

The Work of the People  
*The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Last Sunday we moved into the Winter Ordinary Time Season. We left the shining lights and joy of the Christmas Season to now live in God's presence among us. It is often in the seasons of preparation and the great feasts that follow them (Advent to Christmas, Lent to Easter) that we take the time to focus more fully on growing in our faith. Even though there are days and weeks in our Liturgical Year that we name "ordinary" there is nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time. In these weeks, we hear proclaimed the wondrous stories of our salvation, stories that we need to burn into our hearts if we are truly to know Jesus, love him, and share him with the world. In these weeks, we have the opportunity to listen to Jesus and learn what exactly it is we are called to do as his disciples. In these weeks, like his followers long ago, we sit at his knee and attempt to open our minds and hearts to what he is truly saying to us and calling upon us to share with others.

The First Reading for this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time is from the book of the Prophet Nehemiah. The context of this reading is the reestablishment of the city of Jerusalem after the Babylonian exile. Because the fate of the city and the nation is tied to the People's fidelity to the covenant, the community celebrates this event with a public proclamation of the law.

St. Paul, in his efforts to help the divided community in Corinth to understand that we are all part of the same Christ, uses the image of the body and its many parts.

In his introduction, Luke sets forth his goal in writing the Gospel. He intends to reassure the lover of God (Theophilus) of the reliability of what he has heard about Jesus. This reassurance extends to people today. In the second part of the reading, in his first visit to his hometown after his baptism by John, Jesus sets the agenda for his ministry. His mission is to bring God's kingdom – a kingdom where the poor, the lowly, the imprisoned, and the oppressed will find freedom from want and fear and need.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Christ In Ten Thousand Places* by Fr. Walter Burghardt, SJ (1914-2008) who spent much of his career as a scholar of Church history and theology.

[We] are one body, all of us members of Christ. Different functions, but all of us precious. Of this body alone can we declare, must declare: No one can say to any other, "I have no need of you" (1 Cor 12:21). Not pope to peasant, not rich to poor, not priest to lay, not the bold and beautiful to the raped and ravaged. In fact, to credit St. Paul, "the members of the body that seem to be weaker are indispensable" (v. 22). A mystery, yes; but the divine mystery of grace. In Christ, with Christ, the weaker I am, the stronger I am. Believe it! But stronger because we are a single body.

If Paul tells us who we are, Jesus tells us what we are to do—what we are to do as the body of Christ. Today's Gospel declares it. Here is Jesus proclaiming his program as God in our flesh, telling us why he came to earth: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, for [the Lord] has anointed me; He has sent me to preach good news to the poor, to proclaim release for prisoners and sight for the blind, to send the downtrodden away relieved" (Lk 4:18). It is a summary way of stating a program we call biblical justice. Matthew had already grasped this, for he applied to Jesus the prophecy in Isaiah: "I will put my Spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the Gentiles . . . He will not break a bruised reed or quench a smoldering wick until he brings justice to victory" (Mt 12:18-20; see Isa 42:1-4).

Not simply or primarily the justice we humans stress: Give each man, woman, and child what each deserves, because it can be proven from philosophy or has been written into law. God's justice includes that, but goes beyond it. God's justice is a wondrous word: fidelity. Fidelity to what? To relationships, to responsibilities. What relationships, what responsibilities? To God, to people, to the earth. . . .

Here is our basic spirituality; in fact, on this our salvation depends. Salvation as preached in Scripture takes place within a single, all-embracing community: God, people, earth.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm. 5:1-7, 10/Mk. 3:22-30  
 Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Mk. 16:15-18  
 Wednesday: 2 Tm. 1:1-8 or Ti. 1:1-5/Mk. 4:1-20  
 Thursday: 2 Sm. 7:18-19, 24-29/Mk. 4:21-25  
 Friday: 2 Sm. 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Mk. 4:26-34  
 Saturday: 2 Sm. 12:1-7a, 10-17/Mk. 4:35-41  
 Sunday: Jer. 1:4-5, 17-19/1 Cor. 12:31; 13:13/  
 Lk. 4:21-30

### ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE

January 29, 2022 - 11:00 am  
 Begins at Perry Square in downtown Erie  
 Will conclude by 12:30 pm following a brief program  
 Please arrive by 10:45 am  
 Questions: People for Life  
 office@peopleforlife.org  
 www.facebook.com/PeopleforLife

*"Lord,  
 help me be a witness to others  
 of your goodness."*

**WORSHIP**

Monday, January 24  
 8:00 am + John E. Auer  
 Tuesday, January 25  
 8:00 am + Joseph Haluch  
 (Bernard & Louise Haluch)  
 Wednesday, January 26  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, January 27  
 8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak (Joe & Linda Flatley)  
 Friday, January 28  
 8:00 am + Daniel H. Baker (Rita Baker & Family)  
 Saturday, January 29  
 4:30 pm + Wanda Pilarczyk (PNA Lodge 1540)  
 Sunday, January 30  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Joan Prylinski (M/M Nelson Allen)

**CATHOLIC MEN'S CONFERENCE**  
**22:32 MEN**

The 9th annual 22:32 Men's conference will be held Saturday, February 12, from 8:30 am to noon and you may attend as follows:

1. Live in-person at St. Jude the Apostle parish in Erie;
2. Virtually at hosting parishes via YouTube; participating parishes listed on our website, [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com);
3. Virtually via YouTube in your home.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with the Lord through inspiring national speakers and opportunities for prayer, and reconciliation as well as Mass with Bishop Lawrence Persico. All you need to have is an open heart!

The event is just \$20. For more information and to register visit [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com) or call 814 455-7364.

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Tuesday, January 25  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, January 29  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)  
 Sunday, January 30  
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Before Mass - Confession  
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 After Mass - Confession  
 After Mass - Faith Formation Class  
 Monday, January 31  
 5:00 pm - doors open for BINGO

**ANNUAL FRENCH DINNER**

Members of Saint Hippolyte Church's Le Nom du Pere Society have been diligently making plans for their annual French Dinner to be held on Saturday, February 12 in the Saint Hippolyte Church social hall, located on Route 27 in Frenchtown. The cost for dinner is \$18/person, in advance. Seating will take place on the hour at 5:00 pm, 6:00 pm, and 7:00 pm. Dinner is by advance reservation only - dinners are not sold at the door. Make your reservation by calling Connie at 814 967-3813 no later than February 1.

*"Lord,  
 help me to follow you faithfully!"*

*Life is a hard race, O Lord,  
 but a race that we can win.  
 Following Your commandments,  
 praying for Your assistance and leaning  
 on the Holy Spirit for guidance  
 will lead us to the finish line.  
 Amen.*

<b>ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$315.00
Candles	<u>159.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$474.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$7,100.00    Paid: 7,100.00	

<b>ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$858.00
Maintenance	255.00
Candles	52.00
Initial Offering	75.00
Solemnity of Mary	12.00
Christmas	<u>10.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,262.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal Pledged: \$29,506.00    Paid: \$29,190.00	

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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