

Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time – September 6, 2026



Jesus said to his disciples: "If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he listens to you, you have won over your brother. If he does not listen, take one or two others along with you, so that 'every fact may be established on the testimony of two or three witnesses.' If he refuses to listen to them, tell the church. If he refuses to listen even to the church,

then treat him as you would a Gentile or a tax collector. Amen, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. Again, amen, I say to you, if two of you agree on earth about anything for which they are to pray, it shall be granted to them by my heavenly Father. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them." -Matthew 18:15-20

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary-September 8

Many days passed before God finally completed the masterpiece of His creation. For nine months, the soul of Mary had given form to her virginal body, and the hour of her happy birth approached.. On a magnificent September day, with nature adorned in radiant beauty, the most Holy Virgin came into the world in the white-walled city of Nazareth.

She was probably born in the same house where the great mystery of the Incarnation later took place and where Jesus spent most of His childhood and youth in work and prayer. Invisible to the eyes of mortal men, the angels considered it an honor to mount guard around the humble crib over which Saints Joachim and Anne lovingly watched. The prophecy of Isaias had come to pass. The root of Jesse, ten centuries removed, had sprouted a new branch. On this same branch in but a few years more would blossom the eternal Flower, the Incarnate Word.

Her divine Son would soon appear representing a new dawn of hope upon a world plunged for four thousand years into the darkness of pain and death. The day the Queen of Heaven was born ranks as one of the most beautiful in history since it announced to condemned mankind the long-awaited time of liberation. In commemorating this great event, the Church bursts forth in its enthusiasm: "Thy nativity, O Virgin Mother of God," sings the Church in its liturgy, "has announced joy to the whole world" — *Nativitas tua, Dei Genitrix Virgo, gaudium annuntiavit universo mundo.*

Indeed, we seem to forget in what horrible distress the world lay prostrate before the coming of Christ. The sin of our first parents had borne the fruit of death. Until the coming of the Savior, the curse of the Almighty lay heavily upon sinful humanity. Adam had eaten of the forbidden fruit in the wild hope of becoming like God. With terrible irony, God stripped him of his magnificent privileges and reduced him to extreme misery. Thus, the ancient world was founded upon oppression of the weak and disregard for human dignity. The greater part of mankind was subject to the torments of slavery. Even Rome, the proud bearer of civilization, considered the multitude of its slaves as but an immense herd destined for slaughter. Indeed, masters had the power to send their slaves to their deaths solely to amuse themselves. The refined patricians of the Imperial City would sometimes use these poor souls as fodder for the salt-water eels they raised. Nothing satisfied their gluttony more than these delicious marine eels, fattened on human blood. In an epoch plunged in discouragement, the Jews believed Providence had abandoned them. It was then that the hidden work of infinite Mercy began to be – accomplished in their midst.

The distress of souls was even more acute. Adam had-

Cont...supposed that he could do without God. He unappreciatively spurned his Sovereign Benefactor. God, in return, withdrew from His creature. He did not abandon mankind altogether, however, but spoke to him at rare intervals, announcing the future coming of a virgin who would crush the head of the serpent under her immaculate heel and through his prophets.

Moreover, the Lord had not allowed the source of grace to cease entirely. He did not refuse His pardon to the repentant sinner, granting it under the sole condition of a perfect contrition. Even so, amid the temptations of the flesh and deprived of the abundant spiritual help now available to us, the weakest souls fell by the thousands into the infernal pit.

Yet, this terrible nightmare wherein mankind struggles dissipates like a dense nocturnal fog before the sweet morning light. The quadrant of eternity marks the hour of its infinite mercy. The birth of Mary begins the work of Redemption. In her crib, the mother of the Savior illuminates the desolate earth with the grace of her first smiles. Jesus will soon appear and, with His Precious Blood, will erase the sentence of our condemnation. The world which has suffered so, will finally delight in the joy of liberty and peace. Slavery will everywhere be abolished, and human dignity will henceforth be respected. Like a flowing stream, graces will spring forth in abundance from the sacraments. We have but to approach and draw from them — without limit — pardon, courage, and life everlasting.

The God who hid in Paradise will descend to earth and never abandon mankind. After His Ascension, Our Lord will remain among us under the Eucharistic veil until the end of time, when the Real Presence will leave the destroyed tabernacles.. Such are the great joys the birth of Mary announces. "Thy nativity, O Virgin Mother of God has announced joy to the whole world." The birth of the Blessed Virgin was, then, one of the foremost events of history. The holy Fathers of the Church express the impact of the birth of the Immaculate Virgin on the invisible world by describing the heavens overwhelmed with wondrous admiration. The angels were at a loss to find adequate praises for acclaiming the adorable Trinity for having created her who was the beloved Daughter of the Father, and who would become the Mother of the Word Incarnate and the Spouse of the Holy Ghost. Refuge of sinners. They knew that Mary would one day be the Gate of Heaven who would never refuse entry into the eternal kingdom to those who invoked her with confidence.-Fr. Raymond Thomas de Saint-Laurent

Readings For This Sunday

Reading 1: Ezekiel 33:7-9

Reading II: Romans 13: 8-10

Gospel: Matthew 18:15-20

Readings For Next Sunday

Reading 1: Sirach 27: 30-28:7

Reading II: Romans 14: 7-9

Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35

FINANCE

Regular =\$3,267

St. Vincent de Paul & Betty Chinn Ministry=\$2,572

This week's 2nd Collection = *Mission Appeal (See announcement on next page).

AMA 2026 Goal=\$34,900 Pledges=\$23,574 Rec'd=\$20,869

Eureka Holy Mass Schedule

First Saturday, September 5

8:30 am First Saturday Marian Devotion Mass

Int. Irene Cleenewerck Sacred Heart Church
3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm Mass for the People St. Joseph Church

Sunday, September 6

7:30 am +Annetta "Nettie" Balderson St. Joseph Church
9:00 am +Maria Vanderveldt Sacred Heart Church
10:30am Richard & Kenneth Burns St. Bernard Church
12:15 pm Int. Evelin Yaneth Martinez Sacred Heart Ch

Monday, September 7

12:15 pm +Kelly Cahill St. Bernard Church

Tuesday, September 8 Nativity of the Blessed Virgin

Mary 7:30 am +Cynthia Cahill St. Joseph Church

Wednesday, September 9

12:15 pm Int. Mildred Perrone St. Bernard Church
6:00 pm Adoration/ Confession
7:00 pm +Dina Amparan, +Maximo Espitia, & +Carmen
Espitia (Sp) Sacred Heart Church

Thursday, September 10

7:30 am +Annette Cahill St. Joseph Church
11:30 am No Intention St. Joseph Hospital Chapel

Friday, September 11

12:15 pm +Tom O'Flaherty St. Bernard Church
1-2pm Confessions
1:00-4:45 pm Adoration St. Bernard Church
4:45 Benediction St. Bernard Church

Saturday, September 12

3:15 pm Confessions St. Joseph Church
4:00 pm +Paul Windham St. Joseph Church

Sunday, September 13

7:30 am Int. Erin Ford St. Joseph Church
9:00 am +Jim & Colleen Cruz Sacred Heart Church
10:30am +Paul Windham & +Chet Branum St. Bernard
12:15 pm For the People Sacred Heart Church

Please Pray For: Maria Santos, Basil, Bosco, Mario, Pio, and Mariano Mainus, Sylvia Clark, Martin Fosnaugh, Jean DeSimone, Marie Ruchards, Jim Hogue and Family, Kimberly Ennis, Terri, Marian Griffin, Johnny, Janina Dzieciol, Kathi Branum, Orion, Sidney Gabby, Zenssi, Olivia, Hunter, & C., John Johnston, Barbara Hill, Chet Williams, Maria Mendes Da Costa, Catie Biesecker, Stacy Cudney, Josephine Silva, Jo Ann Dellabalma, Ann Marie DeSimone, Bill King, Martin & Claudia Vess, Chris Miller, Mary Alpers, Nancy Allen, David Russell, Sonny, Garrett Anderson, Dottie Barrett, Harvey & Mary Anne Bennett, Mildred Perrone, Massimo Matteoli, and Gary Cormier

Please Pray For Our Beloved Departed:

Glen Schmidt, Helen Saunders, Lena Machado, Obdulia Walters, Derick Wyatt, Fran Hill, Dennis and Gina Costa, Joe Hohmen, Lucy Sokolow, Sandra Cofer, Lena Petty, Fred Emerson, John Gierek, Gloria Allen, Rebecca Bertain, Roseann Cooney, Lorraine Holland, Sandra Lingle, Sarah Mixon, Suanna Rowell, Erling Dellabalma, Paul Windham, Rosealee Schuler, Nick Giannini, Juvenal (John) Regalo, Evo Fannuchi, Dianne Luzzi, Rose Ann Hurst, Tom Long, Joe Thompson, Colleen Cruz, Rodrigo Reyna Sanchez, Mary Antonelli, Mary Ellen Hadley, Camille Regli, and Delores McBroome

The St. Bernard office will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day.

St. Bernard Rosary Totals You may place your rosary counts in the collection baskets **Report: 13,584!**
Rosaries prayed last week =55 Cumulative= 13,584

Support This Week's Mission Appeal- Sept. 5/6

The Diocese of Gracias in Honduras is the youngest in Latin America; we just celebrated our fifth anniversary. We are located in indigenous territory where the roads are unpaved, and for much of the year we lack electricity and running water. We have 45 priests for 1,500 churches. We need to provide each priest with a car and build a seminary; we currently have 61 seminarians. Thank you for your support; we will grow as a Church.

Sing A Song To The Lord with musician Jesse Manibusan whose music is included in many parish missalette, including "Open My Eyes," and "Alleluia! Love is Alive!" Jesse and percussionist Rich Aguon, who has performed with many popular recording artists, will delight us with engaging storytelling and interactive religious and secular songs, as a benefit for Humboldt Redwood Cursillo. The festivities will be held at 7pm on Saturday, Oct. 10th in the St. Bernard Parish Hall. Tickets will be sold after some Masses, or by contacting Rene Brown (707-725-5040) or Ann Lynch (707-443-6741).

Interested in Learning More About the Catholic

Faith? Whether you are thinking about becoming Catholic, need to complete your Sacraments, or simply have questions about what Catholics believe, you are warmly invited to join us. OCIA classes begin Tuesday, September 8, from 7:00–8:30 p.m. in the Pinochi Room at Saint Bernard's Church. There is no obligation—just an opportunity to ask questions, learn, and discover where God may be leading you. For more information contact Deacon Dance at 707-407-9298

Is God Calling You to be a Sister? Join the Daughters of Charity "Come & See" Fall Religious Vocation Discernment Retreat, September 25 – 27, 2026 in the SF Bay Area. Stay with us! Pray with us and Explore God's Dream for YOU. For More Information: Daughters-Of-Charity.com/retreats/ **For Single Catholic Women Ages 18-40**

Heaven In Stone & Glass Cathedrals Film Sept. 20/23

On Sunday, September 20th at 7:15pm and Wed. Sept 23rd at 4:45pm at the Broadway Cinema there will be a special screening of Bishop Barron's film about the wonder and beauty of the great cathedrals of Europe. Tickets are \$12.25. Just beyond the doors of Europe's Gothic cathedrals, light pours through colored glass, stone soars toward heaven, and something stirs deep within the human soul. Millions of pilgrims and tourists visit cathedrals each year, sensing in rose windows and sacred imagery a transcendent beauty that the secular world cannot explain. Experience the Spirituality of the Gothic Cathedrals with Bishop Barron, journey across France to explore sacred mysteries built into the crown jewels of Gothic architecture: Chartres, Notre-Dame, Reims, Amiens, and Saint-Denis. With clarity and theological depth, Bishop Barron reveals what sacred architecture has proclaimed for centuries: God is not distant but weaves His revelation into the very fabric of creation