

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, July 18

16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

2nd Collection for Seminarian Education Fund

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Monday, July 19

Monday of the 16th Week in Ordinary Time

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after Mass

Tuesday, July 20

Tuesday of the 16th Week in Ordinary Time

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Wednesday, July 21

Wednesday of the 16th Week in Ordinary Time

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 a.m.

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Thursday, July 22

Memorial of St. Mary Magdalene

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Friday, July 23

Friday of the 16th Week in Ordinary Time

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Saturday, July 24

Saturday of the 16th Week in Ordinary Time

Mass at 7:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 a.m.

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Live-Streamed Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Sunday, July 25

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Scripture Reflection

“Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the Lord” (Jeremiah 23:1).

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection

7/5 – 7/11

Sunday Offering	\$ 4,947.10
Weekday Mass	\$ 816.94
Online Giving	\$ 4,827.61
Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 181.00
Total Offertory	\$ 10,772.65

Other Collection

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 70.85
Diocesan Seminarian Education Fund	\$ 175.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 10.00
Mass Intentions, Baptism, Weddings	\$ 69.00
Others (Gallery, Candles, Outreach, etc.)	\$ 762.00
Total	\$ 11,859.50

Living the Liturgy

- With one or two friends or family members, commit to pray daily for all who exercise the responsibility of pastoral care within the Church.
- Schedule a retreat day for yourself to get away and rest with the Lord. Even if it's in your own home or apartment, give yourself the time and space to just be for a whole day.
- Invite your family members to listen to the readings today for the words sheep and shepherd. Explain that scripture often refers to God's people as sheep. This metaphor or nickname reminds us that, like sheep, we aren't self sufficient. We need care, protection, and guidance. It's a wise sheep who looks to God as his or her shepherd.

Sharing the Faith

- Do you think “shepherds” applies here only to clergy, or are others like parents, teachers, and political leaders also included in this exhortation?
- Are you surprised that Jesus tried so hard to escape the crowds so he could be alone with the disciples? Do you make time for yourself to be alone with God?
- Jeremiah mentions shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock. Where do you see leaders today who lead others astray? How can you help those who you “shepherd” to learn to discern truth in a pluralistic culture with conflicting values?

Saint of the Week

Let a man fear, above all, me, his God, and so much the gentler will he become toward my creatures and animals, on whom, on account of me, their Creator, he ought to have compassion. - St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373), Visionary, Foundress, Feast Day July 23

July 18, 2021 Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

Jeremiah 23:1-6 / Psalm 23:1-3, 3-4, 5, 6 / Ephesian 2:13-18 / Alleluia: Cf. John 10:27 / Mark 6:30-34

Butchers and bakers and candlestick makers are good and necessary. But what we need most of all are good shepherds. More important than filling our stomachs or healing our ills is the need for God and for knowledge of God's ways. Those who fail to lead us, or worse, who lead us astray, do far greater harm than those who steal our possessions or damage our bodies. At stake is not the perishable body that is our temporary home, but the soul that lives forever. "Woe" to you if you jeopardize the eternal soul, says the Lord. "Woe" to you if you don't take my sheep down paths that lead to living water. Anyone entrusted with the care of souls should tremble at the thought of the sacred responsibility that's theirs, and the enormous price they'll pay if they squander it.

But our true shepherd is the Lord who won't allow us to go un-shepherded. God promises worthy shepherds, and the worthiest of all is Christ. Jesus can't escape our need; he can't fly from the hunger of our hearts. When he sees the crowd, his own needs melt away and his heart begins beating with that of the crowd. "They were like sheep without a shepherd" (6:34) says Mark, in one of the most poignant lines of the New Testament. But of course that wasn't really true: Jesus was there.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "17th Sunday in Ordinary"

2 Kings 4:42-44 / Psalm 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18 / Ephesian 4:1-6 / Alleluia: Cf. Luke 7:16 / John 6:1-15

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

Shepherding the People of God with Joy!

In May of 2019, I attended the ordination of my classmate to become a bishop in the Philippines. It was such a joy to participate in this celebration because it was an opportunity to be once again with classmates, professors, and friends. After 23 years of priesthood, we had the opportunity to share stories of our ministries and how we thrive in many ways to keep things going through thick and thin. Each one of us would joke with each other; who would be next to be ordained? Of course, we said that it was enough to keep our ministry going as long as we were filled with joy amidst the trials and challenges we have to face.

This year, many of us are celebrating our Silver Jubilee, 25 Years as ordained priests. One of us created a group messaging where we can share our greetings and stories. As we wished to experience joy and zeal in our ministries, we keep on encouraging and praying for one another. There is no doubt that all of us had lots of experiences in our ministries. We had moments when work overwhelms us. Despite it all, we still have joy inside us, for we can still put a smile on our faces. When we share each other's burdens and difficulties, we know that we are not alone. We have each other's support, and for the most of it, we have our Good Shepherd carrying us along the way.

Our Gospel last Sunday was about Jesus sending His apostles to preach and heal the sick. These disciples barely have anything to carry along their way. They trusted in the goodness of God and people that they would be taken care of. This Sunday, we hear the Gospel account that after they fulfilled their tasks, they went back to Jesus to report all the things they had done and taught. Since then, people started to flock around them in great numbers that they did not even have the opportunity to be by themselves for food and rest. Jesus called His apostles to have a respite from their work and went to a deserted place.

When the people knew their whereabouts, they hastened to their place and met them. Jesus was moved as they were like sheep without a shepherd, and He immediately taught them many things. His heart opened up for them and tended to their needs.

Our ministry can often be like that. When given a chance to take a break from work, we get calls to tend to someone who is ill at home or in the hospital, even during the middle of the night or early morn, or to listen and help a penitent or to have a listening ear to someone who is concerned with work or family matters. When duty calls, we cannot just say no but make ourselves available when able.

Jesus presents to us what it means to be shepherds in our different ways. All of us have different situations in life, and we can exercise our "shepherding" through the example of Jesus. Our service to others not only brings them comfort and joy but also affects our lives as disciples of Christ. Like those whom He called, we would one day share the good things of the work done and maybe even the difficulties we experience. But know that there is always joy in "shepherding" amidst the challenges we encounter. We know that deep in our hearts, we have done something wonderful that gives us peace and joy in life.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual