

## PARISH BULLETIN

### TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME – August 17, 2025

The parish schedule published herein continues to the weekend of September 14, 2025

*As circumstances suggest, updates will be posted on the parish website.*

### Saint John XXIII Roman Catholic Church

3390 Portage Avenue

Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada R3K 0Z3

Telephone: 204-832-7175 • Fax: 204-885-2447

Email: office@johnxxiii.ca • Website: www.johnxxiii.ca

Summer Office Hours: On designated afternoons until 3:30 pm  
and at other times for pre-arranged appointments

#### SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY EUCHARIST

##### SUNDAY LITURGIES (MASSES)

Saturday 4:00 pm, Sunday 9:00 am and 11:45 am

##### WEEKDAY LITURGIES

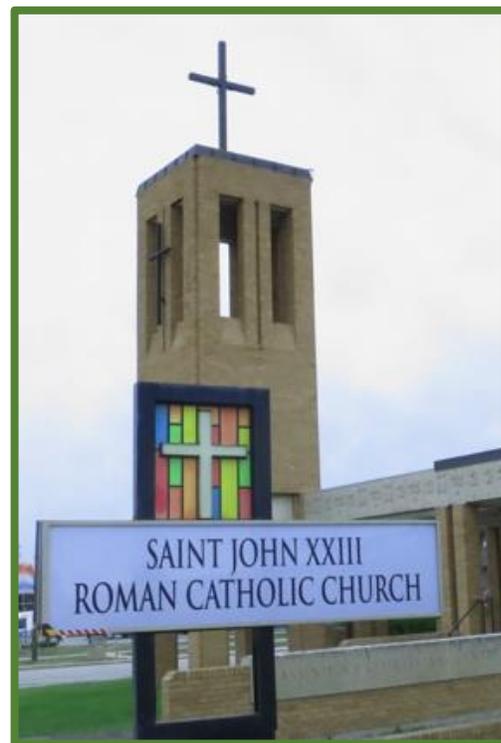
*As announced in the schedule in this bulletin.*

##### ASSISTANCE TO THE SICK AND SHUT-IN

For emergencies, you may contact the parish office.

##### SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION (CONFESSIONS)

*As circumstances permit, on Wednesday evenings,  
on Friday afternoons or by appointment.*



### PARISH PASTORAL TEAM

**Pastor: Reverend Fr. Robert Polz**

204-832-7335      rpolz.johnxxiii@gmail.com

**Pastoral Assistant: Sharon Camier**

204-832-7206      sharon@johnxxiii.ca

**Trustee: William Gould**

204-832-7175      william.d.gould@gmail.com

**Trustee: Derek Lobo**

204-832-7175      dereklobo73@gmail.com

**Custodian: José Barrera**

204-888-9340

**Music Ministry: Donna Vendramelli**

204-888-8200      d\_vendramelli@mymts.net

**Building and Maintenance Chair: Brad McKay**

204-795-6788      br.mckay@outlook.com

**Parish Pastoral Council Facilitator: Laurette Burch**

204-885-6988      burchd@mymts.net

**FAITH FORMATION:**

Contact our Pastoral Assistant (Sharon) for further information concerning catechism materials for lessons to take place in the home setting and/or at church on Sunday mornings as circumstances permit.

**SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION (BAPTISM, CONFIRMATION, EUCHARIST):** Contact our Pastoral Assistant for further information.

**SACRAMENT OF THE ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Contact the Pastor (Fr. Robert).

**SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE:** Arrangements for preparation and celebration should be made at least six months in advance.

**CELEBRATION OF CHRISTIAN FUNERALS:** Contact the parish office before finalizing arrangements with funeral directors.

## PARISH FAITH FORMATION 2025 – 2026

### Catechism Classes for children and youth

The beginning of the school year also marks the resumption of catechetical programs in most parishes. Once again we have ordered the *Pflaum Gospel Weeklies* liturgically-based faith formation program that provides weekly handouts with a short description of the Sunday Gospel plus suggested activities and discussion starters for each age level. As many will recall, this faith formation program has materials divided into the following age groups: SEEDS (Preschool), PROMISE (Kindergarten – Grade 1), GOOD NEWS (Grades 2-3), VENTURE (GRADES 4-6) and VISIONS (Grades 7-8 and up).

**Those who would like their children to take part in our program are asked to submit a completed REGISTRATION FORM asap for each child so we can prepare adequate materials for regular catechetical lessons to be done in the parish hall on Sunday mornings at 10:15 a.m. and, as circumstances suggest, in the home setting.**

Once we have a sufficient number of volunteer catechists recruited with their safe environment requirements fulfilled, we will commence in person catechetical sessions on Sunday mornings, hopefully by late September or early October. **If you are willing to help as a catechist or catechetical assistant on Sunday mornings, please advise Sharon Camier (our Pastoral Assistant) as soon as possible.**

REGISTRATIONS FORMS ARE AVAILABLE FROM THE PARISH OFFICE. Designated registration fees help defray some of the costs of running our faith formation and sacramental preparation programs. Given increased costs for materials, we continue to request a registration fee for each child participating in our programs. Nevertheless, requested fees should in no way be considered a reason to refrain from enrolling children for whose parents such fees would impose an undue hardship.

### Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist

Children who will be receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation and First Eucharist in the spring of 2026 as a PREREQUISITE SHOULD BE ENROLLED NOW in our regular catechism program held on Sunday mornings. Later this year further details will be made available to parents/guardians about proximate preparation sessions for these two sacraments which will begin shortly after Christmas and will involve a mixture of lessons to be completed at church and at home.

### Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation

The celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation for youth in our parish usually has taken place on a bi-annual basis. At this juncture, we have made no formal plans to prepare for the celebration of Confirmation in the spring of 2026. Nevertheless, if there is enough interest we could consider setting up a preparation program. In previous years, preparation sessions were held on designated Sunday afternoons from October through to May or June depending on the actual date for Confirmation assigned to our parish by the Archbishop's office. If your son or daughter is interested in preparing for the celebration of Confirmation in the spring of 2026, please contact the parish office as soon as possible to see what may be possible.

### Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA)

*How do I become Catholic?:* Many avenues lead individuals to the Catholic Church. The journey of faith can be a winding road. Whatever path has led you to this time of searching or interest in becoming a baptized Christian or, if already baptized, to be received into the full communion of the Catholic Church, the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) is a process that could be Good News for you in your journey of faith. **Our parish is hoping to start up the RCIA process in our parish this fall. Initial inquiry sessions would be held immediately following Mass on WEDNESDAY EVENINGS. Please contact Sharon Camier at the parish office and/or speak with Father Robert if you might be interested in participating.** If there are inquirers and adequate volunteers to serve as catechists, we plan to begin sometime in late September or early October.

## SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST 17 – SEPTEMBER 14, 2025

*N.B.: Reduced office hours and liturgies continue during these last weeks of summer while parish staff take a few holidays. As circumstances suggest, the schedule published here may be subject to change.*

### Sunday, August 17

4:00 pm Saturday  
9:00 am  
11:45 am

### TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

MASS – *Rolando Ignacio+*, requested by Medina family  
MASS (livestreamed) – “Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners  
MASS – *Luz San Luis+*, requested by Ruth Barbon

### Monday, August 18

### FERIAL

Mass (offered in private) – *Jordan Braun+*, requested by Parish Vocations Ministry Team

<b>Tuesday, August 19</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Rommel Quirimit+</i> , requested by Legion of Mary
<b>Wednesday, August 20</b> 10:00 am 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT BERNARD, Abbot, Doctor</b> <i>Fr. Robert will attend a meeting of the St. Charles Catholic School Corporate Board</i> <b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Doris Blair+</i> , requested by Mona Harper
<b>Thursday, August 21</b>	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT PIUS X, Pope</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Lee and Bruno Fischer+</i> , requested by Janet Jack
<b>Friday, August 22</b> 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm 3:00 pm 3:30 pm	<b>MEMORIAL: THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Intentions of Irene Painchaud</i> , requested by Janet Jack and Cecile Talas
<b>Saturday, August 23</b> 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 4:00 pm	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting</b> (downstairs in room 6) <b>MASS for Sunday</b> – <i>Roland Gaudry+ and Jordan Braun+</i> , requested by Madeleine Gaudry
<b>Sunday, August 24</b> 9:00 am 11:45 am	<b>TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Violet and Bernard Resch+</i> , requested by Sharon and John Camier
<b>Monday, August 25</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Stephen Menno+</i> , requested by co-workers at Grace Hospital
<b>Tuesday, August 26</b>  12:00 noon	<b>FERIAL</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Violet Resch+</i> , requested by Sharon and John Camier <i>Fr. Robert will attend a meeting at the Catholic Centre with Archbishop Chatlain of the Archdiocesan Professional Standards Board and Sexual Abuse Response Committee</i>
<b>Wednesday, August 27</b> 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT MONICA</b> <b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Jordan Braun+</i> , requested by Laurette and Doug Burch
<b>Thursday, August 28</b>  10:30 am – 4:30 pm	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT AUGUSTINE, Bishop, Doctor</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Special intention</i> , requested by the pastor <i>Gathering of Priests with Archbishop Chatlain at Good Shepherd Parish, Portage la Prairie</i>
<b>Friday, August 29</b> 1:00 pm – 3:30 pm 3:00 pm 3:30 pm	<b>MEMORIAL: THE PASSION OF SAINT JOHN THE BAPTIST</b> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Christine Payne+</i> , requested by family
<b>Saturday, August 30</b> 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 4:00 pm	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting</b> (downstairs in room 6) <b>MASS for Sunday</b> – <i>Larry Soletti+</i> , requested by Da Dalt family
<b>Sunday, August 31</b> 9:00 am 11:45 am	<b>TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – <i>Tony Wozny+</i> , requested by Melba Wozny <b>MASS</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i>
<b>Monday, September 1</b>	<b>FERIAL – LABOUR DAY HOLIDAY</b> <b>WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE CARE OF CREATION</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Special intention</i> , requested by the pastor
<b>Tuesday, September 2</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>In thanksgiving in honour of St. Anthony</i> , requested by Janet Jack

10:30 am 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<i>Fr. Robert will attend a Council of Priests Meeting at the Catholic Centre</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance
<b>Wednesday, September 3</b> 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT GREGORY THE GREAT, Pope, Doctor</b> <b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Doris Blair+, requested by Mona Harper</i>
<b>Thursday, September 4</b>	<b>FERIAL</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Special intention, requested by a parishioner</i>
<b>Friday, September 5</b> 12:00 pm 12:10 pm 12:45 pm – 3:45 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm 3:45 pm	<b>FERIAL – FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH</b> Praying of the Angelus <b>MASS</b> – <i>Intentions of parishioners, requested by a parishioner</i> <b>Adoration Time</b> ( <i>monstrance on altar in main worship space</i> ) Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b> <b>Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament</b>
<b>Saturday, September 6</b> 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 4:00 pm	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 6</i> ) <b>MASS for Sunday</b> – <i>Tim Hunter+, requested by Gaudry-Braun family</i>
<b>Sunday, September 7</b> 9:00 am 11:45 am	<b>TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME</b> <b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – <i>Delia Blaquera+, Blaquera family</i> <b>MASS</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i>
<b>Monday, September 8</b>	<b>FEAST: THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Special intention, requested by a parishioner</i>
<b>Tuesday, September 9</b> 10:30 am 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 7:00 pm	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>MASS at Golden West Centennial Lodge, 811 School Road</b> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <i>Fr. Robert will attend the Annual General Meeting of the Manitoba Multifaith Council to be held at St. Mark’s Lutheran Church, 600 Cambridge Street, Winnipeg</i>
<b>Wednesday, September 10</b> 6:45 pm 7:00 pm	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS</b> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Jordan Braun+, Laurette and Doug Burch</i>
<b>Thursday, September 11</b>  10:30 am	<b>FERIAL</b> Mass (offered in private) – <i>Roberto Romasanta+, requested by Ruth Barbon</i> <i>Fr. Robert and Sharon will attend a Central Winnipeg Deanery Meeting at St. Ann’s Church</i>
<b>Friday, September 12</b>  12:00 pm 12:10 pm 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm 3:00 pm	<b>FERIAL</b> <b>OPTIONAL MEMORIAL: THE MOST HOLY NAME OF MARY</b> ( <i>Titular Feast of St. Mary’s Cathedral, Winnipeg</i> ) Praying of the Angelus <b>MASS</b> – <i>Intentions of Janine Gaudry and Jason Braun, req. by Alfred and Marietta Gendive</i> Office Hours – call or ring door buzzer for assistance <b>Recitation of the Chaplet of Divine Mercy</b>
<b>Saturday, September 13</b> 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm 2:30 pm 4:00 pm	<b>MEMORIAL: SAINT JOHN CHRYSOSTOM, Bishop, Doctor</b> <b>LEGION OF MARY Praesidium Meeting</b> ( <i>downstairs in room 6</i> ) <b>CELEBRATION OF BAPTISM</b> – <i>Aylani Olivia Artienda Dobrovolska</i> <b>MASS for Sunday</b> – <i>Mary Capri+, requested by Bonnie Pelczar</i>
<b>Sunday, September 14</b> 9:00 am 11:45 am	<b>FEAST: EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS</b> <b>MASS (livestreamed)</b> – <i>“Pro populo” / Intentions of parishioners</i> <b>MASS</b> – <i>Roberta Florida+, requested by Sique family</i>

## TABERNACLE LAMP OFFERING

August 17 – August 23

Jordan Braun+, requested by Mom and Dad

August 24 – August 30

Special intention, requested by a parishioner

August 31 – September 6

Tony Wozny+, requested by Melba Wozny

September 7 – September 13

Special intention, requested by a parishioner



*If you wish to have the Tabernacle Lamp in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel of Saint John XXIII Church burn in memory of a loved one, to honour a special occasion, or for a particular intention, you may make arrangements through the Parish Office.*

**PLEASE PRAY** for the loved ones of our community in need of healing and comfort:

**Cathy Blaquera, Jean-Louis Charles, Betty Connor, René and Sue Gobeil, Bev and Steve Hewitt, Larry Kuyzk, Brett Lawrence, Kristy O'Toole, Lauran Peters, John Powell, Fr. Barry Schoonbaert, Jerome Strachan, Joe and Maria Wallack.**

*Please note that we continue the process of cleaning up our prayer list. If you wish your name or any of your loved ones to be included in our revised list, please notify the parish office. Be sure to obtain the consent of persons concerned before submitting their names.*



## Seeds of Peace and Hope

*Brief overview of the message of the Holy Father for the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025*

**“Seeds of Peace and Hope”** is the theme chosen by Pope Francis for World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation 2025. On the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Day, which coincided with the publication of the Encyclical *Laudato Si’* and in the Jubilee year, *“Pilgrims of Hope,”* the theme acquires a stronger and deeper meaning.

With the image of the seed, repeatedly cited in Jesus' preaching, Pope Leo XIV expresses the comparison of the grain of wheat, which must die in order to bear fruit (cf. *Jn 12:24*). Seeds are buried in the earth, and there, to our wonder, life springs up, even in the most unexpected places, pointing to the promise of new beginnings. **So, in Christ we are “seeds of Peace and Hope.”** The prophetic words of Isaiah, «a spirit from on high will be poured out on us», which will accompany the ecumenical initiative of the “Season of Creation” from September 1 to October 4, reiterate the need for concrete actions capable of transforming the arid and parched desert into a garden, a place of rest and serenity.

**Environmental justice** – implicitly proclaimed by the prophets – can no longer be regarded as an abstract concept or a distant goal. It is an **urgent need that involves much more than simply protecting the environment. For it is a matter of justice – social, economic and human.** For believers it is also a duty born of faith, since the universe reflects the face of Jesus Christ, in whom all things were created and redeemed. In a world where the most vulnerable of our brothers and sisters are the first to suffer the devastating effects of climate change, deforestation and pollution, care for creation becomes an expression of our faith and humanity.

Among the Church’s initiatives that are like seeds sown in this field, we would mention the **“Borgo Laudato Si’”** project that Pope Francis bequeathed to us at Castel Gandolfo, **a seed that promises to bear fruits of justice and peace.** It is an educational project in integral ecology that can serve as an example of how people can live, work and build community by applying the principles of the Encyclical *Laudato Si’*.

The message of Pope Leo XIV invites people to seize the unique opportunity to **till and keep** the garden of the world (cf. *Gen 2:15*). So, work, care, protect and preserve the soil, based on mutual respect between human beings and nature.

***“I would rather have learning joined with virtue than all the treasures of kings.”***

—Saint Thomas More

## CCRS OF MB Presents: “Unveiling Exodus” Bible Study Level 2

Starting **August 30, 2025**, join us for a powerful program that takes you on a spiritual and leadership journey through the life of **Moses** and the **Pentateuch**—the first five books of the Bible. Discover how God uses **imperfect people** to accomplish His plan of deliverance, and how Moses' struggles, strengths, and transformation mirror our own walk as **disciples and leaders**. [Click here to register](#) or visit our website [at www.catholicrenewalservices.com](http://www.catholicrenewalservices.com) for more details/information.


**COUPLES FOR CHRIST**  
 WEST 2 CHAPTER-WINNIPEG

**“ GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL NATIONS... ”**  
 -Mt 28:19-20

CORDIALLY INVITES YOU TO A  
**CHRISTIAN LIFE PROGRAM**

STARTING SEPTEMBER 07,  
 SUNDAYS @2-5PM  
 @ ST. EDWARD THE CONFESSOR  
 CHURCH, 836 ARLINGTON ST.,  
 WINNIPEG

-FREE REGISTRATION  
 -CHILD MINDING &  
 SNACKS AVAILABLE


 BRO ROEL/ SIS CYNTHIA OCAMPO-204-952-5813  
 BRO MIKE/ SIS JEAN SANGALANG -204-291-3153  
 BRO PETER/ SIS TINA LACTUPO -204-232-9820

### CCRS OF MB Presents: “Stand Firm in The Lord” Conference with Ralph Martin

Join us for a Holy Spirit-filled conference on **September 12 and 13, 2025**. Our keynote speaker will be Ralph Martin from Renewal Ministries. Praise & Worship will be led by the "Nueva Jerusalem" charismatic Music Ministry. The closing Eucharistic Celebration will be presided over by Archbishop Murray Chatlain. Experience the power of the Holy Spirit through anointed praise and worship, powerful teachings, Eucharistic Adoration, Holy Rosary, fellowship, Mass, and so much more! The event will take place at Saints Martyrs Canadiens Parish Hall. [Click here to buy tickets](#) - or visit their website - [www.catholicrenewalservices.com](http://www.catholicrenewalservices.com) - to find more details/information.

### Campaign Life Annual Fundraising Luncheon

Campaign Life Coalition MB will be sponsoring a Fundraising Luncheon on **Saturday, September 13, 2025** at the Norwood Hotel, 112 Marion Street, Wpg. Our guest speaker will be Jack Fonseca, Political Operations Director for CLC, who will expound on the topic: “Why Christians Must Roar Like Lions”. Tickets purchased are \$60.00 pp or \$550.00 for a table of 10. We would greatly appreciate it if you would consider purchasing a second ticket for someone who would like to come but does not have the financial means to obtain his/her own ticket. We hope to see you there. To purchase tickets please call Maria or Carol @ 204-452-2459 or email [clcwpgmb26@gmail.com](mailto:clcwpgmb26@gmail.com)

### Storytelling Gala in Support of Villa Rosa

Join the community of Villa Rosa for an unforgettable night on **September 18, 2025!** A delightful mix-and-mingle hour, an amazing auction, exquisite food stations, and carefully selected table spirits. Prepare to be moved as Villa Rosa Alumni share their powerful stories of triumph and transformation! [Click here to purchase tickets!](#)

### Save the date: PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL WORKSHOPS

Hosted by the Archdiocese of Winnipeg Church Governance Commission, these workshops will serve as an opportunity for pastors and parish pastoral council members to review the updated norms, understand the Role of PPC members and how the PPC can best serve their parishes. Two dates available: **October 25, 2025** at Saint John XXIII Church, 3390 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg and **November 8, 2025** at St. Augustine of Canterbury Church, 327 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Brandon. Details and registration information to follow.

**For other news and events in and around the Archdiocese of Winnipeg, go to: [www.archwinnipeg.ca](http://www.archwinnipeg.ca)**

## REFLECTIONS FOR EACH WEEK

*During the latter weeks of the summer season, we continue to provide short reflections related to Sunday liturgies and some feasts. If you wish a more extensive reflection for each of the Sundays, we suggest you consider the reflections provided in the Living with Christ Sunday Missal. Some copies are still available for purchase at the parish office.*

### **TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (August 17)**

#### **Make no small plans**

“Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire,” says Saint Catherine of Siena. But who is it that God wants you to be? The search for that answer is what the church calls the “process of discernment.” At various points in our lives, each of us must pause to ask: Where am I being called? What will ignite a fire within me—and set the world ablaze? As you determine your fiery course, consider this exhortation from Pope Francis: “We Christians were not chosen by the Lord for little things; push onwards toward the highest principles. Stake your lives on noble ideals.”

**Readings:** Jeremiah 38:4-6, 8-10; Hebrews 12:1-4; Luke 12:49-53

*“I have come to set the earth on fire, and how I wish it were already blazing!”*

### **MEMORIAL OF THE QUEENSHIP OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (August 22)**

#### **The royal we**

Though Mary was never crowned Queen of Heaven in scripture, she has long reigned as queen in the hearts of the faithful. Still, the question remains: In what way is her queenship *real*? Mary's royal stature holds meaning for us, apart from whatever it signifies in the divine realm. “She is a most tender and kind Queen,” writes Saint Alphonsus Liguori, “eager to help us in our miseries. So much so that the church wants us to call her a Queen of Mercy.” We, too, are invited to be a holy and royal people, shaped by divine mercy and loving-kindness. What Mary already possesses is a vision of what we can be. Give yourself and others the royal treatment. Start with a touch of love.

**Readings:** Ruth 1:1-2ab, 3-6, 14b-16, 22; Matthew 22:34-40

*“Your people shall be my people, and your God my God.”*

### **TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (August 24)**

#### **The only way to make an impression on God**

A teacher asked his class for examples of words that describe the current crop of college students. He expected to hear “highly educated” or “sophisticated” but was surprised at the honesty of a young woman who responded “entitlement. We think everything is owed to us.” An overstatement, yet such an attitude can often be attached to a particular social class, race, gender, ethnicity, or nationality. But scripture makes it clear that simply being a member of a chosen race or having rank upon rank of wealthy, noble, or accomplished ancestors makes no impression on God. Only one thing does: goodness.

**Readings:** Isaiah 66:18-21; Hebrews 12:5-7, 11-13; Luke 13:22-30

*“They shall proclaim my glory among the nations.”*

### **TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (August 31)**

#### **Gifts that keep on giving**

“Love one another.” “Forgive everyone.” “Give to those who cannot repay you.” These sayings of Jesus seem like a lot of hard work with little reward. But nothing could be further from the truth. Have you ever left a large tip for a tired waitress or waiter? Or smiled at a store clerk who was having a difficult day? Such gestures generate feelings of gratitude and well-being that do not come any other way. If we spent only a few minutes every day thinking of a small gift we could give to someone, just imagine how our world would change! Try it today—then do it again tomorrow.

**Readings:** Sirach 3:17-18, 20, 28-29; Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24a; Luke 14:1, 7-14

*“Blessed indeed will you be because of their inability to repay you.”*

### **TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (September 7)**

#### **Don't hold back**

Do we recognize the Jesus who says, “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, he cannot be my disciple”? The words seem harsh in comparison to the soothing invitation of the Good Shepherd. Not to worry—Jesus is not insisting we abandon family or become homeless in order to follow him. But Jesus is saying, without doubt, that nothing—no thing and no one—can become so central in life that it interferes with doing God's will to love God and love your

neighbor as yourself by being just, showing mercy, and walking with God. Jesus' call is "do as I do. Love as I love, hold nothing back. Do this in remembrance of me."

**Readings:** Wisdom 9:13-18; Philemon 9b-10, 12-17; Luke 14:25-33

*"Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple."*

## **FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (September 8)**

### **Set your sights on love**

Disappointments come in all varieties: in finance, romance, parenting, and professional fulfillment. Some of us dream big dreams only to reap what seem humble returns. Should we set our sights lower, then, to keep disappointment at bay? For his part Saint Paul does recommend an attitude adjustment: Aim for love. Those who orient their actions and intentions toward love of God will not be disappointed because God is glad to employ all things, successes and failures together, to fulfill divine purposes. Just ask Saints Joachim and Anne, aged parents of a late-arriving child soon to be called "full of grace."

**Readings:** Micah 5:2-5a or Romans 8:28-30; Matthew 1:1-16, 18-23 or 1:18-23

*"We know that all things work for good for those who love God."*

## **FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS (September 14)**

### **Understanding cross culture**

It's not always easy to face the things that hurt us or our loved ones. So why would we lift up the cross, honoring that which symbolizes pain and the death of Jesus? As Christians we choose to face the cross. In doing so we confront not only the reality of suffering and death but also the hope and belief in new life, in that "something more" of salvation. And somehow in facing our pain, instead of pretending it isn't there or whitewashing the reality, there is acknowledgement of our vulnerability. We become open to healing. The exaltation of the cross is not only a reminder of Jesus' death but of his Resurrection. It is an invitation to lift up our own pain and find in it a path to healing and wholeness.

**Readings:** Numbers 21:4-9; Philippians 2:6-11; John 3:13-17

*"So must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."*

*Copyright acknowledgement for each reflection given above: ©2025 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Sign up to receive free daily email at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe.*

## **Saint John XXIII Parish Stewardship of Treasure**

***New parishioners are encouraged to contact the parish office to register with the parish and to arrange for pre-authorized debit or a box of regular offering envelopes.***

If you prefer to donate via e-Transfer, go online and login to your online banking account. For name of recipient you may use **ST. JOHN XXIII PARISH** and be sure to use this email address: [finance@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:finance@johnxxiii.ca) Transfers sent to [finance@johnxxiii.ca](mailto:finance@johnxxiii.ca) will be automatically deposited to the account of TRUSTEES OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC PARISH OF SAINT JOHN XXIII at RBC Royal Bank. When making your contribution via Interac e-Transfer through your financial institution, please be sure to INDICATE IN THE MESSAGE/MEMO line what your payment is for.

As well, we urge parishioners to continue their regular contributions to our capital campaign to help pay off the debt of the loans our parish has received from the Trustees of the RCAW Inc.

For further information, you may contact staff in the parish office and/or check out information published in previous parish bulletins. Copies are available for viewing on the parish website.

***A sincere THANK YOU for your continued generosity and support of our parish and its ministries!***

***"A truly humble person never believes that he can be wronged in anything. Truly, we ought to be shamed to resent whatever is said or done against us; for it is the greatest shame in the world to see that our Creator bears so many insults from His creatures, and that we resent even a little word that is contradictory."*** —Saint Teresa of Ávila

***"No one, however weak, is denied a share in the victory of the Cross."***

***—Saint Leo the Great, pope 400-461 A.D.***