

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

COMMENT

The book of Isaiah is the work of at least three writers. Today we hear from “Second Isaiah,” the prophet and author of the “book of consolation.” The first Isaiah, “Isaiah of Jerusalem,” had the odious task of warning Israel of impending disaster. Second Isaiah wrote 150 years later. His vocation was easier, if a prophet’s vocation ever is. The disaster did indeed come to pass, and Israel was in exile in Babylon. It is from here that Second Isaiah writes his book of consolation, which comprises chapters 40 through 55. The exile was drawing to a close, and Isaiah announces the good news of God’s deliverance. The Lord’s chosen remnant are the blessed ones, says Isaiah. They are the beginning of a new creation, a new age, a new social order. The Lord promises them refreshing water, ample enriching food for body and spirit, a renewal of the covenant once made with David.

It is not difficult to make the leap from this first reading to the Gospel proclamation. We can easily imagine the view that greeted Jesus. A raggedy assembly who were so hungry for deliverance that they followed Jesus “... on foot.” They sought him out; they pleaded for personal deliverance. They hung on his every word. They were heedless of the day, the hour, their distance from home, from food and water. And finally they were hungry for simple physical sustenance. The compassion Jesus felt for the crowds readily translated into his action for their physical well-being. That came first.

We know the story of the loaves and fishes well. The people who gathered around knew the roots of the story well, too. They were people of the book—the Jewish Scriptures. They knew of manna in the desert, first recorded in Exodus. They sang of the abundance of necessary food in the psalms—16, 78, 145, to name a few. Banquets and suppers were everywhere images of the fullness of God. The crowds knew by heart the verses from Isaiah: “You who have no money, come, receive grain and eat; come ...” (55:1). The words once penned by Isaiah, were a reality in Jesus. The promises had come true.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jer 28:1-17; Ps 119:29, 43, 79, 80, 95, 102; Mt 14:22-36
Tuesday: Jer 30:1-2, 12-15, 18-22; Ps 102:16-21, 29, 22-23; Mt 14:22-36 or Mt 15:1-2, 10-14
Wednesday: Jer 31:1-7; Ps Jer 31:10-12b, 13; Mt 15:21-28
Thursday: Dn 7:9-10, 13-14; Ps 97:1-2, 5-6, 9; 2 Pt 1:16-19; Mt 17:1-9
Friday: Na 2:1, 3; 3:1-3, 6-7; Dt 32:35cd-36ab, 39abcd, 41; Mt 16:24-28
Saturday: Hb 1:12 — 2:4; Ps 9:8-13; Mt 17:14-20
Sunday: 1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a; Ps 85:9-14; Rom 9:1-5; Mt 14:22-33

REFLECTION

Paul, who is keenly aware of the helplessness of human beings, rhetorically asks how we will be delivered. His answer, of course, is that the love of Christ is our deliverance. We are not the source of our own deliverance. Paul has enough and more than enough experience of his own failings. His hope is not in the law and certainly not in himself, but in Christ and him crucified. Every now and then as we read Paul’s letters, we see his words take flight. He bursts into these ecstatic utterances that are simply stunning. They are eloquent, and we love reading them. Paul’s hymn to love found in 1 Corinthians 13 is an example of this. The second reading today is another. Here Paul flowers. He pours out his lyrical exaltation about the love of God in Christ Jesus.

We listen carefully to Paul today, for he knows whereof he speaks. He has endured persecution and hunger and nakedness and the sword. And the love of God has not let go of him. All who have kept faith can sing this song. The exiles in Babylon, who possessed no coinage to pay the ransom, were delivered by God’s grace. The hungry in the deserted place in Palestine were healed and fed and sent home full. The angry, raging Pharisee named Paul was given the blinding vision of Jesus, who identified with his faithful. “I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting” (Acts 9:5). Paul knew as we do that the love of God is fully revealed in Christ, who will not let us go, as God would not. This is quite a revelation! Nor must we let go of God. We are called to rise up from the banquet table this day fully fed and ready to take up their lives. We go on our way nourished by God’s Word and by the Bread of Life.

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Holy Spirit Catholic Parish RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM 2026 – 2027

REGISTRATION

(Note: ALL CURRENT and NEW STUDENTS)

WHEN: Starts: Tuesday, August 11, 2026

Ends: Thursday, August 27, 2026

Days: Monday thru Thursday

Time: 5:00pm to 7:00pm

Where: IHM Hall c/o Sister Tita, OND

PLEASE TAKE NOTE: NO REGISTRATION on WEDNESDAYS or SUNDAYS when CLASSES start!

CLASSES BEGIN:

(a) Wednesday, September 9th: 7th to 11th Grades

Class Time: 7:00-8:30pm

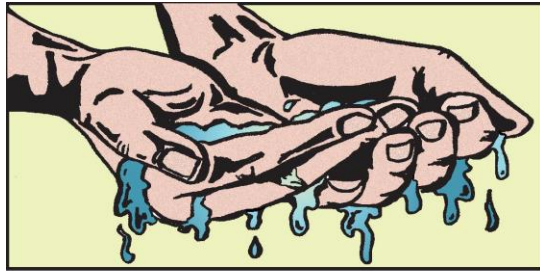
(b) Sunday, September 13th: Pre-K to 6th Grades

Class Time: 9:30-10:40am

*Religious Education Calendar 2026-2027 will be given upon registration.

*Baptismal Certificate is required of all new registrants and current students without baptismal records.

“Please come and register early!”



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**All you who are thirsty,
come to the water!** — *Isaiah 55:1a*

Saturday, August 1st -

5:00-IHM – Guadalupanas living and deceased;
+Daniel Grimaldo; For the health and well-being of
Sammy Camacho

7:00PM – Por la Gente de Nolan County

Sunday, August 2nd -

8:00AM – IHM +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira;
+Christopher Cardoza; +Martina Herrera

11:00AM – IHM – In thanksgiving for the birthday of
John Falana; +Jaime Montealvo

Tuesday, August 4th 9:00AM-HF

+Willie, Susie & Louis Barrera;
+Carlota & Alfredo Medrano

Wednesday, August 5th 6:00PM - IHM

+José Cruces

Thursday, August 6th 9:00AM-HF

+Robert, Margie & Noemi Aguilar

Friday, August 7th 9:00AM – HF

+Miguel Ortiz, Tomasita Alcaras, Alfonso,
Sara & Benjamin Gonzales

Saturday, August 8th -

5:00PM-IHM –+Belinda Gomez, Tom & Guadalupe
Morales; +Alma Martinez; +Roman Solano

Sunday, August 9th –

8:00AM – IHM +Sarah Gomez, Eulalio y Sarita Olvera,
Ysidro y Elvira Navarrette; +Christopher Cardoza; Por
la conversión de nuestra Comunidad de Holy Spirit

11:00AM – IHM – +Manuel & Petra Aguilar;
+Martina Herrera; +Lorenzo Ramirez

July 25/26, 2026 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$7508.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1047.00
MISSION APPEAL.....	878.00
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$9433.00

Thank you for your generosity

BE A JAMAICA SPONSOR!

**Please give a big “Thank you” to Sandra Quintana
for her generous 2026 Jamaica Sponsorship!**

DESPEDIDA for our **Seminarian, Martin Luna**,
next Sunday, August 9th, after the 11 o’clock Mass, IHM
hall. Come show your gratitude & support as Martin
leaves to continue his studies. Please bring a covered dish
of your choice!

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS to all
our August celebrants!

FIRST FRIDAY – August 7th, Adoration of the Blessed
Sacrament begins at 8:00pm until 10:00 pm at Holy
Family. Confession is available.

WEDNESDAY – Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until
8:00pm @IHM. Fr. Josh will be in the church after the
Mass. If you need to go to confession, please let him
know. He will hear confessions until 8:00pm.

GRUPO MISIONERO meets Thursdays, 7:00pm
@Immaculate Heart Hall.

ULTREYA MEETINGS

Sunday, August 2nd - 6:00pm (*English*)

Monday, August 3rd - 7:00pm (*Spanish*)

at IHM Hall. All are welcome! You don’t have to be a
cursillista to attend. For information on the Cursillo
movement, please visit

<http://www.sanangelocursillo.com/home.html>

FOOD DRIVE

The parish will be collecting non-perishable food items to
donate to one of our local food pantries. You can bring your
donations to any of the Masses during the month of August.
Let us share what we have with those in need.

God Bless you – Thank you!

COLECTA DE ALIMENTOS

La parroquia recolectará alimentos no-perecederos para
donar a una de nuestras despensas de alimentos locales.
Puede traer sus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas durante
el mes de agosto. Compartamos lo que tenemos con los
necesitados. *Dios lo Bendiga- Gracias!*

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

August 8 - Jamaica August 15 - Youth Group

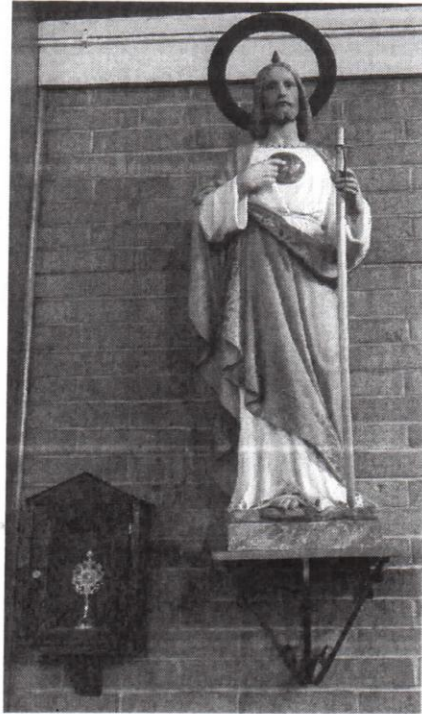
BINGO PRIZE DONATION REQUEST

The Jamaica committee is accepting donations of prizes
for our Bingo game during the Jamaica. If you would
like to help, we kindly ask that all donated items be new
and unused so that everyone has the opportunity to win a
wonderful prize.

Some ideas include gift cards, home décor, kitchen
items, games, candles, snacks, seasonal items, or other
new gifts.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated and helps make
this event fun and successful for our parish community.
Please drop off all prizes at the parish office.

Thank you for your kindness and support.
May God bless you for your generosity!



Relics

An important but now often neglected tradition in the Church involves the veneration (giving honor, not worship) of relics. Relics are physical objects that serve as a tangible connection to the spiritual presence of the Saints who are now alive with Our Lord in Heaven. We treasured the remains of the Saints because they were temples of the Holy Spirit and are destined for the glory of the resurrection. (1 Corinthians 3 & 15). Relics are a useful tool in developing a friendship with a particular Saint which can lead to imitating their virtues and growing closer to Christ through their example. Furthermore, God can and often does work miracles through contact with relics.

They are typically divided in popular piety into three categories.

1st Class Relics are the physical remains of a Saint:

body, hair, bone/ashes, blood/flesh

A biblical example can be read in 2 Kings 13:20-21.

2nd Class Relics are any object belonging to or connected with a Saint:

clothing/vestments, crucifix/rosary/bible, tomb/shrine/house/ (or earth/stones from those locations), personal objects, items of martyrdom

Biblical examples of these can be found in Matthew 9:20-22, Luke 8:40-48, Matthew 14:35-36, Acts 5:12-16, Acts 19:11-12, & 2 Kings 2:13-14

3rd Class Relics are anything brought into contact with either a 1st or 2nd class relic:

crosses/rosaries, medals/rings, cloth, pictures/statues/icons etc. that have been touched to a relic with devotion and prayer.

Biblical examples of holiness being transmitted through touch can

be read in Leviticus 6:20 & Ezekiel 44:19, 46:20.

Did you know that in our parish there is currently on permanent display a relic of one of the 12 Apostles named St. Jude who was

also a relative of Jesus Christ? It is located by his statue on the western wall.

Reliquias

Una tradición importante en la Iglesia, aunque a menudo descuidada hoy en día, es la veneración (rendir honor, no adoración) de las reliquias. Las reliquias son objetos físicos que sirven como vínculo tangible con la presencia espiritual de los Santos quienes ahora viven con Nuestro Señor en el Cielo. Valoramos los restos de los Santos porque fueron templos del Espíritu Santo y están destinados a la gloria de la resurrección (1 Corintios 3 y 15). Las reliquias son una herramienta útil para cultivar una amistad con un Santo en particular, lo cual puede conducir a imitar sus virtudes y a acercarse más a Cristo a través de su ejemplo. Además, Dios puede obrar, y a menudo hace, milagros mediante el contacto con las reliquias.

En la piedad popular, estas se dividen generalmente en tres categorías:

Reliquias de primera clase son los restos físicos de un santo:

cuerpo, cabello, huesos/cenizas, sangre/carne

Un ejemplo bíblico se encuentra en 2 Reyes 13:20-21.

Reliquias de segunda clase son cualquier objeto que perteneció a un santo o estuvo vinculado a él:

ropa/vestiduras, crucifijo/rosario/biblia, tumba/santuario/casa (o tierra/piedras de dichos lugares), objetos personales, instrumentos del martirio

Ejemplos bíblicos de esto se encuentran en Mateo 9:20-22, Lucas 8:40-48, Mateo 14:35-36, Hechos 5:12-16, Hechos 19:11-12 y 2 Reyes 2:13-14.

Reliquias de tercera clase son objetos que han entrado en contacto con una reliquia de primera o segunda clase:

cruces/rosarios, medallas/anillos, telas, imágenes/estatuas/iconos, etc. que han sido puestos en contacto con una reliquia con devoción y oración.

Ejemplos bíblicos de la transmisión de santidad a través del contacto se encuentran en Levítico 6:20 y Ezequiel 44:19, 46:20.

¿Sabía que en nuestra parroquia se exhibe actualmente de forma permanente una reliquia de uno de los doce apóstoles, San Judas, quien además era pariente de Jesucristo? Se encuentra junto a su estatua, en la pared oeste.