

August 23rd, 2026: 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

Background on the Gospel Reading

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.

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August 23rd, 2026
21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sacred Heart Parish
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: Fr. Lee Lainey

Office Administrator: Roseann Janes

Office Hours: Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm

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sacredheartrcparish@hotmail.com
Password "Church"
Note: include your envelope #
Pre-authorized debit can be arranged with your own bank – call us for our banking info.

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11:00 am.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday to Friday 10:00a.m.

BAD WEATHER – please call the office to verify if mass is cancelled & office closed.

<u>Lohnes Complex*</u>	First Friday of each month at 2pm. *Sept. to June
<u>Reconciliation:</u>	<u>Before Mass or by request.</u>
<u>Marriages:</u>	Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.
<u>Baptisms:</u>	Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.
<u>Family Connections:</u>	At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.
<u>St. Vincent de Paul:</u>	To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS

August 15 & 16, 2026

Regular Sunday	1347.00
Loose Offering	137.45
Parish Dues	50.00
Building Fund	50.00
Votive Candles	25.25
Walk-a-thon donation	20.00
Oil Furnace Donation	20.00

MASS INTENTIONS

Aug. 25 - 30, 2026

Aug. 29 - Sat.	Deceased members of the Daye Family
Aug. 30 - Sun.	Mass for Intentions of Parishioners

LITURGICAL MINISTERS

Aug. 29 – Saturday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Tony Griffin	Elizabeth Carew
Aug. 30 – Sunday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Victoria Murphy	Brian Sparkes
Communion to the Sick – Joan Penney	

COLLEGE LIFE - MASS:

From Bishop Bart van Roijen:

We would like all students, and parents of students, throughout the diocese, know that there is a **Catholic presence at Grenfell Campus in Corner Brook. Mass** is celebrated **every second Tuesday** of the month at **11:30 a.m.** in the multi-faith room, **beginning on Tuesday, October 13th**, followed by a faith discussion over lunch. This is a great way to connect with new friends, remain grounded in your faith and be involved. Please **look for our booth**, manned by some of our students, at the **“Get Involved Fair”** on **September 16th** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

PASTORAL RENEWAL:

From Bishop Bart van Roijen:

In response to the many conversations that need to take place for pastoral renewal to thrive in our diocese, a number of Diocesan committees have been formed. Each priest, together with a number of lay people and a diocesan staff member, will sit on one of the committees. Committees will meet monthly for one hour, and a short update of each conversation will be provided to all Parish Pastoral Councils. Key updates will also be provided through this column, ensuring that our conversations are not held in isolation, but will provide opportunity for a larger conversation to take place. In the next few updates, I would like to introduce each of the committees and their scope of conversation.

GRAND IN THE HAND:

Get your tickets from Knights of Columbus for the grand in your hand. Draw date is **September 8th, 2026** and **tickets are \$10 each**. Please contact Garry at 709-660-6316 or see any member of the Knights of Columbus.

SEPTEMBER DANCE:

Our fundraising dance is **Friday, September 11th, 2026 (doors open at 8pm**, music starts at 9pm) at the Royal Canadian Legion, **\$15.00 advance tickets** and \$20.00 at the door (only 200 tickets available). **Midnight Crescent** will be playing this event, and it is open to 19 years of age and up. All proceeds go towards the church’s new heating system. **Tickets available** at the parish office (709-785-5025) or from Elizabeth Carew at 709-660-3509 or Marie Pennell at 709-388-5090 or marie.pennell.mp@gmail.com

WALK-A-THON: September 19th, 2026:

Our walk-a-thon will take place on **Saturday, 10:30 a.m., September 19th, 2026**.

We will be walking along the trails in Curling from the church parking lot.

There is a **registration form** at the back of the church for those interested in participating. Once you sign-up please take a sponsor sheet. Come sign up for this walk in support of our parish. Remember we can issue a tax receipt for anyone who sponsors you.

DIOCESAN OFFICE MOVING:

The Diocese is in the process of renovating the old parish office space and housekeeper’s suite at the Cathedral Residence in order to move its offices in the early Fall. Once renovations are complete, the move will centralize both the parish and diocesan offices in one convenient and accessible location, consolidate expenses and maximize our use of space, and create a stronger bond between the Bishop and the Cathedral Parish.

MAINTENANCE – CHURCH/HOUSE & GROUNDS:

As our maintenance person has recently retired, we are now **in need of volunteers** to step forward to maintain the church, house and grounds. This is mainly regular maintenance such as mowing, vacuuming, cleaning of the church, etc... We only need someone about 30 hours a month. Experience is preferred but someone will be available to train you if required. If you know of anybody or are interested yourself, **please let Father Lainey** know or **contact the office** and leave a message.

REFLECTION:

Peter

Peter has been called a stumbling saint. He is a great consolation to us because courage fails us all. All of us are mere mortals, who are inconstant with our beliefs.

We must learn to forgive ourselves momentary weaknesses and failures. We need to surmount these things and see the world in less rigid terms.

We must not judge ourselves or others by momentary inconsistencies, but rather by commitment given over a long time.

Jesus was well aware of Peter’s faults, but he saw that, in spite of everything, his heart was sound. Which meant he had the ability to love. And in the long run love is what counts.

COUNTERS & VOLUNTEERS:

Are you **interested in volunteering** your time to do the counting. You would count about once every 6 weeks and it takes about 2 hours of your time, just contact the office and let us know. Thank you.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING:

The next meeting of Parish Council will be **Tuesday, September 22nd, 2026, at 6:30pm** in the church meeting room.