

XXIII Sunday in Ordinary Time

XXIII Domingo Ordinario

Following Jesus is not simply a matter of admiration — it is a matter of surrender. In today's Gospel, the Lord reminds us that true discipleship has a cost. To put Christ first means learning to hold lightly to possessions, ambitions, and even relationships, so that nothing keeps us from Him. Carrying the cross is not about suffering for its own sake, but about walking in trust, love, and fidelity with the One who gave everything for us. The challenge is real, but so is the promise: what we give up is small compared to the joy of life with Christ.

Seguir a Jesús no es simplemente admirarlo, sino entregarse a Él. En el Evangelio de hoy, el Señor nos recuerda que el verdadero discipulado tiene un costo. Poner a Cristo en primer lugar significa aprender a tener con ligereza los bienes, las ambiciones e incluso las relaciones, para que nada nos aparte de Él. Cargar la cruz no se trata de sufrir por sufrir, sino de caminar en confianza, amor y fidelidad con Aquel que lo dio todo por nosotros. El desafío es grande, pero también lo es la promesa: lo que dejamos atrás es pequeño comparado con la alegría de la vida en Cristo.



SAINT LOUIS PARISH
WEBSTER, MASSACHUSETTS
September 7, 2025

Welcome to Saint Louis Parish

14 Lake Street, Webster Massachusetts 01570

Phone - 508-943-0240 ~ www.StLouisChurchWebster.org ~ Email: officeadmin@stlouischurchwebster.org

MISSION STATEMENT

Saint Louis Parish is a welcoming Catholic Community united in our efforts to live the Gospel message and offer ourselves as the heart and hands of Jesus Christ to all we encounter. We strive to bring people together in devotion to the presence of the risen Lord, through sacraments, liturgy, and worship. We are committed to living the teaching of our Lord in all our affairs, while honoring His living presence in the Most Holy Eucharist. We endeavor to remain a strong, supportive, and interactive community within, but seek to support our surrounding community by sharing our faith, actions, and stewardship to help make a positive difference in the world around us.

PARISH LIFE

MARRIAGES

The policy for the Diocese of Worcester requires a period of preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage, which includes sessions with the parish priest and participation at either the pre-Cana conference or the Engaged Encounter weekend. Contact the pastor for arrangements. We want your wedding to be beautiful, memorable and meaningful. Don't hesitate to talk to us about what we can do to make it so. May God bless you in your marriage.

BAPTISM

Baptisms are celebrated on Saturdays before 3:00pm or Sundays after 2:00pm. Please call the Rectory office to make arrangements for your child's baptism.

MINISTRY TO THE SICK

Sacramental and pastoral services are offered to the sick, hospitalized, homebound, and all who are in need by the pastoral staff of the parish. To arrange a visit, please call the rectory. Regular visits are made to the hospitals and to the nursing homes in our town of Webster, with the celebration of weekly Mass. Please call the rectory (508-943-0240) to inform us of someone in need of a visit.

NEW MEMBERS

New parishioners are always welcome! Please introduce yourself to Father Javier or Deacon Tom at the end of Mass.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND O.C.I.A.

Saint Louis offers a full program of religious education up to and including adults. O.C.I.A. (Order of Christian Initiation of Adults) is a process for welcoming new members into the Catholic Church. If interested, please call the religious education office (508-943-0817) for more information.

PARISH STAFF

Rev. Javier Julio, **Pastor**

Deacon Tom Creamer, **Deacon**

Mr. Brian Betty, **Sexton**

Mrs. Heidi Hughes, **Administrative Assistant**
officeadmin@stlouischurchwebster.org

Mrs. Jennafer Perez, **Financial Administrator**

Mr. Tim Messenger, **Youth Ministry Coordinator**
youthministry@stlouischurchwebster.org

Ms. Connie Galli – **Music Director**

RECTORY OFFICE INFORMATION

Hours: Monday-Friday 9 AM - 2 PM

Phone - 508-943-0240, Fax - 508-943-0801

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Mrs. Teri Cacciapouti, Phone/Fax 508-943-0817

E-mail: religioused@stlouischurchwebster.org

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL

Raymond Fontaine, Chairman

ALL SAINTS ACADEMY

Mrs. Joan Matys, Head of School

www.allsaintswebster.org ~ office@allsaintswebster.org

School: 48 Negus Street ~ Phone - 508-943-0257

Grades: Preschool through Grade 8

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday - 5 PM

Sunday - 7 AM, 10:30 AM,
12:30 PM - Spanish Mass

Weekday Masses

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday 7 AM
Holidays 8 AM

Holy Days - 7 AM, 12 PM, 5:30 PM, 7 PM-Spanish

Miraculous Medal Novena

Tuesdays at 6:00 PM (in Spring and Fall as scheduled)

Spanish Prayer Group - Wednesdays at 7 PM



Rest of the Soul: Claire Verdone, Joan Gatzke, Paul, Sandra Deborah Lobo, Rose Minarik, Diane Dwyer, Rita Kal, Jacqueline Lomuscio, Pauline Daskowski, Stella Krok, George Marrier, Christine & Edward Marek, Catherine Guyette, Michael Francis Kreft.

Continued Prayers: We pray for all those who suffer with sickness physically, emotionally, or spiritually - especially for Peter Motyka, Linda Sproles, Gary Sproles, Shawn Hartnett, David, Kevin Dupont, Christine Emery, Betty Dumochel, Katie, Dolly LeBlanc, Larry Dupont, Ann Fitman, Kelly Kokernak, Danielle, Cindy Smith, Arthur Matte, Shelly Matte, Emily Lussier, Bob & Joan Wentworth, John Lewandowski, Anna, Lusia, Monika, Uncle John, Slawek, Hunter, Barron, Brian Canty, Tyro Navarro, Barbara Leduc, Arthur Gomes, Francis Lowney, Albert Atchue, Joshua, Sharon Paradis, Cheryl Veilleux, Mary Jane O'Brien, Kevin, Annette Crisia, Barbara Greene, Kenny, Michelle, Mary Lee DiPinto, Bill Rogan, Treffley Hebert, Bill C, Chet & Pat Allison, Nicholas, Dan Slavinskis, John Gonyea, Donna Huntington, Bill D, Jacqui St. Cyr, Marilyn Woodard, Shirley, Kenny Bibeau, Mark Bibeau, Wanda, Carl & Nancy Zumpfe, Anna Imprescia, Kayla, Johnathan, Annette, Jane, Mike Cregg, Ashley, John, Judith Antonucci, Cebee, Margaret Coty, Bill, Tom, Terry, Josiah, Josh Gingras, Barbara Menard, Rico Lazio Soto, Ron Sampson, Irv Moran, Anne Tisdell, Renee, Kathleen McGillicuddy, Larkin Humphrey, Alex Currie, Brian & Tiffany Heil, Jeff & Mary LaVergne, Cheryl Brown, Ashley H, Michael B. Cregg, Lauren, Tim Gatzke, Cathy C, Charlie C., Shawn C, Joanne Boulay, Patricia Desto, Mike Moylan, Cheryl Marier, Ron, Annie & Scott Grant, Claire Forget, Michael Hutchinson, Dick Blanchard, Father Allaga, Joan Costa, Jeffrey Millar, Maryann Spiewakowski, Barbara P., Dirk Hansen, Peter Giles, Susan Maass, Michelle, Nicholas F, Kyle, Linda Rybacki, Arthur Daskowski, Spin, Mary Jo Dube, Mary Anne Dabrowski, Linda Orasz, Kim F, Kyle Marier, Ken Daviau, Richard C., Erica M, Katie H, Lyn Shields, Michael, Ruth H, Pillar M, Greg S, Eric Estes. May Christ's healing bring them comfort.

Thanksgiving for: We thank God for all the graces and blessings you have bestowed upon our parishioners, spiritual and temporal: Our faith and religious heritage, our food and shelter, our health, the love we have for one another, and our family and friends.

Prayer Request Line: Call the Pastoral Center at 508-943-0240.

Invitation to Training

We invite all who feel called to serve as Lectors and Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion to join us for training on Wednesday, September 24:
Eucharistic Ministers: 6:00 pm - Lectors: 6:45 pm
 Come and be part of this beautiful ministry of service at the Lord's Table.



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Website & Online Giving:

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St. Vincent de Paul Society

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ST. LOUIS 50/50 CLUB WINNER

CONGRATULATIONS!

The *St. Louis 50/50 Club* 2025 winner this week is
Ronald Franek Week #19 - Ticket #50

Saint Monica Ministry

Dear Parish Family, We are blessed to announce the restarting of the Saint Monica Ministry here at Saint Louis Church. This ministry is rooted in prayer, hope, and support for all those who carry the heartfelt desire to see their loved ones return to the practice of the faith. Inspired by Saint Monica, the mother of Saint Augustine, whose perseverance and prayer brought about her son's conversion, we come together to encourage one another and to entrust our families and friends to God's loving mercy. Next meeting will be on **September 24th at 6:30 – 7:30 PM in the church hall**. We will meet the 4th Wed. of each month in the church hall. Please contact Kathy Archambault with any questions. Kathyarch6@gmail.com – Thank you!

All are welcome!

Children's Choir

The first rehearsal for the St. Louis Children's choir will take place on Sunday, September 21st. Rehearsals will take place each Sunday from 8:00 – 8:45 AM. Children's Choir Masses will be on the second Sunday of each month at 10:30 AM. Children from grades 1-8 are welcome to join regardless of musical experience! Please take a contact information form from the front of the church and bring it to the first rehearsal. With any questions or concerns please email Julie Hubert at juliearch2517@gmail.com

Takeout Pasta Dinner- In Memory of Amanda Dabrowski

Penne w/homemade Pasta Sauce Meatball & Italian Sausage Dinner. Take out only Saturday, Sept. 20th from 4 to 7 PM in the St. Louis Church Hall. Donation \$15.00. Advanced tickets after all Masses Sept. 6th & 7th, also, Sept. 13th & 14th. (**Checks payable to Ed Dabrowski**). Tickets must be purchased in advance or reserve your tickets by calling Ed at 1-774-280-4269. In addition there will be raffles available. Raffles chosen by 6:45 PM, winners will be notified by phone call. Thank you!

Discipleship of Jesus

The Gospel we hear today is one of the most demanding teachings of Jesus. At first, the words can sound almost shocking: “If anyone comes to me without hating his father and mother, wife and children, brothers and sisters, and even his own life, he cannot be my disciple.” What could Jesus mean by such strong words?

We know, of course, that Jesus is not calling us to despise our families or ourselves. He calls us to love—and even commands us to love our neighbor, and to honor our father and mother. What Jesus is teaching here is that nothing, not even the dearest relationships in our lives, can take the first place in our hearts. Only God belongs there. Only God can be the absolute center of our lives.

Discipleship is costly. Jesus says clearly: “Whoever does not carry his own cross and come after me cannot be my disciple.” To follow Christ is not simply to admire Him from a distance, but to walk in His footsteps—even when those footsteps lead to sacrifice, to letting go, to the Cross.

That is why He gives us the two examples in the Gospel: the man building a tower, and the king preparing for battle. Both must first sit down and calculate what it will take. Jesus is telling us: Do not follow me lightly. Do not think discipleship is cheap. Before you say “yes,” understand what it requires: trust, detachment, and a willingness to put God above everything else.

Now, some might ask: Is it worth it? Is it worth giving up so much to follow Christ? And the answer is: yes, because what He offers us in return is life—true life, abundant life, eternal life. The cost of discipleship is great, but the reward is infinitely greater.

Think of the saints, who gave up wealth, power, even family ties for the sake of Christ. Were they left empty? No. They found joy, freedom, and peace that the world cannot give. And so will we, if we dare to put Christ first.

Today, Jesus invites us to look honestly at our own lives. What holds first place in our hearts? Is it family, success, comfort, possessions? None of these things are bad in themselves—but if they take the place of God, they become obstacles. Jesus says, “Anyone of you who does not renounce all his possessions cannot be my disciple.” He does not mean we all must give everything away, but that we must hold everything lightly, as a gift entrusted to us, never as something we cling to more tightly than to God.

My friends, discipleship is not about adding Jesus to our busy lives like one more commitment. It is about reordering our lives so that everything flows from Him. It is about carrying the cross with Him, not as a burden that crushes us, but as a path that leads to resurrection.

So today, let us ask ourselves: Am I willing to put Christ first, above every other attachment? Am I willing to carry my cross with Him? If we say yes, we may lose some things—but we will gain everything.

Because in the end, the cost of discipleship is nothing compared to the gift of eternal life in Christ. Fr. Javier.

Discipulado de Jesús

El Evangelio que escuchamos hoy es una de las enseñanzas más exigentes de Jesús. Al principio, sus palabras pueden sonar casi chocantes: «Si alguien viene a mí y no odia a su padre y a su madre, a su esposa y a sus hijos, a sus hermanos y hermanas, e incluso a su propia vida, no puede ser mi discípulo». ¿Qué puede significar Jesús con palabras tan fuertes?

Sabemos, por supuesto, que Jesús no nos llama a despreciar a nuestras familias ni a nosotros mismos. Él nos llama al amor, e incluso nos manda amar al prójimo y honrar a nuestro padre y a nuestra madre. Lo que Jesús nos enseña aquí es que nada, ni siquiera las relaciones más queridas de nuestra vida, puede ocupar el primer lugar en nuestro corazón. Solo Dios pertenece allí. Solo Dios puede ser el centro absoluto de nuestra vida.

El discipulado tiene un costo. Jesús lo dice con claridad: «El que no carga con su cruz y me sigue, no puede ser mi discípulo». Seguir a Cristo no es simplemente admirarlo desde lejos, sino caminar tras sus huellas, incluso cuando esas huellas nos conducen al sacrificio, al desapego, a la Cruz.

Por eso Él nos da los dos ejemplos en el Evangelio: el hombre que quiere construir una torre y el rey que se prepara para la batalla. Ambos primero se sientan a calcular lo que se necesita. Jesús nos está diciendo: no me sigan a la ligera. No piensen que el discipulado es barato. Antes de decir “sí”, comprendan lo que requiere: confianza, desapego y la voluntad de poner a Dios por encima de todo.

Y algunos podrían preguntar: ¿vale la pena? ¿Vale la pena renunciar a tantas cosas para seguir a Cristo? La respuesta es: sí, porque lo que Él nos ofrece a cambio es vida: vida verdadera, vida abundante, vida eterna. El costo del discipulado es grande, pero la recompensa es infinitamente mayor.

Pensemos en los santos, que renunciaron a riquezas, poder e incluso a lazos familiares por amor a Cristo. ¿Se quedaron vacíos? No. Encontraron una alegría, una libertad y una paz que el mundo no puede dar. Y así también será con nosotros, si nos atrevemos a poner a Cristo en primer lugar.

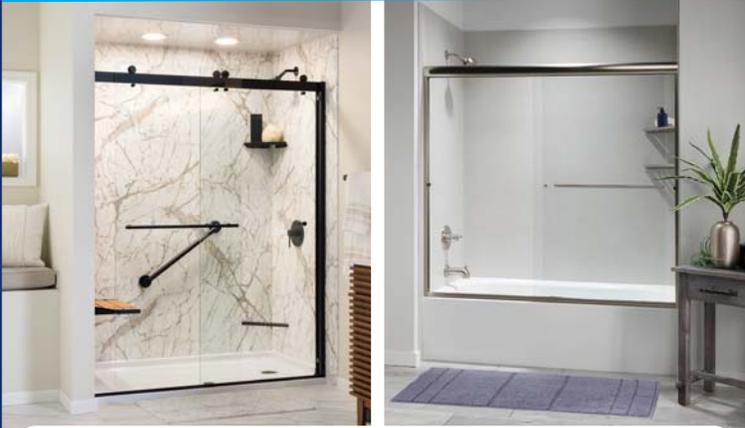
Hoy, Jesús nos invita a mirar con honestidad nuestra propia vida. ¿Qué ocupa el primer lugar en nuestro corazón? ¿La familia, el éxito, la comodidad, las posesiones? Nada de esto es malo en sí mismo, pero si desplaza a Dios, se convierte en un obstáculo. Jesús dice: «El que no renuncia a todos sus bienes, no puede ser mi discípulo». No significa que todos debemos regalarlo todo, sino que debemos tenerlo todo con desprendimiento, como un don confiado a nuestras manos, y no como algo que poseemos más firmemente que a Dios mismo.

Amigos míos, el discipulado no se trata de añadir a Jesús a nuestras vidas ocupadas como si fuera un compromiso más. Se trata de reordenar toda nuestra vida para que todo fluya desde Él. Se trata de cargar la cruz con Él, no como un peso que nos aplasta, sino como un camino que nos conduce a la resurrección.

Así que hoy, preguntémosnos: ¿Estoy dispuesto a poner a Cristo en primer lugar, por encima de cualquier apego? ¿Estoy dispuesto a cargar mi cruz con Él? Si respondemos que sí, quizá perdamos algunas cosas... pero lo ganaremos todo.

Porque al final, el costo del discipulado no es nada comparado con el don de la vida eterna en Cristo. P. Javier

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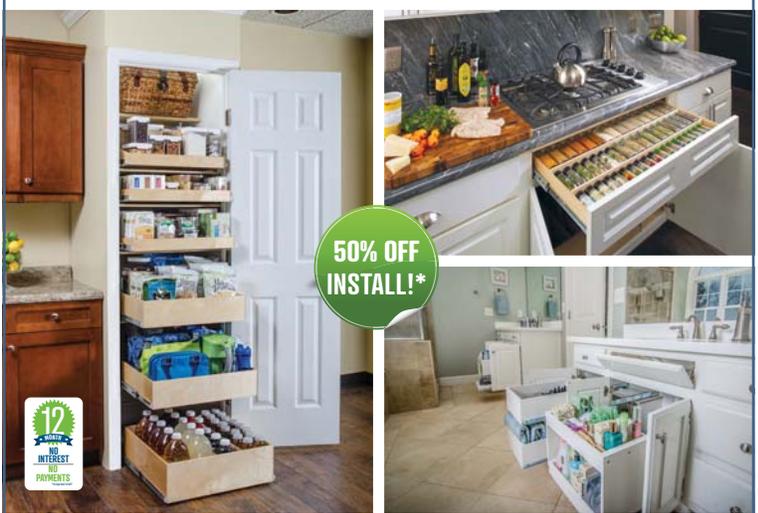


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