

The Work of the People
The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

As we move further into this early Ordinary Time, we hear more about what it means to be a disciple of Jesus and how Jesus calls us every day, sometimes in ways we might consider insignificant, to follow him. Since we celebrated the Feast of the Presentation this past Thursday, it is appropriate that we hear the Christ, who is light for the world, calling us to be light for those around us.

We returned to the Book of the Prophet Isaiah once again and hear God's word from Third Isaiah. The expectations of the covenant were two-fold: first, the people were called to fidelity to God and second, they were to care for their fellow members of the covenant community. Isaiah addresses some of those obligations. They deal with the most basic and obvious of human needs: having food, shelter, and clothing. Those who are in need are to be treated as your own, meaning they are family; together they share a common bond. When the faithful live in this way they are blessed by God; they will be like a light that shines before others and God will answer their every prayer.

We continue to hear Paul's words in his first letter to the Church in Corinth. In many of Paul's letters to the early Christians he makes a point of being self-effacing in order to impress upon his readers that it is the power of the Spirit and the importance of the Word of God. This is the gist of today's text. Paul distances himself from the high wisdom teachings of other orators such as Apollos. He humbly admits to his own weakness and anxiousness in their presence, but he boldly affirms that the message of Christ Jesus is what is really important.

In the reading from Matthew's Gospel, Jesus once again uses images from daily life. The familiar images and ordinary use of salt and light become metaphors of a spiritual identity for Jesus' disciples. Both salt and light cause other things to happen. Salt adds flavor to foods; light eliminates darkness so others can see and move about safely. The task of the disciple is to be an agent of the Kingdom of God so that the lives of others will be enriched. Jesus' statement is emphatic: "you are," not you might be or someday you will be. This identity and accompanying mission have a present purpose: to declare the Kingdom of God present now.

The reflection for this week is from *The*

Violence of Love by Archbishop Oscar Romero (1917-1980) who was Archbishop of San Salvador. He gained renown as a prophetic voice of the poor and was martyred at the altar while celebrating Mass.

A Christian community is evangelized in order to evangelize. A light is lit in order to give light. A candle is not lit to be put under a bushel, said Christ. It is lit and put up high in order to give light. That is what a true community is like. A community is a group of men and women who have found the truth in Christ and in his gospel, and who follow the truth and join together to follow it more strongly.

It is not just an individual conversion, but a community conversion. It is a family that believes, a group that accepts God. In the group, each one finds that the brother or sister is a source of strength and that in moments of weakness they help one another and, by loving one another and believing, they give light and example.

The preacher no longer needs to preach, for there are Christians who preach by their own lives. I said once and I repeat today that if, unhappily, some day they silence our radio and don't let us write our newspaper, each of you who believe must become a microphone, a radio station, a loudspeaker, not to talk, but to call for faith.

I am not afraid that our faith may depend only on the archbishop's preaching; I don't think I'm that important. I believe that this message, which is only a humble echo of God's word, enters your hearts, not because it is mine, but because it comes from God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn. 1:1-19/Mk. 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gn. 1:20; 2:4a/Mk. 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gn. 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk. 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gn. 2:18-25/Mk. 7:24-30
 Friday: Gn. 3:1-8/Mk. 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gn. 3:9-24/Mk. 8:1-10
 Sunday: Sir. 15:15-20/1Cor. 2:6-10/Mt. 5:17-37

*"Lord,
 teach me how to pray with fearlessness!"*

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY FR. MARK NOWAK
 WHO CELEBRATES FEBRUARY 10TH.
 OUR PARISHES WISH YOU
 HEALTH, HAPPINESS AND PEACE.**

WORSHIP

Monday, February 6
 8:00 am + Louise Rembielak (Joan Rembielak)
 Tuesday, February 7
 8:00 am + Peg Styborski (Kathleen Lipkovich)
 Wednesday, February 8
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, February 9
 8:00 am + Ron Polensky (Diane Polensky)
 Friday, February 10
 8:00 am + Ron Yusavage (Jeanne Miller)
 Saturday, February 11
 4:30 pm + Charles Metzler (Judy Metzler)
 Sunday, February 12
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Elsie Weagraff (John & Kay Weagraff)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, February 6
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO
 Tuesday, February 7
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, February 11
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, February 12
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
ALTAR SERVERS

Saturday, Feb.11- 4:30 pm
 Sydney Zilhaver
 Sunday, Feb. 12 - 9:30 am
 Max Marteeny

*“Lord,
 I want to trust you
 and rely on your ways.”*

EUCCHARISTIC REVIVAL
ART CONTEST 2023

Students in grades K-12 here is an opportunity for you to shine! Do you love to draw or paint? Create videos? Well, then we have a contest for you! As part of our continued celebration of the Eucharistic Revival, the diocesan Faith Formation Office and the Catholic Schools Office are sponsoring an art and video contest on the Eucharist. Using a creative medium, students respond to this question: Eucharist-What Does it Mean to You? Top prizes in each category and age group win \$75! Submissions are due by March 17. Visit ErieRCD.org/art.html for details and the submission form.

2023 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

The 2023 Catholic Services Appeal will be conducted throughout our diocese on February 19. The CSA is the main source of support for projects and services of the diocese which serve parishes and the wider community in northwestern Pennsylvania. Our diocese does the work of the Gospel and needs your help to continue this important work.

Your participation ensures the success of the CSA and is important to the health of our parish. Please join other Catholics from across the 13 counties of our diocese in supporting this important appeal.

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME SCHEDULE
Winter 2023

February 9
 Explanation of Reconciliation
 February 16
 The Creed: What Catholics Believe

Sessions are on Thursdays, 7:00 pm, at The Epiphany of the Lord Parish, St. Brigid Church, Meadville.

ST. FRANCIS XAVIER PARISH
MARDI GRAS NIGHT

The fifteenth annual Mardi Gras Night takes place Saturday, February 18 starting at 7pm at St. Francis Xavier Parish Center in McKean. \$20/person ages 21 and over ONLY. Includes food and beverage (BYOB if desired). Basket raffle, 50/50, instant Bingo. Laptop computer tickets \$2 each or 3 for \$5. Cash Giveaway on entry ticket.

*“Jesus,
 I thank you for all the relationships in my life.”*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Offertory | \$399.00 |
| Maintenance | 5.00 |
| Candles | 8.00 |
| TOTAL | \$412.00 |

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP

| | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Offertory | \$1,442.00 |
| Maintenance | 197.00 |
| Candles | 46.00 |
| Faith Communication | 10.00 |
| TOTAL | \$1,695.00 |

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
