

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 23, 2026

Turn your ear, O Lord,
and answer me!



Masses For The Week

Sun 23 Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

09:00 am +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)
+Margarito & Virginia Nieto (Patricia Adami)

Thr 27 Saint Monica

12:05 pm +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandra Leyendecker)

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Peter can declare with certainty that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the Living God, because God himself had chosen Peter and prepared him for a new and unique vocation. Only God, with his “unsearchable ways,” could bestow on Peter such clarity in the midst of the many false claims about the identity of Christ. Christ begins to use Peter as an instrument—a Vicar—by which the Lord will open heaven to the world, and “what he opens, no one shall shut.” All that Peter is and does is from Christ, “for from him and through him and for him are all things.”

The Sanctuary Candle



This Week will be Burning for
+All Souls in Purgatory (Sandra Leyendecker)

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. ●

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To the LORD
Be Glory Forever.
AMEN ✙

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LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH

Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, Rodrigo Medina, Armando Colchado, Elida Aldaco, Michelle Angela Nelson and Renee Chapa.

CCD REGISTRATION SET TO BEGIN

Registration will take place today August 23 and 30 after the 9 a.m. Mass. **EVERYONE MUST REGISTER DURING THESE DAYS. NO LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED!**

To Register Your Child(ren) in our Parish’s CCD Program (First Communion & Confirmation):

1. Parents must be active [**already have been coming to Mass with child(ren)**] and registered members of Immaculate Heart of Mary Parish. If not registered, parents must register at Parish Office in person. Then the family must remain active for one year to qualify to register for the following year in our CCD Program.

2. Parents must bring a copy of the child’s **Baptismal Certificate** and **First Communion Certificate** to Registration.

NO CERTIFICATES.
NO REGISTRATION!
NO EXCEPTIONS!

**All CCD Classes will be held on Sundays
From 10:15 am to 12:00 pm
beginning on September 6**

CONFIRMATION INFORMATION

Any adolescent [**already have been coming to Mass with parent(s)**] who has reached the age of 14 by September 1 of this year and has not been confirmed is encouraged to register.

2026 Catholic Sharing Appeal Report as of June 2026 IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH

2026 CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL
Building The Kingdom Together

\$ 10,370.00 - Our Gifts to Date
\$ 12,410.00 - Our Pledges to Date
\$ 2,996.00 - Our Parish Goal
32 - Families Participating



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Last Sunday’s Collection

Envelopes: \$ 1,586.00

Loose: \$ 36.00

Children’s Envelopes: \$ 00.00

Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,622.00

Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 87.45

Dear Padre

August 23, 2026

Can a non-Catholic serve and hold an office in a Catholic parish organization?

According to their knowledge, competence, and position, the Christian faithful have an obligation to assist in the necessary works of the Church and promote the common good of the parish—its worship, its apostolic mission, its charities, the care of its ministers, and its care of the poor. (See Code of Canon Law, 222.) In general, canon law and most diocesan regulations stipulate that members of primary decision-making entities must be active, registered Catholics who participate in the sacramental life of the Church. For example, members of a pastoral council must be “in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL 512 §1). However, non-Catholics—such as spouses of parishioners or experts in their fields (e.g., finance, law, architecture)—are sometimes invited to lend their skills by serving on advisory boards and committees or in other support roles that are usually in a non-voting capacity. In all cases, the pastor or bishop has the discretion to involve non-Catholics in specific initiatives. For instance, a bishop “can invite as observers to the diocesan synod other ministers or members of churches or ecclesial communities which are not in full communion with the Catholic Church” (CCL, 463 §3). A non-Catholic interested in serving should consult the local priest about available opportunities, based on the norms of a diocese. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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TU ES PETRUS



YOU ARE PETER

and upon this rock
I will build my church
and the gates of the netherworld
shall not prevail against it.

I give to you the

KEYS to the KINGDOM

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