



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



TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

September 23, 2018

Introduction to the Word:

Welcome to 3rd 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)

What stands out for you about the first two weeks of our message series? Which of the two previous weekly questions: “**Is my Monday about my Sunday?**” and/or “**Is God leading my Monday?**” did you find most difficult to answer – and why?

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 (Gospel of Mark 9:30-37)

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

After leaving the mountain Jesus and his disciples went on from there and passed through Galilee. He did not want anyone to know it; for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of Man is to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and three days after being killed, he will rise again.” But they did not understand what he was saying and were afraid to ask him. Then they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house Jesus asked them, “What were you arguing about on the way?” But they went silent, for on the way they had argued with one another who was the greatest.

Jesus sat down, called the twelve, and said to them, “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking it in his arms, he said to them, “Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me.”

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**



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Reflection:

The readings this Lord's Day do not give a great portrait of humanity. The first reading speaks of "let us lie in wait" for the other, it speaks of putting people to the test, and even waiting or trying to lead others toward adversaries. The 2nd Reading tells us about envy, selfishness, ambition, disorder, wickedness, hypocrisy. And to top it all off, Jesus in the Gospel comes from the mountain top (a symbol of time of prayer) and says that He will be betrayed. What a Sunday! – But wait – sometimes those things happen on a Monday too. What do we do when we face adversity? How do we handle conflict? What is our answer when our Monday conflicts with our Sunday? In the end it makes us ask the question – "How do I know if I am following Christ well, or even accepting His commission on Sunday correctly on Monday?"

This week we are being challenged, and encouraged, in the scriptures to walk even more boldly with Christ. We have been encouraged to be instruments of proclaiming not our own biography, but the biography of Christ, especially in our circles of influence. To not be swayed by our day, but open to be directed in our day. We have been encouraged to serve rather than be served. We have been encouraged to live as children of God. This scriptural call can perhaps appear to be a little overwhelming, and may even appear to be unattainable. However, we all know that when we plant a crop the harvest does not come instantly; much care and nourishing of the crop is required to bring forth an abundant harvest. It all takes time. Take just one small step this week towards living your Sunday on a Monday as the scriptures calls us to live. So our question: "**Are You Willing to Live His Monday?**"

Questions for Discussion: (15-20 minutes)

Part of our nature as human is at time to wish to be first. How can we ensure that we are able to keep pride, self-reliance, anxiety and worry, bitterness in check as we live His biography and not ours?

Sometimes our lives on Sunday seem peaceful, and even Monday morning livable, but then life hits us with its disappointments and discouragements. How do you keep focused on Sunday in your life?

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.
- Thanksgiving is not far away – is there a way you can take the message of gratitude and share it in a special way with a co-worker, classmate or friend?
- 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**