

The Work of the People
The Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

For this Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Opening Prayer (Collect) notes how all the commands of God's sacred law are grounded in one foundation: the unity of love of God and love of neighbor.

In the First Reading from the Book of Wisdom the wicked are characterized as believing that life is short, that we were born by chance, and we will soon be no more. Therefore, life is always ripe for revelry as we use our strength against the weak. But the response of Wisdom goes on to say that "they erred. For God formed man to be imperishable; the souls of the just are in the hand of God".

In today's passage from the Letter of St. James, James returns to the topic of division, this time both within the individual and in the community. The cause is jealousy and selfish ambition. The jealousy James condemned had generated conflicts that he compared to war and murder.

Last week in Mark's Gospel we heard Jesus's prediction of his own suffering and death. The death that Jesus was going toward was politically and physically appalling. Religiously, it was considered proof of the person's God-forsakenness. Jesus, seeing the disciples' opinions about rank, declares that God is to be found where they least expect or want to go. Just one will suffer, but God will not abandon him.

The reflection for this week is from Kathleen Norris who is an oblate of St. Benedict and the author of many books, including *The Cloister Walk* and *Acedia and Me*.

One of the lesser-known treasures of the Christian tradition is the observation by the sixth-century monk Dorotheos of Gaza that the source of all conflict is that "no one will blame himself." These days our concern with shedding needless guilt and building up self-esteem can blind us to the wisdom of this saying. But if we're honest with ourselves and can peel away the layers of self-absorption, self-aggrandizement, and self-righteousness that are the basic fuel of our daily lives, we have to admit that Dorotheos is on to something. When we're faced with turmoil in our relationships, we might take up St. James's suggestion in today's reading: look within. No matter how hurt we feel, or how justified in our anger with those who have done us wrong, it is only when we face our own temptations to selfishness,

greed, vainglory, and the like that we can begin to cultivate peace. Peace with ourselves, and peace with others.

The foundation of this peace is humility, a word that for most of us has a negative connotation: a humble person is a doormat who allows others to walk all over them. But the traditional Christian understanding of humility is more realistic and even life-giving: the humble person is one who recognizes his or her true place in the world. A good representation of this is the T-shirt that sports an image of the Milky Way with a tiny arrow and the words "you are here."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ezr. 1:1-6/Lk. 8:16-18
 Tuesday: Eph. 4:1-7, 11-13/Mt. 9:9-13
 Wednesday: Ezr. 9:5-9/Lk. 9:1-6
 Thursday: Hg. 1:1-8/Lk. 9:7-9
 Friday: Hg. 2:1-9/Lk. 9:18-22
 Saturday: Zec. 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk. 9:43b-45
 Sunday: Nm. 11:25-99/Jas. 5:1-6/Mk 9:38-43, 45, 47-48

SAMUEL GROUP

Samuel Group invites young adults ages 20-30 who seriously desire to discern God's will for their lives. This seven-month journey provides the tools for how to discern properly with peace, joy, and confidence. Participants are called to discover whom and what they are truly made for, and how to embrace God's call in every stage of life.

Participant must be able to attend all seven sessions. Each session consists of: Prayer, Meditation, Adoration, Talk, Group Sharing and Mass starting at 1:00 pm at St. Mark Catholic Center (or online if COVID color designation changes), 429 E. Grandview Blvd. Erie, PA 16504. First session will be September 19 from 1pm - 4:30 pm.

Please check the website at www.eriercd.org/youth for more information. If you have further questions, please contact Fr. Scott Jabo, Director of Vocations, at SWJabo@eriercd.org or Jillian Zaczyk, Director of Young Adult and Youth Ministry at jzaczyk@eriercd.org

*"Holy Spirit,
 help me to choose truth today,
 and lead me in your peace"*

WORSHIP

Monday, September 20
8:00 am + NO MASS
Tuesday, September 21
8:00 am + NO MASS
Wednesday, September 22
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, September 23
8:00 am + NO MASS
Friday, September 24
8:00 am + NO MASS
Saturday, September 25
4:30 pm + Wanda Pilarczyk (PNA Lodge 1540)
Sunday, September 26
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Fred Weagraff (John & Kay Weagraff)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Living & Deceased Parishioners
12:30 pm + LATIN MASS
William Lyons (Joyce Lyons)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, September 20
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO
Saturday, September 25
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)
Sunday, September 26
Before Mass - AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
After Mass - AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
LATIN MASS - Last Sunday of the month

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION

Today is the 2021 Catholic Education Collection! Please support this important program that funds faith formation opportunities. Half of what you give will remain at our parish to support our own religious education and faith formation programs. You can make a gift by using the envelope provided in your offertory packet. Thank you.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP**

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| Offertory | \$841.00 |
| Maintenance | 110.00 |
| Candles | 9.00 |
| Haiti donation | 25.00 |
| TOTAL | \$985.00 |

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$7,040 Paid: \$6,890

**CHILD PROTECTION
AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS
DIOCESAN CHILD PROTECTION POLICIES**

The Diocese of Erie along with all other dioceses in the United States, has policies and procedures in place to address the national problem of child abuse and to aid in maintaining safe environments. The three main components of the Policy for the Protection of Children are: screening of all employees and volunteers who work with minors, training of all youth, parents, employees and volunteers, and reporting all suspected child abuse. The diocese is committed to promptly reporting any suspected child abuse directly to ChildLine or law enforcement. The diocese requires on-going screening and training of all personnel, paid or unpaid, who have regular contact with our children and youth under the age of 18. The diocese also requires yearly safe environment training of our children, youth and parents regarding touching-safety and safe environments. Visit <https://www.eriecd.org/childprotection/> to read the policy and learn what the diocese requires for all personnel who work with children and youth in parishes/schools/agencies.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Disagreements are common in families. But what would you say if Jesus posed the same question "What are you arguing about?" Is it silly and petty? Is it an attempt to impose your will and control on another, or to really solve a problem? Today Jesus tell us and his disciples to give it up. We are meant to serve each other, not control.

BINGO

The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony of Padua is Monday, September 20. Early Bird starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors open at 5:00 pm.

PET BLESSING

St. Anthony of Padua will conduct a Pet Blessing on Sunday, October 3, 2021 at 12:30 pm in the parish parking lot, weather permitting. If rain, it will be in the Parish Center.

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP**

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|--------------------|-------------------|
| Offertory | \$753.00 |
| Maintenance | 302.00 |
| Candles | 20.00 |
| Catholic Education | 10.00 |
| Haiti donation | 135.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1,220.00 |

Catholic Service Appeal
Pledged: \$28,440 Paid: \$25,922

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
