

The Work of the People
The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

This year this winter section of Ordinary Time is very brief because Ash Wednesday comes so early in February, on Valentine Day, in fact. Make sure that you download St. Anthony of Padua My Parish App so that you can keep informed about all the events leading up to and during Lent 2024.

On this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time the first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Jonah. Jonah's prophetic task was not easy. No wonder he refused it the first time God called. In today's reading, God's word comes to Jonah for a second time, this time after God rescued Jonah from the belly of the big fish by having the fish spew Jonah out onto the seashore. Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repentance based on his personal experience of God's mercy and opportunity to live a new life in God. God acknowledges the conversion of the Ninevites and God himself repents of the evil that he would've brought upon them.

In the second reading, this brief passage is Paul's advice to the Corinthians about how to live in the interim before Christ comes again in glory. Paul believes that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent, so he conveys his instructions with a sense of urgency. Christians are to live in the knowledge of the Second Coming for this world is passing away. What lasts is God's grace active in the risen Christ, now alive in the hearts of those who believe.

This Sunday we moved back into Mark's Gospel. Jesus' proclamation to repent and believe in the Gospel parallels Jonah's call to the Ninevites to repent. What is unique in Jesus' proclamation is the preface to his announcement in which he states, "This is the time of fulfillment." Through our reading of the Gospel according to Mark, we, along with the disciples, will come to know that in Jesus' very person as the Son of Man who saves, is the fulfillment of all God's promises.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Richard Gaillardetz who is the Joseph Professor of Catholic Systematic Theology at Boston College and the author of numerous books.

The very first words uttered by Jesus in his public ministry are a call to conversion. There is a bedrock wisdom here. We are, all of us, unfinished creatures; none of us is yet who we were created to be. In an individualistic, feel-good culture, it is

difficult to hear this message; the way of rationalization and self-justification is wide and appealing. Yet, the hard truth of our human story is that, under the conditions of sin and left to our own devices, we humans are inclined to avoid seeing ourselves as the unfinished, imperfect creatures we really are. It is far too easy to avoid the difficult personal transformations that are necessary for our authentic flourish-ing as God's precious creatures.

The scope of God's saving mercy is without limits for those willing to receive it. This is the bold message communicated in the book of Jonah. The prophet was sent, not to the children of Israel, but to the pagan people of Nineveh. He warns them of their imminent punishment. But the Ninevites humbly recognize their need for conversion and repent—and in doing so, they find themselves drawn under the mantle of God's great mercy. The extravagance of God's mercy shocked Jonah and, presumably, the Israelites who would later hear this story.

The question for us is whether we will recognize, as the Ninevites did, that now is the hour of decision, the time of our conversion. St. Paul grasped this urgency, warning that "the world in its present form is passing away." Can we accept that genuine repentance is the way that leads to new life?

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm. 5:1-7, 10/Mk. 3:22-30
 Tuesday: 2 Sm. 6:12b-15, 17-19/Mk. 3:31-35
 Wednesday: 2 Sm. 7:4-17/Mk. 4:1-20
 Thursday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22/Mk. 16:15-18
 Friday: 2 Tm. 1:8 or Ti. 1:1-5/Mk. 4:26-34
 Saturday: 2 Sm. 12:1-7a, 10-17/Mk. 4:35-41
 Sunday: Dt. 18:15-20/1 Cor. 7:32-35/Mk. 1:21-28

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

A New Year's Resolution for your marriage...Gift time to one another. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a faith-based enrichment for any married couple, to refocus on why you got together in the first place. The next is February 9-11, Grove City, PA. Go to www.WWME.org for more information.

SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Open House for Preschool - 8th grade will be Thursday, February 22 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Bussing provided, scholarships are available, and after school care. For more information go to www.seton-school.com

WORSHIP

Monday, January 22
8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of
David & Christine Ochs Family

Tuesday, January 23
8:00 am + Rose Smith (Jeanne Miller)

Wednesday, January 24
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, January 25
8:00 am + Jose Rodriguez (Denise & Nelson Allen)

Friday, January 26
8:00 am + Ron Polensky (Diane Polensky)

Saturday, January 27
4:30 pm + Joseph Parlak (Bob & Sandy Dalzell)

Sunday, January 28
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Doug McGovern (Rhonda McGovern)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 23
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
6:00 pm - Finance Council Mtg.
6:45 pm - Parish Council Mtg.

Saturday, January 27
3:30 - 4:15 - Confession

Sunday, January 28
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession

Monday, January 29
5:00 Doors open for BINGO

PASTORAL COUNCIL ELECTION

We have received four nominations for the three positions that are open on the Pastoral Council. Therefore, we need to have a run-off election. The four nominees are:

Andrea Closky
Judy Metzler
Sue Parkin
Andrew Yurcak

Please fill out a ballot in the pews this weekend and place it in the collection basket.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP		
Offertory		\$755.00
Maintenance		75.00
Initial Offering		15.00
Candles		3.00
TOTAL		\$848.00

HELP SPREAD THE FAITH

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

At the end of January, we celebrate both the memorial of St. Francis DeSales and the feast of the conversion of St. Paul. Each of these men is considered a patron of communications - saints we need to turn to for guidance today more than ever. St. Francis was a journalist and author while St. Paul is a patron of publishers and writers.

Even though they did not have the same technology we use, we all are charged with the same mission: to spread the Good News of Jesus Christ. In a changing media landscape, today the Diocese of Erie offers insightful, vetted news and information as well as stories and insights in a variety of formats.

Faith magazine remains our flagship publication with in-depth features and interviews from every corner of the diocese, as well as news and information. It's mailed - free of charge - to each household registered in a parish on a quarterly basis. Have you subscribed to the *Diocese of Erie-News* yet? This resource shows up in your inbox every Wednesday morning with local, national and international news of interest to Catholics. It also promotes events offered by parishes and ministries and includes reminders about holy days as well as links to timely resources for deepening your faith. Sign up for free at www.nwpaCatholic.com. We include much of this information through social media as well, and now create videos, available on the diocesan YouTube channel, to let those we cover share their stories in their own words.

I am grateful for your generous support of the annual *Help Spread the Faith* communications collection and I encourage you to take advantage of all that is offered. Please help us continue this essential outreach by participating the 2024 *Help Spread the Faith* collection scheduled for the weekend of January 27/28.

Sincerely in Christ,
The Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico
Bishop of Erie

ST. HIPPOLYTE PARISH

St. Hippolyte Parish is conducting a raffle to benefit the Stained-Glass Window Restoration project.

- First Prize: Whole Pig (fully processed)
- Second Prize: Blackstone 28: Tabletop Griddle
- Third Prize: \$150 GetGo Gift Card

Tickets are \$5 each and the drawings will be held on February 10, 2024, at the parish Mardi Gras Party. Tickets are available after the 11:00 am Sunday Mass at St. Hippolyte by contacting the church office at 814 789-2022.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP		
Offertory		\$826.00
Maintenance		190.00
Initial Offering		25.00
Solemnity of Mary		20.00
Candles		37.00
TOTAL		\$1,098.00
Catholic Services Appeal		
Pledged: \$35,923.33		Paid: \$35,329.33

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
