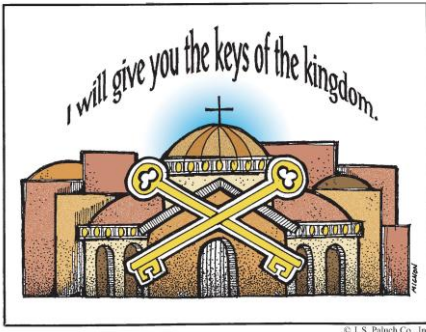


## Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time



### COMMENT

The first reading and the Gospel for today both speak of the role of one who holds the keys. In the first reading, it goes poorly for Shebna, the holder of the palace keys at the capital. Isaiah has to deliver the bad news that Shebna is not a trustworthy holder of the keys. Isaiah informs him that he will be thrust down and a new one will replace him. Shebna's error was that he went along with the king's decision to form military alliances with other nations. This military policy was expressly counter to the will of the Lord. The merging of nations meant the dilution of the religion of Israel, the introduction of other gods, the betrayal of the covenant established on Mount Sinai and renewed with David. No ambassadorial niceties here: The symbols of the office—the robe and sash and key—would be placed on another's shoulders.

The key of the House of David recalls the Davidic covenant, which would last forever. The words of this oracle, "when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open" (Isaiah 22:22), remind us of the "O" Antiphon on December 20: "O Key of David, O royal Power of Israel controlling at your will the gate of heaven: come break down the walls of death." This antiphon looks forward to the Messiah, the fulfillment of God's promise.

In today's Gospel, we see a small gathering in a kind of quiet, reflective time. Jesus and his disciples are on the road again, but they are not among the crowds, for a change. They seem at ease. There is interior work to be done.

With no introduction, Jesus turns to these men and asks what others say of him. The disciples report that Jesus seems to be a continuation of the Jewish tradition and Scriptures—he is a prophet, perhaps. It's hard telling. When Jesus pointedly asks what they think, it is Peter who speaks for himself and for the rest. He seems to have the undisputed role as leader, as Jesus' right-hand man. Peter does not merely say what they had said only recently, in the becalmed boat after the storm at sea had subsided: "Truly you are the Son of God" (Matthew 14:33). Peter's confession is broader in its reach, deeper in its expression: "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God" (Matthew 16:16). The other evangelists also wrote of this incident, but Matthew alone gives us the story of Peter's

commissioning. His given name, Simon, is formally changed. This renaming is charged with meaning. Simon is called Peter, a word that means "rock" in Greek and in Latin. Then he is given the keys; he is given the authority to loose and to bind.

### REFLECTION

Before Jesus hands over his authority to Peter, he makes it clear that Peter is chosen because he is obedient to God's revelation. He is not the recipient because he is cool and clever or tough. For he is none of these. Indeed, he seems to stumble, and frequently.

Jesus has taken the measure of this man. He has seen his stride while taking into account his stumble. The Gospel reading only two Sundays ago told us of Peter's doubt about his vision of Jesus on the waters, of Peter's own faltering steps, of his reaching out to be saved by Jesus. He was drawn up out of the waters then. Now Jesus reminds him, the Church he leads will face troubled waters—the very gates of the nether world—in case one would doubt the forces of opposition he and his small assembly would have to face. It is to faithful, fallible Peter that the leadership goes.

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

|            |                                                        |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Monday:    | Rv 21:9b-14; Ps 145:10-13, 17-18; Jn 1:45-51           |
| Tuesday:   | 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17; Ps 96:10-13;<br>Mt 23:23-26      |
| Wednesday: | 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18; Ps 128:1-2, 4-5;<br>Mt 23:27-32  |
| Thursday:  | 1 Cor 1:1-9; Ps 145:2-7; Mt 24:42-51                   |
| Friday:    | 1 Cor 1:17-25; Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11;<br>Mt 25:1-13    |
| Saturday:  | 1 Cor 1:26-31; Ps 33:12-13, 18-21;<br>Mk 6:17-29       |
| Sunday:    | Jer 20:7-9; Ps 63:2-6, 8-9; Rom 12:1-2;<br>Mt 16:21-27 |

### 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!

### Prayer and Action on Abortion Pills

Join the U.S. Bishops in praying for an end to the spread of the abortion pill! Learn more and take action to save lives: [respectlife.org/abortion-pills](http://respectlife.org/abortion-pills)

For more information, the full press release from the USCCB is on our Diocesan [website](#).



**Saturday, August 22nd -**  
**5:00PM-IHM** – +Maria Morales  
 Guerrero, Rodolfo Morales, Carlos  
 C, Maria and Carlos Guerrero, Sr.;  
 +Seferino Ramirez, Sr. &  
 +Ray Longoria, Jr.

**Sunday, August 23rd –**

**8:00AM – IHM** En acción de gracias por el cumpleaños  
 de Sarah Kelly; +Ezequiel, Albina, Delia y Teresa  
 Gonzalez; Ebelio Solis, Rafael y Concha Acevedo; En  
 acción de gracias por el cumpleaños de Eduardo Carlos  
**11:00AM – IHM** – For the People of Nolan County

**Tuesday, August 25th**

*No Service*

**Wednesday, August 26th 6:00PM - IHM**

Communion Service followed by Adoration until 8:00PM

**Thursday, August 27th**

*No Service*

**Friday, August 28th**

*No Service*

**Saturday, August 29th -**

**5:00PM-IHM** – +Gloria Castro, Delia Sparkman, Rudy  
 Torres, Nellie, Dolores, Francisco, Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana,  
 Tony y Patricia Gomez;  
 +Jovita, Benjie, Daniel y Amanda Olguin,  
 Jennifer y Roger Gomez

**Sunday, August 30th –**

**8:00AM – IHM** Por la Gente de Nolan County  
**11:00AM – IHM** – +James Falana; +José Cruces;  
 In thanksgiving for Tori Medellin's birthday

## 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!*

**CATECHISTS' MEETING** Next Sunday, August 30th  
 after the 11 o'clock Mass, IHM parish hall.

**CCD – REGISTRATION** continues . . . this week -  
 until Thursday, August 27th.

**WEDNESDAY** – Communion Service at 6:00pm &  
 Adoration until 8:00pm @IHM.

### ULTREYA MEETINGS

Sunday, August 23rd - 6:00pm (*English*)

Monday, August 24th - 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>

•**ATTENTION:** If you are interested in being a  
 Eucharistic Minister, an Usher, Lector, or Altar Server,  
 please contact Deacon David Mendez @325-725-6333.

•**ATENCION** – Si está interesado en ser Ministro de la  
 Eucaristia, Ujier, Lector, o Monaguillo/Monaguilla,  
 pongase en contacto con Diacono David Mendez

**SOFTBALL – Sweetwater Coed Church League** is  
 just around the corner. This league is for any male or  
 female from the age of 14 years and older. No experience  
 needed. Come join the fun! If you are interested in  
 playing, contact Deacon David Mendez @325-725-6333.

### 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!*

### COLLECTION DATA August 15/16, 2026

|                         |           |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....   | \$5258.26 |
| LOOSE PLATE.....        | 1406.00   |
| BUILDING FUND.....      | 1011.55   |
| ASSUMPTION OF MARY..... | 306.00    |
| TOTAL COLLECTION.....   | \$7981.81 |

*Thank you for your generosity*

### HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

August 29 – Cursillistas September 5 – Finance

**FUNDRAISER** – This Sunday, August 23rd, our  
 church ministry groups will sell enchilada plates in the  
 parish hall after the 8 o'clock morning Mass -- **'til sold  
 out!** Plates are \$15.00. All funds raised will be used  
 for the December celebration of "Our Lady of  
 Guadalupe."

# PROJECT ANDREW DINNERS

## *Diocese of San Angelo*

Project Andrew Dinners are an evening of prayer, group sharing, and dinner with Fr. Ryan Rojo, Vocations Director, and parish priests. For young men ages 14 – 18. *Optional – parents and adult sponsors may attend.*

|            |                |                                     |
|------------|----------------|-------------------------------------|
| 08/30/2026 | <b>6:00 PM</b> | ST. JOSEPH – STANTON                |
| 09/20/2026 | <b>5:30 PM</b> | OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE – MIDLAND     |
| 09/21/2026 | <b>7:00 PM</b> | HOLY REDEEMER – ODESSA              |
| 09/27/2026 | <b>6:30 PM</b> | ST. ANN – MIDLAND                   |
| 09/28/2026 | <b>5:30 PM</b> | SACRED HEART CATHEDRAL – SAN ANGELO |
| 09/29/2026 | <b>6:30 PM</b> | HOLY FAMILY – ABILENE               |
| 09/30/2026 | <b>7:00 PM</b> | HOLY SPIRIT – SWEETWATER            |



sign up here!



Dosavocation.org