

The Work of the People

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we move through this brief segment of Ordinary Time, we continue to hear the call of Christ to be good and faithful followers, those who recognize that we are sent, that we are apostles. In the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus continues to give us a clear message as to what being a faithful follower means. It is not an easy vocation to take up but it is necessary for the spreading of the Kingdom on earth.

The book of Sirach is a collection of wise sayings that help humans order their life and make right choices. These sayings have been handed on within the community. Sirach offers a series of choices, starting with the fundamental choice to keep the commandments of God. Three others follow: fire and water, life and death, good and evil. Each represents a total opposite of the other. The wise person chooses the positive option, the one that gives life. God allows a person to make such choices for God has given people the gift of free will.

The notion of wisdom connects the reading from Paul's first letter to the Church in Corinth with the reading from Sirach and the Psalm. Paul speaks of the wisdom of God which has been hidden from all time and which will be revealed in the time to come, the end time. This wisdom is not available to rulers of this age, or they would not have crucified "the Lord of glory." However, this wisdom has been made available through God's son and in turn to those who believe and accept him.

In Matthew's Gospel we continue Jesus sayings in the Sermon on the Mount. In this lengthy passage Jesus replies to those who have accused him of doing away with the tradition of the law and the prophets. He states that he intends to fulfill the law. His words are emphatic and he employs a repeating technique to make his point by using the phrase, "you have heard that it was said... But I say to you." Using four examples from Mosaic law Jesus offers an interpretation that goes beyond the mere letter of the law. He wants his listeners to live the law from their hearts, not from external obligation.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Paula Huston who is a Camaldolese Benedictine oblate and the author of two novels and seven works of spiritual nonfiction.

In a contest to find the scariest passage in the Bible, this one might win: "If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one of your members than to have your whole body thrown into Gehenna." What are we meant to do with such barbaric-sounding advice? Surely Jesus doesn't want us to take this literally?

He does not, despite a handful of scrupulous zealots throughout the centuries who have tragically removed body parts in order to keep themselves from sinning. What Jesus does mean is that we cannot allow ourselves to be spiritually derailed by worshipping at the feet of a golden calf. In my own case, the idol who stood its ground longest—who still rears its gleaming head and winks at me sometimes—was literary ambition. And though I tried hard to reconcile my unrelenting desire for the Pulitzer with my longing to be God's alone, compromise didn't work. It was only when I "tore it out and threw it away"—in other words, gave up writing altogether for a painfully long stretch—that I finally got my spiritual life on track.

Recovering alcoholics cannot afford a single drink. Compulsive gamblers can't go back to the track, even just to admire the horses. And those of us who are enslaved to fantasy—even a noble-sounding, artistic fantasy, like winning the Pulitzer—cannot allow that fantasy to become our god.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 2

Monday: Jas. 1:1-11/Mk. 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Jas. 1:12-18/Mk. 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Jas. 1:19-27/Mk. 8:22-26
 Thursday: Jas. 2:1-9/Mk. 8:27-33
 Friday: Jas. 2:14-24, 26/Mk. 8:34; 9:1
 Saturday: 1 Pt. 5:1-4/Mt. 16:13-19
 Sunday: Lv. 19:1-2, 17-18/1 Cor. 3:16-23/Mt. 5:38-48

LENTEN RICE BOWLS

Each Lent, the Church calls us to conversion through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Many people in our Diocese choose to bring these three aspects of Lenten observance to life through participation in Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl.

Sixty percent of all Rice Bowl contributions support CRS' humanitarian and development programs overseas, providing life-saving assistance and hope to our sisters and brothers around the world. The remaining forty percent stays in our diocese to support local hunger and poverty prevention programs. Contributions in 2019 assisted over 30 organizations locally, including food pantries and soup kitchens. Last year Cambridge Springs Ministerium Emergency Food Program received a large monetary amount from the Diocese of Erie CRS Rice Bowl.

The Rice Bowls will be available next weekend at both entrances to the church. Please take one so your family can partake in this Lenten observance.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

To experience the peace which Christ promises we must shed our grudges, jealousy and feelings of being misunderstood, unappreciated or ignored. Peace and anger don't mix. Today's gospel warns, if you want peace in your heart and home, get rid of your anger. Anger is too costly.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY **FEBRUARY 23, 2020**

The 2020 Catholic Services Appeal will be held next weekend in our parish. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to join together in doing the work of Christ. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the church. The church serves each of us and our support is essential in continuing God's work in our area. Every CSA donation also brings us closer to being able to complete our own parish project. No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can.

WORSHIP

Monday, February 17
8:00 am + Janell Weidner (Ginger & Dick Kester)

Tuesday, February 18
8:00 am + Leo Wronko (Joan Rembielak and Bob & Phylis Wronko)

Wednesday, February 19
7:30 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Elsie Weagraff (John & Kay Weagraff)

Thursday, February 20
8:00 am + NO MASS

Friday, February 21
8:00 am + NO MASS

Saturday, February 22
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, February 23
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Richard Baker (Bob & Louise Brunot)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
To honor Mary Pankul on her 98th birthday (Parishioners of St. Anthony)

12:30 pm + LATIN MASS
Barry Moore (Alan Wolfe)

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

The 1:38 Women's Conference will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish in Erie on Saturday, March 28, 2020. Check-in begins at 8:00 am and the program runs from 9:00 am - 3:30 pm. The day concludes with a Mass celebrated by Bishop Lawrence Persico. Registration materials can be picked up in the gathering space.

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS HERITAGE SOCIETY

The Cambridge Springs Heritage Society presents History and Rebirth of the 1910 Trolley Depot on Tuesday, February 25, 2020 at 7:00 pm at the Cambridge Springs First Baptist Church. Refreshments to follow. Given by members of the Heritage Partnership.

MARDI GRAS NIGHT

St. Francis Xavier Parish in McKean is hosting its 13th Annual Mardi Gras Night on Saturday, February 22 beginning at 6:00 pm in the Parish Social Hall. Admission is \$15 for adults. Must be 21 to be admitted. Food, beverages and a dessert table. Instant bingo, tip boards and more.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE
(Except Holy Days)
7:00 am - Communion Service

Tuesday, February 18
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena

Saturday, February 22
3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions

Sunday, February 23
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY

NOTE: Latin Mass will be the last Sunday of every month at 12:30 pm

CASH GIVEAWAY AND GAME NIGHT

The Events Committee expresses their gratitude and sincere appreciation to parishioners and all volunteers who helped make Cash Giveaway and Game Night a big success. Total profit was \$5,453.80.

"Jesus, help me to choose you in every situation today."

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22 - 4:30 PM**

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Hobson/Judy Kingston/Shawn Pflieger
Lector: Julie Hobson
Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Robert Moats

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23- 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Theresa Douglas/Judy Kingston/
Christine Krzysiak/Harriet McLaren
Lector: Marie Marteeny
Altar Servers: Max Marteeny/Andrea Walker

**ST. BERNADETTE
SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23 - 8:00 AM**

Eucharistic Ministers: J. Acker/C. Greco/J. Weagraff
Lector: B. Smith
Ushers: D. Nowak
Altar Servers: B. Greco

STEWARDSHIP

2/9/20
Offertory \$301.00
Votives 28.00
TOTAL \$329.00

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, February 17. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE

Sun. Feb. 16 - 10:30 am - Religious Ed. Class at St. Anthony
Sun. Feb. 23 - 10:30 am - Religious Ed. Class at St. Anthony
Mon. Mar. 2 - 6:00 pm - Holy Name Society Mtg.
Wed. Mar. 4 - 1:00 pm - Altar Rosary Soc. Mtg.

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,038.00
Maintenance	379.00
Candles	12.00
Rental	350.00
TOTAL	\$1,779.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
