



Sacred Heart Parish Bulletin

Mass: 9:00 am – Sunday
Fr. John Yake, I. V. Dei
(902) 535-2053

August 23, 2026

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

The **First Reading** is taken from the *Book of the Prophet Isaiah 22:19-23*. Because of the reference to the "key of the house of David" in this text, some Fathers saw in it a messianic prophecy, foretelling the removal from power of the leaders of the Chosen People of the Old Testament, and the transfer of that power to Christ, who in turn handed it to Peter as head of the Church, the new Chosen People.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans 11:33-36* in which he offers praise and thanks to God for including everyone in the salvation He offered, first to the Jews, then to the Gentiles.

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew 16:13-20*. Jesus, the true Son of God, became man in order to make all men His brothers and co-heirs with Him, to the divine, eternal kingdom. To carry on His divine mission on earth (after He had ascended into heaven), He founded the Church on the twelve Apostles. This Church was to be God's new Chosen People (hence perhaps the twelve Apostles take the place of the heads of the twelve tribes of the Chosen People of old). It was to be made up of all races from all parts of the world. As its mission was to bring the message of salvation to all men, it was to go on until the end of time. For this Church, this divinely instituted society of human beings, to carry out its mission of helping all men to reach their eternal kingdom, it was necessary to be sure of the road and the aids offered to its members. In other words, the Church should be certain that what it told men to believe and to practice was what God wanted them to believe and to practice. Today's reading from St. Matthew tells us how Christ provided for this necessity. In making Peter the head of the Apostolic College, the foundation-stone of his Church, the guarantor of its stability in the symbol of the keys and the promise that all his decisions would be ratified in heaven, Christ gave him the power of freedom from error when officially teaching the universal Church.

In other words, Peter received the primacy in the Church and the gift of infallibility in his official teaching on matters of faith and morals. As the Church was to continue long after Peter had died, it was rightly understood from the beginning that the privileges given to him and which were necessary for the successful mission of the Church, were given to his lawful successors—the Popes.

This has been the constant belief in the Church from its very beginning. The first Vatican Council solemnly defined this dogma and it was reconfirmed recently in the second Vatican Council. In giving these powers to Peter and to his lawful successors Christ was planning for our needs. In order to preserve and safeguard the right conduct of all its members He provided a central seat of authoritative power in His Church. Through the gift of infallibility He assured us that whatever we were commanded to believe (faith) or to do (morals) would always be what He and his heavenly Father wanted us to believe and to do.

How can we ever thank Christ for these marvelous gifts to his Church, that is, to us? Let us say a fervent: "thank you, Lord; You have foreseen all our needs and provided for them, grant us the grace to do the little part you ask of us in order to continue our progress on the one direct road to heaven."
—Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Collection
Aug 23, 2026

Envelopes	\$400.00
Loose	\$88.00
Cemetery Fund	\$100.00
	\$588.00

Notices:

1: Johnstown Landing Outdoor Farmer’s Market: Another summer on the way. Looking forward to Sundays at the Johnstown Landing Artisan & Farmers Market. The markets run from June 28 - September 6, 2026. Every Sunday 10 am - 1 pm. We welcome new vendors. Send us a message or call 902-631-0209.

2: Thank you: Thanks to all who made the Final Milling Frolic a success. To all the people who donated prizes, baked for the lunch and bake sale, and made items for the Fancy Booth. To all the volunteers who help to make the event run smoothly. To the Fire Department for parking the cars. To the musicians, you had people dancing until 12:00, and especially to all the people who came to help us celebrate. Winners of the tickets were: Kevin Ivany and Eileen MacKenzie.

3: New Reader: If anyone is interested in becoming a Lector on Sunday’s please let us know.

4: Mass Intentions: The Mass intentions on Sunday August 23rd will be for the late Isabel Johnson & Jessie Savoie.

5: Mass Intentions: The Mass intentions on Sunday August 30th will be for Tom Brady on his 100th birthday (Aug. 15)

6: The Cape Breton Chorale will be holding auditions for Season 53 at the end of August. Audition dates are August 28,29 and 30th. Full details and booking information may be found on our website at capebretonchorale.com

7: Our 1st Ultreya of the season will be held at Our Lady of Fatima on September 24th at 6:30. This season we hope to hold our Ultreyas at different churches in our area. Hope to see you in September. We have a Men’s weekend starting on September 24th and a Women’s weekend October 1st -4th. All weekends are held at Camp MacLeod in Albert Bridge. For more info contact Karen or Kevin Macsween 902-317-5425 or Arlene Edwards 902-577-4214