

ST. ELIZABETH CATHOLIC CHURCH

Mass intentions
for Aug. 22, 2021
21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Saturday, 5 p.m. —
† deceased of Bartus family
By: George & Thea Bratton

Sunday, 9 a.m. —
† Victor M. Marchioni
By: Michael & Nina Marchioni

Wednesday — No Mass

21st Sunday of Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b — Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel and told them to decide whom they would serve, adding “As for me and my household we will serve the Lord.” The people recalled what God had done for them and said they would serve the Lord as well.

Psalms 34:2-3, 16-21 — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Ephesians 5:21-32 — “Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ loved the church and handed himself over for her to sanctify her.” Husbands should “love their wives as their own bodies. For no one hates his own flesh but rather nourishes and cherishes it, even as Christ does the church.”

John 6:60-69 — After Jesus said that his followers must eat his flesh and drink his blood, many abandoned him. Jesus asked his apostles, “Does this shock you? What if you were to see the Son of Man ascending to where he was before?...Do you also want to leave?” They answered, “To whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We are convinced that you are the Holy One of God.”

Aug. 22, 2021

21st Sunday
of Ordinary Time

Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b
Psalm 34:2-3, 16-21
Ephesians 5:21-32
John 6:60-69



WILL YOU ALSO LEAVE?

When we hear Jesus' invitation to "eat his flesh" we immediately think of Holy Communion, the body and blood of Christ we receive at Mass. Contemporaries of Jesus did not have this luxury. The idea only meant one thing to many of them — cannibalism — and the reaction was swift. People abandoned Jesus in droves. No one bothered to ask for an explanation. The apostles couldn't comprehend, but they stayed. What would you have done?

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Weekly readings

Monday

1 Thessalonians
1:1-5, 8b-10
Matthew 23:13-22

Tuesday

St. Bartholomew
Revelation 21:9b-14
John 1:45-51

Wednesday

1 Thessalonians 2:9-13
Matthew 23:27-32

Thursday

1 Thessalonians 3:7-13
Matthew 24:42-51

Friday

St. Monica
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8
Matthew 25:1-13

Saturday

St. Augustine
1 Thessalonians 4:9-11
Matthew 25:14-30

22nd Sunday
of Ordinary Time

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8
Psalm 15:2-5
James 1:17-18,
21b-22, 27
Mark 7:1-8, 14-15,
21-23

Thanks
for your support
and generosity

In-person Offertory
Aug. 15, 2021

Assumption, \$2,390
Catholic schools, \$557
Needy, \$70
Communications, \$20
Development, \$5

Covenants Versus Contracts

God never gives up on man, despite our sins and disobedience. A covenant is the way God moves to restore humanity to a relationship with himself.

What is a covenant? A covenant is similar to a contract but not quite the same thing. Both are formal, solemn and binding pacts between parties, who must live up to their end of the bargain. But that's where the similarities end.

A contract is a promise made in the party's own name (signature), while a covenant is an oath made in God's name (a holy commitment).



A contract is the exchange of property (goods and services), while a covenant is an exchange of persons. (“I am yours, and you are mine.”)

A contract is breakable (the parties can go separate ways), but a covenant bond is unbreakable (although laws sometimes are violated by breaking oneself spiritually). In a covenant, a law is an expression of a father's love and wisdom, while sin is the refusal of divine sonship, a sign of a broken relationship.

A contract is a partnership that may be temporary, but a covenant is a permanent sacred kinship. Covenants are family bonds — a father requires more of a son (family model) than a judge does of a defendant (courtroom model).



Sin is disobedience of God's commands. God's punishment is allowing man to enjoy illicit pleasures, even when they cut into family unity.

God loves us enough to let us hit bottom, but he will never forsake us. (“I am your father, and you are my family.”) His covenants bear this truth.

The response of faith is the dynamic trust of the son toward the father. It is believing and obeying because the Father has spoken it. It is keeping the covenant.

—From Scott Hahn's *A Father Who Keeps His Promises*

Saintly Wisdom

“The power of the priest,
is the power of the divine person;
for the transubstantiation of the bread requires
as much power as the creation of the world.”
— St. Bernardine of Siena —

Parish Life

Parish Picnic — The annual parish picnic has been scheduled for 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 12, at the Riverside Pavilion in the park behind the Elizabethton River Riders ballpark. Mark your calendars and plan to come!

Parish School of Religion — Classes for the Parish School of Religion will begin Sunday, Sept. 12, for the youth and children of the parish. Classes will meet for an hour after the 9 a.m. Mass.

Social Action

Second Collection for Haiti — The Diocese of Knoxville will take up a second collection next weekend in support of relief aid for Haiti following the deadly 7.2 magnitude earthquake on Aug. 14. The dire humanitarian crisis has only been made worse by the political crisis the country has experienced in the last month following the president's assassination, which created a leadership vacuum. Please keep the people of Haiti in your prayers and help as you can. Thank you!



Backpack Buddies — Pledge forms for Backpack Buddies may be placed in the box in the vestibule or in the weekend collection. The Backpack Buddies program supplies needy school children with backpacks full of kid-friendly foods for them to eat at home on the weekends. The cost is \$93 a year (or \$9.30 a month for 10 months) per student. Last year, parishioners sponsored all the students identified for the program at Harold McCormick School as well as additional students from Eastside, Westside and T.A. Dugger schools.