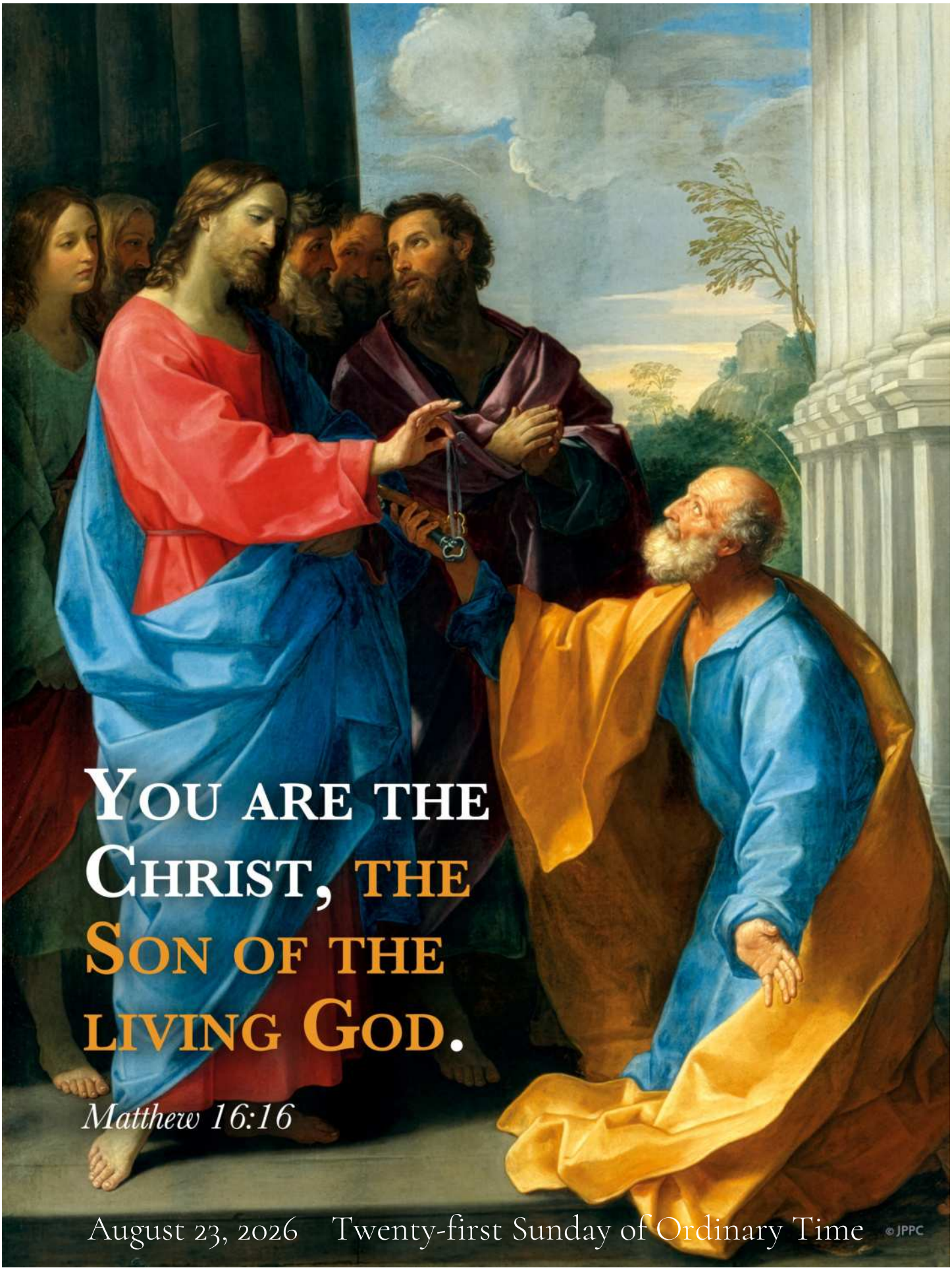

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.
Matthew 16:16
August 23, 2026 Twenty-first Sunday of Ordinary Time
©JPPC

Saint Hedwig Parish

August 23, 2026

Parish Staff

Rev. Eric T. Delisle, KCHS
Pastor

Christopher Maynard
Director of Music

Ellie Felch
Parish Secretary

Sr. M. Thomas Lesniak, CSSF
Pastoral Assistant

Sr. Jacqueline Kazanowski, CSSF
Mount Carmel Nursing Home Volunteer

Convent:
147 Walnut St.
Manchester, NH
603-232-3115

Liturgy

Weekend Masses
Saturday: 4:00 pm
Sunday: 10:00 am

Weekday Masses
Mon. Wed., Fri. 5:30 pm
Tues., Thurs. 9:00 am

Holyday Masses:
As Announced

Sacrament of Penance

Fridays 4:00 pm. - 4:45 pm.
Saturday 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Eucharistic Devotion

After the morning Mass on Thursdays.

Sacraments

Baptism

Please contact the parish if you wish to have your child baptized. Baptisms are celebrated after the 10 am Mass on Sundays, except during the Lenten season.

Marriage

Marriages are booked six months in advance. Please contact the pastor to begin marriage preparation program.

Saint Hedwig Parish Cemetery

71 Old Bedford Rd.
Bedford, New Hampshire

Please contact the parish office for all inquiries pertaining to the cemetery.

St. Hedwig Parish — **Church located on Beech & Orange Sts.**
147 Walnut St. — **Phone: 603-623-4835** — **Website: sthedwignh.org**
Manchester, New Hampshire 03104 — **Parish e-mail: parishoffice@sthedwigparish.comcast.biz**

Welcome!

Are you new to the parish?

We are glad you can worship with us at St. Hedwig Parish. Please register at the rectory or in the Sacristy after Mass. If you haven't already, please take a parish registration form at the entrance of the Church and fill it out. On the reverse side of the form, you can make a choice of joining any of the Parish Ministries available at St. Hedwig. When complete, please drop the form in the collection box or mail it to the parish office at:

147 Walnut Street, Manchester, NH 03104

Offertory: *We are very grateful to everyone who contributes to the weekly collection by the collection box or on-line. Your generous and steadfast support keeps our parish running.*

Aug. 8 - 14 , 2026

Weekly Giving:	**$ 1,888.00**	
On-line Giving	**$ 55.00**	**Total: $ 1,943.00**

Thank You Dziękuje!

Reflection by Rev. Leonard N. Peterson

Surveys are to some web sites like ants to picnics. Part of life and hard to avoid. But if Jesus gets involved in anything, even a survey, we have to pay attention. We just heard (or read about) Our Lord conducting a survey of His chosen men.

First, the locale. Usually significant in the gospels. We're in Caesarea Philippi, a predominantly Gentile city north of Palestine. Originally known as Panias because of a shrine built there to honor the god, Pan. When Herod the Great's son Philip became tetrarch, he rebuilt the city and named it Caesarea to honor Tiberius the emperor…He cleaned and dressed it up (not with a ballroom) and added his name so the emperor would know it.

So here, among impressive Roman marble and plentiful statues of pagan gods, Jesus asks the Apostles two important questions:

"Who do men say that I am?" and then "Who do you say that I am?"

We can assume a stunned silence from the group and then a list of possibilities before Peter pipes up, as he is wont to do, with the correct answer: "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God!" "Wow!" we think.

"Peter sure got it right!" And Jesus wholeheartedly agrees. (Try to remember this scene next Holy Thursday night, when Peter vehemently denies Jesus to the servant girl in the high priest's garden when she confronts him hovering by the fire.)

Jesus rightly pinpoints the source of Peter's insight as the Holy Spirit within him. Then He gives Peter the keys to the kingdom, with power and authority of office that begins here and brings us right to Leo XIV from Chicago! Rather than defend the papacy to all sorts of critics out there in cyberspace, I'd rather reflect on what St. Peter's answer to Christ means for you and me. But what does it mean? Certainly, the endurance of the Church for more than twenty centuries comes to mind. That plus the comfort of knowing with certainty the Church's purpose. The realization that its central truths about Jesus are forever. That no other plan on how to live is as responsive to God's will as that of Christianity. Certainly, I must add that we are part of the only Church with a pope as successor to Peter.

But now comes the question right at you and me this summer Sunday. Who do you say Christ is? Your answer and mine determine everything. We shouldn't need a survey to tell us. Allow me to close with a quote that fits the situation: "The true Christian is a person who is right-side-up in a world that is upside down." God love you and give you His peace.

Saturday, August 22
4:00 pm. + Clarence Armstrong by Lyndi Cote

Sunday, August 23
10:00 am. + Emilian Turczyk by Daniela & Ken Cooper

Monday, August 24 St. Bartholomew
5:30 pm. + Helen Stacy by Lyndi Cote

Tuesday, August 25 St. Joseph Calasanz
9:00 am. + Michael Joseph by Christine Czyryca

Wednesday, August 26
5:30 pm. + Martin DeMatteo by Williams Family

Thursday, August 27 St. Monica
9:00 am. Peace in the Ukraine & Israel

Friday, August 28 St. Augustine
5:30 pm. + Stewart Meriden by Williams Family

Saturday, August 29
4:00 pm. + Elaine Perusse by Nancy Dudziak

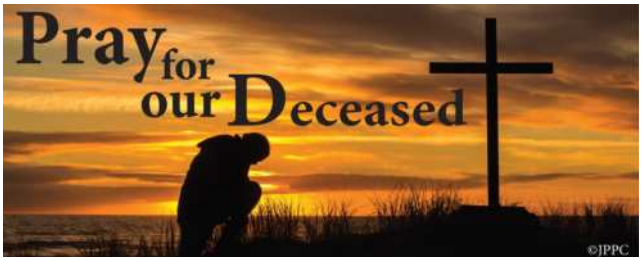
Sunday, August 30
10:00 am. + Lucien & Muriel Gagne
by Mrs. Simone Beliveau

Sanctuary Candle:
Theo & Myles

Saint Hedwig Cemetery

71 Old Bedford Road
Bedford, New Hampshire

The time will come when we will need to plan for the day when God calls us home to Himself. After a life well lived, we hope to gain our place in the heavenly kingdom with God. We will also need our place of rest. Saint Hedwig Cemetery is a place of peace and beauty to bring our loved ones to their place of rest, and for ourselves as well. As a part of planning for the future, consider Saint Hedwig Cemetery. Call the parish office at 603-623-4835 for information and our very affordable prices. We will be glad to assist you.



Why Do We Pray For the Dead

Communion with the dead. "In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest dyas of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and because it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins, she offers her suffrages for them." Our prayer for them is capable of not only helping them, but also making their intercession fro us effective. (Catechism of the Catholic Church 985)

Reading 1: Isaiah 22:19-23

Thus says the LORD to Shebna, master of the palace:
"I will thrust you from your office and pull you down from your station. On that day I will summon my servant Eliakim, son of Hilkiah; I will clothe him with your robe, and gird him with your sash, and give over to him your authority. He shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. I will place the key of the House of David on Eliakim's shoulder; when he opens, no one shall shut, when he shuts, no one shall open. I will fix him like a peg in a sure spot, to be a place of honor for his family."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 138:1-2, 2-3, 6, 8

R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to you, O LORD, with all my heart,
for you have heard the words of my mouth;
in the presence of the angels I will sing your praise;
I will worship at your holy temple.
R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

I will give thanks to your name,
because of your kindness and your truth:
When I called, you answered me;
you built up strength within me.
R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

The LORD is exalted, yet the lowly he sees,
and the proud he knows from afar.
Your kindness, O LORD, endures forever;
forsake not the work of your hands.
R. Lord, your love is eternal; do not forsake the work of your hands.

Reading 2: Romans 11:33-36

Oh, the depth of the riches and wisdom and knowledge of God! How inscrutable are his judgments and how unsearchable his ways! For who has known the mind of the Lord or who has been his counselor? Or who has given the Lord anything that he may be repaid? For from him and through him and for him are all things. To him be glory forever. Amen.

Alleluia

You are Peter and upon this rock I will build my Church and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and
he asked his disciples,
"Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"
They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah,
still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."
He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"
Simon Peter said in reply,
"You are the Christ, the Son of the living God."
Jesus said to him in reply,
"Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah.
For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.
And so I say to you, you are Peter,
and upon this rock I will build my church,
and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.
I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven.
Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven;
and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."
Then he strictly ordered his disciples
to tell no one that he was the Christ.

Readings for the Week

Monday Rev 21:9b-14 Ps 145:10-11, 12-13, 17-18 Jn 1:45-51

Tuesday 2 Thes 2:1-3a, 14-17 Ps 96:10, 11-12, 13 Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday 2 Thes 3:6-10, 16-18 Ps 128:1-2, 4-5 Mt 23:27-32

Thursday 1 Cor 1:1-9 Ps 145:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 Mt 24:42-51

Friday 1 Cor 1:17-25 Ps 33:1-2, 4-5, 10-11 Mt 25:1-13

Saturday 1 Cor 1:26-31 Ps 33:12-13, 18-19, 20-21 Mk 6:17-29

Sunday Jer 20:7-9 Ps 63:2, 3-4, 5-6, 8-9 Rom 12:1-2 Mt 16:21-27

August: Month of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Since the 16th century Catholic piety has assigned entire months to special devotions. The month of August is traditionally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The physical heart of Mary is venerated (not adored as the Sacred Heart of Jesus) because it is united to her person and is the seat of her love for her Divine Son, her virtue, and her inner life. Such devotion is an incentive for us to a similar love and virtue.

This devotion has received new emphasis in this century from the visions given to Lucia dos Santos, oldest of the visionaries of Fatima, in 1925 and 1926 in her convent in Tuy, Spain. In the visions Our Lady asked for the practice of the Five First Saturdays to help make amends for the offenses committed against her heart by the blasphemies and ingratitude of men. The practice parallels the devotions of the Nine First Fridays in honor of the Sacred Heart.

On October 31, 1942, Pope Pius XII made a solemn Act of Consecration of the Church and the whole world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let us remember this devotion year round, but particularly through the month of August. Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Excerpted from The Prayer Book by Rev. John P. O"Connell, M.A., S.T.D. and Jex Martin, M.A.

2026 New Hampshire Catholic Appeal

□ew Hampshire Catholic Appeal: We thank all who made their gift to the **□ew Hampshire Catholic Appeal: Future of our Faith II** this weekend. Your gift will enable the Catholic Church in New Hampshire to meet the increasing needs of parishes, our community, Catholic schools, retired clergy, seminarians, and much more. If you were not able to make your gift yet, please visit the website at www.catholicnh.org/nhca or bring your gift envelope that includes your donor ID and parish ID and drop it in the collection basket at Mass next weekend. ***We thank you for your generosity and for helping to reflect the love of Christ throughout our state! Our parish goal for this year is $12,188.00.***

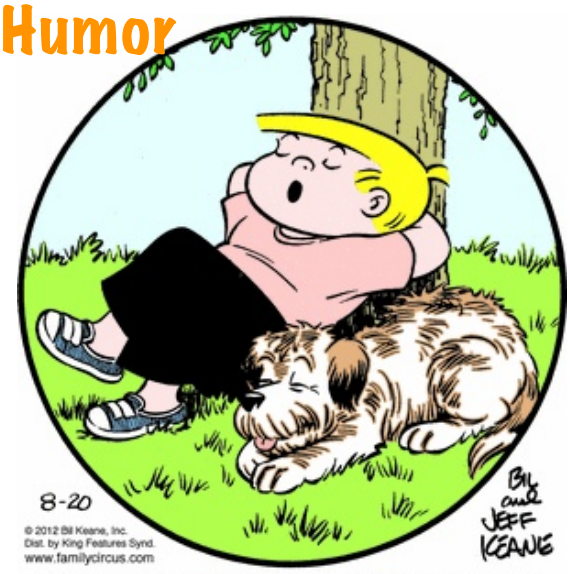
So far we have contributed $7,305.00 towards our goal.

August is "Make a Will" Month

Have you had the conversation? Making a will is more than putting your wishes on paper. It is an opportunity to prayerfully plan for the future, care for those you love, and consider the legacy you want to leave.

No matter your age or stage of life, having a will, and talking with your loved ones about your wishes, is an important act of love and stewardship. As you make your plans, please also consider including your parish in your legacy. Learn more estate planning, Catholic health care directives, and legacy giving at www.catholicnh.org/legacy.

Humor



"Summer vacation's almost over, Sam. We need to do as much of nothing as we can."

PROJECT RACHEL

FAITH | HOPE | HEALING

If you or someone you know is suffering after abortion, confidential, non-judgmental help is available from Project Rachel Ministry. Visit catholicnh.org/project-rachel for more information.

Join us in praying the Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet every Sunday at 9:00 am. (before the 10 am Mass) The Rosary is the most powerful prayer for our challenging times.

"Who has known the mind of the Lord?" Through prayer our minds become better aligned with the mind of Christ and His will for us. If the Spirit is prompting you to know Christ as a priest, deacon, or in the consecrated life, contact the Vocation Office at 603-663-0196 or email: cmartel@rcbm.org.

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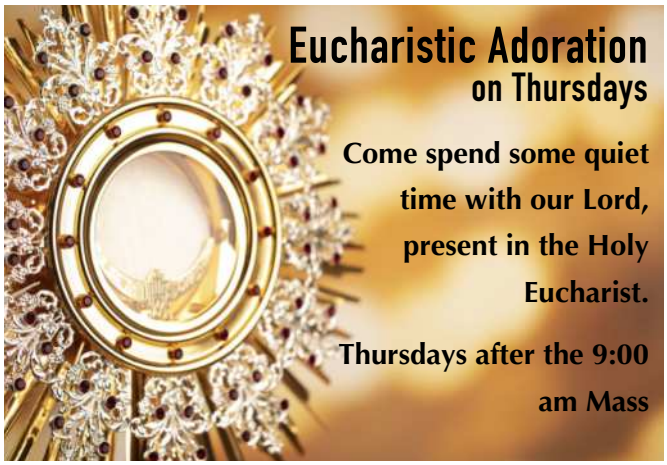
Closed Sunday



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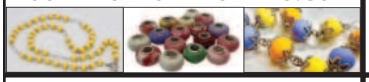

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