

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People

The Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the last three months of Ordinary Time the Lectionary offers a rich array of texts for reflection and spiritual nourishment. It is too simplistic to give a single thread that ties together all the Scripture passages for the Sundays of this section of Ordinary Time, but there is at least one broad focus that could be offered - how to live in faithfulness to God.

The narrator in the Book of Exodus reports a dramatic conversation between God and Moses. God is displeased with the infidelity of the "stiff-necked" people and intends to bring punishment upon them. God sends Moses to make such an announcement. But Moses implores God to remember that they are "your own people" and reminds God of the promise to make his people a great nation. In this we witness both the power of Moses' intercession and God's merciful fidelity to God's people.

Paul writes to Timothy in the second reading today. Paul's autobiographical account to Timothy recalls his time of persecution of the followers of Christ. But Paul gives thanks to God for sending him the grace to change his life. He now believes that Christ came into the world to save sinners and he humbly counts himself as one of them.

Chapter 15 of Luke's account recounts three of the most familiar parables of Jesus. The lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son attest to the mercy of God. Each notes the joy of the shepherd, the woman, and the father when the sheep, the coin, and the son have been found. The compassion of God is personified in the actions of the shepherd, the woman, and the father who seek out the lost.

Our reflection for this week is from J. Peter Nixon who is a regular contributor to *Give Us This Day*. He holds a master's degree in theology from the Jesuit School of Theology at Santa Clara University.

There was a time when the story of the younger son in today's Gospel spoke to me powerfully. In my teens, I drifted away from the Church. Although my carousing ways in those years fell short of those described in the parable, there was still much of which I needed to repent. In my early twenties, I had a powerful conversion experience that led me back to the practice of my faith. I lived the story of returning from a "distant country" to find forgiveness, joy, and celebration.

Some three decades on, however, the story of the older son has begun to resonate more deeply. As we age, every choice we make seems to limit the horizon of the infinite freedom we once enjoyed. I have chosen to be faithful to many of these choices: my faith, my wife and family, my community, my chosen field of work. They have allowed me to grow and change in ways I scarcely thought possible. But there are moments when I bridle at the loss of

my liberty and look with envy and even resentment at those who seem less bound to these traditional commitments.

We often call this the parable of the Prodigal Son, but Jesus begins it simply: "A man had two sons." Two sons, two paths, two ways we can be led astray. The sins of the younger son may generate more headlines, but it may be the sins of the older son that are the most spiritually damaging. They make us blind to the generosity of the Father who tells us "everything I have is yours."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF SEPTEMBER 15

Monday: 1 Tm. 2:1-8/Ps. 28:2, 7, 8-9/Lk. 7:1-10

Tuesday: 1 Tm. 3:1-13/Ps. 101:1b-2ab, 2cd-3ab, 5, 6/
Lk. 7:11-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm. 3:14-16/Ps. 111:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk. 7:31-35

Thursday: 1 Tm. 4:12-16/Ps. 111:7-8, 9, 10/Lk. 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm. 6:2c-12/Ps. 49:6-7, 8-10, 17-18, 19-20/Lk. 8:1-3

Saturday: Eph. 4:1-7, 11-13/Ps. 19:2-3, 4-5/Mt. 9:9-13

Sunday: Am. 8:4-7/Ps. 113:1-2, 4-6, 7-8/1 Tm. 2:1-8/
Lk. 16:1-13

FAITH FORMATION COORDINATOR

St. Anthony of Padua is in need of someone to fill the position of Faith Formation Coordinator. If interested, please contact the rectory at 814 398-4234.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Parents are like that shepherd in today's gospel for they don't give up and can't rest if one of their children has wandered away. A parent's persistent love provides a glimpse of the unconditional love for each of us by God, Our Father. A parent is a window to the Divine.

NOTICE

The Religious Education Classes for both churches will begin Sunday, September 22 after the 9:30 am Mass. Classes will be held at St. Anthony of Padua for both churches. If you have questions please contact the rectory at 398-4234.

SEMINARY VISIT DAY

St. Mark Seminary in Erie is hosting a Seminary Visit Day on Sept. 29 from 11 am - 2:30 pm. Any young man in high school who has thought about being a priest or is considering application to seminary is invited - with his parents - for Mass, brunch, a tour of the seminary and a conference. Please RSVP to Father Michael Polinek, vocations director, at 814 824-1200 or mpolinek@ErieRCD.org.

*"Jesus, thank you for your infinite mercy!
Help me to see and confess any sin
that keeps me from you."*

WORSHIP

Monday, September 16
8:00 am + John Auer
Tuesday, September 17
8:00 am + NO MASS
Wednesday, September 18
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, September 19
8:00 am + NO MASS
Friday, September 20
8:00 am + NO MASS
Saturday, September 21
4:30 pm + Children of Erie Day Care Fire
(Dale & Carole Schoiack)
Sunday, September 22
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
9:30 am + Pat Cahahan (Sue Parkin)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday AT ST. BERNADETTE
(Except Holy Days)
7:00 am - Communion Service
Saturday, September 21
3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions
Sunday, September 22
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY
10:30 - Noon - Religious Ed. Registration & classes
NOTE: Latin Mass will be the last Sunday of every month

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 21 - 4:30 PM
Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Tom Hobson/Judy Kingston
Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich
Altar Servers: Payton Leandro/Sydney Zilhaver
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 - 9:30 AM
Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Theresa Douglas/
Harriet McLaren/Carol Rasavage
Lector: Julie Hobson
Altar Servers: Max Marteeny/Andrea Walker

ST. BERNADETTE
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22 - 8:00 AM
Eucharistic Ministers: S. Sada/J. Weagraff/K. Weagraff
Lector: J. Drda
Ushers: S. Sada, Sr.
Altar Servers: I. Levis

STEWARDSHIP

9/8/19

Offertory	\$486.00
Votives	3.00
Catholic Education	50.00
Religious Ed.	30.00
TOTAL	\$569.00

CSA: Pledged - \$8,275
PIS - \$7,220

NEEDED
Our Religious Education program is in need of an elementary teacher to team teach for this upcoming year. If interested, please contact the rectory at 398-4234.

CRAFT FAIR
On Saturday, October 5, 2019 St. Anthony of Padua will be holding their 2nd Annual Craft Fair from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm. Parishioners are asked to provide a baked item of their choice that will be sold during this fundraiser. Items can be dropped off in the kitchen on Friday, Oct. 4 from 3 pm - 7 pm or on Saturday, Oct. 5 from 7 am - 9 am. Thank you in advance for your willingness to contribute to this event.

WANTED
St. Anthony of Padua is looking for an interested person to clean the rectory, three to four hours, one day a week. If interested, please call 398-4234, 9 am - 3:30 pm, Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri.

CAMBRIDGE SPRINGS
HERITAGE SOCIETY
Hotels of Cambridge Springs's Past, presented by Cambridge Springs Heritage Society will be held at Cambridge Springs First Baptist Church on Tuesday, September 24 at 7:00 pm. Refreshments to follow, public invited.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS
Recently my cell phone died. I felt anxious about missing calls and annoyed that I would have to pay a lot of money to replace my trusty friend. When things like this happen, prayer usually leads me to put it in perspective: "This is a first world problem." Be grateful for my husband, my main trusty friend. Besides, he also has a cell phone for back up.

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, September 16th. Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors and kitchen open at 5:00 pm. Lasagna Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE'S
Sun. Sept.22 - Religious Education Classes after 9:30 am
Mass at St. Anthony of Padua

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$817.00
Maintenance	330.00
Initial	100.00
Candles	30.00
CSA	240.00
TOTAL	\$1,517.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$23,721 Paid: \$19,121

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
