

The Work of the People

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have this Sunday and next before the beginning of Lent this year. We will be looking toward making our Lenten commitments this week and next and there will once again be a Lenten brochure to help each of us do that in the areas of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (doing good). This is the work of a disciple of Jesus always and the readings for these next few weeks will call to a deepen our Baptismal commitment to following Jesus.

In the first reading for this Sunday Job laments his sleepless nights and a life of misery. He is hopeless, desperate to see happiness, but doubting whether he ever will. Many in our assemblies will resonate with Job's restlessness. Often people bemoan the misery that besets their lives. The world's misery frequently presents itself for us. As people of faith, we might feel hopeless like Job, yet we still do hope. Like Job, we can always trust in God.

In the second reading Paul expresses how important the Gospel is to him. He preaches it not on his own accord, but out of an obligation that comes from God. In other words, God called Paul to serve as a minister of the Gospel. For his free proclamation of the Gospel, Paul's free reward is a life of grace in Christ.

Today's Gospel begins on the same Sabbath day as last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus taught in the synagogue and healed the man possessed by an unclean spirit. Inside the house of Simon and Andrew, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law not by uttering any words, but with the simple gesture of taking her hand and helping her up. This individual healing leads to a multitude of healings and exorcisms the same day after sunset as the entire town comes to the doorstep of the house where Jesus was. Jesus' mission is clear: to preach, heal, and drive out demons with the divine authority given to him.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Kathleen Norris who is an oblate of St. Benedict and a well-known author.

Is not life a drudgery? Of course it is. And it is also a gift of unfathomable beauty. God gives us a choice. We can grow weary, like the poet Baudelaire, over the need to live twenty-four hours a day. Or we can emerge from bitter lament, like the biblical poet, to declare that the world is "new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23). Most of us spend our days somewhere between these two extremes.

When we read of Job lying awake, wracked with anxiety and wondering if the night will ever end, his ancient story seems completely up-to-date. One friend, a champion worrier, once asked me, "Why is it I can never think of the good things at 3:00 am?" Like Job, she often felt her life slipping away and despaired of ever feeling happy again.

Job accurately describes his condition as slavery, and it's worth acknowledging that we easily become enslaved by our misery. It feeds our narcissism and narrows our vision, making us incapable of appreciating the magnitude of a God who calls each star by name.

We can look to today's Gospel for ways out of our self-imposed prison. When Simon says to Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you," we are reminded to set aside our worries and look to Christ for consolation. When Jesus says, "For this purpose I have come," we are reminded that we too have a purpose. God calls us out of drudgery into freedom. God calls us by name.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gen. 1:1-19/Mk. 6:53-56
 Tuesday: Gen. 1:20; 2:4a/Mk. 7:1-13
 Wednesday: Gen. 2:4b-9, 15-17/Mk. 7:14-23
 Thursday: Gen. 2:18-25/Mk. 7:24-30
 Friday: Gen. 3:1-8/Mk. 7:31-37
 Saturday: Gen. 3:9-24/Mk. 8:1-10
 Sunday: Lev. 13:1-2, 45-46/1 Cor. 10:31/11-1/Mk. 1:40-45

SUPPORT THE CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL COMMITMENT WEEKEND IS FEBRUARY 13 & 14

Funds raised through the Catholic Services Appeal (CSA) help the Diocese of Erie fulfill its mission to evangelize, educate, serve, proclaim the word and celebrate the sacraments throughout 13 counties in northwest Pennsylvania.

Pastoral Services, Education, Catholic Charities, Catholic Foundation of Northwest Pennsylvania, Communications, Facilities Management and Financial Services and the Tribunal Office are all supported through the CSA. Forward Together is the theme for the 2021 CSA. Please prayerfully consider pledging to the CSA.

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Parishioners at several parishes recently received an email from a scam artist claiming to be their pastor and requesting financial help. *In this age when personal data can be misused by scam artists, please be aware that the Roman Catholic Diocese of Erie, its clergy, and entities such as parishes and schools will never solicit your personal or business information by any method unless initiated by you. Should you receive an unsolicited request for such information - including a request for gift cards of any type - exercise extreme caution. Contact the person or entity by using official contact information only. Do not use contact information provided in the potential fraudulent request.*

WORSHIP

Monday, February 8
8:00 am + John Auer

Tuesday, February 9
8:00 am + Carol, Angeline, Henrietta Rembielak
(Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)

Wednesday, February 10
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, February 11
8:00 am + Lawrence Heffernam (Friends)

Friday, February 12
8:00 am + For the healing of John Winston
(James Horton)

Saturday, February 13
4:30 pm + Jasper Torchia (Shawn Pflieger)

Sunday, February 14
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

Tuesday, February 9
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, February 13
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, February 14
Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Happy Birthday wishes to Fr. Mark Nowak who celebrates on Wednesday, February 10. We wish you happiness, health and peace.

NOTICE

There will be no Lenten Luncheons among the Saegertown churches this year. It's just not a good idea to plan group/community gatherings yet.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$450.00
Solemnity of Mary	10.00
Initial	5.00
Communication	5.00
TOTAL	\$470.00

6th ANNUAL 1:38 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

On Saturday, March 20, 2021, the Women's 1:38 Conference will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish. There is NO registration fee - but donations will be accepted. Due to CDC guidelines the conference is limited to 250 people. Registration materials for both locations: (1) Live - in person Our Lady of Peace and (2) via Zoom at home are available in the gathering space.

Check-in is at 8:40 am and the program begins at 9:00 am and ends at 12:00 Noon with Mass.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Distribution of Ashes on Ash Wednesday, (February 17, 2021)

Because it is impossible to sanitize the thumb of the person distributing ashes between each person receiving them, Bishop Persico directs that those who wish to receive the sacramental of blessed ashes receive them sing the practice common in many parts of the world of sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head.

COMMITMENT SUNDAY

Next Sunday, February 14th, will be Commitment Sunday for the 2021 Catholic Services Appeal (CSA). We hope our parishioners have been prayerfully considering how you will be able to share your gifts in support of the CSA.

RICE BOWL

Each Lent, the Church calls us to conversation through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Many people in our Diocese choose to bring these three aspects of Lenten observance to life through Catholic Relief Services' (CRS) Rice Bowl. This program helps to provide families around the world with the tools they need to rise above poverty and provide for themselves. The Rice Bowls will be available at both entrances to the church through Lent.

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$661.00
Maintenance	431.00
Candles	52.00
Initial	20.00
Christmas	10.00
Solemnity of Mary	5.00
Immaculate Conception	10.00
Religious Retirement	10.00
Faith Communication	55.00
Missionary Coop	10.00
Latin Mass	182.00
TOTAL	\$1,446.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
