

## The Work of the People

*The Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

For this Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Opening Prayer (Collect) gives a description of those gathered to enact worship: they are redeemed, adopted by God, and are therefore “beloved sons and daughters.” We pray that in belonging and in believing in Christ, we “may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance.”

In the first reading we hear from the Prophet Isaiah. Isaiah's salvation proclamation begins with a call to "be strong, fear not!" No matter what struggles surround or overwhelm us with fear, trust that God comes to save. God's salvation is for all.

In the Second Reading James counsels all followers of Christ to live lives that manifest love for all, most especially the poor and those that society easily marginalizes because of their looks, appearance, or social status.

Today's Gospel is about Jesus's cure of a man who is deaf. Made whole by becoming able to speak and hear, the healed deaf-mute becomes a sign of God's reign and saving power, realized and activated through Jesus.

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

When I hear of the “kingdom of God” it is easy to just imagine a much better, kinder version of the world that surrounds me; I imagine the world as *I* would have it be. In that world everyone would navigate the roadways with courtesy, volunteer for local charities, and give spare change to panhandlers. We would all treat others with respect and look for respect to be returned in kind.

So, the words of the prophet hit hard. Isaiah pronounces not a significantly improved version of *my* world, but a radically transformed creation wherein the lame walk, the blind see, the deaf hear, and creation itself bursts forth with extravagant fecundity. The psalmist chimes in, singing of a world in which God liberates the oppressed, feeds the hungry, and protects strangers.

The prophet's transformed world was no utopian fantasy. It was already breaking into human history centuries ago in ancient Palestine. There, moved by the infirmity of another, a Galilean Jew groaned to heaven and offered a healing touch

that, like everything he did, announced the dramatic coming of God's shalom—the world as God would have it be.

Yet, just a few decades later, the Letter of James tells us, a more comfortable, less unsettling world prevailed among Jesus' followers. Gathered for worship, the well-coiffed were seated prominently, as surely was their due. It's understandable; I too have earned a certain deference appropriate to my education and social standing. But the question I can't shake is this: Could it be that in my yearning for respect and respectability I am missing the great reversal? Could it really be the ones deprived of all privilege and deference who will inherit the kingdom “promised to those who love him”?

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Col. 1:24; 2:3/Lk. 6:6-11  
 Tuesday: Col. 2:6-15/Lk. 6:12-19  
 Wednesday: Mi. 5:1-4a/Mt. 1:1-16, 18-23  
 Thursday: Col. 3:12-17/Lk. 6:27-38  
 Friday: 1 Tm. 1:1-2, 12-14/Lk. 6:39-42  
 Saturday: 1 Tm. 1:15-17/Lk. 6:43-49  
 Sunday: Is. 50:4c-9a/Jas. 2:14-18/Mk. 8:27-35

**CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME**

- Were you raised Catholic and do not come or seldom come to Church anymore?
- Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the Church?
- Would you like to know more about the Catholic church as it is today?
- Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic Church again?

Please join in for informal listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith. The sessions are conducted in a support-group format. Everyone is welcome, no matter where they are from.

The Epiphany of the Lord Parish in Meadville will conduct this ongoing series on six consecutive evenings at St. Brigid's, 7:00 pm beginning Thursday, Sept. 23. For more details call Amy at 814 336-1112.

*“Lord,  
 help me to be grateful  
 that even though I am a sinner,  
 I am your child!”*

## WORSHIP

Monday, September 6  
 8:00 am + John E. Auer  
 Tuesday, September 7  
 8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (James & Karen Mott)  
 Wednesday, September 8  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, September 9  
 8:00 am + For the Repose of the Soul of  
 Msgr. Richard Stack  
 Friday, September 10  
 8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak (Latin Mass Community)  
 Saturday, September 11  
 4:30 pm + Wanda Pilarczyk (Chuck & Judy Metzler)  
 Sunday, September 12  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Jane Olszewska  
 (Christine & Richard Bidwell)

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 6  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, September 11  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)  
 Sunday, September 12  
 Before Mass - at ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Confession  
 After Mass - AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Confession  
 LATIN MASS - Last Sunday of the month

### B I N G O

The month of September there is only one BINGO scheduled - Monday, September 20.

<b>ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$442.00
Candles	6.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$448.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$7,040    Paid: \$6,840	

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

*Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:*  
 We have all heard about the horrific earthquake, as well as the torrential rains of tropical storm Grace, which have devastated the nation of Haiti. Our hearts go out to the many, many people who have lost not only home and livelihood, but also family members and friends.  
 As Catholics, we know that it is not enough simply to have pity for those who are suffering. We are called to prayer and to action by that suffering. For this reason, at the suggestion of the president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), the Diocese of Erie will be taking up a second collection for our suffering brothers and sisters in Haiti and in other disaster areas. The money from this collection will go directly to the USCCB Bishops Emergency Disaster Fund, which supports pastoral and reconstruction needs of the Church as well as the efforts of Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA as they respond to immediate emergency needs, including those in Haiti.  
 In the Diocese of Erie, this collection will be taken up the weekend of September 11 and 12. I ask you to give generously to help our brothers and sisters in Haiti and other disaster areas. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

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

**NOTE:** Please use a plain envelope marked "Haiti Special Collection" and your name/or envelope number. Thank you

### FAITH FORMATION

Faith Formation classes for elementary and secondary school age, in both St. Anthony of Padua and St. Bernadette Mission Parishes, will begin meeting on Sunday, September 19th. Classes will be twice a month. A letter has been sent home with more information. Please call the rectory with questions.

<b>ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP</b>	
Offertory	\$749.00
Maintenance	212.00
Candles	43.00
Latin Mass	400.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,404.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$28,340    Paid: \$25,281	

**CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA**

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---