

## Readings for the week of July 2, 2023

### Sunday:

2 Kgs 4:8-11, 14-16a/Ps 89:2-3, 16-17, 18-19  
(2a)/Rom 6:3-4, 8-11/Mt 10:37-42

### Monday:

Eph 2:19-22/Ps 117:1bc, 2/Jn 20:24-29

### Tuesday:

Gn 19:15-29/Ps 26:2-3, 9-10, 11-12/  
Mt 8:23-27

### Wednesday:

Gn 21:5, 8-20a/Ps 34:7-8, 10-11, 12-13/Mt  
8:28-34

### Thursday:

Gn 22:1b-19/Ps 115:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9/Mt  
9:1-8

### Friday:

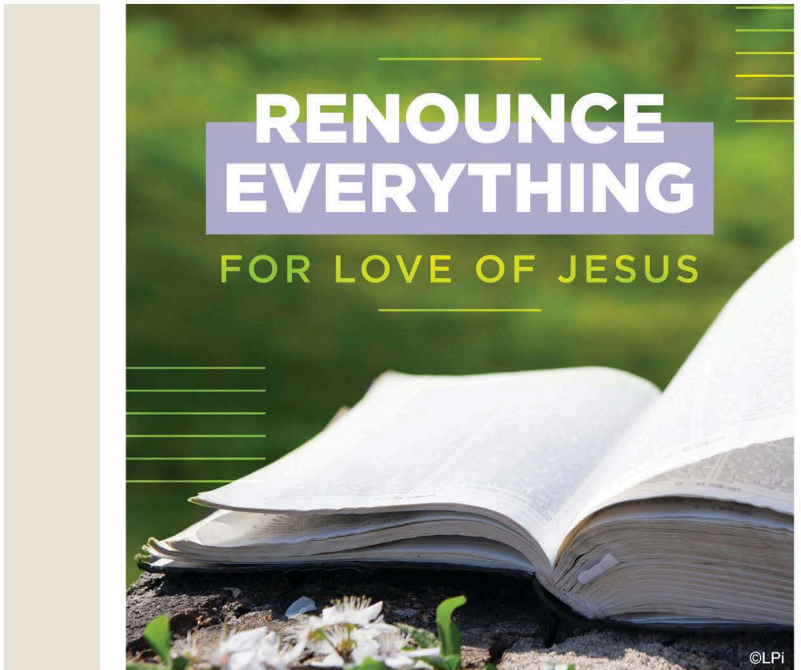
Gn 23:1-4, 19; 24:1-8, 62-67/Ps 106:1b-2,  
3-4a, 4b-5/Mt 9:9-13

### Saturday:

Gn 27:1-5, 15-29/Ps 135:1b-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mt  
9:14-17

### Next Sunday:

Zec 9:9-10/Ps 145:1-2, 8-9, 10-11, 13-14  
(see 1)/Rom 8:9, 11-13/Mt 11:25-30



## Gospel Meditation

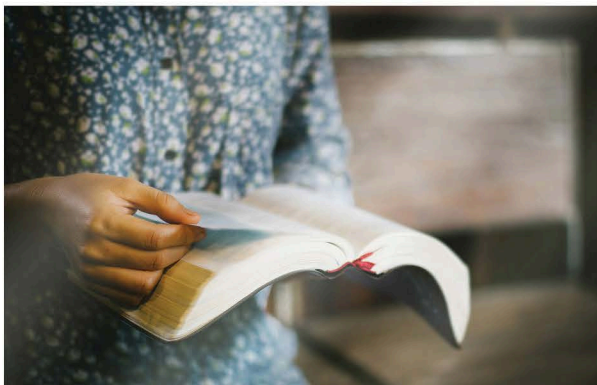
### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As a boy my favorite board game was “Chutes and Ladders.” The players roll dice to move from the start to the finish, from the bottom of the board to the top. If you land on a chute, you slide back and down. It was a bummer. Land on a ladder, and you jump well up the board and near the goal. It was a thrill to find a ladder and draw closer to the goal. That’s life, isn’t it? At every moment, we’re either moving closer or farther from the goal of our lives.

How do we win? Jesus tells us the secret of life’s chutes and ladders hinges on getting our loves rightly ordered. What we love in life is meant to be a ladder, drawing us up into God’s love — including our family, friends, work, play, food, and drink. Even to give your water to someone out of love for Christ leads to a sure reward.

But those ladders of our loves can become chutes. If we love even our family members more than Christ, we slide down and back. If we love the persons and things in our life for the sake of Christ, He says we **“surely will not lose our reward.”** The key difference between a chute and ladder, between our spiritual regression and advancement, is our willingness to renounce everything — even our own life — for the love of Jesus. To allow everything and everyone we love to draw us to love him more — that’s the difference between chutes and ladders.

— *Father John Muir*



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## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### A Prophet's Reward

"Move back in with us until you save enough for a decent house," my mother told me over and over again as the birth of my second child neared.

My little family was quickly outgrowing our rented space, but the housing market in our area was a nightmare for first-time homebuyers. As appealing as the offer was, I kept refusing, convinced that my mother didn't understand the chaos, disruption, and loss of personal space that such a move would mean for her and my dad.

I was wrong — she did. And eventually she wore me down. When my son was three months old my family of four moved back into my old bedroom. My parents made an office space for my husband in the basement, and they converted their den into a playroom for two of the loudest children you will ever meet. They told us we could stay as long as we needed to (it ended up being two years). They greeted us with love and warmth every morning and never made us feel like we were an inconvenience.

Today's first reading always reminds me of my mom, not because I consider myself a prophet (hardly) but because of the way she received me — specifically, in whose name she received me.

I've always tried to understand exactly what makes my parents' acts of love — toward me, toward each other, toward perfect strangers — feel so genuine. I think, after more than 30 years, I've finally realized the secret: my parents love God more than they love me. They love God more than they love anyone.

Like making room in their life and their home for me and my boisterous family, these acts originate in sacrifice. They don't come cheap. They come from the cross.

*"Whoever loses his life for my sake will find it."  
— Matthew 10:39*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Is the Catholic Mass really celebrated the same throughout the whole world?

### Answer:

One of the truisms of the Catholic Faith is that "wherever you go in the world, the Mass is the same." In fact, the answer to this question is both "yes" and "no."

On the one hand, the essential elements of the Roman Rite are the same. The structure of the Mass as it is presented in the Roman Missal is consistent and this is one of the beauties of belonging to a liturgical tradition.

On the other hand, however, there are elements of celebrations that can vary depending on the country or even local region you might be in. For example, in certain parts of the world, certain feasts and solemnities are celebrated on different days (even here in the United States the Solemnity of the Ascension of the Lord can be celebrated on Thursday of the Sixth Week of Easter or it may take the place of the Seventh Sunday of Easter, depending on what diocese you are in). Whether it is the use of certain liturgical colors, local celebrations of regional saints, special seasonal blessings of crops or produce, or the use of dance and processions all demonstrate a sort of organic variety that can exist even within our established liturgical tradition. While we always respect what is essential to the rite, such local variations and traditions are very much in keeping with the vision of liturgical renewal and adaptation envisioned by the Second Vatican Council's Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy (nos. 37-40).

“Whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because the little one is a disciple-amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.”

- Mt 10:42

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

The Shunammite woman is rewarded with the promise of a newborn son for her generous hospitality to the prophet Elisha. To whom could you show a good measure of charity this week?

### Second Reading

In Paul’s view, since Jesus defeated death in his resurrection, he challenged the believers in Rome to think of themselves as “being dead to sin and living for God.” How often do you think of ways to put your faith into action?

### Gospel Reading

Jesus teaches his disciples about the challenges and rewards of following him. What do you personally find most challenging or rewarding in following Jesus?



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“THE GOOD LORD DOES NOT DO THINGS BY HALVES; HE ALWAYS GIVES WHAT WE NEED. LET US THEN CARRY ON BRAVELY.”

WIFE AND MOTHER

- ST. ZELIE MARTIN