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**The Diocese of St. Catharines
 60th Anniversary—1958-2018**
**“Put out into the deep water and let down your
 nets.” (Lk 5:4)**
Sunday, August 26th, 2018
**Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary
 Time**

Jesus then said to the Twelve, “Do you also want to leave?”
 Simon Peter answered him, “Master, to whom shall we go?
 You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe
 and are convinced that you are the Holy
 One of God.” — Jn 6:67-69
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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|---------------|----------|--|
| Sat. Aug 25 | 9-10am | Reconciliation |
| | 4-4:45pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation |
| | 5:00pm | ✠ Graham Dakin (Wendy Atkins) |
| Sun. Aug 26 | 10:00am | Missa Pro Populo |
| Mon. Aug 27 | 9:30am | Stephanie Anthony (Karen and Michael) |
| | 7-8pm | Holy Hour & Reconciliation |
| Tues. Aug 28 | 9:30am | ✠ Vince Richard (Michael Wilson) |
| Wed. Aug 29 | 9:30am | ✠ Mary Voogt & David Green (Voogt & Green Families) |
| Thurs. Aug 30 | 9:30am | ✠ Nick Varalli (Racz Family) |
| Fri. Aug 31 | 9:30am | ✠ Mary Jo & Yvonne Loiselle (Pat Loiselle) |
| Sat. Sept 1 | 9-10am | Reconciliation |
| | 4-4:45pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation |
| | 5:00pm | Missa Pro Populo |
| Sun. Sept 2 | 9:30am | ✠ Dominique Forgeron (Norrie Franko & Nancy Falovo) |
| | 11:00am | ✠ Mary Voogt & David Green (Voogt & Green Families) |

Reconciliation from 9-9:20am before all weekday Masses.
Offertory August 4th & 5th, 2018

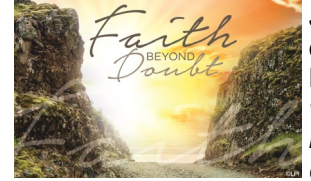
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|---------------------------|-------------|
| 56 Envelopes | \$1, 445.00 |
| Loose Collection | \$ 82.65 |
| Total Offertory | \$1, 527.65 |
| Archdiocese of Trivandrum | \$1, 668.15 |

Offertory August 11th & 12th, 2018

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|--------------------------|-------------|
| 57 Envelopes | \$1, 405.00 |
| Loose Collection | \$ 67.70 |
| Total Offertory | \$1, 472.70 |
| Catholic Missions Canada | \$1, 069.80 |
| Maintenance | \$ 225.00 |

Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time
 “This saying is hard; who can accept it?” The words of Jesus’ disciples in today’s Gospel must sound familiar. At some point in our lives, you and I have said it about some article of our faith. Christianity makes firm demands on our ethical behavior and gives no easy answers for suffering. Many disciples were confused and dismayed by Jesus’ words in the Bread of Life Discourse. Not all of them, however, had the same reaction.

When the disciples question Jesus’ teaching, he confirms its truth. “The words I have spoken to you are spirit and life.” For some, Jesus’ reassurance was not enough. These disciples do not question Jesus further or wrestle with their lack of understanding. The mighty deeds Jesus has done fade to the background. “Many of his disciples returned to their former way of life and no longer accompanied him.” For them, their doubt proves too much.



Jesus turns to the Twelve, knowing that confusion lives in their hearts as well. Peter answers. “Master, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.” Notice this is not a confession of perfect understanding. It is a confession of faith in Jesus. The precise words may still confuse them, but they believe the One who said them. In our own lives, we face doubt, confusion, and disillusionment in our Christian faith. The same choice available to the disciples is available to us. Do you have faith in Jesus, even when you lack perfect understanding? Will you stay or will you go? What do you do with your doubt?

Prayer Intention for Month of September:
Young People in Africa—That young people in Africa may have access to education and work in their own countries.

World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation: In 2015, Pope Francis declared September 1st as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation. Coinciding with a celebration instituted by the Orthodox Church, it is also a day of ecumenical prayer and unity. The faithful are encouraged to take practical initiatives to combat earth’s environmental crisis.

Prayer for the Beginning of a New School Year: Father, We thank you for the opportunity to begin this new school year, and we ask that you bless the students, faculty, and student families that make our school a great place. We pray that you will guide us in your ways, so that we will seek your will in everything that we do, and love others as you love us. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

As part of our observance of the 60th anniversary of our diocese, a Mass of Penance and Healing will be celebrated on Friday, September 14, 2018, the Feast of the Triumph of the Cross, at 7 p.m. at the Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria. Bishop Bergie will pray for all those harmed by the sinful actions of priests and religious in our diocese and, in a spirit of repentance, will seek forgiveness and God’s mercy. During our anniversary we need to celebrate the good, and also acknowledge the pain that is part of our history. At this Mass we will pray for God’s healing as we focus on the cross which is the greatest sign of God’s love.

Offertory August 18th & 19th, 2018

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| 52 Envelopes | \$1, 430.00 |
| Loose Collection | \$ 75.00 |
| Total Offertory | \$1, 505.00 |

Sunday, September 2nd, 2018
**Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary
 Time**

He summoned the crowd again and said to them,
 “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that
 enters one from outside can defile that person; but
 the things that come out from within are
 what defile.” — Mk 7:14-15
 Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

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| Mon. Sept 3 | 9:30am | ✠ Eileen Johnson (John & Veronica Douglas) |
| | 7-8pm | Holy Hour cancelled |
| Tues. Sept 4 | 9:30am | ✠ Dominique Forgeron (Norrie Franko & Nancy Falovo) |
| Wed. Sept 5 | 9:30am | ✠ Timothy Hunter (Ben & Diane Kooter) |
| Thurs. Sept 6 | 9:30am | Blessings & Health for Mary Elizabeth |
| Fri. Sept 7 | 9:30am | ✠ Carole Price (Liliana Haynes) |
| Sat. Sept 8 | 9-10am | Reconciliation |
| | 4-4:45pm | Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament & Reconciliation |
| | 5:00pm | Missa Pro Populo |
| Sun. Sept 9 | 9:30am | ✠ Nicola Colangelo (Rosa Colangelo & Family) |
| | 11:00am | ✠ Robert Vaillancourt (Shirley Milo & Family) |

Twenty Second Sunday in Ordinary Time
 Judgment tends to have a bad reputation. We often associate it with condemnation, and in the Gospels, we associate it with the Pharisees. Today’s Gospel features the Pharisees doing exactly what we expect. “They observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.” The Jewish people had strict purification laws that applied to all areas of life. The Pharisees attempt to accuse Jesus of not following the ancestral traditions. Jesus doesn’t take offense at their judgments per se. He instead points out the hypocrisy of their words. “You hypocrites ... this people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me.”

From there, Jesus turns his attention to the concerns of the heart. “The things that come from within are what defile.” He lists off a number of sins, including some the Pharisees were likely struggling with, including evil thoughts, envy, and arrogance. When we examine the list, perhaps we’re reminded of our own trips to the confessional! As we strive to follow Jesus and live with integrity, we must be aware of our hearts. We must judge our own actions. Are they leading us closer to God or away from Him? Are we growing in love of our neighbor, or are we becoming more closed in on ourselves?

As we move into this week, consider the state of our own heart. Perhaps you are overly scrupulous in less important areas. Perhaps there are large areas of overlooked sin that you’ve excused for too long. Whatever it is, the judgment of God need not cripple us. He offers us a share in His mercy as soon as we turn to Him.

Parish Calendar

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| September | |
| Beginning this month, raffle tickets for the CWL Bazaar will be available to buy or take a book to sell. The prize is \$500. More to follow soon..... | |
| Sept 2..... | Spanish Mass 1pm |
| Sept 5..... | Confirmation Class 4-5:30pm |
| Sept 5..... | Youth Ministry Resumes 6:30-8:30pm |
| Sept 7..... | First Friday Holy Communion to sick and Homebound. Phone the office to arrange a visit. |
| Sept 8/9.... | Sundae Sunday following all Masses |
| Sept 12.... | Confirmation Class 4-5:30pm |
| Sept 13.... | Bingo resumes, 7pm |
| Sept 19..... | Confirmation Class 4-5:30pm |
| Sept 24th..... | CWL meeting beginning with Mass at 6pm |
| Sept 26..... | Confirmation Class 4-5:30pm |
| Sept 30.... | Special Collection– Bishop’s collection for the Needs of the Canadian Church. |

Youth MINISTRY :“Equipping young Catholics to share the truth through word, deeds, and actions, so that their lives are forever purpose-driven and centred on Christ, inviting others to do the same.”
 Returns Wednesday evenings beginning **September 5th** from 6:30-8:30pm. All Youth in Grades 5-12 are invited to attend.
Confirmation Classes resume Wed. Sept 5th from 4-5:30pm. Attendance is mandatory for all candidates.



Vacation Bible School 2018.....Thank you to all who volunteered!
 Congratulations to **Jessica Manuel and Daniel Meier** who were married in our parish on August 18th, 2018. Blessings for a long and happy life together.

Regenerated 2018: Are you aware that the gifts you receive at Confirmation from the Holy Spirit are to prepare you for battle? You may ask what kind of battle are we talking about? It’s called ‘spiritual warfare’...it’s real and it’s growing! **On Saturday, November 17th** join Branches Catholic Ministries at the Scotiabank Convention Centre in Niagara Falls, Ontario as it hosts **Regenerated 2018**. Keynote speakers such as Johnette Benkovic, Thomas Sullivan, Dr. Edward Sri and others will address the misconceptions about this Sacrament and its importance to the stability of the family and ultimately society at large. **Regenerated Youth** will run concurrently for ages 12 to 18. For “**early-bird**” tickets or for more information visit branchesoftheword.org or call Branches at 905-685-7000. **Registration forms are at the back of the church.**

Outdoor Mass Mount St. Joseph Cemetery: Join Bishop Gerard Bergie as he celebrates our Annual Outdoor Mass , **Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 6pm.** 735 Lakeshore Rd., Port Colborne. In the event of inclement weather, Mass will be re-scheduled for Thursday, September 13th at 6pm.

