



August 14, 2022

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jer 38:4-6, 8-10 | Heb 12:1-4 | Lk 12:49-53

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

My mom loved her Nintendo 64. We especially enjoyed "Paperboy," a video game where a paperboy riding a bicycle attempts to deliver newspapers along Easy Street, Middle Road, or Hard Way. He has to avoid obstacles that pop up along the way - barking dogs, mailboxes, skateboarders, trash cans, you name it! Sometimes life can seem that way. We can't predict which obstacles will pop up, but the author of the Letter to the Hebrews encourages us to persevere, "keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus." Whether we're riding along "Easy Street" or "Hard Way," we can look to Jesus to help us overcome the hardships that may come our way because we are his followers. As Jesus tells the disciples, following him will not always be easy and may even result in conflicts within our families. When that happens, we can look to the example of Jesus and the great "cloud of witnesses" to whom the Letter to the Hebrews refers, knowing that peace and reconciliation await us at the finish line.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I used to have great fun watching my boys at our neighborhood swim meets. Even as my then-7-year-old zig-zagged into the lane lines during the backstroke, I would yell "Go! Go! Go! You've got this." (And, please, someone catch his head at the finish!) He couldn't hear a word I said. I wonder if it's a bit like this when it comes to the "cloud of witnesses" - the saints, known and unknown, who encourage us in our faith. We can't see them or hear them, but we know they are there. In turn, we can become cheerleaders for others running the race alongside us: offering encouragement, prayers, and reminding one another of the joy that awaits us. Spoken or silent, our prayers can help us and others persevere in our faith and place our trust in Jesus when times are tough.

STUDY The *catechism* chapter 3, The Characteristics of Faith (153-165), references this passage from Hebrews on being surrounded by a cloud of witnesses. Read especially #165.

AVON-THAMES CATHOLIC FAMILY OF PARISHES

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Thank you from Anna Checinska—to our Parish family! Thank you from the bottom of my heart for the overwhelming amount of gifts and goodies and beautiful cards wishing me well on my 'retirement'. I truly appreciate all of your kind words. Thank you especially to this community—you are an amazing singing congregation! I sincerely wish everyone the best and may God bless you and your families forever.

Mass Schedule and Intentions for the week of August 15—20

Monday—12:00 pm. noon at Immaculate Conception Church *The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary

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| 1. Pat O'Donovan | His family |
| 2. The intentions of Harry Thomas | The Knights of Columbus Council 1431, 3rd & 4th Degree |

Tuesday—7:00 pm. at St. Joseph's Church (Adoration following Mass for 1 hour)

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| 1. Bertha & Jim Conroy | Janet Conroy |
| 2. Peter Bokkers | Annie Bokkers & family |
| 3. Bob Skinner (anniversary) | Marj Skinner & family |
| 4. The intentions of Jake & Mandy Merkel | Chris & Barb Runstedler & family |

Wednesday - 8:00 am. at Immaculate Conception Church

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| 1. Anne McCormick | Eleanor Chapple |
| 2. Antonio Sacco | His family |
| 3. Dino Cadorin | Maria Zanin |
| 4. Deb Jeffery | Immaculate Conception CWL |

Thursday—10:00 am. at Holy Name of Mary Church

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| 1. Stephanie Pilon | Apostles of Divine Mercy |
| 2. Deceased members of the Purcell & Rybka families | Tony & Maxine Rybka |
| 3. Sergio & Antonietta Rizzo | Their family |
| 4. Fred Rosenke | Monika Herten |

Friday —8:00 am. at St. Joseph's Church (Adoration following Mass until 9 pm.)

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| 1. Ludwig Twarowski | Liz & Karol Serec, Ewa Bubak, Adam Twarowski |
| 2. Ozellah O'Neill | Joanne O'Neill |
| 3. Vincenzo & Tony Colangelo | Franco & Rita Pugliese & family |

We ask you to pray...

Please pray for those who have died, especially Dorothy Boonen and Martin Cordina.

May the souls of all the faithful departed through the mercy of God, rest in peace.

Please pray for those are sick, especially Harry Thomas, Susan Gjessing, Deacon Leo, Remco De Wit and Claire Nicholson.

Please pray for vocations, especially this coming week for Pat Vandevenne (Pastoral worker), Ministers to the poor & homeless, Fr. William Capitano, Val Walter (Pastoral Minister), RCIA teams, Natasha Contestabile (Pastoral Minister), Fr. Paul McGill, for religious communities, Bishop Ronald Fabbro, Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Dabrowski, and for Pope Francis.

The Knights of Columbus Our hall at 93 Morgan St. Stratford, is available to rent for family functions, meetings, showers, birthday/anniversary celebrations, celebrations of life, etc. Christmas is not far away and you may be thinking of a place for your family to gather. We may be able to accommodate your needs. Please contact Lorne Twamley for details @ 519-273-1995 (H) or 519-274-1941 (C)