



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



**TWENTY-SIXTH SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME**
September 30th, 2018

Introduction to the Word:

Welcome to 4th 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)

As we come to the end of our Message Series – which of messages stands out to you 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 (Mark 9:38-45, 45, 47–48)

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

After Jesus had finished teaching the disciples, John said to him, “Teacher, we saw someone casting out demons in your name, and we tried to stop him, because he was not following us.” But Jesus said, “Do not stop him; for no one who does a deed of power in my name will be able soon afterward to speak evil of me. Whoever is not against us is for us.

“For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward. “If any of you put a stumbling block before one of these little ones who believe in me, it would be better for you if a great millstone were hung around your neck and you were thrown into the sea. “If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life maimed than to have two hands and to go to hell, to the unquenchable fire. And if your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame than to have two feet and to be thrown into hell. And if your eye causes you to stumble, tear it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than to have two eyes and to be thrown into hell, where their worm never dies, and the fire is never quenched.”

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



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Reflection:

So the readings today present to us a very clear distinction between worldly riches and the riches we receive as a result of living God's law. Jesus introduces in the Gospel the concept of the "stumbling block". He invites us to ask if we are putting any in the ways of others, but He also asks us what ours might be? Our Holy Father writes "It is not wrong to want to live better, what is wrong is the style of life we often think is better." How can we redirect our Mondays to make them be days which have the same values of Sunday? The key is to not only use the first three principles we have learned:

1. That we **do not stomp into the week with our priorities, but step into the week with prayer.**
Don't enter the week with your agenda but embrace the week with a readiness for God's plans.
2. That we live our lives modelling Jesus – **Generosity lived in Genuineness** – that is in being generously faithful to who God made us to be on Sunday, that we are able to live with Genuineness on Monday.
3. That we **Accept the Commission be Aware of the Wisdom** – that we choose not to live in asking How Can I Know? Rather, we accept the Commission and Look for the Wisdom ...go forth... Like the Disciples in the Gospel... we are called to have the trust of a child and the wisdom of our age as we seek to follow Jesus. Live not in fear or wonder, but faith and His wisdom

But also that we Live Authentic to Him – don't try and be someone else, don't envy something else, don't admire all else.... Ask God to authentically be yourself. Why? Because God has His Blessings instore for you – as He made you – not as your neighbour has made you. A precious package which needs to be signed for can only be delivered to you if you authentically show who you are; so too God's Blessings for you –can only be given if you show who you are. **Be Real and Be Blessed**

Questions for Discussion: (15-20 minutes)

- Have you ever had a moment when you said "What was I thinking?" How did you reflect upon it? How did you grow from it?
- Read aloud. 1 Kings 19:11-12. Where do you go to hear the still, small voice of God? What do you do to position yourself to hear from God? His still voice shows us who we are.
- As we conclude this series, what are some hopes or expectations you have now for yourself as you move into Mondays? What during the series did you learn about yourself?

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.
- 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**