

The Work of the People
The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

During this Ordinary Time, our parish liturgies call us to serve as Jesus served and to do God's will as disciples of Jesus, the Son of God and Son of Man, the Christ. His glory and light we proclaimed during Christmas Time. Now this glory and light beckons us on toward the Cross and the Kingdom of Heaven through a life of discipleship beyond the weeks in the interim after Christmas Time and before Lent. How will we, through hospitality, the proclamation of the Word, the celebration of the Eucharistic feast, and our song prayer help respond to Jesus' invitation to follow him?

In the first reading for this Sunday Isaiah recalls Israel's history when the northern tribes were conquered by the Assyrians and placed in exile. Their situation is described as "darkness" and their living condition as being "in the land of gloom." Their eventual freedom is attributed to the intervention of God who came to them as a light. The result of this freedom was "great rejoicing" and "abundant joy." The prophet compares their jubilation to the joy that happens when the spoils of the harvest are shared, and when those in slavery are given their freedom.

On more than one occasion Paul takes the Church in Corinth to task for the divisions that arise among them. Today's text is one example. Although Paul considers them brothers and sisters in Christ, he still takes responsibility for their spiritual welfare and for the harmony that should be among them. He dismisses their bickering over whom they should follow by reminding them that it is Christ Jesus who has saved them.

Today's Gospel reading is Matthew's account of the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. One of Matthew's themes is the connection between Jesus' mission and that foretold by the prophets. He does this by quoting the Isaian passage that was the first reading. Jesus is presented as the light for the nations. Now that John the Baptist has been arrested, Jesus takes up his ministry and calls the first four apostles. The immediate response of the four fishermen has become an example for every disciple who intends to follow Jesus.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *The Way of Repentance* by Irma Zaleski who was born in Poland in 1931. She has lived in Canada since 1952, where she has worked as a translator, university lecturer, and writer.

The call to repentance is fundamental to the whole Christian Tradition. It echoes throughout the Old Testament and lies at the very beginning of the New. . . . The early Fathers of the Church, the Councils, the saints, countless thousands of the faithful believed and tried to live out this call. How is it possible, then, that so many contemporary Christians—at least in the West—seem unable or unwilling to hear and answer it?

There are two main reasons for this, I think. First of all, perhaps, we no longer understand the real meaning of repentance. We do not often understand it in its true religious sense, as a way of love and freedom, of total trust in God's infinite mercy. Instead, we tend to view it in mainly psychological terms: as a negative emotion or state of mind, an expression of an exaggerated, even neurotic, sense of guilt.

Secondly, because we often do not understand the nature of salvation, we do not realize the immensity of what we have lost as a result of sin. We cannot, therefore, mourn the absence of what we do not know we could have. In fact, we do not understand the true nature of sin. We tend to think of it as disobedience, the breaking of this or that commandment, individual wrong acts, rather than as a painful condition of the human spirit, a shadow background of all our lives. Thus, we are inclined to view repentance as a way of paying a debt, a spiritual "transaction," and do not easily see it as a way of healing and life.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb. 9:15, 24-28/Mk. 3:22-30
 Tuesday: Heb. 10:1-10/Mk. 3:31-35
 Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Mk. 16:15-18
 Thursday: 2 Tm. 1:1-8 or Ti. 1:1-5/Mk 4:21-25
 Friday: Heb. 10:32-39/Mk. 4:26-34
 Saturday: Heb. 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk. 4:35-41
 Sunday: Zeph. 2:3; 3:12-13/1Cor. 1:26-31/Mt. 5:1-12a

CATHOLICS RETURNING HOME SCHEDULE

Winter 2023

January 26

The Church Today: Changes Since Vatican II

February 2

Explanation of the Mass

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.

WORSHIP

Monday, January 23
 8:00 am + Charles Metzler (Judy Metzler)
 Tuesday, January 24
 8:00 am + Emil Semrad (Semrad/Bain Families)
 Wednesday, January 25
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, January 26
 8:00 am + Peggy Weidner
 (Ginger (Weidner) and Dick Kester)
 Friday, January 27
 8:00 am + Brandon Gay (Joan Rembielak)
 Saturday, January 28
 4:30 pm + Joanne Lipkovich (Kathleen Lipkovich)
 Sunday, January 29
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Kathleen Nowak (Len & Pam Langer Family)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 24
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, January 28
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, January 29
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession
 Monday, January 30
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
ALTAR SERVERS
 Saturday, Jan. 28- 4:30 pm
 Sydney Zilhaver
 Sunday, Jan. 29 - 9:30 am
 Max Marteeny

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP

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| Offertory | \$799.00 |
| Candles | <u>161.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$960.00 |

CHILD PROTECTION AND
CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS
3 Ways for Teens to Reboot

Sending and receiving messages late at night can make it hard to fall asleep or interrupt sleep. Teens want to stay connected to friends, but the lack of sleep or interrupted sleep can affect everything from their mood to their sports performance. Here are 5 tips to follow at night that will help boost energy and focus in the morning. 1.) Log off your messaging apps, social media and email at bedtime 2.) Turn off your phone when it's time for bed don't just set it to vibrate. 3.) Get in the habit of powering off your devices - especially if they are in your room. Turn off all electronics, like laptops, tablets, TV's, and video game consoles. Blinking lights and glowing screens can make it harder to fall and stay asleep. Sticking to a cut-off curfew each night for your devices will give your brain some much needed tech-free downtime. For additional resources visit www.eriecd.org/childprotection/

PA LOTTO FUNDRAISER

A sincere thank you to each parishioner who helped make St. Anthony of Padua Lotto Fundraiser a big success. Many thanks to Sarah Medvec for all of her expertise in keeping accurate computer records of all PA Lotto proceeds. Our total profit was \$2,884.00 Congratulations to all winners.

ERIE MARCH FOR LIFE

The Erie March for Life is Saturday, January 28. Gather at the pavilion in west Perry Square by 10:45 am. The March will begins at 11:00 am and conclude by 12:30 pm, after a brief program in Perry Square. For more info call 814 882-1333 or go online to peopleforlife./january2023.

ST. HIPPOLYTE CHURCH'S
LE NOM DU PERE SOCIETY

The Society will have their annual French Dinner on Saturday, February 11 in the Saint Hippolyte Church social hall, located on Route 27 in Frenchtown. The cost of this delicious dinner remains at \$18/person in advance. Seating takes place on the hour at 5 pm, 6 pm and 7 pm. Dinners are sold by advance reservation only. Make your reservation by calling Connie at 814 967-3813 no later than January 31.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP

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| Offertory | \$1,098.00 |
| Maintenance | 360.00 |
| Lottery Fundraiser | 15.00 |
| Candles | 43.00 |
| Initial Offering | 15.00 |
| Furnace Repair | 20.00 |
| Donation | <u>200.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$1,751.00 |

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$36,279 Paid: \$35,814

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
