

SEPTEMBER 3, 2023
**TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY
 IN ORDINARY TIME**

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

Let us unite our sacrifices to Christ's sacrifice.

Today's readings discuss something rather uncomfortable: The necessity of sacrifice, of taking up our crosses to follow Christ, even when following Christ comes at great expense.

Perhaps we can begin to understand what Saint Paul is saying – after all, we probably make various sacrifices for those we love. We also make sacrifices during Lent and Advent; we may fast for a particular intention and we try to live our lives in a way pleasing to God by treating our bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit.

But if we're honest with ourselves, we've also probably felt like Jeremiah at times. "You duped me, Lord!" he cries. "God, I followed your will and Church teaching and yet here I am, suffering! Being persecuted! That's not fair," we might say.

"Fair" is not part of the Gospel message, though. Love and mercy are. God's generous justice is. Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary was not fair – and it did not end persecution and suffering – but it brought life. Through God's mercy and love, it meant that suffering would not be the end of us. Jesus' temptation to avoid his passion and death was real; indeed, wishing to avoid difficulties is not wrong in itself. Of course we would like to avoid suffering, but we cannot always do that. Suffering is given meaning, however, through its acceptance and offering up in union with the redemptive suffering of Christ.

What made Peter's suggestion wrong was that it opposed God's will; this is why Jesus told him Get behind me, Satan! The opposite of God's will – sin – can often seem like the obvious, easier route. It can appear as a solution to a problem, rather than adding to it.

Our crosses are heavy. Sometimes unbearably so. But Jesus calls us to take up our crosses and follow him. He gives us his body and blood as food for the journey, as we bear our sufferings and bring our imperfections to Calvary. As we carry our crosses, we can rejoice in a way that the early disciples could not: We know the story doesn't end on Calvary. We know that with Christ, there is life. Furthermore, we are invited to participate in Jesus' sacrifice on the cross by uniting our sufferings to his. In offering our very selves as a living sacrifice, Saint Paul says, we worship God and we can be transformed, becoming more holy as we are evermore united to the will of God. Today, we offer Christ whatever sufferings we experience because of following him.



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM
HOLY DAY MASSES	9:00 AM 7:00 PM
CONFESSIONS	4:00-4:30 PM, SATURDAY OR BY APPOINTMENT

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	September 2
8:30 AM	Men's Coffee & Gospel
5:00 PM	Mass: Living & Deceased Parishioners
Sunday	September 3
8:00 AM	Mass: Healing for Cass Stallings
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00AM	Mass: Clodomiro Gabriele (RIP)
Monday	September 4
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Living & Deceased Members & Friends of the Nadeau, Jarbeau & Forrest Families
Wednesday	September 6
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Grandchildren of Mary O'Reilly
Friday	September 8
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Mass: Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Mass: Mass of Thanksgiving
10:00 AM	Mass: The Matterese Family (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
 A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST

2023 Catechism Classes

Registration forms for the 2023-24 session will be mailed out.

If you have a child entering first grade, or if you are new to St. Paul's Parish, email faith@stpaulsfoster.org.

Wildfire Relief: Maui

As of Monday, August 21, at least 114 people have died and more than 800 people remain missing from fires that ravaged the Hawaiian island of Maui. Catholic Charities USA is actively providing lifesaving resources and relief on the ground.

If you wish to contribute there is a **collection box in the back of the church**. Monetary donations are the best resource and 100% of donations will go directly to disaster relief.

Second Collection September 2/3

Our second collection this week will help **offset the cost of utilities**. Thank you for your continued support.

Sr Priest Retirement Sept 16/17

After decades of faithful service, many retired priests continue to serve where they are needed, while others require assisted living, or nursing home care. Since priests are paid a very modest wage, they cannot rely upon Social Security to make ends meet. No longer able to rely upon parishes for basic living needs, senior priests depend on support from this fund. Your generosity will make a difference in the lives of many who have served faithfully for many years in ministry – some of whom continue to serve well after their 'retirement.' At Masses on September 16-17, our parish will join others throughout the Diocese in a special second collection in support of the Senior Priest Retirement Fund. The collection is also our way of saying "thank you" for that service. Please consider a generous donation in support of our senior priests. To learn how this fund benefits senior priests or to make an online donation, visit www.srpriestri.com. Thank you for your support of this worthy endeavor.

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection – Aug 26/27
\$2934.00

Thank you for your support!

Save the date: September 16 End of Summer Parish Picnic

sponsored by Council 95 Knights of Columbus. Saturday, September 16 at 6PM after the 5PM Mass, followed by a parish community bonfire. Council 95 will provide hamburgers, hot dogs, clam chowder, assorted salads, dessert, soda and water. All parishioners and their families are invited. As a thank you to our parishioners there is no charge for this. Please see the sign-up sheet in the narthex after Mass so we can get a head count.

2023 Christmas Bazaar Dec 2/3

Thank you to the **40 people** who took envelopes to donate **\$25** toward **\$1000 Gift Card Tree**. **30 have already been returned. Thank you!**

Please return your \$25 cash or check to St. Paul's either to the office or in the collection basket. **Thank you** for your support!

If you canned jams/jellies/ relishes this summer please consider setting aside a jar or two to donate to the bazaar. Thank you!

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

The Office of Marriage Preparation & Enrichment is hosting the annual Wedding Anniversary Celebration to honor couples of the Diocese of Providence observing their 25th, 40th, 50th and OVER anniversaries in 2023. The celebration will be held October 22, 2023, 1:00PM at the Cathedral of SS. Peter and Paul. Let the parish know if you will attend.

The Eucharistic Adoration

As the Fruit of The Eucharistic Revival, now onwards on the last Sunday of each month, we will have The Eucharistic Adoration with the Recitation of the Holy Rosary and Benediction after 10AM Mass, **Sunday September 24**.



Elevator Project Update

We are in need of an architect to work on our elevator project. Our original plan fell through. Please ask around if anyone knows someone who could help us out please call the office or speak to Fr. Dore. Thank you!

FORMED

We encourage all parishioners who haven't already to Sign up for **free and easy access** to FORMED, an online platform of Catholic resources meant to support your faith and that of your family members:

1. Go to <https://signup.formed.org/>
2. Enter our parish's zip code
3. Enter your name and your email

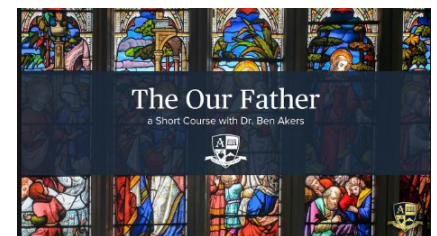
Bible Study



Opening Your Heart: The Starting Point will take you on an exciting journey to form a personal relationship with Christ and help you find answers to life's biggest questions through the context of the Catholic faith. Author Lisa Brenninkmeyer designed this Bible study to inspire thoughtful consideration of the fundamental questions of faith—from why and how to pray, to the role of the Holy Spirit in our lives, to the purpose of suffering.

There is a participant guide for each of the six videos that accompany the 22-lesson Bible study to explore the transforming power of God's unconditional love.

What to Watch?



The Our Father: A Short Course with Dr. Ben Akers

When asked what they should say in prayer the Lord gives his disciples the "Our Father." This prayer is considered a gift from the Lord and one that we should especially turn to in times of crisis. This series will go line by line through the prayer highlighting what it meant to Jesus' first century audience and what it means for us today.