 29th, 2023
6:00 PM in the Parish Hall**

*All Women of the Parish are Invited,
bring your favorite snack to share!*

daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Altar Society

Meets every Thursday
after Daily Mass to clean
the church.



Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

Monthly Meeting

August 29th, 6:00 PM

Parish Hall

[daughtersofmary@
saintcolumbanyelm.org](mailto:daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org)



Knights of Columbus

Council 17152 / Assembly
3947

CHARITY + UNITY
FRATERNITY + PATRIOTISM

Next Council Meeting:

Sept. 20, Begins with
Vespers in the Church at 5:30
PM

Next Assembly Meeting:

Sept. 19, 6:00 PM

Join us for our next breakfast!
Sept. 24, after the 10:30 Mass

Prayer Groups

Rosary Group

Mondays 7pm, Church

Spanish Group

Tuesdays 6:30pm, Church



Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Monthly Meeting

Sept. 21, 7:00 PM

Parish Hall



St. Peter's Circle St. Peter Mission Tenino

Next Meeting

Sept. 12th 9:30 AM

Counters Needed

Contact the parish office for
more information
360-458-3031

First Friday

Holy Mass
St. Peter Tenino
9:00 AM

**Eucharistic Adoration with
Devotional Prayers**
St. Columban 6:30 PM

H C C F
HAWAII CATHOLIC
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
SUPPORTING THE ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN HAWAII

Maui Relief

DONATE



The USCCB currently recommends
two opportunities to donate to Maui
wildfire relief efforts.

The Hawaii Catholic Community Foundation
tinyurl.com/MauiCatholic

Catholic Charities Hawaii
catholiccharitieshawaii.org/maui-relief

Thank for supporting our parish

Outside Notices & Events



WHICH PATH WILL YOU TAKE?

"How do I pray?" "How can I know what God wants me to do?" "Where is the Lord leading me?"

Around the Archdiocese of Seattle, discernment groups led by priests are forming for young men to address these questions. Using True Heart from the Sacred Story Institute these young men will be engaging spiritual exercises to help them grow closer to the Lord, consider their vocation more deeply, and grow in openness to following God's will in their lives.

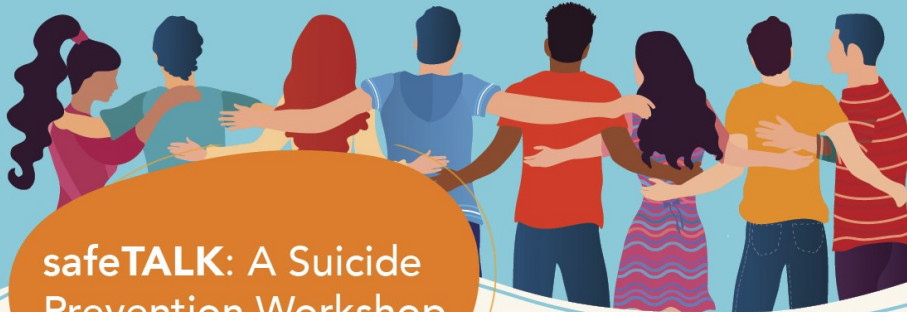
If you are interested in joining one of these groups, please contact us at vocations@seattlearch.org or (206) 382-4276



Holy Family School is a private Catholic school located in Lacey.

See holyfamilylacey.org or call us at (360) 491-7060 for further

information. All for the Glory of God! Learning for today, preparing for tomorrow.



safeTALK: A Suicide Prevention Workshop

Saturday, September 16 | 9am – 12pm

Holy Family Parish

7045 120th Ave NE Kirkland, WA 98033

Please join us for safeTALK, a suicide intervention workshop facilitated by the Archdiocese of Seattle's Catholic Lifesaver Corps.

Who can attend?

Middle and High School Students. Parents and community members are highly encouraged to attend as well.



Scan QR code for more information

Archdiocese of Seattle | Mental Health Ministry



Pope John Paul II High School

Have you considered the value of a Catholic, college-prep high school?

At Pope John Paul II High School, students and families find a welcoming, faith-filled community where they are seen, heard, and belong. Every student is nurtured, challenged, and transformed for a lifetime of courageous leadership and service through discovery and development of their God-given gifts.



PARTNERS IN THE GOSPEL

Read the latest update and Archbishop Etienne's Pastoral Letter inked on our website saintcolumbanyelm.org

Scan this QR code to read the latest update provided by the Archdiocese:



Pilgrimage to the Holy Land - March 11-20, 2024

Join Fr. Anthony Davis of St. Barbara Parish, Black Diamond, in a Tour of the Holy Land, March 2024, provided by **Holy Land Tours, LLC**. More information can be found on their site: www.stbarbarachurch.org/post/pilgrimage-to-the-holy-land
RSVP with Young Kim oldkim@aol.com





SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2023

21ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



"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." - Mt 16:19

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"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." (Is 22:22)

Psalm:

Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands. (Ps 138)

Second Reading:

For from him and through him and for him are all things.
To him be glory forever. Amen. (Rom 11:36)

Gospel:

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."
(Mt 16:18-19)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Who do you say that I am?" Let our whole lives be the answer, given not in words, but in action. If the world looked at your life, your decisions, your words, and your deeds, would they conclude that you are a person who believes Christ is the son of the living God?

Observances for the week of August 27, 2023

- Sunday:** 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
Tuesday: The Passion of St. John the Baptist
Next Sunday: 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

Despite being forced into marriage at 16, Venerable Teresa Fardella de Blasi still pursued her heart's desire to serve the poor wherever she lived with her husband. Originally from New York, she founded and eventually joined the Poor Daughters of the Crowned Virgin in Italy.

Prayer

O loving Jesus, please grant that Your servant, Venerable Teresa Fardella de Blasi, who worked selflessly for poor and homeless children and adolescents, may, through the intercession of Mary Queen of Heaven, be glorified by visible signs and miracles; so that for Your glory and salvation of souls, she may, by Your power, be declared Blessed. Amen.

Readings for the week of August 27, 2023

Sunday:

Is 22:19-23/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8 (8bc)/
Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20

Monday:

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10/Ps 149:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6a
and 9b/Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday:

1 Thes 2:1-8/Ps 139:1-3, 4-6/Mk 6:17-29

Wednesday:

1 Thes 2:9-13/Ps 139:7-8, 9-10, 11-12ab/Mt
23:27-32

Thursday:

1 Thes 3:7-13/Ps 90:3-5a, 12-13, 14 and 17/
Mt 24:42-51

Friday:

1 Thes 4:1-8/Ps 97:1 and 2b, 5-6, 10, 11-12/
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday:

1 Thes 4:9-11/Ps 98:1, 7-8, 9/Mt 25:14-30

Next Sunday:

Jer 20:7-9/Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 (2b)/
Rom 12:1-2/Mt 16:21-27



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

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*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why are Catholics required to give money to the Church?

Answer:

Offering money and other goods to God and the Church is, before all else, a statement of gratitude. We see this when we look at how our spiritual ancestors showed their gratitude to God for the gifts they had received (e.g. Genesis 14:18-20 and Genesis 28:16-22). One of the ways they offered thanks to God was through a practice called "tithing," in which 10 percent of a person's goods (crops, livestock, money, etc.) were given back to God.

Today, the practice of tithing — giving 10 percent — is still common in many Protestant communities, but it is not required for Catholics. Instead, the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches us that, "The faithful also have the duty of providing for the material needs of the Church, each according to [their] own abilities" (no. 2043). This means that, although we are not bound to practice "tithing" in the traditional sense, we do share a responsibility to share our money or other resources with our parish communities. Like our spiritual ancestors, we give as a sign of our gratitude for the many gifts that God has given to us. Beyond this, we also share our resources with other Catholic organizations to help them finance their ministries, to continue and grow their outreach to the poor and the needy, and to provide just wages for their employees.

How much we give depends on our individual circumstances, but since we share a responsibility for the programs, outreach, and health of our parish communities and Catholic organizations, this question gives us a wonderful opportunity to ask some important questions about the quality of our giving and what our priorities are. Remember, we are only stewards of our time, talents, and treasures and as the First Letter of Peter reminds us, "As each one of you has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God's varied graces" (4:10).

“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.

- Mt 16:19-20

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

The Lord condemns Shebna (the master of King Hezekiah's palace) for ignoring Isaiah's prophetic warning and gives to Eliakim the authority and honor that belonged to Shebna. What helps you stay focused on following God's commandments?

Second Reading

Paul celebrates the wisdom and knowledge — the mystery — of God. If you could ask God one question, what would it be?

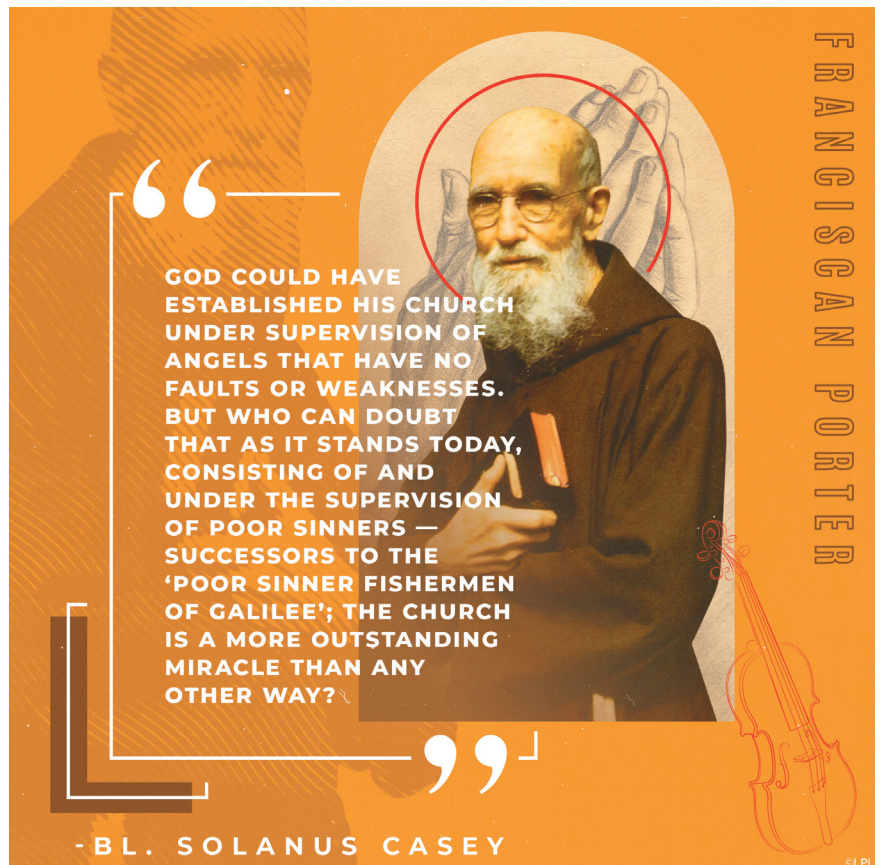
Gospel Reading

In Peter confessing Jesus as “the Messiah, the Son of the living God,” Jesus gives him the authority to hold the keys to the kingdom of heaven. How do you use authority in your life?



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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.” - Mt 16:15-17

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Prayer

God, I thank you for sending your Son, Jesus to be my Savior.

Mission for the Week

Tell God you are sorry for your sins. Ask God to help you follow Jesus' example.

Sharing the Gospel

God had sent great prophets to his people. Jeremiah, Elijah, and John the Baptist were faithful to God. They told God's people to love each other. But God's people would not listen. That is why God sent his Son Jesus to be your Savior. With Jesus' help, you can turn back to God. Because of Jesus, you can love others. Because of Jesus, you can look forward to heaven.

Now color the picture!



Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

John
prophets
Peter

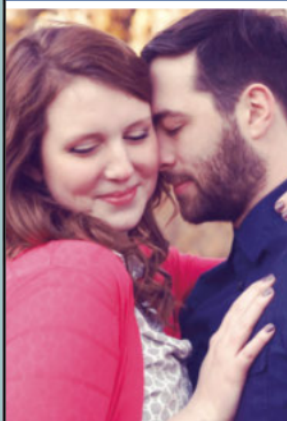
Father
blessed
Elijah

Christ
revealed
Jeremiah

Jhno	<u>J</u> <u>o</u> <u>h</u> <u>n</u>
Eilhaj	_____
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Preet	_____
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