[Jesus] answered them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” - Lk 13:24
Saturday, August 24—**Memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
8:00am Intentions of the Parishioners
Revelation 21:9b-14 / John 1:45-51
**Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:00—3:30pm**
4:00pm †Thomas Normand by his Wife

**Sunday, August 25—21st Sunday in Ordinary Time**
8:00am Rachel Galvan *(living—birthday)* by Rosemary Henault
10:30am †Jose Ramirez by his Family
4:30pm †Kevin Henry by Martha Gorton

Monday, August 26—**Weekday**
7:30am †Annette Plourde
1 Thessalonians 1:1-5, 8b-10 / Matthew 23:13-22

**Tuesday, August 27—St. Monica**
7:30am †Karen Nolan by Jack & Dot Deitelbaum
1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 / Matthew 26:23-26
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 8:00am—9:00am**

**Wednesday, August 28—St. Augustine**
7:30am †Robert Sequenzia, Jr. by Rosemary & Bruce Littlejohn
1 Thessalonians 2:9-13 / Matthew 23:27-32
**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament 6:30pm—7:30pm**

**Thursday, August 29—The Passion of St. John the Baptist**
7:30am †Kevin Henry by James & Helen Kelly
1 Thessalonians 3:7-13 / Mark 6:17-29

**Friday, August 30—Weekday**
7:30am Debbie Bulakowski *(living)* by Tuesday Prayer Group
1 Thessalonians 4:1-8 / Matthew 25:13-13

**Saturday, August 31—Memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
8:00am Intentions of the Parishioners
1 Thessalonians 4:9-11 / Matthew 25:14-30
**Sacrament of Reconciliation 3:00—3:30pm**
4:00pm †Jennie Kubec the Tropeano Family

**Sunday, September 1—22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time**
8:00am †Robert Fortin by his Mother
10:30am Diane Grego *(living)* by Debbie Besaw
4:30pm Eric Henault *(living)*

The Sanctuary Lamp is burning this week in honor of **Deborah Bulakowski** by the Tuesday Prayer Group

**Rest in Peace**

**Raymond Karabian**
To their families & friends, we offer our prayers & sympathy.

**Stewardship**

“Fostering Stewardship as a Way of Life”
Caring for and Sharing with Each Other
**“G I F T S”**
Giving In Faith Through Stewardship
Discover your God-given gifts and find a place in our community to give your gift back to God in gratitude and service.

**Treasure (Resources): Financial Report**
- $ 2,292.00 Envelope Offertory for August 18, 2019
- $ 812.00 Loose Offertory for August 18, 2019
- $ 1,121.00 L E D
- $ 1,389.00 Previous weeks & other donations
- $ 5,614.00 Sub-total
- $ 393.00 Cathedraticum
- $ 5,221.00 Total that stays in the parish for our use.

*Thank you for giving your “first fruits” back to the Lord! May God return your generosity to you 100-fold!*

**Staff**
Father John Kuzhikottayil, Administrator
Father Binny Issac and Father Joy Jacob, Parochial Vicars
Annette Whidden, Director of Religious Education
Mary Sciarretta, Child Care Center Director
Thomas Festa, Facilities Manager
Jeff Bingham, Parish Secretary
Helen Finateri, Bookkeeper
Anita Gawronski, Parish Council President
Nancy Hanson, Parish Minister
Cornell Bialicki, Music Director & Organist

**Finance Council**
Father John, Matt Fortney, Michael Mason, David Whidden, Don Duman (Trustee) & Cindy Russo (Trustee)

**Ministries**
Virtus Facilitator: Annette Whidden
Pro-Life: Dorothy Deitelbaum
Raffle: Don & Jackie Duman
Attic Treasures: Joan Bettencourt
Food Bank: Barbara Salerno & Mabel Herring
Cooking Club: Joanne Ramos
Adult Faith Formation Minister: Sherri-Lyn Raimo
Retreat Coordinator: Mary Welch
Holy Name Society President: Don Duman
Our Lady’s Guild Co-Presidents: Mabel Herring and Jackie Duman
Our questions this week center around music during the Mass.

Saint Augustine recounts in his autobiography, *Confessions*, an experience he had during the singing of the Mass: “How I wept, deeply moved by your hymns, songs, and the voices that echoed through your Church! What emotion I experienced in them! Those sounds flowed into my ears, distilling the truth in my heart. A feeling of devotion surged within me, and tears streamed down my face—tears that did me good.”

How can we explain this overwhelming and transforming experience that led one of our greatest saints to the Church? Clearly, this was much more than a man simply being moved by a well-performed song. His entire being was penetrated and transformed through music. How can this be?

At Mass, Christ Sings to the Father

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (1157) makes a direct reference to Saint Augustine’s experience when it teaches that the music and song of the liturgy “participate in the purpose of the liturgical words and actions: the glory of God and the sanctification of the faithful.”

The Mass itself is a song: it is meant to be sung. Recall that the Gospels only tell us of one time when Jesus sings: when He institutes the Holy Eucharist. We should not be surprised, then that Christ sings when He institutes the *Sacramentum caritatis* (the Sacrament of love), and that for the vast majority of the past 2,000 years, the various parts of the Mass have been sung by priests and lay faithful. In the 1960s, the Second Vatican Council strongly encouraged a rediscovery of the ancient concept of singing the Mass: “[The musical tradition of the universal Church] forms a necessary or integral part of solemn liturgy.” The Mass is most itself when it is sung.

What is Sacred Music?

Sacred music is, in the narrowest sense, that music created to support, elevate, and better express the words and actions of the sacred liturgy. The Council praises it as music “closely connected...with the liturgical action,” for example, (1) the Order of the Mass (dialogues between ministers and people, the unchanging framework of the Mass), (2) the Ordinary of the Mass (Lord Have Mercy, the Gloria; the Creed; Holy, Holy, Holy; and the Lamb of God), and (3) the Proper of the Mass (the priest’s sung prayers, the Responsorial Psalm, Alleluia and verses, the antiphons and psalms prescribed for the processions).

Sacred music is distinct from the broader category of what we may call “religious” music, that which aids and supports Christian faith but is not primarily a part of the sacred liturgy. “Religious music includes various devotional music, such as much popular hymnody, “praise and worship” music, as well as a host of other musical forms.

The Council’s enthusiastic rediscovery and promotion of sacred music was not meant to discourage “religious” music but rather to encourage it—assuming the clear distinction and proper relationship between them. Just a few years before the Council, Pope Pius XII wrote:

“We must hold in honor that music which is not primarily a part of the sacred liturgy, but which by its power and purpose greatly aides religion. This music is therefore rightly called religious music...As experience shows, it can exercise great and salutary force and power on the souls of the faithful, both when it is used in churches during non-liturgical services and ceremonies, or when it is used outside churches at various solemnities and celebrations.”

We shall continue or look at the importance of music and singing at Mass next time.
St. John School in Watertown, CT. is accepting applications for a part-time Spanish Teacher and a part-time Middle School Language Arts teacher— with classes beginning September 3, 2019.

Applications should be directed to Mrs. Marylou Iannone, Principal, or Mrs. Piccolo at St. John School, 760 Main Street, Watertown, CT (860) 274-9208

**Attention We now offer Infant and Toddler Care**
State-licensed facility offering Year-round Full and Part time care for children aged 6 weeks to 12 years of age, including Before and After care during the School Year.

**HOURS: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.**
1006 New Haven Road * Naugatuck, CT
stvincentccc@gmail.com * 203-723-9094
FAX 203-632-8157

**Parishioners in active ministries** (lectors, catechists, aides, ministers, etc) need to attend a training session in child protection. The Virtus Training session entitled “Protecting God’s Children” is being offered at various locations throughout the Archdiocese.

**Important: Register online only at:**
www.virtusonline.org

Church of the Assumption—Woodbridge
Monday August 26—6:00pm

Sacred Heart High School—Waterbury
Tuesday, August 27—6:00pm
“LET US JOURNEY WITH CHRIST” POPE FRANCIS

SAINT VINCENT FERRER
ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
1006 New Haven Rd. Naugatuck, CT 06770
Phone: 203-723-7497
Monday-Friday 10am-3pm
Church email: stvincentfer@sbcglobal.net
Parish website: saintvincentferrerchurch.org
Email Father John: kcjohnsdb@gmail.com
Phone Father John: (203)729-4543 ext. 101

EVEN SUMMARY THIS WEEK AT ST. VINCENT FERRER

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<th>Day</th>
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<th>Masses @ 8am and 10:30am and 4:30pm //</th>
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REFLECTION ON THE TWENTY FIRST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus doesn’t answer the question put to Him in this Sunday’s Gospel. It profits us nothing to speculate on how many will be saved. What we need to know is what He tells us today—how to enter into salvation and how urgent it is to strive now, before the Master closes the door.

Jesus is “the narrow gate,” the only way of salvation, the path by which all must travel to enter the kingdom of the Father. In Jesus, God has come—as He promises in this week’s First Reading—to gather nations of every language, to reveal to them His glory.

Eating and drinking with them, teaching in their streets, Jesus in the Gospel is slowly making His way to Jerusalem. There, Isaiah’s vision will be fulfilled: On the holy mountain He will be lifted up, and He will draw to Himself brethren from among all the nations to worship in the heavenly Jerusalem, to glorify Him for His kindness, as we sing in today’s Psalm.

In God’s plan, the kingdom was proclaimed first to the Israelites and last to the Gentiles, who in the Church have come from the earth’s four corners to make up the new people of God.

Many, however, will lose their place at the heavenly table, Jesus warns. Refusing to accept His narrow way they will weaken, rendering themselves unknown to the Father.

We don’t want to be numbered among those of drooping hands and weak knees. So, we must strive for that narrow gate, a way of hardship and suffering—the way of the beloved Son.

As this week’s Epistle reminds us, by our trials we know we are truly God’s sons and daughters. We are being disciplined by our afflictions, strengthened to walk that straight and narrow path—that we may enter the gate and take our place at the banquet of the righteous.

Scott Hahn

SAINT VINCENT DE PAUL DINNER

Our next meal for St Vincent de Paul is on Sunday, August 25, 2019. The meal will be Pulled Pork with sandwich rolls, Pasta Salad, Baked Beans and Cake. We are asking our Parishioners to provide us with Rotini pasta, cans of Baked Beans and Italian Salad Dressing.

We thank you for your continued support.

On Saturday, August 31st at the 4:00 o’clock Mass we will be honored by the presence of Father Jose Mathew SDB, the Salesian Provincial of the Province of New Delhi.

Father will celebrate the Mass with us.

Come pray the Rosary with us! Sundays at 10AM in the chapel!

St. Vincent Ferrer Roman Catholic Church

August 25th—Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Lord is calling people from the east and west and north and south. He said “strive to enter through the narrow gate.”

The narrow gate highlights the difficulty of responding wholeheartedly to Christ. If you want to respond to the call to a priestly vocation, call Fr. Michael Casey, Director of Vocations Pastoral Center Telephone: 860-761-7456
Email: vocations@aohct.org or Visit the web at www.hartfordpriest.com.