

Sunday Gospel Reflections

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year A

August 28, 2011

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Gospel Summary

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Reflection for Families

Like most parents, we try to protect our children from life's crushing blows, or at least hold them off as long as possible. It hurts us to see our children suffer disappointments, rejections, losses or defeats. Sometimes the easier choice is the one that goes unnoticed. For example, a teen pregnancy that ends in abortion receives less attention than carrying the baby full term. Or not trying out for the position of pitcher is easier than having fans watch five walks in a row. Our children need our presence and support when they make the hard choices. We know from our own lives that they will grow from their experiences.

Bringing the Gospel Into Your Family

Think of someone your family knows personally (or someone you've heard about) who may be feeling lonely because they made a tough choice. Maybe they are recovering from addiction, raising a baby alone, or left a difficult relationship. Reach out to that person as a family either by visiting them, inviting them to dinner, sending them a card, or writing a letter. Help support them in their tough decision.

Discussion Starters

1. Once I remember trying to help (like Peter) but was so busy trying. Now I feel I look back, it could be so better to say...
2. A cross I bear in following Jesus is...
3. I think one of the hardest situations to suffer through and one that requires the most courage is...

August 28th, 2011
Twenty-second Sunday in
Ordinary Time

9:00 a.m. Mass Plate offering: \$ 3,020.55
Second Collection: \$ 141.50

Total: \$3,162.05.

REFLECTION

In today's gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that he must suffer and die. Jesus tells his friends that his suffering and death will lead to new life. Peter does not like what he hears. He does not understand about the events to come.

Jesus tells his disciples that they too will have a cross to bear. Today's passage tells us that anyone who wishes to follow Jesus must deny his very self, take up his cross, and follow in the footsteps of Jesus in the final judgment. Jesus promises everlasting reward to those who remain faithful to him.

CCD - Registration will take place immediately after Mass today.

RCIA - Persons interested in becoming Catholics are asked to contact the Parish Office.

Diocesan Sick Committee meeting today at 3:00 p.m.
St. Vincent DePaul meeting today at 4:00 p.m.

TEC RETREAT - Friday September 9th - Sunday September 11th, 2011 at Emmaus Centre. Young Adults 20 years and older are invited to attend. Application forms are available at the parish office.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE to Guadalupe & Mexico City with Fr. Simeon Roberts will take place from July 28 - August 2, 2012. The cost is \$2,342. A deposit of \$400.00 is due October 31st, 2011. Interested persons should contact the Parish Office or Ms. Greta Smith at 328-8745.

Number of persons in attendance at Mass last Sunday: 250

Hurricane Season

As a basic minimum, we should maintain in our homes enough non-perishable foodstuffs to supply our household for at least a week. Starting now, we should have on hand enough drinking water to last a week. Those who need prescription medicine should ensure that they keep at least one week's supply on hand. We should have flashlights and a transistor radio and a supply of fresh batteries ready. We should also keep a manual can opener ready, as well. Now is the time to begin to ensure that all of our hurricane shutters and the tools necessary for putting them in place are ready and available.

2011 Catholic Archdiocesan Annual Appeal - LAST MONTH for the 2011 Catholic Archdiocesan Annual Appeal. We are once again asking all members of the parish to make a pledge and to give as generous as your means allow.

50th INTERNATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS - June 10-17, 2012 in Dublin, Ireland. This is an opportunity for Catholics to travel and join with other Catholic pilgrims around the world in celebration of our Catholic Faith in the Eucharist. Details are forthcoming.

THE ARCHDIOCESAN CATHOLIC WOMEN'S AUXILIARY will hold a prayer breakfast on Saturday September 10, 2011 at SuperClub Breezes at 8:00 a.m. Persons interested in obtaining tickets are asked to contact Mrs. Carlise Davis.

Cook-out & Raffle for Eddie Burrows - Saturday October 29th, 2011 on the Church grounds from 12:00 noon - 5:00 p.m. All parishioners are asked to come out and give your support.

Pray this week for our Sick & Struggling

Omenia Adderley, Grace Jenoure, Suzette Knowles, Maria Richardson, Charles Sweeting, Inez Miller, Paulette Green, Renee' Carroll, Archiles King, Wenzel Lighbourne, George Capron, Roselda Sawyer, Keishler Johnson, Barbara Rolle, Eugie Raymond, Philip Sturupp, Stephen Burrows, Eddie Burrows, Michelle Munroe and Fr. Simeon Roberts.

Sunday Chuckle - A small child with a bad cough was taken by her parents to a hospital emergency room. A nurse, examining the child's lungs with a stethoscope, told the child, "I have to see if Barney is in there." "I have Jesus in my heart," the child replied. "Barney is on my underwear."

August 28, 2011

Dear Padre

Can anyone write a prayer?

My friend says she's writing a prayer for us to say at the start of our monthly book-club meetings. She has no formal religious training, so will this prayer "count"?

3 EAS

Dear Betsy,

It's given to every human being to be able to pray. On the level of the spiritual life, prayer is as basic as breathing is to physical life. Everyone at every moment has the grace to say a prayer. Sometimes I ask people, "Do you pray?" At times they tell me they don't. Then I ask them, "Well, do you talk with God?" Of course, they do, at least sometimes. That's praying.

As far as your friend's prayer for the monthly book-club meeting, I suggest this ancient definition of prayer as a measure of how well she does her job: *Prayer is the raising of the mind and heart to God.* I'm sure it will be that in word and feeling, and it will "count."

For more formal occasions, it's nice to include the prayer elements the Church considers important: adoration of God, contrition and sorrow for sin, thanksgiving for life and for God's care of us in good times and bad, and petition for what we desperately need in our poverty. And for you, a final word: Remember that, no matter how



bad things may get, no matter how out of control, you always have the gift and power of saying a prayer. Especially in time of temptation—when things really go bad—ask Mary your Mother to pray with you.

JOHN HAMROGUE, CSSR
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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<p>August 29 Martyrdom of Saint John the Baptist 1 Thes 4:13-18 Mk 6:17-29</p>	<p>August 30 Weekday 1 Thes 5:1-6, 9-11 Lk 4:31-37</p>	<p>August 31 Weekday Col 1:1-8 Lk 4:38-44</p>	<p>September 1 Weekday Col 1:9-14 Lk 5:1-11</p>	<p>September 2 Weekday Col 1:15-20 Lk 5:33-39</p>	<p>September 3 Saint Gregory the Great, pope and doctor of the Church Col 1:21-23 Mt 6:1-5</p>	<p>September 4 Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time Ez 33:7-9 Rom 13:8-10 Mt 18:15-20</p>

August 28, 2011

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday

Jesus' words today are hardly warm and fuzzy—

in fact, his startling prediction of his suffering and death leads Peter to fervently object. Jesus was trying to prepare his disciples for his Passion, but I imagine he was also talking to himself. Jesus was fully human and must have felt afraid to lose his life. Perhaps he was trying to build up his courage to face the inevitable. He didn't want to die, but he knew God sometimes calls us to do what we don't want to do.

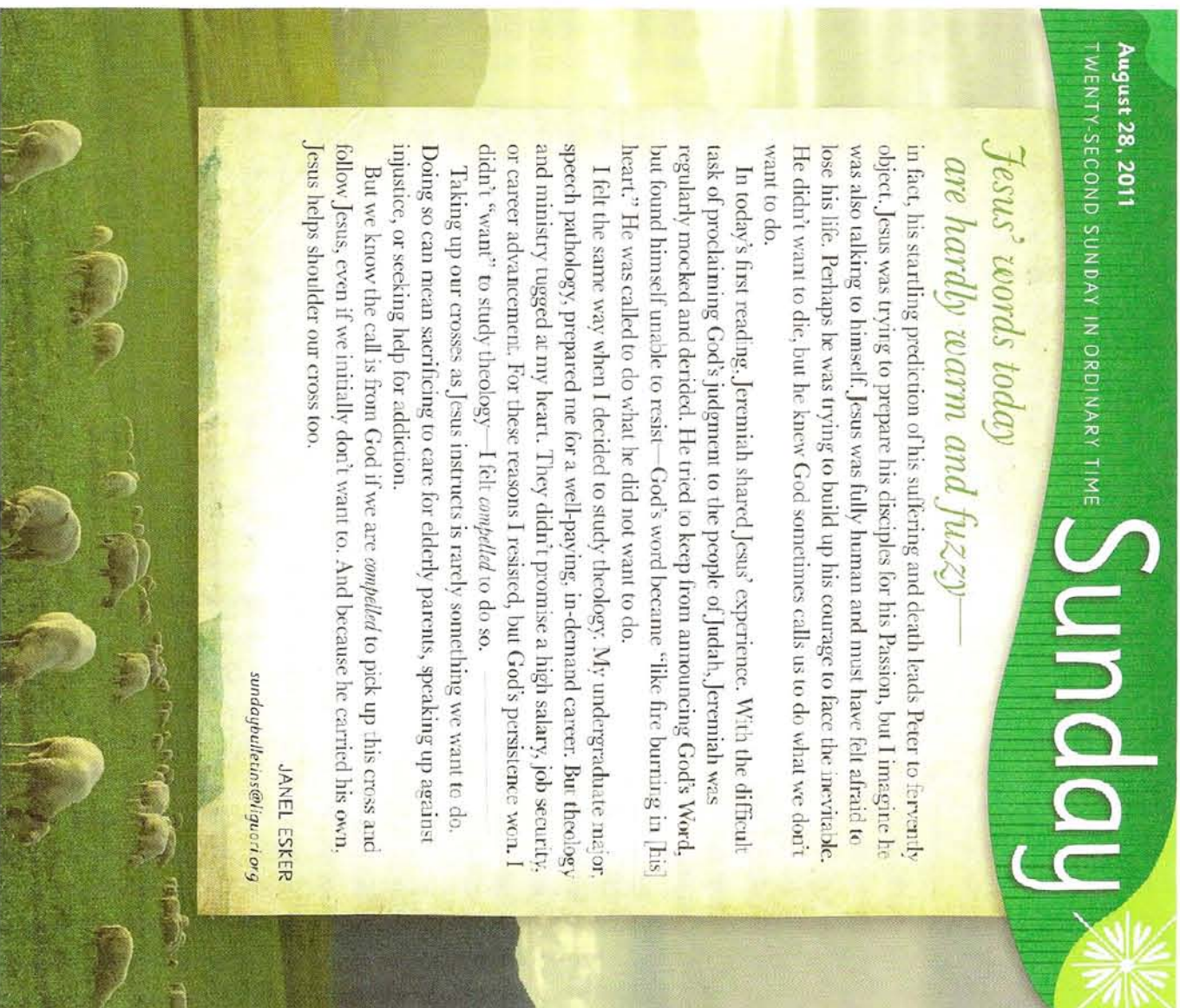
In today's first reading, Jeremiah shared Jesus' experience. With the difficult task of proclaiming God's judgment to the people of Judah, Jeremiah was regularly mocked and derided. He tried to keep from announcing God's Word, but found himself unable to resist—God's word became "like fire burning in [his] heart." He was called to do what he did not want to do.

I felt the same way when I decided to study theology. My undergraduate major: speech pathology, prepared me for a well-paying, in-demand career. But theology and ministry tugged at my heart. They didn't promise a high salary, job security, or career advancement. For these reasons I resisted, but God's persistence won. I didn't "want" to study theology—I felt *compelled* to do so.

Taking up our crosses as Jesus instructs is rarely something we want to do. Doing so can mean sacrificing to care for elderly parents, speaking up against injustice, or seeking help for addiction.

But we know the call is from God if we are *compelled* to pick up this cross and follow Jesus, even if we initially don't want to. And because he carried his own, Jesus helps shoulder our cross too.

JANEL ESKER
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Today's Readings

Jer 20:7-9
Rom 12:1-2
Mt 16:21-27



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