

Dear Padre,

What does the Church teach about evolution?

In 1950, Pope Pius XII assured believers that there is no intrinsic opposition between Christianity and the theory of evolution, provided that God is affirmed as the Creator of all things and that the human soul is acknowledged a direct creation of God. (See *Humani Generis* [On the Human Person], 36.) In section 6 of his October 22, 1996, address to the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, Pope St. John Paul II sanctioned the acceptance of evolution theories but added that the nature of the soul and its relationship to God are beyond the realm of science. Thus, the Catholic Church maintains that while evolution explains the development of life, it is God who initiated and guided the evolutionary process, and that our providential God is ultimately responsible for creating the human soul.

Many people find Darwin's evolutionary theory (*On the Origin of Species*, 1859) hard to reconcile with their literal interpretation of the biblical account of origins in Genesis 1 and 2. But views on whether God created human beings in evolutionary stages that span millennia, or literally created human beings in an instant, can coexist for Catholics. Yet, regarding the latter view, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* discourages an overall literal interpretation of the Bible, encouraging readers instead to recognize its various literary genres. (See CCC 109–117.) Recall, too, that the Bible wasn't written for scientific information, nor was Darwinian biology written for theological revelation. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR / DearPadre.org



JAUHREKALITS / SHUTTERSTOCK

MONDAY
August 24
St. Bartholomew,
Apostle
Rv 21:9b–14
Jn 1:45–51
TUESDAY
August 25
Weekday
2 Thes 2:1–3a,
14–17
Mt 23:23–26
WEDNESDAY
August 26
Weekday
2 Thes 3:6–10,
16–18
Mt 23:27–32
THURSDAY
August 27
St. Monica
1 Cor 1:1–9
Mt 24:42–51
FRIDAY
August 28
St. Augustine,
Bishop and Doctor
of the Church
1 Cor 1:17–25
Mt 25:1–13
SATURDAY
August 29
The Passion of St.
John the Baptist
1 Cor 1:26–31
Mk 6:17–29
SUNDAY
August 30
Twenty-second
Sunday in
Ordinary Time
Jer 20:7–9
Rom 12:1–2
Mt 16:21–27



A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

[T]he pain that moves us to compassion is not the pain of a stranger; it is the pain of a member of our own Body, to whom Christ our Head commands us attend, for the good of all. In this sense, our service is identified with Christ's own suffering and, when offered in a Christian spirit, hastens the fulfillment of the Savior's prayer for the unity of all.

MESSAGE ON WORLD DAY OF THE SICK, ROME, FEBRUARY 11, 2026

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St. Agnes • St. Boniface • St. John the Evangelist

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Good News!

August 23, 2026

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Isaiah 22:19–23 / Romans 11:33–36 / Matthew 16:13–20

FR. THOMAS M. SANTA, CSSR

“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?” An easy answer if you just report what other people say and what you have heard. No commitment. No revelation. No risk. But it all changes when the question is more to the point: “Who do *you* say that I am?” Tell me what you know, not what you heard. The silence is almost deafening. Vulnerability, not just anonymous reporting, is required in the asked-for response.

No surprise—it is Peter who answers. Never one to hide his emotions or edit his thoughts, it is Peter who reveals what he knows, perhaps even what he is unsure of, perhaps the truth that he only hopes for but has not yet declared. “You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God” (Matthew 16:16).

Jesus responds with a prayer of blessing; the apostles, on the other hand, remain silent. Although we are very familiar with Peter's assent of faith, his declaration was almost unheard-of or unexpected from a first-century Jewish man. It was dangerous to identify someone as Messiah. It was blasphemous to name someone as the Son of the Living God. Yet, in faith and humility, Peter made the declaration and, in the naming, entrusted his life, his hope, and all that he believed firmly into the hands of Jesus. This was no simple act. This was no ordinary day. ●

Reflect

How would you answer if Jesus asked you, “Who do you say that I am?” (He is asking you!)

It is important to read today’s Gospel and next week’s Gospel as two parts of a single story. These readings are a turning point in Matthew’s Gospel. This week we hear Jesus’ name Simon Peter as the rock upon which he will build his Church. Next week we will hear Jesus call this same Simon Peter "Satan" when he reacts negatively to Jesus’ prediction about his passion and death.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most people believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God.

Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God. Because of Simon Peter’s response, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. This is a word play on the name Peter, which is the Greek word for "rock." Peter is then given special authority by Jesus, a symbolic key to the Kingdom of Heaven. Peter will play an important role in the early Christian community as a spokesperson and a leader.

In today’s Gospel, Peter’s recognition of Jesus’ identity is credited to a revelation by God. This will contrast sharply with Jesus’ rebuke of Peter in next week’s Gospel. When Peter rejects Jesus’ prediction of his passion and death, Peter is said to no longer be thinking as God does but as humans do.

The use of the term *church* in today’s Gospel is one of only three such occurrences in Matthew’s Gospel. Peter in this Gospel is being credited as the foundation for the Church, a privilege granted to him because of his recognition of Jesus’ identity. The Church continues to be grounded in the faith that Jesus Christ is Lord.

NEEDED Mass Intentions: Please consider having a mass for your loved ones living and deceased.

Mass Schedule & Intentions					
For the week of August 24, 2026					
Mon.	Aug.	24	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Tues.	Aug.	25	7:00 AM	SJ	No Mass
Wed.	Aug.	26	5:30 PM	SA	No Mass
Thurs.	Aug.	27	5:30 PM	SB	All Souls
Fri.	Aug.	28	7:00 AM	SJ	Marie Lemmer †
Sun..	Aug.	30	8:00 AM	SJ	People of the Parish
Sun.	Aug.	30	9:30 AM	SA	Liz (Beshaler) Romano †
Sun.	Aug.	30	11:00 AM	SB	Mary Jane Pandorf †
Saint Jeanne Jugan (1792-1879)					
Feast Day August 29					
“It is so good to be poor, to have nothing, to depend on God for everything.”					



Jack Beshaler Aug. 25th
Harvey Foran Aug. 29th



Mr. & Mrs. Daniel Trumbull Aug 27th
Mr. & Mrs. Rod Doggett Aug. 29th

Ministry Schedule

Date: August 30	St John’s	St Agnes	St Boniface
Time	Sunday 8:00 AM	Sunday 9:30 AM	Sunday 11:00 AM
Hospitality	Jim & Kennetha A.	Sue D. & Pam L.	Seth & Tristan P.
Lector	Toby K.	Pam L.	Caden P. & Rod B.
Server	Leo W. & Bria B.		Emma S. & Olivia D.
EMHC	Jim & Kristy O.	Sue D. & Pam L.	David P. & Rhonda P,
	Music: Dailey’s		Communion to shut ins David P.

St. John’s
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 16, 2026
Total Collection: **\$272.00**

CCD will begin Sept 9th.
All classes will begin
following school with mass at
4 PM. All parents are invited
and encouraged to attend if
possible. Classes will end
after mass.

Quotes for Today
Saint Augustine (354-430)
Feast Day Aug 28th
“God is always trying to
give good things to us, but
our hands are too full to
receive them.”



St. Agnes
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 16, 2026
Total Collection: **\$260.00**

Thrift Store
Open Sept 11th 9AM to 4PM

All Parishes:
Most Rev. Bishop
Hanefeldt is coming!

Mark your calendar for
Wednesday October 21st and
plan to join us at St John’s at
6:30 PM for a Holy Hour to
pray for vocations with the
Bishop.



St. Boniface
Our Gifts to God & Church
August 16, 2026
Total Collection: **\$1360.00**

CCD will begin!!
1st class for 4th graders to
Seniors is Wed, Aug 26th
starting with kids’ meal and
parent registration at 6:30
and class at 7pm. will begin
pre-KK to 3rd graders in the
atrium is Sun, Aug 30th
starting at 9AM until
10:45AM.

