

St. Peter's, Holy Guardian Angels, and St. John the Baptist Parishes
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July 26, 2026

17th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mass Readings

The **First Reading** is taken from the *First Book of Kings* 3:5, 7-12. God gives Solomon a choice of gifts. Solomon asks God for "an understanding mind," so that he could always do what was just and best for his subjects. God rewards him with the gift of wisdom making him the wisest man that ever lived. —*The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

The **Second Reading** is from the *Letter of St. Paul to the Romans* 8:28-30. The theme of this reading concerns the graciousness and mercy of God at work in calling men to himself, justifying them, and glorifying them as well. The point of the reading is the eternal mystery of the ineffable love of God for man, even before man existed. —*A Celebrant's Guide to the New Sacramentary — A Cycle* by Kevin W. Irwin

The **Gospel** is from *St. Matthew* 13:44-52. The lesson of these two parables is as true for us today, as it was for those Palestinians to whom Christ spoke. All Christians are called on to imitate the two wise men, and surrender all their earthly possessions if necessary, in order to gain eternal life. Does this "giving all" mean that we are all expected to abandon the world and take on the religious vows of poverty, chastity and obedience? There are many who do just this. But it is not the only way, nor the normal way, to purchase the eternal treasure. Heaven is within the reach of all, who follow the ordinary vocations of life and partake of this world's joys and pleasures *within the framework of God's commandments*, but never lose sight of the goal toward which they are moving.

Keeping within the framework of God's commandments is the difficulty. We need not have a vow of obedience, but we must obey all legitimate authority. We may possess the goods of this world, but only such goods as we lawfully and justly acquire. Nor may we withhold all of these from a fellow man who is in need. We do not have to take a vow of chastity, but yet we must be chaste, we must use the gifts and the pleasure of sex only within the limits set down by God's wise laws.

All of this is not easy for human nature. But we are not relying on weak human nature, we have within our reach in the Church all the spiritual and supernatural aids we need. Our twentieth century, it is true, is so engrossed in chasing after the earthly comforts and pleasures of the body, and so devoid of any spiritual or other-worldly outlook, that even those who know and believe that there is an eternity after death, find it hard to allow their faith and convictions to govern and direct their daily actions. Yet, the evil example of others will never justify our wrong-doing. The commandments of God are still binding, even though they are openly and flagrantly violated by individuals and whole nations today.

Remember this: we shall not be asked at the judgment, "What did your neighbor do?", but "what did you do?" If we lose the pearl of great price in the eternity of happiness God has offered to us—it will not be the fault of others. The fault will be ours and ours only. We refused to pay the price. We did not think it worth the "paltry all" which we possessed in this life. —Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

Schedule of Masses & Intentions

Tuesday, July 28, 2026

SH

11:00 AM

Mass of Christian Burial

+ Margaret Johnston

Wednesday, July 29, 2026

SP

9:00 AM

Friday, July 31, 2026

HGA

11:00 AM

Saturday, August 1, 2026

SJB 4:00 PM
+ Ernest & Margaret Bourque
SP 5:30 PM
+ Danny Madden

Sunday, August 2, 2026

SH 9:00 AM
SP 11:00 AM
+ Bea & John McGrath & deceased family members

Receipts

St. John the Baptist
July 18, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 836.00
Property Maintenance	25.00
Cemetery	180.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 1,041.00</u>

St. Peter's
July 18, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 917.00
Candles	27.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 944.00</u>

Holy Guardian Angels
July 19, 2026

Envelopes & Loose	\$ 685.00
Candles	14.00
Cemetery	200.00
<u>Total</u>	<u>\$ 899.00</u>

Community News

The closing Mass for the 125th Anniversary Year of the Sisters of St. Martha

A Mass of Thanksgiving on the Feast of Saints Martha, Mary, and Lazarus.
Wednesday July 29 at 10:30 AM at St. Ninian's Cathedral in Antigonish.

The 6th World Day for Grandparents and the Elderly, July 26, 2026

“The celebration of the World Day of Grandparents and the Elderly is an opportunity to rediscover that the Church is called to be a mother to all and that at any age it is always possible to recognize ourselves as sons and daughters of God. May this day, therefore, be an inspiration for everyone, especially the young to revive the beautiful custom of visiting their grandparents, the elderly members of the family and even those who have no one to visit them.”
Pope Leo XIV

The theme chosen by Pope Leo XIV, I will never forget you, Isaiah 49: 15 reminds us that God's unwavering love is the ultimate answer to the isolation and neglect so often experienced by the elderly. It brings comfort and hope, assuring us that the Lord knows each of us personally, forgets no one, and loves us unconditionally, even through the frailties of old age.

Prayer

Holy Father

Who watches over every person,

Watch over me too when I am elderly.

You have revealed your name to me in Christ, and you were not discouraged by my frailties.

You hold me tenderly in your hands,

And you caress my lines.

You will never forget me! (see Is 49: 15)

Grant that I may not fear my weakness.

Help me learn to love it

Just as you love it.

Help me learn to listen to it

Just as you listen to it.

Help me to embrace it

Just as you have chosen it --

you who, though all-powerful, clothe yourself in humility.

May growing old strip away all our pride and all division

So that we may live these years united in You.

You will never forget us! (see Is. 49:15)

Amen.