



September 16, 2018

TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

Jesus and his disciples set out for the villages of Caesarea Philippi. Along the way he asked his disciples,

"Who do people say that I am?" They said in reply, "John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others one of the prophets."

And he asked them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Peter said to him in reply, "You are the Christ." Then he warned them not to tell anyone about him.

He began to teach them that the Son of Man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days. He spoke this openly.

Then Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. At this he turned around and, looking at his disciples, rebuked Peter and said, "Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do."

He summoned the crowd with his disciples and said to them, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me. For whoever wishes to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for my sake and that of the gospel will save it."





September 16, 2018 GOSPEL MARK 8:27-35

Pray for Each Other

Jesus defines, for the first time in the Gospel of Mark, what it truly means to be a disciple—take up the cross and follow Him. While we do not earn our way to heaven or into a relationship with God, it does not mean no effort on our part. God wants to lead us to complete faith and trust in him. Faith requires works. As the second reading from the Book of James reminds us, “faith without works is dead.” True discipleship will always entail how we treat those around us.

The St. Mary Magdalen Message Series—Love Where you Live: The Greatest Commandments Starts Next Door— calls our attention to how we live the great commandment of loving our neighbors.

Loving our neighbour is essential in the call of discipleship. Pope Francis encourages us to follow Jesus by noticing those around us: He challenges us to have a true “encounter”—encuentro in Spanish— with people who are part of our daily lives.

1. You do not live where you live by accident—it is providence. God knows why. And He has a mission for you there. This can be the cross that we are called to take up and follow Jesus with. Are you a source of goodness in your neighbourhood?
2. At home, describe the culture of your neighborhood where you live. If you’ve lived in different neighborhoods, what have been the similarities and differences?
3. What would it look like for you to “accept all people” as God does, in your neighborhood?
4. Who in your neighbourhood needs your prayers right now? Gather together and pray for those who need your prayers the most.

What action can I carry out this week to live out this Gospel message (resolution):





September 23, 2018

TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL MARK 9: 30-37

Jesus and his disciples left from there and began a journey through Galilee, but he did not wish anyone to know about it. He was teaching his disciples and telling them,

“The Son of Man is to be handed over to men and they will kill him, and three days after his death the Son of Man will rise.”

But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to question him.

They came to Capernaum and, once inside the house, he began to ask them, “What were you arguing about on the way?”

But they remained silent. They had been discussing among themselves on the way who was the greatest.

Then he sat down, called the Twelve, and said to them, “If anyone wishes to be first, he shall be the last of all and the servant of all.” Taking a child, he placed it in their midst, and putting his arms around it, he said to them, “Whoever receives one child such as this in my name, receives me; and whoever receives me, receives not me but the One who sent me.”





September 23, 2018 GOSPEL MARK 9: 30-37

Make the First Move

Make the First Move – Meet Your Neighbor: The sweetest sound to anyone’s ears, is the sound of their name. This week, we ask you to “meet your neighbor”.

Here’s a “tic tac toe” board with you in the middle.

Introduce yourself to people you don’t know - write down their names. Then greet them as you see them in the neighborhood, and pray for them. We are drawn to people when they have made the effort to know our name. We are no longer anonymous – on both sides of the relationship.

Adapted from “The Art of Neighboring” by Jay Pathak & Dave Runyon

This exercise has been done with hundreds of churches and thousands of people in community settings. When done BEFORE you go out and meet new people, from everyday relationships in your neighborhood, here are the typical results:

Only 10% can name all their neighbors in all 8 boxes. Only 3% could name their neighbors and share one interesting fact about their lives

Take a step back and consider what this means. Jesus said to love our neighbors. The teaching extends to the people we work with, the parent on our kids’ soccer team, etc. It also means our actual neighbors - next door, in the cul-de-sac. So are we doing this? Are we actually loving our neighbors?

Start somewhere. If you don’t know them; they probably don’t know you either. Someone needs to make the first move. How about you?

a. NAME	a. NAME	a. NAME
b. FUN FACT	b. FUN FACT	b. FUN FACT
c. MEANINGFUL FACT	c. MEANINGFUL FACT	c. MEANINGFUL FACT
a. NAME		a. NAME
b. FUN FACT		b. FUN FACT
c. MEANINGFUL FACT		c. MEANINGFUL FACT
a. NAME	a. NAME	a. NAME
b. FUN FACT	b. FUN FACT	b. FUN FACT
c. MEANINGFUL FACT	c. MEANINGFUL FACT	c. MEANINGFUL FACT



September 30, 2018

TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

GOSPEL MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

At that time, John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."

Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me. For whoever is not against us is for us. Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where 'their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.'"





September 30, 2018 [MARK 9:38-43, 45, 47-48](#)

Share...a meal

Jesus ministry is a pattern for all who reach out in love to the neighborhood: “whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.” Serving the neighbor is not to gain a reward but to live in response to the neighbor and serving out of love and in the name of Christ. Love where you live. Be Christ to others.

Pray. Meet. Share. This week’s challenge is to share “a meal”, a cup of coffee, with your neighbour. Discern with whom to share a part of yourself ...invite them to a meal....bring over a dessert...be creative.

Maybe we are still hesitant to do this. Maybe this a daunting task and does not come naturally to us. Jesus too knows how difficult this can be. In the rest of the Gospel passage, he comments on the things that divide us from that love of neighbour, that sharing of ourself with another. Jesus mentions “your hand”, “your foot” and “your eye” as possible sources of separation and sin.

This Sunday’s Gospel warns against those things that cause us to sin. What are those things in your life to which Jesus is referring that divide you from your neighbor?

Pope Francis's call to build a culture of encounter challenges us to consider the impact of technology and social media on our ability to give the best of ourselves to the people around us. This can be one place where our eyes and our hands lead to separation, rather than community with others. He is particularly concerned that in our hyper-connected world we often interact with screens more than with people.

How often does your smart phone, for example, interrupt conversation with your family, friends, or colleagues?

As we wrap up this series, what is one action step you need to take in order to be a source of blessing, so that you may “Love Where You Live”?

