

STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO
ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, QUEENSPORT
ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT FELIX

PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR, 366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 358-2346

*The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at
www.cansoparishes.org*

TWENTY-FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ AUGUST 25, 2024

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, August 31 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*

Saturday, August 31 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - †*Alonzo & †Elizabeth Bond*

Sunday, September 1 - 9:00 - St. Agnes Parish Hall - †*Martin Bouchie*

Sunday, September 1 - 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea, Canso - †*Frank Richard*

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, August 29 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

COMMUNION CALLS - Available when requested, please contact the parish office.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS:

Choosing to Remain on the Side of Christ - On this Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B, the Church encourages us to always choose Christ. At times when we come to the crossroads of life, we become confused because we need to make choices that will make or mar our future. The First Reading and the Gospel present us with two choices: **between remaining or abandoning God**, Joshua asked the Israelites to choose between serving God and other gods. Christ asked His disciples: **"What about you, do you want to go away too?"** Using the analogy of marriage, Paul reminds us that just as a man or a woman chooses a wife or a husband due to love, so did Christ choose and take us to Himself. King David displayed his wisdom by making the right choice: **"I do not want to be punished by human beings. Let the Lord himself be the one to punish us, for he is merciful"** (2 Sam 24:10-25). Despite all odds, choosing to remain with Christ is, and will always be the best choice for anyone who is as wise. Many people today demand a diluting of Christian principles and

compromise on the true teachings of Christ. Many are still leaving the Church because they cannot understand and accept some of the teachings of Christ. Should we dilute and compromise on the basic principles in order to keep the flock together? While He (God) does not want anyone to be lost, He also does not want to change His word which is 'spirit and life'.

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU!

Star of the Sea (44)	745.00
Winter Fuel (2)	40.00
Loose	80.00
St. Agnes (28)	480.00
Loose	20.00
St. Joseph (21)	277.00
Loose	31.00
St. Vincent de Paul (8)	145.00

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - Tuesday, September 3 at 6:15 p.m.

Ministries Schedule, September 1

Lector - Buzz Lumsden

Cleaners - Sept 1 - 7 - Harry Delorey

Ways & Means

Regatta Prize Bingo - Profit - \$,1601.90

Chowder Luncheon - Profit - \$989.00

Cake Booth - Profit - \$2,345.00

A very special thank you is extended to all, you are very much appreciated!

Committee members have done an excellent job coordinating these events.

Next Events - September - Club 100 draw and Trivia Night scheduled for September 21.

ST. JOSEPH NEWS

Please note - We have finished painting the hall at a cost of \$1,100.00. We are asking for donations to help cover the cost. All donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank your for your ongoing support!

Freedom to Choose

This Week's Readings at Mass

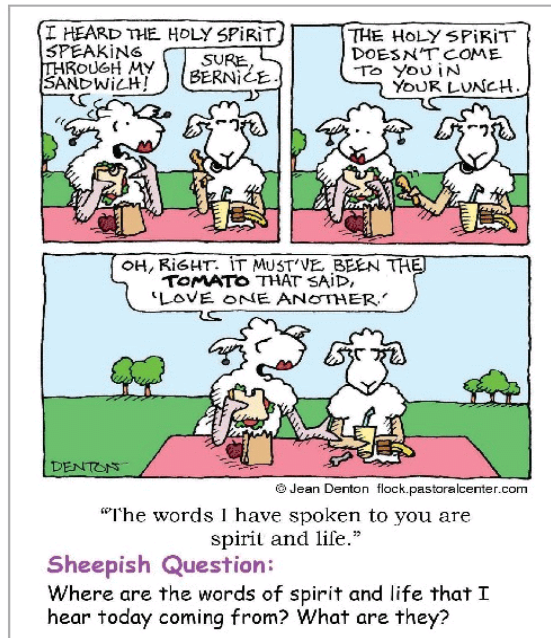
- ▶ Joshua 24:1-2a, 15-17, 18b - Decide today whom you will serve
- ▶ Ephesians 5:21-32 or 5:2a, 25-32 - Christian wives and husbands
- ▶ John 6:60-69 - Effect of the bread of life discourse

The Judeo-Christian tradition believes in human free will. In the garden of Eden, Adam and Eve chose freely to disobey God and eat of the forbidden tree. Yes, Eve was tempted by the serpent, but she didn't have to eat the fruit; she chose to, and so did Adam.

In the first reading from the Book of Joshua today, Joshua reminds the people that they have the freedom to choose whom they want to worship. They can worship the Lord God who brought them out of slavery in Egypt or they can worship the gods of the people where they live. Joshua gives the people a choice but tells them, "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

Jesus also respects the free will of the people he encounters. Throughout the Gospels, he invites people to follow him (fishermen, tax collectors, the rich young man, etc.), but he never forces them.

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus knows he has stirred up a great controversy when he declared that people must eat his flesh and drink his blood in order to have eternal life. It is not surprising that at this point in the Gospel some people who had been following him decide to turn away from him because they can't accept this teaching. He allows them to walk away freely and then asks the twelve apostles, "Do you also wish to go away?" Peter replied, "Lord, to whom



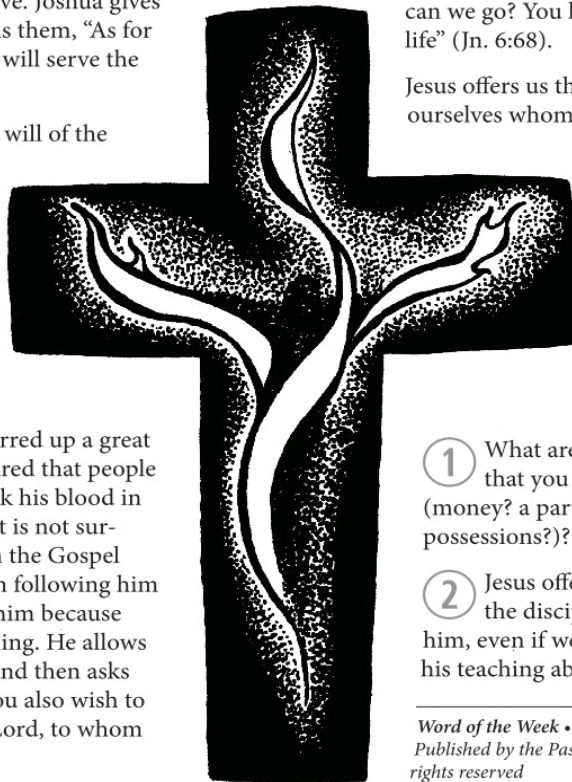
can we go? You have the words of everlasting life" (Jn. 6:68).

Jesus offers us the same freedom to choose for ourselves whom we will worship. If we choose to follow him, he wants us to do it freely, without being "guilted" into it or doing it out of coercion or force. Jesus will not override our free will.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What are other "gods" in our society that you are tempted to worship (money? a particular career path? education? possessions?)?
- 2 Jesus offers us the same invitation as the disciples. Do we still want to follow him, even if we can't wrap our minds around his teaching about the Bread of Life? Why?

Word of the Week • Copyright © 2020 Ann Naffziger.
Published by the Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved



JFD