

The Work of the People  
*The Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

I hope by now that all of you who have the capability of using the St. Anthony of Padua Parish App have already downloaded it and established an account so that we will be better able to stay in contact with you. If you have not done so, there are instruction cards at each of the church entrances for downloading and installing My Parish App.

We move now to celebrate the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. In the first reading for the day, we hear Moses speak about God raising up a prophet from the Israelites' kin. The people want this, and God will fulfill their request. This gives the passage a messianic character. For Christians, the prophet God will raise up is Jesus. His words are the words everyone should heed. In a more general sense, we can interpret Moses' words at the conclusion of the passage as instructions on how to discern true and false prophets. We are to listen to a prophet who speaks God's words in God's name, but not one who speaks words other than those God has commanded.

In the reading from Paul's First Letter to the Church in Corinth we continue to hear about how the present age is passing away. Paul's words might lead us to wonder if Paul is preaching a preference for the unmarried life. The anxieties of the unmarried man and woman, he says, relate to the things of the Lord, while the anxieties of the married man and woman relate to the world. Paul, however, begins his instruction with the same wish for both those unmarried and married: to be free from anxieties.

Today's Gospel continues the reading from Mark that we began last Sunday. It marks the first appearance of Jesus teaching in a synagogue on the Sabbath. Mark does not tell us what Jesus taught; the Gospel writer only expresses the people's amazement at the authority with which Jesus teaches. The event in the synagogue concludes with Jesus curing a man possessed by a demon even after the demon cries out in words that ask why Jesus involves himself in the people's concerns. The demon refers to Jesus as The Holy One of God.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Rachelle Linner who is a freelance writer and reviewer.

Do you ever harden your heart when you approach Jesus in prayer? I do.

Once, wanting to let go of a long-standing resentment, I confessed the sin at the Sacrament of Reconciliation and prayed for the person whenever I found myself remembering the litany of wrongs he had done. (And why was I reciting the litany, anyway, which only nestled the unclean spirit deeper into my heart?) The more I asked Jesus to remove the stubborn sin and its handmaidens (pride, self-pity, righteousness, envy), the more barriers I put in Jesus' way. If I sensed Jesus preparing to speak his word of healing I redoubled my grievance. As if he didn't know how I felt.

I know my unclean spirits, and they know me. Certain sins trail and tempt me, and if I am not vigilant they cling to my heart. They are the familiar contours that shape the false self I present to the world. I harden my heart because if Jesus expels the unclean spirits, I will be empty.

We are caught in a dance, Jesus and I; desire and defiance. He woos me, and I long to say yes, but then I cling to what I know. Jesus is more patient than I am. Maybe I will spend years in purgatory before I am cleansed. But I want my unclean spirits expelled long before I die, so that I can be free to do Jesus' work in the world, to fulfill my baptismal call, to sing joyfully to him, to offer true thanksgiving. If only I don't harden my heart.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 2 Sm. 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13 Mk. 5:1-20

Tuesday: 2 Sm. 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30; 19:3/  
Mk. 5:21-43

Wednesday: 2 Sm. 24:9-17/Mk. 6:1-6

Thursday: 1 Kgs. 2:1-4, 10-12/Mk. 6:7-13

Friday: Mal. 3:1-4/Heb. 2:14-18/Lk. 2:22-40

Saturday: 1 Kgs. 3:4-13/Mk. 6:30-34

Sunday: Jb. 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor. 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk. 1:29-39

**CONGRATULATIONS TO:**

Andrea Closky  
Judy Metzler  
Susan Parkin  
Andy Yurcak

Who will begin a three year term on Pastoral Council. There was a tie in the voting.

*"Here I am, Lord!  
I long to hear your voice today!"*

**WORSHIP**

Monday, January 29  
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of  
 (David & Christine Ochs Family)  
 Tuesday, January 30  
 8:00 am + Wanda Pilarczyk (Harriet Dine)  
 Wednesday, January 31  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, February 1  
 8:00 am + Mary Ellen Wicklin  
 (Denise & Nelson Allen)  
 Friday, February 2 - FIRST FRIDAY  
 8:00 am + Virginia Lindsay (Diane Polensky)  
 Saturday, February 3  
 4:30 pm + Liv. & Dec. Members of  
 St. Anthony of Padua & St. Bernadette Mission  
 Sunday, February 4  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Dean Kryski Wilson (Jim & Fran Peters)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Luke Dye (Walker Family)

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Tuesday, January 30  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, February 3  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession  
 Sunday, February 4  
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Before Mass - Confession  
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 After Mass - Confession  
 10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes  
 Monday, February 5  
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

**BOILER REPAIR**  
 A special thank you to everyone who generously contributed to the St. Anthony of Padua Church boiler repair. The cost of the repair was \$5,200.00. The donations amounted to \$4,700.00.

**WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**  
 A New Year's Resolution for your marriage...Gift time to one another. Worldwide Marriage Encounter is a faith-based enrichment for any married couple, to refocus on why you got together in the first place. The next is February 9-11, Grove City, PA. Go to [www.WWME.org](http://www.WWME.org) for more information.  
 You can also talk to Richard and Kris Gosnell with any questions (814)573-5150.

**SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE**  
 Open House for Preschool - 8th grade will be Thursday, February 22 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm. Bussing provided, scholarships are available, and after school care.  
 After school care is offered until 5:30 pm for all students, including preschool  
 For more information go to [www.seton-school.com](http://www.seton-school.com)

**2024 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL**  
 The 2024 Catholic Services Appeal *One Faith, One Family* Commitment Sunday will be held the weekend of February 10th and 11th. Please be on the lookout for your personal invitation in the mail. The CSA is an opportunity for Catholics throughout the diocese to unite in carrying out the work of the Gospel. The CSA reminds us that we are all part of the same Catholic family and that the work of the diocese is the work of the Church.  
 No gift is too small, but please give as generously as you can.

**CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS**  
January was Human Trafficking Prevention Month  
 Child Sex Trafficking is a form of child abuse that occurs when any child under age 18 is advertised, solicited, or exploited through a commercial sex act where sex is traded for money, food, shelter, drugs or anything of value. Traffickers can be anyone including friends, gangs, family members, foster parents, perceived trusted adults or boyfriends. Talk to your child openly about this reality and build resiliency. Address the myths and misconceptions that glamorize the commercial sex industry. Social media and gaming platforms are increasingly becoming the tool traffickers and other predators use to target, groom, and recruit victims. At some point your child will likely be confronted with inappropriate messages or see things online that they now are wrong. Teach your child how to handle these situations. You can report suspected child sex trafficking or make a tip at 1-800-843-5678 or [CyberTipline.org](http://CyberTipline.org). For additional resources visit [www.eriercd.org/childprotection](http://www.eriercd.org/childprotection).

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$371.00
Initial Offering	5.00
Candles	3.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$379.00</b>

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$1,014.00
Maintenance	321.00
CSA	200.00
Initial Offering	55.00
Candles	26.00
Solemnity of Mary	55.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,671.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$35,933.33	Paid: \$35,529.33

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

---