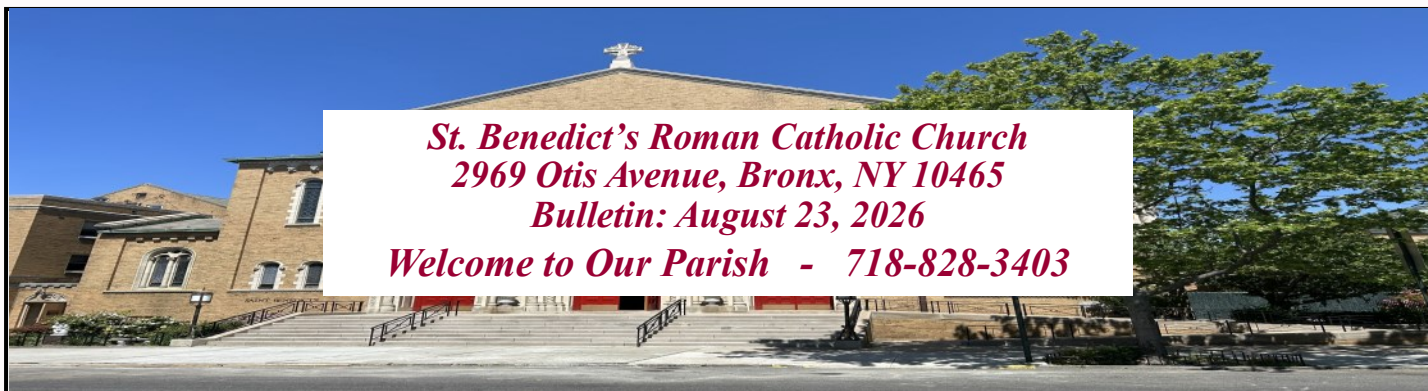




**St. Benedict's Roman Catholic Church**  
**2969 Otis Avenue, Bronx, NY 10465**  
**Bulletin: August 23, 2026**  
**Welcome to Our Parish - 718-828-3403**



## Religious Education

**REGISTRATION for 2026-2027 IS NOW OPEN**  
for Religious Ed (CCD) and Catechesis of the  
Good Shepherd (CGS)

**ONLINE REGISTRATION** for both our Parish programs is available on our Parish website @stbenedictchurchny.org. All information regarding program fees, class times and dates, along with the registration form and online payment option are also available on our Parish website.

**IN-PERSON REGISTRATION** upon request. Please email Maria Pirraglia at: reled@stbenedictsschool.com to schedule an appointment.

### The Seven Sacraments



Baptism, Confirmation, Eucharist,  
Reconciliation, Anointing of the Sick,  
Holy Orders, Marriage

**This is an Invitation to ALL Adults who have not received their sacraments.** You are invited to attend classes here at Saint Benedict's starting the end of September 2026. If you are interested, please come to the rectory to register. Any questions, please call 718-828-3403, x101. Thank you.

### St. Benedict's School Registration

We know summer is well underway, but time flies and pretty soon we have to get back into school mode. If you are thinking about what school to place your child in for this coming September, one way to show love to your children is to offer them a catholic school education. So, please feel free to contact St. Benedict School at your convenience to set up a tour. **Registration for the 2026/2027 school year is OPEN and we have availability in all grades.** If you are looking to apply you may do so by going online to our website at **stbenedictschoolbx.org** and clicking APPLY NOW. SBS serves grades PK-3 students all the way through 8th grade. PK classes are curriculum based and 8th graders are guided and prepared to enter high school. PK-3 must be aged 3 by 12/31/2026 and PK-4 must be aged 4 by 12/31/2026. **Financial aid for the 2026/2027 school year will be available to the families with students FULLY REGISTERED and ENROLLED in grades KINDERGARTEN through 8th grade and is on a first come, first served basis.** You may contact the school at 718-829-9557 for further information about our school and to set up a one-on-one tour.

**Have a blessed, safe and enjoyable rest of the summer!**

### CLERGY:

Reverend Fr. Nikolin Pergjini  
Pastor

Reverend Fr. David L. Birkdale  
Parochial Vicar

Deacon Nestor Halpern

### HOLY MASS SCHEDULE:

**Weekdays:** Monday through Friday  
8:30am

**Saturdays:** 8:30am and 4:00pm  
(Saturday Evening Vigil)

**Sundays:** 7:00am, 8:00am, 9:30am,  
11:00am, 5:00pm

### **MASSES FOR THE WEEK:**

**SUNDAY, August 23rd; *Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time***

7:00 Johanna Livesay "Living"  
8:00 St. Benedict Parish  
9:30 Jaime Cabral  
11:00 Santo Terrasi  
"Happy Seventh Heavenly Anniversary"

5:00 Benito and Mary Chiatto

**MONDAY, August 24th**

8:30 Rita Biagi

**TUESDAY, August 25th**

8:30 Deceased Members of the  
McCarthy and O'Callaghan Families

**WEDNESDAY, August 26th**

8:30 Lina Fava

**THURSDAY, August 27th**

8:30 Daniel Civarelli  
"Happy Heavenly Birthday"

**FRIDAY, August 28th**

8:30 Sabina Ansali

**SATURDAY, August 29th**

8:30 Louis Travis  
4:00 Jean and Sal Caruso

**SUNDAY, August 30th; *Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time***

7:00 Rosemarie Belluzzi  
8:00 Carmine and Carmela Romano  
9:30 Olivia Pignatelli  
11:00 Javier Fontan  
5:00 Miguel Rodriguez

**THIS WEEK'S ALTAR BREAD, WINE, AND  
ALTAR CANDLES HAVE BEEN DONATED BY:**

*John M. Matthews*  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**  
*John P. Matthews*

**THIS WEEK'S SANCTUARY LAMP HAS BEEN  
DONATED BY:**

*Husband John and Son Vincent*  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**  
*April Tagliarino*

**THIS WEEK'S ADORATION CHAPEL CANDLES  
HAVE BEEN DONATED BY:**

*Wife, Children and Grandchildren*  
**IN LOVING MEMORY OF:**  
*Vinny Carotenuto*  
*Happy Heavenly Birthday*

### **IMPORTANT**

We know that many of you receive religious cards, printouts, and small items in the mail. Out of deep respect for these holy images, we understand why you may hesitate to throw them away and instead leave them in the church vestibule.

However, we must kindly ask that you **do not leave these items in the vestibule of the church.** Since they are generally unblessed, they, unfortunately, end up being placed in our standard recycling.

We truly appreciate your understanding and cooperation in keeping our gathering space tidy. If you have any questions, please feel free to speak with one of our priests or deacon. Thank you!



SEPTEMBER 5  
FEAST DAY OF  
SAINT TERESA  
OF CALCUTTA



"Let us always  
meet each other  
with a smile, for  
the smile is the  
beginning of love."  
- Saint Teresa of Calcutta

*Saint*

*Mother Teresa*

*Born: August 26,  
1910*

*Died: September 5,  
1997*

Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta, was an Albanian-Indian Catholic nun, founder of the Missionaries of Charity and a Catholic saint. Born in Skopje, North Macedonia then part of the Ottoman Empire, she was raised in a devoutly Catholic family. At the age of 18, she moved to Ireland to join the Sisters of Loreto and later to India, where she lived most of her life and carried out her missionary work. On September 4, 2016, she was canonized by the Catholic Church as **Saint Teresa of Calcutta**. The anniversary of her death, September 5th, is now observed as her feast day.

***Saint Mother Teresa, pray for us!***

**BUS TRIP TO PADRE PIO**

**Monday, September 21, 2026**

National Centre for Padre Pio, 111 Barto Rd, Barto, Pa  
Depart 8:00am from the Bruckner Blvd side  
Depart 4:00pm from Barto, PA

\$60.00 per person round trip (No Refunds)

**Bring your own lunch**

**THERE ARE NO MORE  
SEATS AVAILABLE!!!**

Please Pray for the Recently Deceased Members of Our  
Parish and their Grieving Families:

John Myers, Maria Orecchio

*Message from Fr. Pergjini,*

It was January 2012 when I went for the first time to the Holy land. It was a pilgrimage retreat led by our Archbishop Timothy Dolan, who happened that month to be created a Cardinal by late Pope Benedict XVI. The good news that our Archbishop Dolan was going to be a cardinal soon reached the media of the State of Israel. We were privileged to be welcomed with great honor and respect in every place we had to visit; this was because of Cardinal Dolan. We were fifty priests from our archdiocese. We were blessed to share meals together, celebrate Holy Mass and pray together the liturgy of hours. Every day a senior priest was assigned to preach. It was very inspiring and engaging to hear the homilies of the retired priests whom we knew very well but never had a chance to hear their homilies. One of them, may he rest in peace, was my first Pastor, Msgr. John Ruvo. It was a unique experience that I still remember with great joy. We also were blessed to have a guide who was an excellent expert of the Holy Land, in history, archeology, and scripture. Among the many sites that we visited was the region of Caesarea Philippi mentioned in today's Gospel, *Matt 16:13-20*. It was the place where Christ took his disciples asking what people thought of him. **and what they think of him.** It was exactly in that city where St. Peter revealed Christ's divinity. Caesarea Philippi is situated 25 miles north of the Sea of Galilee, at the base of Mt. Hermon. Today, it is a very important archaeological place for Israel. At that time of Christ, it was a Greek-Roman city near a huge spring coming out of a cave. There were many pagan temples that claimed that the fertility gods lived during winter and having a gate to the underworld. It was a city not only known of its pagan worship but also known for its immoral corruption. As we visited the place overcrowded with tourists, we stopped at a quiet corner looking at Hermon Mountain. Our guide was very engaging and rewarding with his comments and with his questions. Still today, in my mind is a clear picture of a unique place and sharing with you my questions and comments. Why did Christ bring his disciples in a place of sin and immoral corruption to ask who he was? Why did Christ not ask that question in a peaceful and prayerful place? Why didn't Christ ask this question choosing a place where his disciples witnessed his many miracles? In my humble prayer and contemplation, Christ wanted to ask that question where immorality and sinful lifestyle was the most normal way of life. In that pagan and immoral atmosphere Saint Peter answered the question of Christ who he was. St. Peter made the famous statement: "You are the Son of the living God." Christ's Divinity was revealed. It is true Caesarea Philippi was not the only immoral and

August 23, 2026

corrupted city, the presence of sinfulness was everywhere, as it is today. However, Caesarea Philippi was universally known for its suffocating pagan worship with its immoral consequences. Jesus Christ knew that the divine power touched the mind of Peter who proclaimed that Christ is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God. Every single Sunday the holy scripture is well-related to our daily reality. It is impossible to isolate that past passage as an event of the past and with no connection with our daily lives. This experience of Caesarea Philippi relates to our time and corrupt culture. Christ is present, even in our corrupted time and culture. Christ asks every one of us who are present in our church pews today the same question as he did back then. Who do you think I am? How do you and I answer who Christ is for you and me. Are we able to relate his presence in our time, culture, family, society, country, and the world? Are we strong enough to be honest and speak the truth who Christ is for us in this corrupted world as it was back then in Caesarea Philippi where the immorality and corruption were the norms as, unfortunately, it is even today in our time? What place does our Savior have in our life when we are aware of how bad things are in our society? Do we defend what we believe and stand for, or do we keep private our faith and afraid to speak in public who Christ is? In our society the presence of God is removed, and to those who practice their faith we are told to keep to ourselves, no need to share or defend for what we stand for and believe.

The pressure of our time and culture has become the norm, imposing on us what is contrary to what we believe. Outside and, unfortunately, sometimes even inside the church we do not hear the distinction between evil and holy, between what is right and what is wrong. It has become a normal way of life to live in sin. The faithful people, we attend Holy Sacrifice of the Mass today, regardless of the corrupted reality of our time and culture, Christ asks the same question as he did back then. He wants an answer from us. He knows well that we cannot change the reality of our time, and do not have any power to do it. On the other hand, we can change ourselves by living the truth of Christ, faithful to his commandments and proclaiming that Christ is the living Son of God. Christ wants that our thoughts, words, and deeds reveal his divinity in or time and culture. We must resist this imposing and contaminated deadly culture.

This is the only way, and there is no other way, we can answer the question of today's Gospel. We can, always with God's grace, through the voice of Saint Peter, say to Christ in our hearts, minds, and souls: **"You are the son the living God."**



**BLOOD DRIVE**  
**1082 Edison Avenue**

**Sunday, August 23, 2026** the Knights of Columbus will host a Blood Drive from **8:30am until 2:30pm** at the corner of Edison Avenue and Bruckner Boulevard, where the Food Pantry operates.

The New York Blood Center has expressed the urgent need for blood donations as New York City, specifically, and New York State in general. They are experiencing a blood shortage that has reached a crisis level.

**We need your help! Please Donate!**  
**Thank you!**

**SAVE THE DATES**

**St. Benedict's Women's Cornerstone**  
**Retreat will be October 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> 2026**

**St. Benedict's Men's Cornerstone**  
**Retreat will be October 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> 2026**

**San Silverio Committee of Morris Park**  
**BINGO NIGHT FUNDRAISER**

**Friday, September 18th at 6:30pm**  
**Morris Park Association**  
**1824 Bronxdale Avenue, Bronx**

**\$35.00 per person**  
**6 games - 3 cards per game**  
**Cash Prizes and Raffles, Beverages included**  
**Bring snacks and goodies to share**  
**with your table.**

**To reserve your spot, please call:**  
**Domenic at 718-344-4103**  
**Angela 347-204-8183**

**The Bible Study Group**

The Bible Study Group is taking a break for the summer. God willing, we will begin again in the Fall (date to be determined).

Have a Blessed, Safe and Enjoyable Summer!  
**"See you in the Fall"**

**Please Remember to Pray for the Sick!**

**May they find healing and comfort in Jesus Christ!**

Sr. Claire Regan, Stacey Addario, Joseph Abbate, Louis Amend, Donna Antonacci, Yselsa Arroyo, Gustavo Bardana, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Jack Bonacorso, Kathleen Bowers, Joseph Brenner, Wendelin Brenner, Walter Buddington, Peter Burnett, Amy Buscamonte, Caceres Family, Diane, Georgina Cales, Frankie Carpenter, Fay Carter, Jay and Patricia Cepero, Carolyn Chiappetta, Patricia Coughlin, Tom Curran, Maryann Cuttita, Lillian Cuttler, Frank Dailey, Vinny D'Amico, Louis D'Annucci, Debbie, Carla DeCicco, Anton Deski, Danielle Deviccaro, Angela Diaz, Lali Dilone, Anthony DiNardi, Emily DiNardi, John DiNardi, Margaret Dionisio, Dorothy DiPierro, Pat Eaccirano, Sandra Edwards, Sean Fagan, Barbara Farrell, Melissa Fonseca, Francisco Fernandez, Isabelle Mercedes Fernandez, John Fernandez, Filomena Fidanza, Christopher Filardi, David Fisher, Anthony Fortunato, Roseann Frattini, Debra Ann Garcia, Richard Garcia, Sr., Richard Garcia, Jr., Rose Gettenberg, Ralph Giorgio, Hope Mercedes Fernandez, John Fernandez, Nereida Ferrer, Gordon, Marion Gruber, Frank Hinz, Jr., Sharon Holzapfel, Donna Inzano, Eileen Jeninngs, Edward Kennedy, Paul Korngold, Stephanie (Tyko) Kreps, Daniel Kundig, Josephine Lambell, Manuel Larino, Elise Lawle, Luis Gabriel Leal, Geraldine Lee, Mary Alexandra Lee, Virginia Lee, Frankie Lettera, Jessica Lettera, Francine Lettley, Katharina Listner, Frank Lomangino, LauMei Sheung Louie, Tiffany MacKnight, Ernie Magnotta, Julia Magnotta, Adrienne Malave, Elizabeth Mandile, Ann Marro, Olga Martinez, Robert McCarthy, Margo McGinty, Annette Matranga, Denise McPadden, Sue McVey, Carolyn Morello, Christie Madonna Muccino, Paula Mullane, Rosa Munoz, Lisa Murphy, Bradley Nother, Oyola Family, Maylee Roman Overman, Angelo Palumbo, Sr., Juana Perez, Aida Perez, Pasquale Preziosa, Paolo Principe, Michael and Robert Prokop, Linda Ranallo, Kim Rappold, Richard Reale, Joshua Reaser, Philip Rebia, William F. Reilly, Maritza Resto, Frank Riegel, Phillip Rivera, Joanne and Walter Robinson, Mario and Nelson Roman, Antonette Roublick, Sylvia Russo, Angela Dello Russo, John Russo, Carl Saglimbeni, Ann & Dave Samhammer, Peter Samoylo, Ashley Saucedo, Ada Scanga, Margaret Geddis Schmidt, Nicolai Soriano, Maria Soto, Edward Spar, Lois Stabile, Virginia Strasser, Theresa Stanton, Ramon Surita, Pasquale Tartagliione, Jennifer Tully, Stefanie Ural, Teresa Bosquez Valdez, Fran Walsh, Loretta White

**+ Babies/Children +**

Amber, Baby Amari, Baby Rose, Brayden, Brinley, Mia Carolla, Daniella Grace Comblo, Charli Mary Carozza, Crosslyn, Declynn, Sebastian DeLuca, Caleb DeJesus, Erma, Marco Garcia, Joseph Gentile, Ella Grazia Delli Carpin, Eli, Blake Salvatore Haddock, Harry, Jr., Hayden, Noelle Jablonka, Katherin, Savannah Longo, Sophia Lopez, Emi Lun, Aubrey Madden, Maizy, Giulia Sofia McCullough, Mila, Natalie, Noah, Lucas Ortiz, Sihanna, Anastassia Savov, Tiffany Toro, Summer Rose Vachna

**GOD BLESS AMERICA!**

## PAGE FIVE



III. *Kelcy McGeehan & Michael Braun*  
I. *Nikolas Stanovic and Kristina Djurovic*

### Preston Center of Compassion's English As A Second Language Program

PCC is offering our ESL Program; details are as follows:

**Where:** St. Frances de Chantal (Throggs Neck), 190 Hollywood Ave., Bronx NY 10465

**When:** Registration is Sept. 13, 14 or 15  
9:30 - 11AM. Late Registration is Sept. 20, 21 or 22  
9:30 - 11AM.

Classes begin September 20th and are weekly MON, TUES WEDS 9-11AM.

**Classes are free!**

For further information contact:  
Anne Desel, Preston Center of Compassion,  
718-892-8977.



### **Prayer for The United States of America!**

Father, I come before you, lifting up the United States of America. I pray for unity among its people, that love may bridge the divides, and that grace may guide our interactions. Grant wisdom and discernment to our leaders, so that they may govern with integrity and seek the well-being of all.

May Your peace reign in our land, and may Your purposes prevail.

In Your mercy, heal our nation, restore hope, and let righteousness and justice flow like a mighty river. Amen!



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

Registration for 2026-2027 is now open.  
Visit the Parish website: [stbenedictchurchny.org](http://stbenedictchurchny.org)  
Registration deadline is **FRIDAY Sept. 4, 2026**



### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION for GRADES 1 - 8

Wednesday session 4:15pm to 5:45pm OR

Sunday session 10:30am to 11:45am

**Classes meet at St. Benedict's School**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION for Pre-K & Kindergarten

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd Level 1 (ages 4-6)

Sunday session #1 8:30am to 9:30am OR

Sunday session #2 12:30pm to 1:30pm

**Classes meet at the Convent.**

NOTE: this class is NOT offered on WEDNESDAYS.

If interested in a tour of the atrium (classroom) email

Maria Pirraglia at:

[reled@stbenedictsschool.com](mailto:reled@stbenedictsschool.com)

### **FIRST DAY of CLASSES:**

Wed, Sept.23, 2026 and Sun, Sept 27, 2026

### **2026 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal**

The Archdiocese of New York is pleased to announce the launch of the 2026 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal!

This is an Important moment for our parish and our archdiocese, as we are all called to consider contributing to the *Cardinal's Appeal*.

Thank you to those who have already participated this year. If you have not yet done so, please join our fellow parishioners in supporting the mission of the Church today. Together, we can reach our goal in the amount of \$71,000.

**Thank you for making a difference!**

To make a gift, please visit: [cardinalsappeal.org](http://cardinalsappeal.org)  
or call **646-794-3300** today.

**Thank you for your consideration and for  
being loving and generous  
stewards of our Archdiocese and its mission!**

**God Bless!**

**The Federal Education Freedom Tax Credit**

We want to bring your attention to an exciting new opportunity launching next year: the federal Education Freedom Tax Credit. This program allows taxpayers to support K-12 tuition and education scholarships at zero net cost.

There are extra flyers at the rectory!

**Providence Rest Chapel  
Generational Healing Mass  
3304 Waterbury Avenue**

There will be a Generational Healing Mass on **Monday, August 31, 2026**. Fr Justin Cinnante will celebrate the Mass at 7:00pm at the Providence Rest Chapel (inside the black gate).

**All are welcome!**

***Quotes from the Fathers of the Church, the Saints, and the Great Teachers!***

**"As the soul is the life of the body, so the Holy Spirit is the life of our souls."**

**~~~St. Peter Damian**



**St. Benedict's Church  
Bronx, NY  
Online Giving with We Share**

To strengthen your involvement with our community.

Consider signing up for safe, secure, & confidential online giving.

Used by over 2,000 Catholic parishes to accept donations online, quickly & easily



Visit our Website: [www.stbenedictchurchny.org](http://www.stbenedictchurchny.org)

**Prayer List For Our United States Servicemen and Women**

**U.S. Air Force:**

1<sup>st</sup> Class Airman Eric Bosco, General Thomas D. Crimmins, Ismael Guiles, Major Roger Illari, 1st Airman Darren Morello, Stephanie Mendez, Air Force Airman, Msgt. Daniel Rivera, Lieutenant Colonel Alicia Stumpf, Lieutenant Colonel Sean Stumpf.

**U.S. Army/U.S. National Guard:**

SPC, Army National Guard, Middle East, Marcus Cassin, Pvt. Matthew Dooley, Sgt. Scott Douglas, Jason Engeldrum, Sgt. Pedro Flores, Pvt. Anthony Grieco, Jr., 2nd Lt. Christopher Hackett, Johnny Jiminez, 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne, Corporal Jenna Kuhl, Sergeant First Class Javier Mendoza, PV2 James McCarthy, Private Patrick W. Mooney, Major Peter Anthony Orlando, Pvt. Anthony Ottaviano, Reverend (Captain) Peter Pompisello, Major Lori Robinson, Thomas Robinson, Jr., Pvt. Sidney Antonio Kearns Rodriguez, Pvt. Justin Roman, Ryan Shank, Timothy S. Valentine, S.J., Capt. Javi San Juan, 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Renee San Juan, Colonel Raymond Van Pelt, Franky Perez, Sgt. Andrew Santander, Staff Sgt. Matthew Wickes, SPC Albert Zapata, Staff Sgt. William Ziegler.

**U.S. Coast Guard:**

Jayke Hooks, Seaman Apprentice, Thomas J. Hooks, Brandon A. Moreno, YN3, Ryan T. Moreno, CS3; Seaman Apprentice, PO3 Eberlee Santander.

**U.S. Marine Corps:**

Corporal Michael John Canzone, III, Liam Deenihan, Parris Island Boot Camp; 1st Lieutenant Ryan E. Dengler, Master Sgt. Mark S. Lynch, Corporal Kevin S. Major, LCpl Erik Mango, Lieutenant Colonel Frank Parisi, Reserves, In Basic Training Daniel Smith Peters; Sgt. Benjamin Rodriguez, Staff Sgt. Randy Vaccaro, Reserves; Pvt. 1st Class, Jason R. Wager

**U.S. Navy:**

Chief Petty Officer, Laurence Bueno, Lieutenant Commander Diplomat John Brunetti, Lieutenant JG Bethany Lee Champlin; Petty Officer Gillen, LCDR Jennifer Groger Widman, ABH3 (AW) Christopher Hough, Ensign Brandon McGaughan, Jordan McKay, Active Reservist, Naval Airman E-3, Sea Bee Sammy Pizzano, Petty Officer William F. Ramos, Ralph Romero Sanchez, Richard Torrens, Lieutenant Commander Victor Schaefer, E-4 Edwin Vargas, Pvt. Nicholas Zayas.

**Spiritual Readings for the Wk of Aug 23, 2026:**

**23 SUN TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**

Is 22:19-23/Rom 11:33-36/Mt 16:13-20 (121) I

**24 Feast Mon** Saint Bartholomew, Apostle Rv 21:9b-14/Jn 1:45-51 (629)

**25 Tue** Weekday [Saint Louis; Saint Joseph Calasanz, Priest] 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17/Mt 23:23-2)

**26 Wed** Weekday 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18/Mt 23:27-32

**27 Thu** Saint Monica Memorial 1 Cor 1:1-9/Mt 24:42-51 (428)

**28 Fri** Memorial Saint Augustine, Bishop and Doctor of the Church 1 Cor 1:17-25/Mt 25:1-13

**29 Sat** Memorial The Passion of Saint John the Baptist 1 Cor 1:26-31 (430)/Mk 6:17-29 (634)

**30 SUN TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN  
ORDINARY TIME**