

Calendar

Monday

AUGUST 26

Weekday

1 Thes 1:1-5, 8b-10
Mt 23:13-22

Tuesday

AUGUST 27

St. Monica

1 Thes 2:1-8
Mt 23:23-26

Wednesday

AUGUST 28

St. Augustine, Bishop
and Doctor of the Church

1 Thes 2:9-13
Mt 23:27-32

Thursday

AUGUST 29

Passion of St. John
the Baptist

1 Thes 3:7-13
Mk 6:17-29

Friday

AUGUST 30

Weekday

1 Thes 4:1-8
Mt 25:1-13

Saturday

AUGUST 31

Weekday

1 Thes 4:9-11
Mt 25:14-30

Sunday

SEPTEMBER 1

Twenty-second Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Sir 3:17-18, 20, 28-29
Heb 12:18-19, 22-24a
Lk 14:1, 7-14

Dear Padre,

Why would God establish laws and feast days for Jews and suddenly change them?

Scripture can explain this. God didn't suddenly change laws and feast days, but followed a consistent plan, with the Old Covenant leading to the New Covenant.

Genesis tells us that Adam and Eve were given life to walk with God in Eden. From eternity it was God's intent to gather humanity into one family in a relationship of love. With Abraham the covenant was extended: "I will make

of you a great nation....All the families of the earth will find blessing in you" (Genesis 12:2-3). Moses led the tribes from Egypt to Mount Sinai. Here God renewed and strengthened the covenant, giving the Hebrews the Ten Commandments as a guiding light to all. Then, through centuries of hardship, God sent prophets to call people back. These prophets promised God would send a savior in a covenant that would last forever: "I will be their God, and they shall be my people" (Jeremiah 31:33).

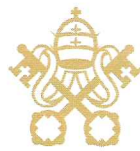
Jesus was the Savior foreseen in Genesis 3:15 who would crush Satan's head. He was the one promised by the prophets, the King in David's line (Luke 1:32-33) who would establish God's New Covenant offering salvation to all.

Jesus wasn't part of a sudden change of plans, but the completion of God's design to invite everyone back into the family love and intimacy first offered to Adam and Eve. The laws and feasts, prophecies and psalms of the Old Covenant foretold Christ.

—Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, CM
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JORISVO/SHUTTERSTOCK



A Word from Pope Francis

In the Old Testament, the requirement to be holy, in the image of God who is holy, included the duty to care for the most vulnerable people, such as the stranger, the orphan, and the widow. Jesus brings this Covenant law to fulfillment; he who unites...divinity and humanity, a single mystery of love.

—Angelus, October 26, 2014