

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

AUGUST 27TH, 2017

“Who do you say that I am?” “Who do **YOU** say that I am?” “Who do you **SAY** that I am?”

In the Gospel of John 18:33-34, Pilate asks Jesus if He is the King of the Jews. Jesus replies, “Do you say this of your own accord, or have others told you of me?” Today’s gospel account is repeated in Mark and Luke. Clearly, the repetition is an indicator of importance.

“Who do you say that I am?” Wherever we place the verbal emphasis in this sentence, there is no doubt that it is a very important question. The discovery of the identity of Jesus Christ **MUST** be a personal discovery. That personal discovery aligns us with Peter and makes us true members of the Christian community for which he was designated the first leader.

Immediately after Peter’s “Great Confession,” Jesus reminds the first of the apostles that his enlightenment did not come from his mental faculties alone. He comprehended as much as his abilities and knowledge gained from others allowed him. Peter’s triumphant identification of Jesus was possible because he had lived with Jesus daily. He had chosen to be in His presence. He listened to His teachings, watched His actions. All necessary conditions, but not enough.

Peter had been doing his part, Peter had been preparing a welcoming ground for an unimaginable insight. He was ready to receive Divine Inspiration. He was willing to have an amazing awakening. Most exciting of all, he was able to articulate this new and profound perception firmly.

Many of us are “cradle Catholics,” or Catholic school graduates; most are family heritage believers. We know the teachings of our faith. We may even be able to succeed at a Catholic Trivia contest. The truth is that that isn’t enough. Like Peter, we don’t know enough through human knowledge alone. We need the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to truly penetrate, not only the identity of Jesus, but our own. We need to be able to say, “I know that you are the Christ. You are the Son of God. I am a Christian.” Every Christian must make a personal discovery of Jesus Christ for herself or himself.

In our relationship with our Savior, we need to know more than events, dogma, and vocabulary. We can’t adopt anyone else’s answer. We need to seek His presence. He must be at the center of our imagination. We need to dialogue with Him. He wants our own very personal and original response to the great question:

“WHO DO YOU SAY THAT I AM?”

Father Ricardo

FATHER RICARDO’S DESK

One recent weekend, I heard two brothers’ comments as they came into church. The little boy whined, “Why do we need to do this?” The older child answered, “Because we “hafta.” The Ten Commandments and the Commandments of the Church do say that we “hafta” worship God on a regular schedule. Most religions require the same obligation as a basic requirement to acknowledging God’s divinity and our lowliness.

But we are Catholics. The question becomes how is the Mass a form of worship that does more than check off the “weekly worship” box of things we have to do. Mass is not a man-made tradition, or a series of empty rituals but an opportunity. Jesus celebrated the first mass on the night before He died. He instituted the center of our faith, the Eucharist, at that mass. He created and ordained the first priests on that night. The words, the gestures, the movements, the dialogue, the symbols are all scriptural, going back as far as Genesis.

Mass is an opportunity to encounter Jesus Christ fully. It is an opportunity to increase in holiness. (Something we all really hafta do). It is an opportunity to expand our perspective on our lives and the plan God has for our lives. Over the next few weeks, I intend to reach out to you to help us all rekindle our fervor for the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, and maybe give you some ideas for explaining to your children why we need to do this every Sunday.

Just as there is a plan for each of us, there is a plan to the Mass. There is a beginning, a middle, and an end. Next week, I’ll begin at the beginning.

LABOR DAY

Labor Day is the day we take off from work to pay tribute to the vital force of American workers who have achieved the highest standard of living and the greatest productivity the world has ever known.

Labor Day calls an end to long weekends, days of sun and beach and summer friends. We acknowledge the beginning of school, regular work routines, and even the NFL schedule.

The Catechism tells us that “work proceeds directly from persons created in the image and likeness of God and called to prolong the work of creation.” St. John Paul II says in his encyclical on human work, “Jesus Christ worked with human hands, He thought with a human mind, acted by human choice and loved with a human heart.”

Whether we work manually, or intellectually, or both, let’s go back this new work year with a renewed energy and gratitude to all the workers who have made it possible for us to have work, who have advanced our ideals of American democracy, and who have recognized the dignity inherent in the nature of human work.

R.C.I.A

Our Adult Program for the preparation of the Sacraments (RCIA) is open. Please contact our parish office, or Father Ricardo directly.

C.C.D.

Registration forms are available in the vestibule of The church. Please return them to the parish office as soon as possible.

MARIAN PILGRIMAGE

The Diocese of Paterson is offering a Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception on October 21, 2017. For further information please contact Jean or Roger Grey at 973-764-8843

A REMINDER

The Bishop's Annual Appeal gives us the opportunity to respond to the imperative to love our neighbors, with emphasis on those in greatest need. Catholic Charities, seminaries, Nazareth Village for Retired Priests, and inner-city schools are the principle beneficiaries of this campaign. We are asked to complete our pledges to enable these works of service to continue.

AN INVITATION

On Monday, September 25th from 7-9 pm at Pope John XXIII Regional High School in Sparta, Bishop Serratelli will host "PIZZA NIGHT FOR WOMEN" for the first time. This event is open to high school and college-aged women discerning their vocation. For details, please contact the office of the Delegate for Religious at 973-777-8818, Ext.207. or kerry@patersondiocese.org

WELCOME

Please join me in welcoming into our parish community two of our newest members Alyssa Kathryn Oprandy and Harper Joan Williamson who were Baptized last Sunday. Congratulations to their Parents and God Parents.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS
SUPPORT OF OUR PARISH. GOD BLESS YOU**

August 20th

1ST Collection: \$ 3,407.50
Assumption 794.00

**The next Maintenance Collection will be August 26th
and 27th. Your support is greatly appreciated.**

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

SUNDAY AUGUST 27

8:00am +Robert Messler req. by his Wife
9:30am +Betty Goodsier req. byCathy and Jerry Calcagno
11:00am +Joseph Bono req. by Sal and Maria Barca

MONDAY AUGUST 28

8:45a +Richard Carmody req. by Veronica & Paul Corbutt

TUESDAY AUGUST 29

8:45am +Richard Carmody req. by Cordes Family

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30

8:45am +Joanne Langer req. by Ted Dugas

THURSDAY AUGUST 31

8:45am +Daniel Shockloss req. by Mick Carlson

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 1

8:45am +Nicholas Chciuk req. by Maryann Masterangelo

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 2

8:45am +Nicholas Chciuk req. by Family
5:00pm +Anna Mercedes Sanchez req. by Doreen and
Mike Cordes

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3

8:00am +Anna Mercedes Sanchez req. by Bill and Eileen
Aquino
9:30am +Jim Talt req. by Family
11:00am +Joseph Perillo req. by Donna and Tony Macerino

This Week's Events

- Sun. 2:30pm - Baptism of
Harrison Aristotle Kalipedes**
**Tue. 6:30pm - Community Rosary
7:00pm - Holy Hour**
**Thur. 10:00am - Legion of Mary - hall
6:30pm - Legion of Mary - chapel
7:30pm - Antioch – Leaders only**

PLEASE REMEMBER AND PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING:

*Aidan Alvarez, Scott Anderson, Baby Grace Andrews
John Apgar, Artie, Ray Bonomini, Maddy Brancato, Tina
Brightly, Janet Brunke, Rose Bruno, Roberta Busch, Jerry
Calcagno, Jerzey Chciuk, Carolina Chmarney, Louis
Cimaglia, Teresa Contento, Aibhlinn Coyle, Elizabeth
Copeland, Patricia and Paul Corbutt, Doug Crum, Joan
Dahl, Nathanael Davenport, Jean Marie Day, Alice
DeLorenzo, Courtney Dignan, Eileen Donahue, Katie
Drago, Bonnie Dubovich, Roseann Dundon, Jim Ecker,
Barbara Etzel, Eva Ferlauto, Debbie Fuentes, Kay Gallo,
John Gonzalez, Florence Guilfoyle, Barbara Hellwig,
Christopher Hoehl, Jean Jones, Julianna Klinger, Carly
Kosen, Emily Lewis, Brian Linke, Henry Mancuso, Rose
Martis, Fran and Larry Marsh, James McAlary, Pat
McDermott, Kathy Nestico, Jennifer Oldham, Janis
O'Neill, Theresa and John Orso, Joan Quest, Maura
Reagan, Mary Reynolds, Linda Ross, Ron Shelly, Lou Pra
Sisto, Kateri and Sam Sullivan, Father Patrick Sullivan,
Alexander Truong, Mary VanDyke, Pat and Jim Van
Gorder, Vincent and Debbie Ventriglia, Russy Wright,
Nick Zayatz*