



Life Is a Game of Golf

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When the British colonized India, they brought with them the game of golf. A worse hazard than sand traps turned out to be monkeys. Wherever the ball landed, a monkey would run onto the fairway, pick it up, and drop it somewhere else—from the fairway into the rough, out of a sand trap onto the green, from the green back onto the fairway. The Brits tried everything to keep the monkeys off the course—fences, sirens, booming noises. Nothing worked. In the end, they ended up changing the rule book: play the ball where the monkey drops it.

The scriptures today tell of people who lived with an openness to wherever it was that God would take them. They played the ball wherever the monkey dropped it. It is the story of the Hebrews enslaved in Egypt when they were about to be led out into a God-knew-where desert. It is the story of aged Abraham and Sarah, called to travel to an alien land and then into parenthood in their old age. Faith is not trusting that God will always take us to where we want to be; it is trusting that wherever it is that God takes us will ultimately bring us into fuller life. So, watch and be ready to recognize the coming of God. It may be in times of darkness for you (as when the master comes late at night, says Luke's Gospel) or when you find yourself in an "alien land," a place in life you've never been before. ●

[Jesus said to his disciples,]
"For where your treasure is,
there also will your heart be."

LUKE 12:34



Reflect

What surprising places has God led me?



St. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or
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Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com



Tentative Mass Schedule Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m. Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	By date: one year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	By appointment
Filipino Mass –	TBA
Kids & Youth Ministry	5th October 2025
Children's Mass	TBA
Pastoral & Finance Council	TBA
Monthly Coffee Social	TBA
Second Collection	Second Sunday of the Month

DIocese OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiwak www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral Council Chairperson	Mrs. Annette Barclay St. Vincent de Paul Society Representative
Walette Cross Stewardship Representative	Natalia Walker Religious Education Kids & Youth Ministry
Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader	Mrs. Jane Farge Music Ministry



Today's Hymns

Entrance:	Sing A New Song	#598
Offertory:	Christians Let Us Love One Another	#717
Communion:	Ubi Caritas	#776
Recessional:	Your Grace is Enough	#624

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



Source: <https://pixabay.com/en/pray-money-greed-worship-wealth-1012964/>

The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 17th August 2025

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Server
Music

Jane Bermingham
Annette Barclay
Elizabeth Card
Mary & Simon Stones

Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Evelyn Pinlac, and Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, 9th August for the people of St. Josephs
Sunday, 10th August *Tammy Barclay and
*Victor Heyliger

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday, 2 nd August – 4:00 p.m.	10	177
Sunday, 27 th July - 8:45 a.m.	47	327
TOTAL:	57	\$504

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield

Fr. Vivien, the pastor of St. Patrick's parish, will be our interim pastor until Saturday, 23rd August. We welcome Fr. Vivien and thank him for coming to “shepherd” the people of St. Josephs.

BIRTHDAYS

Mary Maybury **14th August**
(as our dear Mary can't attend church, please remember her on her birthday – give her a call or send her a message)



This weekend, 9th/10th August, is the second weekend of the month, therefore, there will be a second collection designated for maintenance.

In our Diocese **the Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**, normally celebrated on the 15th of August, will be celebrated next weekend, the 16th/17th August.

KIDS & YOUTH MINISTRY 2025/2026

It is hoped to resume the Kids & Youth Ministry on Sunday, 5th October 2025.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2025/2026

If any of our children in the parish will attain the age of eight years old before the 7th of June 2026, and you wish to register them in the First Holy Communion class, that will start in October, please let Liz Card know.

UPCOMING SOCIAL EVENTS – October - December

Please put the following dates on your calendar.

Friday, 17th October – Annual Fall Supper

Saturday, 6th December – Annual Christmas Bingo

Sunday, 14th December – “informal” Afternoon of Christmas.

More information to follow.

2026: Jane recently met with her talented team of musicians who are already preparing their schedules for 2026, and we are pleased to learn that they plan to hold a concert, at St. Josephs, on the 14th and 21st June 2026.

BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In the Pope's Video for August, Pope Leo XIV requests our prayers for societies to avoid internal conflicts due to ethnic, political, religious or ideological reasons. Announcing his prayer intention, “For mutual coexistence”, the Pope encourages us to “seek paths of dialogue” and “respond to conflict with gestures of fraternity”. He asks the faithful to pray for societies where coexistence seems more difficult, that they might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation. In the video produced this month in collaboration with Jesuit Communications Foundation (JesCom), Pope Leo XIV recites a prayer composed specifically for this August intention by his Worldwide Prayer Network. The images accompanying his words create a montage of the divisions present in the world: wars, confrontation and violence that cause destruction, force people to flee their own land and contribute to existential loneliness.

There is, however, a final message of hope entrusted to young people, who have just celebrated the Jubilee for Youth that coincided with the launch of this edition of the Pope's Video. In fact, hope for a better future depends on young people knowing how to build fraternal communities, are welcoming of one another and their differences, and who open their hearts and place themselves at the service of others. For the official video: <https://tinyurl.com/m937wn29>

Have a restful weekend and a blessed week!

Bishop Wes

Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances: for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

1 Thessalonians 5:1-18.

If you are unable to attend Mass on a weekend, please take a little time out to pray during the time of Mass.

STAY AWAKE AND BE READY

The readings for the 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C call us to live with trust and to stay ready. They remind us that God keeps His promises. We are part of His plan, just like the people in the Bible.

In the first reading, the people of Israel waited for God to act. They knew He would save them, so they stayed strong and faithful. In the second reading, Abraham followed God without knowing where he was going. He trusted that God would lead him.

Jesus tells us in the Gospel to be ready at all times. He may come when we do not expect it. We must live with care and take our responsibilities seriously. The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C helps us remember that faith is not just about believing. It is also about how we live each day.

The 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C teaches about faith, readiness, and trust in God. The readings encourage believers to stay faithful, prepare for what is to come, and rely on God's promises.

- **Faith in God's Promises:** Abraham trusted God's promises even when he could not see how they would come true. The readings show how faith means believing in what God says, even when it seems impossible.
- **Readiness for the Lord:** Jesus tells His followers to be ready for His coming at any time. The Gospel warns that those who are prepared will be blessed, but those who are careless will face consequences.
- **Trust Over Fear:** Jesus tells His followers not to be afraid because God cares for them. Faith means trusting that God is in control, even when things seem uncertain.
- **Obedience to God's Call:** Abraham obeyed God and left his home without knowing where he was going. The readings remind believers that faith often requires action, even when the future is unclear.
- **Stewardship and Responsibility:** Jesus speaks about servants who must take care of what their master has given them. The Gospel teaches that God expects people to use their gifts wisely and not waste what they have been given.

Source: young-catholics.com

Dear Padre,

Where did the Virgin Mary spend her last days on earth? Ephesus or Jerusalem?

Shortly before Jesus died on the cross, he entrusted his widowed mother to the protective care of John the Evangelist. (See John 19:26–27.) Accordingly, when John lived his final years in Ephesus, it is believed that Mary also spent her last days nearby in a modest stone dwelling, before being assumed body and soul into heaven “to be preserved from the corruption of the tomb” (Pope Pius XII, *Munificentissimus Deus*, 1950). Moreover, it is likely in Ephesus (present-day Turkey) where the tradition of Mary’s Assumption started.

Pope Benedict XIV (1740–1758) declared Ephesus was “where the Blessed Mother...proceeded from this life into heaven.” More recent popes, such as Paul VI in 1967 and John Paul II in 1979, prayed in this venerable home, known as Mother Mary’s House.

However, close to Gethsemane in Jerusalem is the Basilica of the Tomb of Mary from the fifth century. It is built around an ancient crypt where Mary’s body was believed to have been laid before it was assumed into heaven.

While both Ephesus and Jerusalem claim to be the location where the Virgin Mary spent her last years on earth, experts contend the latter is the older tradition and the more credible place. Even if Mary temporarily left Jerusalem, it is probable she returned to the land of her birth and resided there at the end of her earthly life. ●

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR / DearPadre.org



MACHIA / SHUTTERSTOCK

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

And at the end of our life, [the Lord] will call us to account for the goods he has entrusted to us.... We have received so much: life, faith, family, relationships, work, but also the places where we live, our city, creation.... [A]re we guardians of all that has been given to us?

ANGELUS, ROME,
AUGUST 7, 2022



RICCARDO DE LUCA - UPDATE / SHUTTERSTOCK

Monday

August 11
St. Clare, Virgin
Dt 10:12–22
Mt 17:22–27

Tuesday

August 12
Weekday
Dt 31:1–8
Mt 18:1–5, 10, 12–14

Wednesday

August 13
Weekday
Dt 34:1–12
Mt 18:15–20

Thursday

August 14
*St. Maximilian Kolbe,
Priest and Martyr*
Jos 3:7–10a, 11, 13–17
Mt 18:21–19:1

Friday

August 15
*The Assumption of the
Blessed Virgin Mary*
Rv 11:19a; 12:1–6a,
10ab

1 Cor 15:20–27
Lk 1:39–56

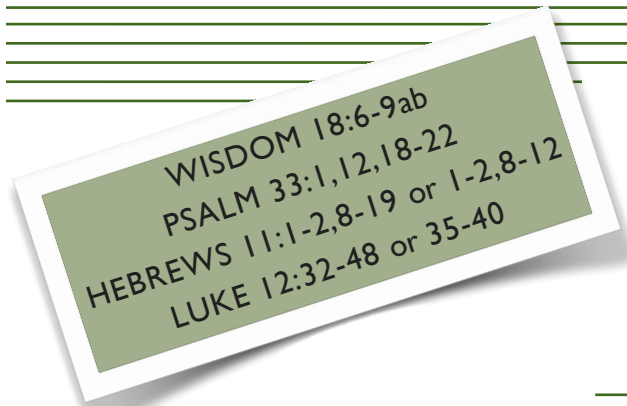
Saturday

August 16
Weekday
Jos 24:14–29
Mt 19:13–15

Sunday

August 17
*Twentieth Sunday
in Ordinary Time*
Jer 38:4–6, 8–10
Heb 12:1–4
Lk 12:49–53

Our Sunday Readings



Despite the Delay

THE FIRST READING

Updated version

By 200 BC Jews had been thoroughly exposed to various Greek philosophies, which often seemed superior to their own religious heritage. The author of the Book of Wisdom sets out to persuade Jews that their faith tradition is both relevant and richly meaningful.

God's promises

In this passage the author retells part of the Exodus story. *That night* (v.6) is Passover, the night God killed all the first born in Egypt so that Pharaoh would finally allow the Israelites to leave. The *oaths* are God's promises to give Abraham's descendants a homeland. Passover was known *beforehand* to these Israelites in that they believed God would one day deliver them.

The people's faith

The enslaved Israelites are *the holy children of the good* (v.9). So perfect was their trust that they celebrated the ritual meal commemorating Passover before that event had taken place (v.9). They did this *in secret*, that is, without

consciously realizing that they were upholding the Sinai Covenant: this covenant wouldn't be made until after God freed them. Such wisdom and foresight easily rivals that of the Greeks.

Their loss is your gain

Since the Israelites triumphed at the expense of the Egyptians, the author draws a theological conclusion: the punishment of evildoers is simultaneously the glorification of the righteous. The fall of one group elevates the other (v.8).

WISDOM 18:6-9ab

1. What promises (*oaths*) do you think God has made that aren't yet fulfilled?
2. Has God made any promises to you?
3. How courageously do you await God's promises?
4. a. Have you ever "done the right thing" without even thinking about it?
b. Why do you think you acted as you did?
5. What do you think about the link this author makes between the punishment of *adversaries* and the glorification of the righteous?

LUKE 12:32-34

1. What could make the disciples afraid?
2. Do you think Jesus' words reassure the disciples?
3. How do you think the disciples react to Jesus' command to *sell their belongings*?
4. What do your possessions reveal about you?
5. How readily do you share what you have?

LUKE 12:35-48

6. Imagine that you're a servant.
 - a. What are you doing when your master returns?
 - b. What makes it hard for you to stay prepared for your master's return?
 - c. How do you earn your master's praise?
 - d. How do you react when your master switches roles with you?
7. Why do you think Jesus compares his return to that of a thief at night?
8. In what ways will Jesus' return be destructive or disruptive?
9. For what reasons would servants become negligent in their duties?
10. What all has God entrusted to you?
11. What do you think God expects you to do with what's been entrusted to you?

THE GOSPEL READING

A lasting treasure (vv.32-34)

Jesus is speaking to those who have left behind material comforts and security to travel with him. He assures these followers that they don't have to cling to their money and possessions because God is bringing them into his kingdom.

By sharing what they have, the disciples show their commitment to God's kingdom. In this kingdom the disciples will find peace and eternal life, which earthly possessions cannot provide.

Fearlessly waiting (vv.35-40)

After urging his disciples to dispose of material goods in preparation for God's kingdom, Jesus urges them to stay prepared. This passage points ahead to Jesus' return in glory after his crucifixion. Jesus' return will include the condemnation of evil.

Because his followers will have prepared themselves for God's kingdom, they have nothing to fear when *the master* returns.

Servants drew their tunics up around their legs and tucked them into their belts so they could move more freely (v.35). Jesus thus instructs his followers to be ready no matter how late his return. The *second* and *third watch* refer to time spans late at night and into early morning, times when any activity would require a lamp (v.35).

Ever the servant (vv.35-38)

In a startling twist, the master serves his slaves (v.37). Even when Jesus reigns in glory he will continue to serve. His power and authority are based on care for others. The parable also points to the heavenly banquet where people will sit in fellowship to be fed by Jesus, their servant-host.

As for you leaders... (vv.41-48)

In reply to Peter's question, Jesus indicates that while everyone should await his return in glory, leaders of the community he's establishing have extra responsibilities. Jesus compares these leaders to stewards, slaves who managed their master's household, including the other slaves.

PRAYER

adapted from St. Maria Faustina Kowalska

O Lord, Goodness beyond our understanding, who are acquainted with our misery through and through, and know that by our power we cannot ascend to you, we implore you, increase your grace in us and your mercy upon us, that we may faithfully do your holy will all through our life and at death's hour.

Let the omnipotence of your mercy shield us from the darts of our salvation's enemies, that we may with confidence, as your children, await your final coming – that day known to you alone.

We expect to obtain everything promised us by Jesus in spite of all our wretchedness. For Jesus is our Hope: through his merciful heart as through an open gate we pass through to Heaven. Amen.