

The Work of the People

The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

With the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, this year on January 10, the Christmas Season comes to a close. We move into the winter portion of Ordinary Time which is just five weeks long this year. The time between the close of the Christmas Season and Ash Wednesday's introduction to Lent does not have to be fallow; it can be a time in which our faith can flourish and grow, "greening" in the spirit of this season's liturgical color. Perhaps one of the great opportunities of Ordinary Time – whether in winter or summer – is to make our discipleship visible not only through our words but also through our deeds.

On this Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear from the first Book of Samuel. Four times Samuel utters the phrase "Here I am." He desires to respond to whomever calls him, whether Eli or God. Often, we think that Samuel does not respond to God's call until after Eli instructs him to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Yet the reading opens with God calling to Samuel and Samuel's first utterance of "Here I am."

The second reading today is from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. In this section of the letter Paul deals with moral issues dividing the Corinthian community. His point is clear: avoid immorality. We are so united with Christ in our body that Paul instructs us that each person's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

We begin this Ordinary Time with a reading from the Gospel of John even though Mark's Gospel is the primary Gospel for this year. The choice of two of John the Baptist's disciples to follow Jesus after John identified Jesus as the Lamb of God corresponds to Samuel's call in the First Reading. Jesus invitation to the two disciples of John parallels God's invitation to Samuel. Samuel recognized it was God calling, so the disciples recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. Daniel Groody, CSC, who is associate professor of theology and director of the Global Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame.

For the last few years, I have been teaching a course called "The Heart's Desire and Social Change." The class helps students discover where the deepest longings of their lives meet the needs and suffering of the world.

More often than not students can identify a global issue in the "outside world" that challenges

them. But they frequently struggle with the personal issues of the "inside world" that confound them. Without spending time in personal reflection before God, the heart can feel like a foreign territory. Unless we periodically disengage from the busyness of daily life, it is hard to listen to what is stirring within us.

When Jesus first sees John's disciples in today's Gospel, he asks them about their heart's desires: "What are you looking for?" In turn they also ask him a question, but it is not "what are we to do?" They ask first about where he dwells, where he lives in his innermost heart.

Discipleship begins with dwelling in Christ, entering the place of his loving embrace, staying under the gaze of his tender mercy. It involves living with a heart open to love, a heart willing to change, a heart ready to serve, a heart disposed to pray, like Samuel, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The world is hungry not for busier people but bigger hearted people. They seek not only people who work for God but people who are so at home with God that they become a doorway into God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb. 5:1-10/Mk. 2:18-22
 Tuesday: Heb. 6:10-20/Mk. 2:23-28
 Wednesday: Heb. 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk. 3:1-6
 Thursday: Heb. 7:25; 8:6/Mk. 3:7-12
 Friday: Heb. 8:6-13/Mk. 3:13-19
 Saturday: Heb. 9:2-3 11-14/Mk. 3:20-21
 Sunday: Jonah 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor. 7:29-31/Mk. 1:14-20

6th ANNUAL 1:38 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

On Saturday, March 20, 2021 the Women's 1:38 Conference will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish. There is NO Registration Fee - but donations will be accepted. Due to CDC Guidelines the conference is limited to 250 people. Registration materials for both locations:

- Live - In person Our Lady of Peace
- Via Zoom at home

are available in the gathering space

Check-in is at 8:40 am and the program begins at 9:00 am and ends at 12:00 Noon with Mass.

"Lord, make us one!"

WORSHIP

Monday, January 18
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Tuesday, January 19
8:00am + Peg Styborski (Kathleen Lipkovich)

Wednesday, January 20 - AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
8:00 am + For Intention of Judie & Bruce Palmer
(John & Kay Weagraff)

Thursday, January 21
8:00 am + Elizabeth (Liz) Novotny
(Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua)

Friday, January 22
8:00 am + Joseph Platek (M/M Nelson Allen)

Saturday, January 23
4:30 pm + Steven Scott
(St. Bernadette Mission Altar Rosary Society)

Sunday, January 24
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Bob Brunot (St. Bernadette Mission Altar Rosary Society)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 19
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Thursday, January 21
6:00 pm - St. Anthony of Padua & St. Bernadette Mission
Finance Committee Mtg. in St. Anthony Parish Ctr.
6:45 pm - St. Anthony of Padua & St. Bernadette Mission
Parish Council Mtg. in St. Anthony Parish Ctr.

Saturday, January 23
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, January 24
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Jesus' question in today's gospel is still valid today: "What are you looking for?" What do you want from your spouse, children or parents? Families are populated with imperfect people. To expect perfection is unreal. To expect and accept imperfection is wisdom.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$290.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Candles	163.00
TOTAL	\$458.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$5,805.00	Paid: \$5,805.00

HELP SPREAD THE FAITH CAMPAIGN

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,
 "That you may tell your children and grandchildren." (Ex 10:2) With this opening line, Pope Francis authored his message for 2020's World Communications Day one year ago this month. It is amazing to think how relevant it became, given how little understanding we had at that time concerning the impact COVID-19 would have on the world.

There is no doubt we will tell those who come after us about this unusual and challenging year. But what is it we will share? Will we focus on the information overload, the fear, the separation and hardships? Or will we look back and see how the difficulties strengthened us, taught us to trust and to rely on God more fully? Will we tell them that we rediscovered our priorities and found new ways to encounter Christ?

Pope Francis went on to encourage us to focus on stories that build up rather than tear down; that help us find strength to move forward together. He suggested we look for a narrative that regards our world and its happenings with a tender gaze and that reveals the interweaving of the threads which connect us to one another.

We strive to make that easier with every piece of content we share through our Communications Office, including Faith magazine, www.erierncd.org, the weekly Diocese of ErieNews, as well as our social media platforms. These tools proved their importance more than ever in this year during which we had to rely so heavily on technology.

Your contributions to the Help Spread the Faith campaign, scheduled to take place the weekend of Jan. 24, 2021, will help ensure we can continue to make these cost-free resources available to all parishioners throughout the diocese.

Please know of my gratitude for your support.

*Sincerely yours in Christ,
 The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
 Bishop of Erie*

*"Forgive me, Jesus,
 for the times I have given in
 to sinful anger."*

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$1,553.00
Maintenance	268.00
Candles	64.00
Initial	50.00
Christmas	50.00
Solemnity of Mary	40.00
Communication	5.00
CSA	40.00
TOTAL	\$2,070.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$27,064	Paid: \$26,494
Please Note: 2020 CSA pledges must be paid by January 24, 2021	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
