Our Parish COMMUNITY

August 30, 2026

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Jeremiah 20:7–9 / Romans 12:1–2 / Matthew 16:21–27

I Just Told You!

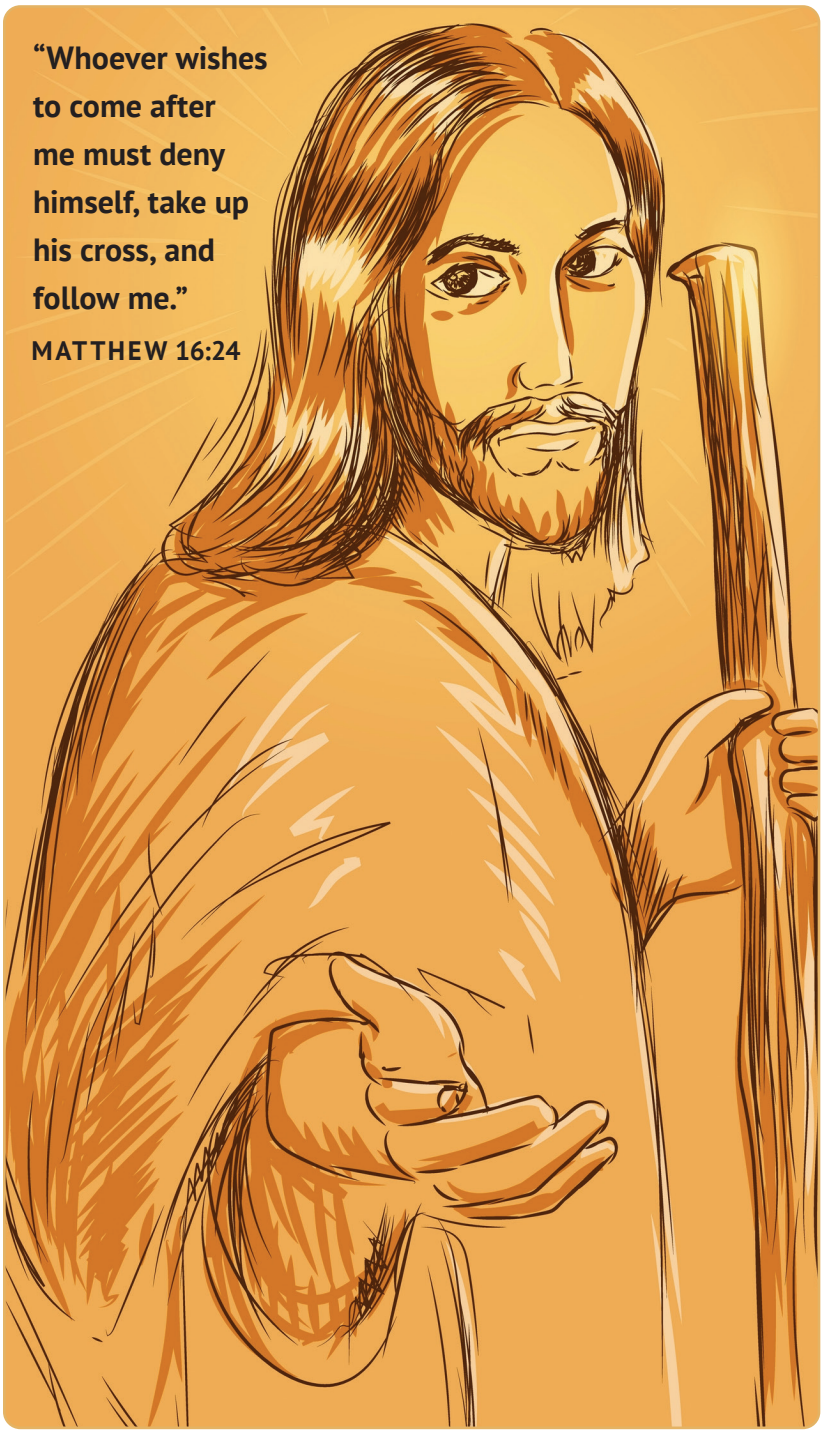
MIGUEL DULICK

Would it surprise you to know that Jesus uses the same Greek verb to chase Peter away—"Get behind me, Satan!" (Matthew 16:23) that he used to call him in the first place—"Come after me" (Matthew 4:19)? Pity the translator who must assign opposite meanings to the same word! Jesus changed Simon's name to Peter when he called him, and now he changes it to Satan for his demotion. But, as harsh as the rebuke is, maybe we could say Jesus does want Peter behind him, but not *too* far behind. In fact, immediately after dealing with Peter, Jesus issues a general call, using the same "trigger" word: "Whoever wishes to *come after* me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

The cross! That's how the controversy started, when Peter "took Jesus aside" (literally, "collared" him) to forbid even the thought of any passion or any cross. (See Matthew 16:22.)

How am I tempted as Peter was to avoid any talk of a cross? I don't even want to admit I'm a sinner, much less that there is a cross for me. Paul, in his letter to the Romans, has some advice for all of us who think like Satan: "Offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God," and "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God" (Romans 12:1–2). Everything for Jesus. ●

LEARN ABOUT THE AUTHORS OF *OUR PARISH COMMUNITY*



Reflect

What cross are you carrying? Can you unite it with Jesus' cross and offer it as prayer?

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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
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.
Telephone: (441) 234-2321
Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

PASTOR: FR. JACOB SWAPAN GOMES
(441) 292-0607 Ext. 5 or (441) 704-1874 (cell)

Mass Schedule

Saturday Afternoon - 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning - 9:00 a.m.

Baptism	By appointment: one month in advance
Weddings	1 year in advance (approx.)
Sacrament of Reconciliation	Sunday morning: 8:30 a.m.
Filipino Mass – Saturday	19th September 2026: 11:00 a.m.
Youth Ministry & FHC	4th October2026
Youth/Family Mass	25th October 2026
Pastoral & Finance Council	2nd September 2026
Coffee Social	Resumes in September
Second Collection	12th/13th September 2026

DIOCESE OF HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
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 & Justin Tavares
Religious Education - Youth Ministry

Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish Administrator & Finance Committee Team Leader

Mrs. Jane Farge - Music Ministry

Today's Hymns

Entrance:	**The Summons**	**P**
Offertory:	**The Servant Song**	**#816**
Communion:	**Look Beyond**	**#775**
Recessional:	**God Has Chosen Me**	**#815**

Leader of Song: Aidan Stones

The scene of a cross along a mountain path reminds us of Jesus' call to take up our own crosses and follow Him.

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 – 6th September 2026

Proclaimer of God's Word	**Stefano Ausenda**
Opening/Closing of the Church	**Elizabeth Card**
Eucharistic Minister	**Jane Bermingham**
Collection Counters	**Mary & Simon Stones**
Altar Server	**Liam/Seamus Stones**
Music	**Jane Farge**

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Andrew Card, Eleanor Correia, Peter Farge, Mary Maybury.

MASS INTENTIONS:

Saturday, 29th August - For the People of St. Josephs

Sunday, 30th August †Ernest †Alice †Peter and †Ernie Whitney

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday, 22nd Aug – 4:00 p.m. (Reg)	8	100
Sunday, 23rd August – 9:00a.m. (Reg)	42	507
St. Vincent DePaul Alms Box		72
Votives		60
	50	$739

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

YOUTH MINISTRY & FIRST HOLY COMMUNION 2026/2027.
If any children in the parish will reach the age of eight years old before December 2026, and you wish to register them in the First Holy Communion class, please let Liz Card know. lizziewhitney2015@gmail.com or WhatsApp 335-2077.

Younger children, and older ones, are welcome to come and join the Youth Ministry sessions.

We anticipate these classes starting on the 4th of October.

PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THE FOLLOWING DATES IN YOUR CALENDARS: -

FALL SUPPER
Scheduled to be held on Saturday, 26th September 2026, at the St. James Church Hall. We will be able to tell you more after receiving information regarding the menu etc.

CHRISTMAS BINGO
This event may also be held at the St. James Church Hall. If that does not work out, it will be at our usual venue on Friday, 4th December.

Our Christmas afternoon of Carols and Music - tentatively scheduled for Sunday, 13th December.

Somewhere in between 😊 Jane plans to reschedule the **Music Recital** that was cancelled earlier. This will include some of Jane's students, and anyone else who would like to display their talents. It will be an informal, fun afternoon.

BISHOP's CORNER

Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Father Manuel Russo, rector of the San Marco convent on Via Cavour in Florence, was sorting through the pharmacy archives when he came across a yellowed promotional flyer he did not recognise. It described an *elixir vinoso ricostituente*, a restorative wine elixir, made from 10 grams of Bolivian coca leaves and 30 grams of kola nut, blended with wine, and promoted as a tonic against fatigue caused by illness and aging. The flyer is believed to date back to the mid-to-late 19th century.

The ingredients were familiar. They are, essentially, the same ones American pharmacist John Stith Pemberton used in 1886 when he created the syrup that eventually became Coca-Cola. Pemberton's formula, also combining coca leaf extract and kola nuts, used carbonated water instead of wine, after local alcohol laws prevented him from replicating the wine-based version he had originally developed. As The Florentine noted, the discovery "provides a fascinating reminder that Florence's convent pharmacies were once centres of scientific experimentation as well as spiritual life."

"Up until Bolivian coca leaves were banned," Father Russo told *Euronews*, "because by that point it was understood that cocaine was a problem more than a cure - I would say that it was one of our bestsellers."

Have a peaceful weekend and a blessed week!

Bishop Wes

A message from Bishop Wes

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who joined our summer Thursday Lunch & Movie gatherings throughout July and August. It was a real joy to share these afternoons together, enjoying good food, good company, conversation, laughter, and simply the opportunity to spend time together.

A special word of thanks goes to all those who volunteered their time, talent and treasure, and energy to assist with the preparations, organisation, and leading of these gatherings. Your generosity and willingness to help made everything possible. Thank you all for making these summer Thursdays such a happy and memorable experience of community and togetherness.

It is my hope to resume this project during the season of Advent

ST. THERESA's GIFT SHOP: Open **Saturdays only**
29 August, 5 & 12 September
10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Reopening Tuesdays & Saturdays
15 September 10:00 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

The 9:00 a.m. Saturday Portuguese Mass at St. Theresa's Cathedral resumes on Saturday, 29th August 2026.

FOLLOWING CHRIST WITH COURAGE

The 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A invites us to look closely at what it means to follow Jesus. The readings show that God's call is not always easy. Jeremiah speaks of a fire in his heart that he cannot hold back, even when others laugh at him. God's word is alive and cannot be silenced.

Paul, in his letter to the Romans, calls us to offer our lives to God. He tells us not to copy the ways of the world but to be renewed in mind and spirit. This is how we learn what pleases God. It is a call to live each day with faith and courage.

In the Gospel, Jesus tells His followers to deny themselves and take up their crosses. He warns that gaining the world is nothing if we lose our souls. On the 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A, we are asked to choose the way of Christ, even when it is hard. It is the path that leads to true life.

Faith is more than just words. It means making choices that put God first. This Sunday asks believers to think about what they value. Do they seek comfort, or are they willing to follow God even when it is hard?

Take time to reflect on these readings. What stands out to you?

- When have you struggled with doubts in your faith?
- How does Jeremiah's story speak to your own experiences?
- What are some ways you can renew your mind and focus on God?
- What does offering your life to God mean in daily life?
- How do you handle suffering and hardship in your faith journey?
- Why do you think Peter resisted the idea of Jesus suffering?
- What are some worldly things that distract you from following God?
- How can you support someone who is going through suffering?
- What does taking up your cross mean to you personally?
- How can you trust God more in difficult times?

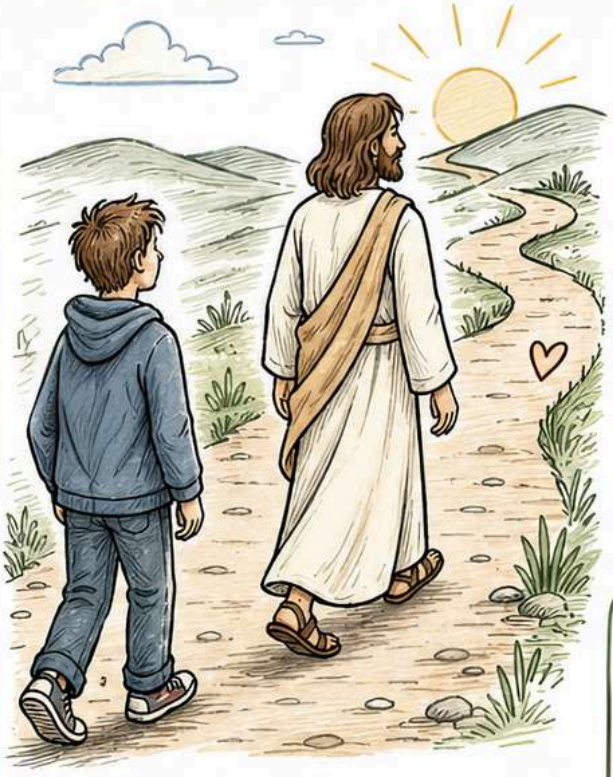
PRAYER
Lord, following You is not always easy. Sometimes doubts, struggles, and suffering make it hard to trust. Give me the strength to keep going. Help me renew my mind and live for You each day. Teach me to carry my cross with faith and courage. Amen.

Source: Young Catholics 2026

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time Year A

MAIN MESSAGE

- God's word gives us courage
- Offer your life to God
- Do not copy the ways of the world
- Take up your cross and follow Jesus



KEY SCRIPTURE

"Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me."

(Matthew 16:24)

THE READINGS

First Reading:
Jeremiah 20:7-9 — God's word burns within Jeremiah

Psalm:
Psalm 63 — My soul thirsts for God

Second Reading:
Romans 12:1-2 — Be renewed in your mind

Gospel:
Matthew 16:21-27 — Take up your cross and follow Jesus

THEMES TO KNOW

- Courage to speak truth
- Living for God
- God's ways
- Carrying the cross
- The soul matters

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR US

- Choose what is right, even when it is hard
- Let God guide your thoughts
- Do not let the world shape your choices
- Follow Jesus in small daily sacrifices

TRY THIS

Pray for courage before one hard choice this week.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What makes it hard to follow Jesus?
2. Where do I need courage?
3. What is one small cross I can carry with love?

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Dear Padre,

Are we required to disobey or break an evil law?

MIND AND I / SHUTTERSTOCK

According to St. Thomas Aquinas, a just law has four characteristics. It must be (1) an ordinance of reason, (2) for the common good, (3) properly promulgated, and (4) by a legitimate authority. According to St. Augustine, evil is a lack of something that should be there. When applied to law, if one of the four characteristics is missing, the law lacks something that should be there, and thus is evil. An unjust law, in other words, is an evil law. As Christians, we are generally encouraged to obey the laws of the state. As the Apostle Paul states, "Let every person be subordinate to the higher authorities, for there is no authority except from God" (Romans 13:1). At the same time, we also have the responsibility of forming our consciences according to God's revelation in Scripture and Tradition as interpreted by the divinely ordained teaching authority of the Church. Although we are not bound to follow an unjust law, the degree to which we should actively disobey it depends on the level of evil the law promotes. Because of its serious nature, a law promoting abortion, for example, should be actively resisted through peaceful protests and appropriate legal and civil activism. Laws that promote lesser evils need to be carefully evaluated by Church authorities and our own well-informed consciences. ●

Fr. Dennis J. Billy, CSsR / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE LEO XIV

NUVA FRAMES / SHUTTERSTOCK

War is back in vogue, and a zeal for war is spreading. The principle established after the Second World War, which prohibited nations from using force to violate the borders of others, has been completely undermined. Peace is no longer sought as a gift and a desirable good in itself.... Instead, peace is sought through weapons as a condition for asserting one's own dominion.

ADDRESS TO DIPLOMATIC CORE, ROME, JANUARY 9, 2026

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Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about ***Dear Padre***.

Monday
August 31
Weekday
1 Cor 2:1–5
Lk 4:16–30

Tuesday
September 1
Weekday
1 Cor 2:10b–16
Lk 4:31–37

Wednesday
September 2
Weekday
1 Cor 3:1–9
Lk 4:38–44

Thursday
September 3
St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church
1 Cor 3:18–23
Lk 5:1–11

Friday
September 4
Weekday
1 Cor 4:1–5
Lk 5:33–39

Saturday
September 5
Weekday
1 Cor 4:6b–15
Lk 6:1–5

Sunday
September 6
Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Ez 33:7–9
Rom 13:8–10
Mt 18:15–20

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A Redemptorist Ministry

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