



St. John's Parish
Roman Catholic Church

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WHEN LOVE BURNS

TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - AUGUST 17, 2025

In today's Gospel passage (cf. Lk 12:49-53), Jesus warns the disciples that the time for decision has arrived. In fact, his coming into the world coincides with the time for decisive choices: the option for the Gospel cannot be delayed. And in order to make this call clearer, he alludes to the fire that he himself came to bring to earth. He says: "I came to cast fire upon the earth; and would that it were already kindled" (v. 49). These words aim to persuade the disciples to abandon their attitude of laziness, apathy, indifference and closure, so as to welcome the fire of God's love; that love which, as Saint Paul reminds us, "has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit" (Rm 5:5). Because it is the Holy Spirit that makes us love God and love our neighbour. It is the Holy Spirit whom we all have within us.

Jesus confides his most ardent desire to his friends and also to us: to spread the fire of God's love on earth that enlightens life and through which mankind is saved. Jesus calls us to spread throughout the world this fire, thanks to which, we will be recognized as his true disciples. The fire of love, lit by Christ in the world through the Holy Spirit, is a boundless fire. It is a universal fire. This was so ever since the early days of Christianity: bearing witness to the Gospel spread like a beneficial fire, overcoming all division among individuals, social categories, peoples and nations. Bearing witness to the Gospel burns. It overcomes all forms of particularism and keeps charity wide open to all, with a preferential option for the poorest and the excluded.

Adherence to the fire of love that Jesus brought to earth, envelopes our entire existence and requires the adoration of God as well as a willingness to serve others. Adoration of God and a willingness to serve others. First, the readiness to adore God, also means learning the prayer of adoration which we usually forget. This is why I invite everyone to discover the beauty of the prayer of adoration and to recite it often. And second, the willingness to serve others. I think with admiration of the many youth communities and groups, who during the summer, dedicate themselves to this service to the sick, the poor and people with disabilities. In order to live according to the Gospel spirit, faced with the ever new needs that arise in the world, there is a need for disciples of Christ who know how to respond with new charitable initiatives. And so, with the adoration of God and service to others — practised together, adoring God and serving others — the Gospel truly manifests itself as a fire that saves, that changes the world beginning with a change in the heart of each one.

In this perspective, we can also understand Jesus' other statement mentioned in today's passage which, at first glance, may be disconcerting: "Do you think that I have come to give peace on earth? No, I tell you, but rather division" (Lk 12:51). He came to "separate with fire". To separate what? Good from evil, the just from the unjust. In this sense he came to "divide", to cause "uneasiness" — albeit in a healthy way — in his disciples' lives, breaking the facile illusions of those who think they can combine Christian life with worldliness, Christian life with compromises of all kinds, piety with a hostile attitude to others. Combining, some think, true religiosity with superstitious practices: how many so-called Christians go to fortune tellers to have their palms read! And this is superstition. It is not God. One must not live in a hypocritical way but be willing to pay the price for choices that are consistent — this is the attitude that each of us should seek in life: [being] consistent — paying the price for being consistent with the Gospel. Being consistent with the Gospel. Because it is good to call ourselves Christian but above all it is necessary to be Christian in concrete situations, witnessing to the Gospel, which is essentially love for God and for our brothers and sisters.

May Mary Most Holy help us to allow our hearts to be purified by the fire brought by Jesus in order to spread it with our life through decisive and courageous choices.

POPE FRANCIS — August 18, 2019

ENGLISH MASS SCHEDULE

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 16 **5:00 PM**

Sunday, August 17 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

Tuesday, August 19 **11:00 AM**

Wednesday, August 20 **11:00 AM**
Saint Bernard

+Ron & Pauline Craig

Thursday, August 21 **11:00 AM**
Saint Pius X

Friday, August 22 **11:00 AM**
The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday, August 23 **5:00 PM**
+Asdreed Apelian

Sunday, August 24 **9:00 AM**
For All Parishioners Living & Deceased

MISAS EN ESPAÑOL

XX Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 16 de Agosto **7:00 PM**
+Walter Sidler

Domingo 17 de Agosto **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

Martes 19 de Agosto **12:00 PM**

Miercoles 20 de Agosto **12:00 PM**
San Bernardo

Jueves 21 de Agosto **12:00 PM**
San Pio X

Viernes 22 de Agosto **12:00 PM**
Nuestra Señora María Reina

XXI Domingo Ordinario

Sabado 23 de Agosto **7:00 PM**

Domingo 24 de Agosto **11:00 AM & 1:00 PM**
Por la Comunidad Parroquial

The Assumption of Mary explained by Pope Leo

God came to meet us, he assumed our flesh fashioned from the earth, and has carried it with him into the presence of God, or as we commonly say "into heaven." It is the mystery of Jesus Christ, who became flesh, died and rose for our salvation. Inseparable from him, is also the mystery of Mary, the woman from whom the Son of God has taken flesh, and of the Church, the mystical body of Christ. It concerns a unique mystery of love, and thus of freedom. Just as Jesus said "yes," so also Mary said "yes;" she believed in the word of the Lord. All of her life has been a pilgrimage of hope together with her son, the Son of God, a pilgrimage which, through the Cross and Resurrection, has reached the heavenly homeland, in the embrace of God.

La Asunción de María explicada por el Papa León

Dios ha salido a nuestro encuentro, ha asumido nuestra carne, hecha de tierra, y la ha llevado consigo, simbólicamente decimos "al cielo", es decir, con Dios. Es el misterio de Jesucristo, encarnado, muerto y resucitado para nuestra salvación; e inseparable de Él está también el misterio de María, la mujer de la cual el Hijo de Dios ha tomado la carne, y de la Iglesia, cuerpo místico de Cristo. Se trata de un único misterio de amor y, por tanto, de libertad. Como Jesús ha dicho "sí", también María ha dicho "sí", ha creído en la palabra del Señor. Y toda su vida ha sido un peregrinaje de esperanza junto al Hijo de Dios y suyo, una peregrinación que, a través de la cruz y la resurrección, la hizo alcanzar la patria, el abrazo de Dios.

MISSION APPEAL - Saturday 16 and Sunday 17, 2025

The **Archdiocese of Mwanza** is located in the northwestern region of Tanzania, one of the vibrant nations of East Africa. We are blessed to border Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi, Mozambique, Malawi, Zambia, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. Tanzania is also home to Mount Kilimanjaro - Africa's tallest peak and the second-highest mountain in the world.

Through this Mission Appeal, we humbly seek your support for three critical initiatives that are vital to the life and growth of our Church and our people: Priestly Formation, Education for Girls, and a Clean Drinking Water Project.