

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time: Aug 24, 2025

The Narrow Path:

“Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough.” This teaching of Jesus is a hard one to wrestle with in a world that is consumed with comfort and luxury. People don’t want to hear about sacrifice, denial of self, and teachings that are uncomfortable to preach. Many would rather live their lives in the way they see fit while simultaneously hoping to reap the benefits of heaven.

This form of ‘Christianity’ where everyone is saved with little to no effort is a fantasy that encourages a life contrary to the Gospel. As much as we may wish for this to be the case, the readings today remind us that following Jesus is about taking up our cross and following him. To be authentic disciples and stewards, we must heed the words of St. Paul to the Hebrews and be willing to subject ourselves to the discipline of the Lord. We must strive to be humble like Jesus, gladly taking up our cross and following him.

Let us not walk the path that is broad and smooth, with many comforts and luxuries along the way, for this is the path that leads to destruction. Rather, let us strive to be like the saints and walk the narrow path, which is hard and difficult but leads to life everlasting with the Lord. As stewards, we are called to give of ourselves and to be willing to travel this narrow path. One way to do this is through sacrifice and fasting. Let us take up the practice this week of offering some comfort up to the Lord so that we can better orient ourselves to the narrow path of life.

Summary: In a world consumed with comfort, no one wants to hear the Gospel message of the narrow path, a path full of sacrifice, self-denial, and carrying one’s cross. However, this is the life that God calls his disciples to live, to travel the hard and narrow path following our Lord who waits for us at the end. As we take up practices of self-denial and sacrifice, we become more like Jesus and are better suited to travel the narrow path, rather than the broad and easy path of destruction.

Creation Care Summit Planting Seeds of Peace & Hope

Join us as we learn from experts, advocates, students, clergy and from Catholic social teaching about planting seeds of peace and hope for creation. *Isaiah 32:16-18*

Sat Sept 13 @ 9am - 12:30pm

Archdiocese of St. Louis

Cardinal Rigali Center

20 Archbishop May Drive

St. Louis, MO 63119

RSVP (Required): bit.ly/2025CreationSummit

Go out to all the world and tell the Good News.

Holy Father’s Intention for August:

For mutual coexistence

Let us pray that societies where coexistence seems more difficult might not succumb to the temptation of confrontation for ethnic, political, religious, or ideological reasons.

Today’s Gospel: Luke 13:22-30

Jesus passed through towns and villages, teaching as he went and making his way to Jerusalem. Someone asked him, "Lord, will only a few people be saved?" He answered them, "Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I tell you, will attempt to enter but will not be strong enough. After the master of the house has arisen and locked the door, then will you stand outside knocking and saying, 'Lord, open the door for us.' He will say to you in reply, 'I do not know where you are from. And you will say, 'We ate and drank in your company and you taught in our streets.' Then he will say to you, 'I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you evildoers!' And there will be wailing and grinding of teeth when you see Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God and you yourselves cast out. And people will come from the east and the west and from the north and the south and will recline at table in the kingdom of God. For behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last."

New Mass Schedule:

In ensuring the efficient time and better quality for PSR program and youth activities the mass schedule must be changed. This new schedule has been consulted widely among parish council, youth leaders, and catechists. All are graciously supportive. The new mass schedule will be as follows:

Mass in Vietnamese: 07:30 am - 08:30 am

Mass in English: 09:00 am - 10:00 am

Mass in Vietnamese: 10:30 am - 11:30 am.

This new schedule will be in effective on September 7th, 2025.

Thoughts on Today’s Gospel:

*“The Christian is not the result of persuasion, but of power” (Saint Ignatius of Antioch)

* “The Church does not grow through proselytism but through attraction” (Francis)

* “One enters into prayer as one enters into liturgy: by the narrow gate of faith. Through the signs of his presence, it is the Face of the Lord that we seek and desire; it is his Word that we want to hear and keep” (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2656)

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"Lord, will only a few people be saved?"

Today, the Gospel raises the theme of the salvation of our souls. This is the essence of Christ’s message and the “supreme law of the Church” (in fact, this is stated this way in our Code of Canon Law). The salvation of the soul is a fact insofar as it is a gift from God, but for those of us that have not yet crossed the threshold of death, salvation is still only a possibility. Will you be saved or will you be condemned? That is, will you accept or will you reject God's everlasting offer of love?

St. Augustine said “...he who destroyed in himself a good which might have been eternal, became worthy of eternal evil.” We have only two possibilities in our life: either God or nothing, for without God nothing has any meaning. In this sense, when one does not partake in the essence of God, life, death, joy, pain, love, etc., are just concepts without any logic. When a person sins, he or she avoids the Creator's glance. God is constantly looking at the sinner with love, and in order not to force his freedom He expects a small gesture of willingness to get back to him.

"Lord, will only a few people be saved?" (Lk 13:23). Christ does not respond to this question. Therefore, it remained unanswered, just as it is today, for “this is a mystery, truly inscrutable, which embraces the holiness of God and the conscience of man. The silence of the Church is, therefore, the only appropriate position for the Christian faith” (Saint John Paul II). The Church does not state any opinion about those who dwell in hell, but based on Christ's words it does state an opinion about its existence and the fact there will be many damned in the Final Judgment. And whoever denies this, whether clerical or lay thereby denies a truth of our faith.

We are free to turn our soul towards the Savior, and we are also free to be obstinate in our refusal to do so. Our death will seal our decision forever...



Parish Council:

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314.679.0313

Finance Council:

Mrs. Thuong Hoai Nguyen
314.691.6508

Children Religious Education:

Sr. Mary Hanh Nguyen, LHC
314.736.9337

Liturgy Committee:

Mr. Hung Bui: 314.783.7266

Offering for Aug 17, 2025

Total Sum. Collection \$3,865.00

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time:

Will you help gather people to be a part of the reign of God? Pay to be open if God calls you to serve as priest, deacon, brother or sisters. (Isaiah 66:18-21)

luhal@dwci.edu or call
1-800-553-3321

Resurrection Our Lord Church

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**Emergency Only: Fr. Francis 202-368-6828;
Fr. Peter 773-888-3088**

**Fr. Francis X. Binh Thanh Nguyen SVD, Pastor
Fr. Peter Son Le, SVD, Parochial Vicar**

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Baptism: Arrangements must be made one week in advance.

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Sunday from 7:15 am to 7:35 am or by appointment.

Marriage: Arrangements must be made at least 6 months prior to plan date of wedding.

Mass Schedule & Mass Intentions

- Sun 8/24:** * Thanksgiving by Lap Sam family
* Andrew, Peter, thanksgiving & intention by Maria Uyen
- Mon 8/25:** * Joseph Khanh by Thao An family
- Tue 8/26:** * Dominic and all souls by 1 person
* Thanksgiving and peace for family by 1 person
- Wed 8/27:** * Peter-paul by 1 person
* Maria Lan Hoang by Kiet Do
- Thus 8/28:** * Joseph Khanh by Thao An family
* All souls by Hong Au
- Fri 8/29:** * All souls and unborn babies by Thuy Le
* Joseph and Maria by Hong Au
- Sat 8/30:** * Peace for family by Hong Au
* Andrew, Peter, thanksgiving & intention by Maria Uyen