

“Who do You Say that I Am?”

Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus looked down at the footpath beneath him. He was filled with anxiety because this good brown earth he walked upon would soon end for him. The world in which he lived was going to be taken away from him. Jerusalem waited. As Jesus walked he realized each step north was toward a false safety. As long as he was going north he was away from Jerusalem. But time was running swiftly and the days could now be numbered.

John was at his side and saw the worry on Jesus' face. “What troubles you, Lord?” he asked.

Jesus answered with a brave smile. “The future.” he said.

Jesus knew that when they reached the Roman city of Caesarea Philippi they would have to turn back. When they started south Jesus would begin the first steps of his own death march.

Having crossed to the east side of the Sea of Galilee, the long-robed men walked to Bethsaida where Jesus restored the sight of a blind man. Bethsaida had been rebuilt and renamed Julias, the name of Emperor Augustus' daughter. This was a political gesture by Philip the Tetrarch. Philip named his own capitol city Caesarea to honor Rome, but added his own name after it to avoid confusion with Caesarea Maritima on the coast.

When Jesus and the disciples arrived at Caesarea Philippi they were deep in a gentile country. No Jews lived here. Roman banners blew in the wind outside the palace. Helmeted centurions guarded the entry to this remote outpost filled with foreigners who pretended to enjoy the grace of Greece under the watchful eyes of the Empire and the Tetrarchy.

In one of the outlying villages near the river Jesus found a place to retreat. For a time he would give his full attention to deepening the formation of the disciples, preparing them to carry on after him. He began with the question: “Who do people say that I am?”

After they answered incorrectly he asked them directly: “And who do you say that I am?”

Peter told him: “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Jesus praised him: “Good for you, Simon, son of John.” Jesus assured him that such an understanding must have been revealed to him directly “by my Father in heaven.”

Jesus placed his hands on Peter's strong shoulders and solemnly entrusted him with the future.

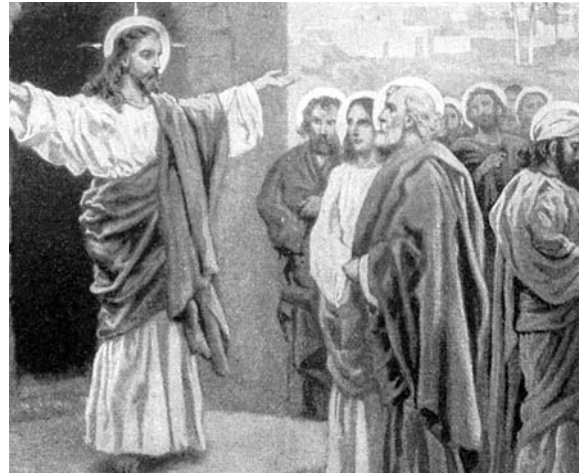
“Peter, you are a rock and on this rock foundation I will build my church.”

Peter smiled as Jesus called him by his nickname. Peter means rock. Their faith that Jesus was the Messiah was the cornerstone that would have to support the faith of the disciples for the rest of their lives.

Jesus continued: “...and not even death will ever be able to overcome it. I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of heaven.”

The disciples listened intently as they were told that Peter would have the power to bind things and to loose things upon the earth. With these keys to the kingdom Peter would receive the transfer of power.

Peter felt a shiver of fear sweep through him. He was just a fisherman. He knew he didn't have the ability or the strength to achieve such heights. Peter wanted to run; back to his boat, back to Capernaum. But he knew he would never be able to return to his peaceful life as a fisherman. Instead, he stood now before an awesome threshold.



It was merciful that he could not comprehend the immensity of what would follow. Peter was trembling as he heard the sounds of the water gurgling over the rocks in the river. A cool breeze fluttered the leaves of the trees. In the distance there was the sound of summer thunder. It looked like it was going to rain.

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We must also answer Jesus' question: "Who do you say that I am? Our own answer will describe our faith. It will also describe the life we lead in this world and in the next.

-- Deacon Dick Folger

INFORMATION FOR THE COMING WEEK

MASS INTENTIONS

For August 25, 2008 to August 31, 2008

Mon.	8:15 a.m. --	Communion Service
Tue.	8:15 a.m. --	Fr. José M. León (Birthday)
Wed.	8:15 a.m. --	Martha Estrella (Health)
Thur.	8:15 a.m. --	Ramon A. Gonzalez (Dec.)
Fri.	8:15 a.m. --	Maria Elena Hermez (Health)
Sat.	9:00 a.m. --	Eloisa Lopez (Dec.)
	5:00 p.m. --	Maria Pitta (Birthday)
Sun.	6:45 a.m. --	Francisco Nieves (Dec.)
	8:15 a.m. --	Maria Pitta (Dec.)
	9:45 a.m. --	Elirey (Birthday) & Oscar Rodriguez (Birthday)
	11:30 a.m.--	Rex Cordova (Dec.)

WEEKDAY READINGS

For August 25, 2008 to August 30, 2008

Mon	2 Thessalonians 1:1-5,11-12 / Matthew 23:13-22
Tues.	2 Thessalonians 2:1-3a,14-17 / Matthew 23:23-26
Wed.	2 Thessalonians 3:6-10,16-18 / Matthew 23:27-32
Thu.	1 Corinthians 1:1-9 / Matthew 24:42-51
Fri.	1 Corinthians 1:17-25 / Mark 6:17-29
Sat.	1 Corinthians 1:26-31 / Mark 25:14-30

SUNDAY READINGS

August 31, 2008 - 22th Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Jeremiah 20:7-9 / 2nd Reading: Romans 12:1-2 / Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

COLLECTIONS

For August 15, 2008

Assumption of Mary	\$809.00
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For August 17, 2008

First Collection	\$5,897.50
Our budgeted goal for the First Collection (updated)	9,566.00
Second Collection: Mission Cooperative Plan	3,956.00
Children's Envelopes	40.00

Thank you very much! We appreciate your support.

PARISH CENTENNIAL PHOTO ALBUM TO BE DISTRIBUTED AGAIN NEXT WEEKEND. For those of you who did not pick up your copy of the Parish Centennial Photo Album this week, it will be available once again next weekend after all of the Masses.

Every family that took part in a photo sitting given by LifeTouch Studios at the Parish Hall several times last year is entitled to a free copy of this book. There are also a limited number of extra copies that will be available for purchase. These books will be sold for \$20.00 each, to help cover the additional costs borne by the parish for this project.

ART EXHIBIT TODAY AFTER ALL MASSES IN THE PARISH HALL

Sponsored by the Spanish Youth Group
Come and support our youth's art expression.

NEW ARTICLES

BLOOD DRIVE COMING UP IN A COUPLE OF WEEKS. There will be a Blood Drive on Sunday, September 7. The Blood Centers of the Pacific will set up its mobile blood donation center in the Parish Hall on Sunday, September 7. It will be open after all of the Masses.

Sign-ups are helpful, as we report the number of people who have appointments to the Blood Bank. This helps them provide the staff they need to run the drive. In order to sign up, you can do one of the following:

- **Sign up after Mass next weekend.**
- **Contact the Parish Office** at 510.471.2609.
- **Sign up online.** Visit www.bloodheroes.com, and use group code "rosary."

If you are not sure when you will be available, remember that **"walk-ins" are still welcome.**

A GIFT OF BLOOD IS A GIFT OF LIFE. Blood is always in short supply, and only a small fraction of those who can donate blood actually do so. The main requirements are these: 1) be in good health; 2) weigh at least 110 pounds; 3) have a good meal and drink lots of water or juice; and 4) have a photo ID. Your caring is most appreciated.

TIME IS RUNNING OUT. REGISTER FOR CCD CLASSES NOW. Registration for both new and returning students for our CCD program will end soon. The longer you wait, the harder it is for you to get a spot in a class for your child, and the harder it is for us to plan for staffing and scheduling to meet your child's needs.

NEXT WEEKEND IS THE LAST SUNDAY THAT WE WILL BE OUT IN FRONT OF THE CHURCH TO TAKE YOUR REGISTRATION. Please take advantage of this convenience. Other options to register are for you to pick up the registration packet at the Parish Office and turn it in at the Religious Education Office on Saturdays and Sundays, or for you to stop by the Religious Education Office on those days.

CCD WANTS A "TOUCH OF GLASS." Our CCD program runs the Dime Toss Booth at the Parish Festival. In order to make this booth the success that it is, the CCD program accepts donations of glassware, such as shot glasses, all types of clear glasses, small bowls, etc. We have had a back

stock of these items for a number of years, but last year's festival depleted the supply that we had in storage. As a result, we are appealing to you for donations of glassware. If you can help, please drop it by the Parish Office. Thank you.

JOLLY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: IT'S TIME TO SIGN UP FOR YOUTH GROUP AND CONFIRMATION

7TH AND 8TH GRADE YOUTH GROUP: We will be taking sign-ups for the 7th and 8th Grade Youth Group after all of the Masses in front of the Church on the weekend of September 6 and 7. All 7th and 8th graders from any school are invited to come join us. We will be meeting on Tuesday evenings from 7:30 – 8:30 p.m. in the Upper Room of the Parish Hall starting on September 16. The fee is \$40.00

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP: We will be taking sign-ups for the High School Youth Group after all of the Masses in front of the Church on the weekend of September 6 and 7. All students in grades 9 through 12 are invited to join us. We will be meeting on Sunday evenings from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall starting on September 14. The fee is \$40.00.

CONFIRMATION: Juniors and Seniors in High School who have participated in the High School Youth Group for at least one year may sign up for start their preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Sign ups will be taken after all the Masses in front of the Church on the weekend of September 6 and 7. There will be an informational meeting with a review of the program for students and their parents on Sunday, September 14 at 7:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The fee for the program is \$40.00. If you are a high school senior and have not completed one year of High School Youth Group but wish to be Confirmed, please call Sheryl at 510.441.1577.

BAPTISM AND FIRST COMMUNION FOR 7TH THROUGH 12TH GRADERS. If you are in grades 7 through 12 and need to receive the sacraments of Baptism or First Communion, please sign up for either the 7th and 8th Grade Youth Group or the High School Youth Group. There will be an informational meeting for those needing these sacraments and their parents on Sunday, September 21, at 7:30 p.m.

SIGN UPS WILL ALSO BE TAKEN FOR ALL OF THESE PROGRAMS AT THE FIRST MEETING NIGHT.

If you have any questions or concerns please call Sheryl Bartlett at 510.441.1577.

ARTICLES FROM PREVIOUS WEEKS

TUESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY RESUMES. We will begin our bible studies on Tuesday September 9th at 7:00 p.m. in the upstairs conference room in the office building. Our study will be "Know the Truth." This study will run for 5 weeks, and the cost is \$5.00. For new attendees, you will need a study Bible – the cost is \$5.00 (a one time charge). To register call ALVESA OROZCO at 510.489.1399. Please leave your name and telephone number.

LITTLE ROCK SCRIPTURE STUDY TO START NEW UNIT. Join us for the fall sessions of the Little Rock scripture study. The subject of our study will be "Israel's Story – Part One." We will explore Israel's history and theology from the creation story in Genesis to the fall of the Northern Kingdom. The

unit will start on Thursday, September 4, 2008 and will run for seven consecutive weeks. Sessions will be held from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in the Downstairs Conference Room in the Parish Office Building. The fee will be \$12.50 which will cover the cost of the commentary and study guide. For more information, contact Stella or Deacon Gus Roemers at 510.471.5883.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW IN MEMORY OF MARIA LUISA CORIA. One of the most dedicated parishioners of Our Lady of the Rosary Church was Maria Luisa Coria. A lifelong member of the parish, she gave herself completely to the needs of our church. She was always present, so much so that some thought she was a full time employee. She headed the Liturgy Committee for more than 20 years until her death this spring.

Because of her inspirational dedication, many parishioners are endorsing a proposal to honor her with a stained glass window. The Liturgy Committee has proposed that we dedicate the Book of Gospels stained glass window in memory of Luisa. The window will be located in the sacristy in the center of windows for the four evangelists – Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. This window is most appropriate because Luisa lived the Word of God and spent a lot of time in the sacristy. The cost of the window is \$3,700.00, so this project will need to be a major effort.

Please consider making a donation for this window. Place your contribution in an envelope and mark it "Luisa's Window" and drop it in the collection. If you prefer, donations may also be made at the Parish Office.

CHRIST THE LIGHT CATHEDRAL NEEDS YOU! The new Oakland cathedral has three opportunities for volunteers. Would you like to help?

1. Dedication Event Volunteers

There are several events being held between September 14 and November 2 that need volunteers to help welcome and direct people to various locations. An application and group interview are required, as well as training sessions. Contact Jane Daniel at jdaniel@ctlcathedral.org for more information.

2. Docents

The cathedral needs people who are willing to lead tours describing the history and detailed information about the cathedral. There is an application, interview and docent training program to complete. A minimum commitment of two years and at least 8 hours a month of service is required. If interested, contact Leo Keegan at docent@ctlcathedral.org for more information.

3. Visitor Information Services

The Cathedral needs people to participate in an information booth type program. There is an application and training is required. A volunteer would need to commit to a two-year commitment and work at least two times a month at either morning or evening shifts. If interested, contact Leo Keegan at docent@ctlcathedral.org for more information.



***This Week
At O.L.R.***

Tuesday, August 26

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO FR. JOSE!

Bible Study, English, Eddie Dobrec Room, 10:00 a.m.

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

School Board Meeting, Office Room 107, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 27

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 28

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Friday, August 29

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Dinner for those in need, Eddie Dobrec Room, 6:00 p.m.

Spanish Choir Practice, Church, 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, August 30

Rosary Night, Spanish, 6:00 p.m.

Sunday, August 31

Second Collection for Parish Maintenance

Parish Centennial Photo Album distributed after Mass