

REFLECTION ON SEPTEMBER 3rd GOSPEL: Today’s Gospel continues the story that began in [last week’s Gospel](#). Simon Peter was called the “rock” upon which Jesus would build his Church, and yet Peter continues to show the limitations of his understanding of Jesus’ identity. Now that the disciples have acknowledged that Jesus is the Messiah, Jesus confides in them the outcome of his ministry: he must suffer and die in Jerusalem to be raised on the third day. Peter rejects this prediction, and Jesus rebukes him severely, calling him “Satan.” In opposing this aspect of Jesus’ mission, Peter shows that he is no longer speaking based on the revelation from God but as a human being. Jesus then teaches all of the disciples about the difficult path of discipleship: to be Christ’s disciple is to follow in his way of the cross. Peter could not yet understand what it meant to call Jesus the Messiah. It is unlikely that the other disciples understood any better. Messianic expectations were a common aspect of first-century Judaism. Under Roman occupation, many in Israel hoped and prayed that God would send a Messiah to free the Jews from Roman oppression. The common view was that the Messiah would be a political figure, a king that would free Israel from Roman rule. This is perhaps what Peter envisioned when he was led to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. In this passage, however, Jesus is beginning to teach his disciples that he would be the Messiah in a different way. Jesus would be more like the suffering servant described by the prophet Isaiah than the political liberator. Those who would be Jesus’ disciples would be called to a similar life of service. Perhaps this is what Peter feared most in Jesus’ prediction of his Passion. He whom Jesus had called “rock” would also be called upon to offer himself in sacrifice and service to others. Christian leaders today are still called to sacrifice and serve others as Jesus did.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK SEPT 6 - 10, 2023

- Wednesday 9:00 a.m** Braeside R. Emmett Lee *by Bob & Sandy Lee*
- Thursday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Doris Herrick *by Mackie & Joanne McLaren*
- Friday 9:00 a.m.** The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Arnprior Leo & Isabel Dupuis *by Diane*
- Saturday 4:30 p.m.** Arnprior Claire Poirier *by Mardi Coady & Family*
- Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Missa Pro Populo
- 10:30 a.m.** Braeside Special Intentions(FR) *by Jill & Chuck Sheffield*

POPE’S PRAYER INTENTION FOR AUGUST: For World Youth Day - We pray the World Youth Day in Lisbon will help young people to live and witness the Gospel in their own lives.

REFLECTION ON AUGUST 13th GOSPEL: Today’s Gospel directly follows last week’s account of Jesus feeding a crowd of more than 5,000 people with just five loaves of bread and two fish. For the sake of the crowds, Jesus had postponed his time of solitude. Now, at last, Jesus finds some time for quiet and prayer. He sends his disciples ahead of him by boat, dismisses the crowds, and then withdraws to the mountain to pray. The disciples do not fare well. They struggle to weather the wind and waves, making little progress in their journey. We are reminded of a previous story in [Chapter 8](#) of Matthew’s Gospel, when Jesus calms the seas. This time, however, Jesus does not calm the seas, and the disciples do not express fear until they see Jesus walking toward them on the water. In this story it is not the storm that is feared but the sight of Jesus before them, whom they mistake for a ghost. Clues like these suggest that this story is about the disciples’ growing understanding of the identity of Jesus. In continuity with [last week’s Gospel](#) about the feeding of the multitude, today’s Gospel is also about what the disciples’ faith in Jesus will enable them to do. In last week’s Gospel, when the disciples see the crowds, they ask Jesus to send the crowds away. Jesus turns the situation around, telling the disciples to feed the crowd with the provisions that they have. Both of these Gospels tell us much about ministry. Jesus calls to the disciples and calms their fears. He is not a ghost. The impulsive Peter seeks proof that the person is indeed Jesus. He asks Jesus to call him out onto the water, and Jesus grants this request. Peter’s fear and doubt overtake him, however, once he is walking on the water. Jesus reaches out to Peter and saves him. When Jesus and Peter enter the boat, Matthew reports that the wind ceases, and the disciples confess that Jesus is the Son of God. Faith in Jesus will enable the disciples to do the work that Jesus has done. Peter walks on water. The five loaves and two fish feed a multitude of people. The disciples can and will participate in the work of the kingdom of heaven. When Peter fears and doubts the person of Jesus, however, he falters. Peter’s example teaches us that true Christian ministry emerges from the faith that Jesus is the Messiah, God’s only Son.

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AUG 16 - 20, 2023

- Tuesday 9:00 a.m.** The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Arnprior Lesarge & Holmes Families *by Judy Holmes*
- Wednesday 9:00 a.m** Braeside Dominic & Emily Kelly *by Bob & Sandy Lee*
- Thursday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Carl Anderson *by Elizabeth & Gaston Dabeau*
- Friday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior The Hogan Family *by Their Daughter*
- Saturday 4:30 p.m.** Arnprior Carolyn Racine *by Roger & Family*
- Sunday 9:00 a.m.** Arnprior Missa Pro Populo
- 10:30 a.m.** Braeside June Murphy *by The Estate*

REFLECTION ON AUGUST 20TH GOSPEL: Last week we read about [Jesus walking on the water](#) and the disciples’ confession of faith that Jesus is the Son of God. If we were reading Matthew’s entire Gospel, we would have read about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees about Jewish purity laws. Jesus argues that it is not what goes into us that makes us unclean; he is referring to the strict Jewish dietary rules. Instead our words and our actions—what comes out of us—make us unclean because they emerge from a heart that is unclean. Knowing about Jesus’ debate with the Pharisees helps us to understand today’s Gospel. In fact the story heightens the surprise and shock we feel as we hear Jesus’ exchange with the Canaanite woman. The woman, who is not Jewish, approaches Jesus, requesting that he heal her demon-possessed daughter. At first Jesus ignores her; he says nothing. The disciples ask Jesus to send her away, and Jesus agrees, remarking that he was sent to minister to the Jews alone. The woman persists, paying homage to Jesus, and yet Jesus denies her request again. He even insults her, using a Jewish word of derision for Gentiles, “dog.” But the woman cleverly turns Jesus’ insult into an affirmation of faith. Only then does Jesus grant her request and heal her daughter. Jesus’ unresponsiveness to this woman may strike us as uncharacteristic or shocking. Yet in Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus’ ministry is directed primarily to the people of Israel. At only a very few points, such as the one found in today’s Gospel, do we find Jesus anticipating the later Christian ministry to the rest of the world. Behind Matthew’s text we can hear this early Christian community’s struggle to understand how God’s selection of Israel is consistent with two events: Israel’s rejection of Jesus and the Gentiles’ acceptance of Jesus. Just as Jesus was surprised by the faith expressed by the Canaanite woman, so too the first Christians were surprised that the Gentiles would receive the salvation God offered through Christ. In today’s second reading from Paul’s letter to the Romans, we hear the apostle Paul considering this same concern. The faith that the Canaanite woman expresses is an affirmation of and confidence in God’s abundant mercy.

| MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK AUG 22 - 27, 2023 | | | |
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| Tuesday | 9:00 a.m. | The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary Arnprior Steve Blais by Jim & Barb Vandygriff | |
| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | Braeside John Mellor <i>by the Estate</i> | |
| Thursday | 9:00 a.m. | St. Bartholomew, apostle Arnprior Intentions of the Hogan Family <i>by A Parishioner</i> | |
| Friday | 9:00 a.m. | Arnprior For the Intentions of Grace McGonigal <i>by Her Family in B.C.</i> | |
| Saturday | 4:30 p.m. | Arnprior Frank Schnob <i>by Jean & Wayne Forsyth</i> | |
| Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Arnprior Missa Pro Populo | |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Braeside Deceased Family & Friends <i>by Gerry & Jane Whalen</i> | |

REFLECTION ON AUGUST 27TH GOSPEL: In today’s Gospel, Jesus asks his disciples what people are saying about his identity. The disciples indicate that most believe that Jesus is a prophet of Israel. Then Jesus asks his disciples who they believe that he is. Simon Peter answers, identifying Jesus as the Messiah, the Son of God. Jesus commends Simon Peter for this profession of faith, indicating that this insight has come from God and because of his confession, Jesus calls him the "rock" upon which Jesus will build the Church. Peter is then given special authority symbolized by the “keys” to the Kingdom of Heaven and will play an important role in the New Testament Church, a role that has continued in those who are the successors of Peter. But as we shall see in next weekend’s Gospel, this special office and ministry must be exercised in keeping with the identity of Jesus including the way in which He fulfilled His mission - not through triumphalism and worldly standards - but through the path of humble service even to the point of laying down one’s life. Otherwise, those who carry out Peter’s ministry will be a stumbling block and even a “Satan” (see next Sunday’s Gospel)! We pray for the one who carries out the ministry of Peter in the Church today, that he may confess the faith in Christ Jesus and offer his life in humble service to his brothers and sisters

| MASS INTENTIONS FOR AUG 30 – SEPT 3, 2023 | | | |
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| Wednesday | 9:00 a.m. | Braeside | Nancy Wagner <i>by Jerry & Jane Whalen</i> |
| Thursday | 9:00 a.m. | Arnprior | Colm McDewitt <i>by Rosaleen</i> |
| First Friday | 9:00 a.m. | Arnprior | For Donors to the Memorial Fund & Those Named In Memoriam The Starflower Prayer Initiative |
| Saturday | 4:30 p.m. | Arnprior | Missa Pro Populo |
| Sunday | 9:00 a.m. | Arnprior | Jeanette Moncion <i>by Lilliane & Raymond Kirkey</i> |
| | 10:30 a.m. | Arnprior | Rev. Brady McNamara & Family <i>by The Estate</i> |

| Liturgical Appointments for the Month of September | | | |
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| Sept 17 th – St Joseph’s school will do reading/music/greeting | | | |
| September | 4:30 p.m. | 9:00 a.m. | 10:30 a.m. |
| Reader | Debbie | Roxanne | Mark Cassanto |
| Ministers of Communion | Margaret/Nancy | Betty/Janet | Gary Fisher |
| Greeter/Usher | Linda/Denis Clare +1 | Therese/Gilles Luc/Cheryl | Charlie Dagg |
| Music | Sept 2 nd – James Sept 16 th – CWL/Stephanie | | James |

We are in need of an organist/piano player. If there is anybody that is interested please contact the office. There is a stipend paid per mass.