



Small Group Newsletter
St. Mary of the Visitation Parish
Cambridge, (H) ONT.



**TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**
September 16, 2018

Introduction to the Word:

Welcome to 2nd Week of our Message Series called “Made for Mondays”. Our Mondays have more meaning than we may give them credit. Whether you’re in the marketplace, in the school, or in the home, God has a purpose for you. Together we will discover what it looks like to go from simply working a job to fulfilling God’s unique mission for each of us.

Warm-up Activity: (5-10 minutes)

Take a moment and share what your dream job would be. Why would that job be perfect for you? What gifts do you think it draws forth from you? Do you think those gifts are part of God’s plan for you?

Let us pray together our Heart to Home Prayer:

*God Our Heavenly Father, we long to make our thoughts your thoughts,
and our ways your ways. As we prepare with attentive mind and open heart
to hear your Word Lord, we long to be empowered with your Spirit
so that we may bring your Word to our families, our parish and our communities.
This, our prayer, we make through the intercession of Our Lady of the Visitation and in name of
Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.*

GOSPEL (Mark 8:27–35)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark. **Glory to you, Lord.**

Jesus went on with His disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way He asked His disciples, “Who do people say that I am?” And they answered Him, “John the Baptist; and others, Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” Jesus asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered Him, “You are the Messiah.” And He sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about Him. Then Jesus began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took Jesus aside and began to rebuke Him. But turning and looking at His disciples, He rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” Jesus called the crowd with His disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the Gospel, will save it.”
The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**



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Listen to the Message

Reflection:

In the Gospel, Jesus and His Disciples have set out – they are on their way to Caesarea. It would not have been an easy journey and probably their reception would not have involved a “red carpet.” It was a city focused on commerce and personal advancement. During the journey there, the Disciples would have been in the midst of doubts as to why they are going – after all not a lot of believers to be had there. Thus Jesus asks “Who do people Say I am? The reality for many of us is that we live in “Mondays” that do not have the same focus as “Sundays”. How do we respond? How do we answer the question for Jesus of who He is for us – evening during our “Mondays”?”

Last week we learned that we have a choice to either to step into the week (prayerfully) or stomp into the week (actively) and this would show if we are Mundane or Made for Monday? This week we are invited to be genuine in who we are as we serve God. That Generosity leads to Genuineness. That if we believe our faith and works connect (2nd reading James 2:14–18), that God will be true to Himself and faithful to His promises. So be generous with God and do so in Genuine Service to Him. So the question: “Is God leading my Monday?”

Questions for Discussion: *(15-20 minutes)*

- God has a purpose and plan for each of us, not only on Sunday mornings or within the four walls of the church, what are some practical ways you can bring His message to your neighbourhood, workplace, and school?
- Sometimes our "Mondays" are in environments which don't support the same values of our "Sundays". What are some ways we can elevate our workplaces, classroom or neighbourhood by using the gifts He's given, all for His glory!
- What are a few ways which you could pray for, and seek, strength, wisdom, and courage as you seek to let God lead your Monday?

Moving Forward in Prayer *(15-20 minutes)*

This time is reserved for quiet prayer as well as for an action-response to the communal reflections. You may wish to create and add petitions of prayer at this time. It is also intended to provide moments to “outreach” to the community.

- Consider together as a group a social outreach which connects to our parish – our Haiti or Kenya Missions, doing a local Service Saturday activity together (October 27th), bringing “Canadian Tire Dollars”, making quilts, being part of “Milk Bags for Haiti”, collecting items for the Outreach program at St Patrick Parish in Hamilton.
- Maybe your love of your classroom, job or your state of life right now is not making you thrive and is in need of some fresh perspective. Discuss together some ways (including prayer and fasting) which could lead to a next step to refresh your walk with the Lord – He will be your ever-present source of strength, wisdom, and courage – just be generous.
- Consider making a Holy Hour for the intentions of our parish community this week.

Leader: **Let us seek the intercession of the Patroness of our Parish as we pray: Hail Mary**