

SEPTEMBER 13, 2015



TWENTY-FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



ISAIAH 58:5 – 9A

PSALM 116:1 – 2, 3 – 4, 5 – 6, 8 – 9

JAMES 2:14 – 18

MARK 8:27 – 35

REFLECTION

On a scale of 1–10 (10 being the most excited), how excited are you to go to Mass every weekend? And now, on the same scale, how do you think your peers would rate you as a Catholic the rest of the week? Do they even know that you practice this religion, have a strong faith, and attend Mass? Not all children are ecstatic to live the faith their parents gave to them at baptism. And if this is the case, then it is certainly difficult to understand today’s readings which ask a follower of Christ to suffer for the sake of the Cross and to live in a way that might make others uncomfortable.

Consider this scenario: Someone you know has never spoken about their faith yet they constantly do the right thing. Another person you know goes to Church every Sunday but seems to be self-centered and usually makes poor decisions. Which person lives the Gospel? St. Francis of Assisi is often credited with saying “preach the Gospel and when necessary use words.” We need to live out what we believe and be willing to work hard for it too! That is the point of all of the readings today.

Even if it doesn’t always feel exciting, going to Mass does change you. No matter how you rated yourself on the scale above, the gift of the Mass strengthens you through the Word and Eucharist so that you can figure out how to live rightly and be strong in the world.



**CALL TO
DISCIPLESHIP: BEING
CATHOLIC IS . . .**

[www.youtube.com/
watch?v=qkBad3Jbmng](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkBad3Jbmng)

ACTION

Owning up to our identity as a Catholic isn’t easy. Consider finding a way to easily (and not too awkwardly) share that you are a Catholic. Once people know who you are, they might start to expect certain behaviors of you. Live up to the baptismal identity in bringing Christ’s light to others this week.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Would your family and friends recognize you as a Catholic Christian because of the way you live?
- How do you rate your relationship with God and what do you need to do to improve it?