



Twenty-Second Sunday Immaculate Conception

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MASS TIMES: August

Luseland Saturday 5 p.m.

Major Sunday 9 a.m.

Kerrobert Sunday 11 am

Dodsland Sunday 1 pm

Collection: \$2830 – August

SPIRITUALITY OF THE READINGS: John Foley – S.J.

It Takes Two

On previous Sundays Jesus has been curing people. Yet an odd thing happens in each case. He tells them, "Your faith has saved you." That creates a mystery. Quite obviously Jesus does the healing, so why does he say their faith did it? Why didn't he just say "Go in peace, I have healed you"? Let us seek the answer in Sunday's Gospel. This will be a roundabout way to get at an answer, so I ask you to wait for it.

Jesus is in Caesarea Philippi and the disciples are just back from their mission of preaching. He asks them who people think he is.

The disciples laugh boyishly and repeat some answers they have heard. Obviously they regard these guesses as absurd. Something like this:

Believe it or not, some think you are John the Baptist returned from the dead!

The ones I talked to said you were the prophet Elijah! It was hilarious!

A few of them said you are Jeremiah or one of the other prophets! They just don't know what to make of you.

Laughter all around.

But Jesus' question was a curve ball and now it crosses the plate. He says abruptly, "And what about you? Who do you say I am?"

Eyes wander, feet scuff, laughter turns into a cough. The disciples' faith is still young and perhaps they are confused about it, not to mention the fact that up to this point they have not been required to profess anything out loud. Red faces.

Peter is bold, awkwardly walking on water again, figuratively this time. He stammers out his best answer.

You ... you are ... the, uh, ... yes, uh, the ... the Son of ... you are the Christ, the Son of the living God! Silence and then nods and relief all around.

"Simon, how great is your faith," Jesus says. "Whatever you open with this faith will stay open. Whatever your faith shuts will remain shut, not only here but in heaven."

A high compliment to Peter's tottering belief status.

But does this help with the contradiction we began with? Is it Jesus' action or an act of their faith?

Jesus is always seeking a two-way liaison between himself and us, not just one-way. He wants us to have a relationship to the fullness of who he is. Besides being a charismatic leader or a good friend, he is *the very reality of God's love, present in the world, wide open to loving each of us—and being*

Date	Reader	Offertory
Sept. 6(Sun) – 9 am	Sharon	M Chotowetz
Sept. 13(Sun) – 9 am	Aimée	D & C Chotowetz
Sept. 20(Sun) – 9 am	Darren	R & J Cook
Sept. 27(Sun) – 9 am	Blanche	K & G Cowan
Oct. 11(Sun) – 9 am	Vicki	R Cowan

loved in return. He wants a mutual love-relationship with you and me, one in which we open up our hearts and let Godly love in—and return it.

The name of that openness to God's love on the part of a person is "faith."

Faith.

So the answer is truly, "your faith has saved you." *But it is faith in Jesus' cures.* These are never just a matter of him acting on his own, like a mechanic replacing spark plugs. They are love being given and love being received. The ones who were cured must have opened themselves and have at least a beginning relationship with Jesus as the loving Messiah.

Healing is then at last able to take root.

MASS AT REWARD

Weekend Mass will also be celebrated at Holy Rosary Church at Reward at 7 p.m. on the following Saturdays: Sept. 5. (Note: there is no evening Mass at St. Peter Church in Unity, SK on those dates.)

THE SEASON OF CREATION

The Season runs from Sept 1, the World Day of Prayer for Creation, until Oct. 4, the Feast of Saint Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the environment. "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks" (Is 2:4) is the theme of Pope Leo XIV's Message for the 2026 World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, published at: <https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiv/en/messages/creation/documents/20260815-messaggio-giornata-curacreato.html>. The Season of Creation is an opportunity to join the many efforts of Christians and of people of good will around the world who are working for ecological conversion. During the Season of Creation, Bishop Mark Hagemoen will celebrate The Mass for Care of Creation at 9 a.m. Sunday, Sept. 27 at the Cathedral of the Holy Family in Saskatoon, which will be available on live-stream video at

<https://saskatoonmass.com>.

BIBLES, HOLY CARDS, ROSARIES, CROSSES –

The diocesan Hospital Chaplaincy Office is seeking donations of materials to assist with spiritual care outreach to patients at hospitals in Saskatoon. If you have Bibles, holy cards, rosaries, crosses or other small sacred items that would be appropriate to share with those facing illness, please consider donating them "Attention to Jackie Saretsky, Hospital Chaplaincy" at the Catholic Pastoral Centre, 2nd floor of the Cathedral of the Holy Family, 123 Nelson Road, Saskatoon, or call (306) 659-5839 for information. (Hospital Chaplaincy is supported by gifts to the Bishop's Annual Appeal.)

CWL CLOTHING DEPOT

The CWL Clothing Depot in Saskatoon is requesting donations of much-needed items in order to provide affordable good quality household items and clothing to community members with limited funds. Items needed include clothing (any age), jeans, kitchenware, cutlery, pots and pans, Rubbermaid containers, clocks, sheets, comforters, and towels, as well as working small appliances such as toasters, kettles, coffee makers. Drop off donations at the CWL Clothing Depot, 619 20th Street West, Saskatoon (located on lower level of Friendship Inn) -- please ring the bell at the back door in the alley of the depot; drop off times are 10:30 a.m. to 3: p.m. Monday-Friday. Thank you for your kindness in making a difference for someone in need. For donation inquiries or to become a volunteer, please contact Bea at (306) 242-5042.

FRESH SNAILS

A woman is preparing a dinner for her parents and sends her husband out to buy some fresh snails. The husband buys the snails then pops into the pub for a quick drink.

One thing leads to another and he stays for a few rounds, so many in fact, that by the time he leaves it's 9 in the evening.

Realizing he's extremely late the husband runs home, pours the snails over the path leading to his house, then he rings the bell.

His furious wife opens the door.

"Where have you been?!!!" she screams.

The husband waves back to the snails, "Come on, lads! We're almost there!"

Have a great week! Safe harvesting!