

## The Work of the People

*The Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

For this Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, in the Opening Prayer (Collect) we pray that we may “serve [God] with all our heart” and so “feel the working” of his mercy in our lives.

In today's First Reading, Isaiah describes the servant of God as one who is willing to undergo torment. The servant expresses nothing but gratitude and recognizes God as the one who opens his ears, who keeps him from disgrace and from not being proven wrong.

In the Second Reading James insists that genuine faith in Christ is more than intellectual. Real faith is demonstrated through Christ-like actions, such as caring for the needy.

In today's Gospel Jesus's retort to Peter's rebuke underlines the problem the disciples had to deal with. Peter had pulled Jesus aside to plead against the fate he predicted. When Jesus called Peter "Satan," the effect was not to say that he was a devil, but rather a tempter. The phrase "get behind me," pointed out that Jesus, not Peter, was the teacher. The place for a disciple was to follow the Master's lead, not vice versa.

The reflection for this Sunday is from *Silence, Solitude, Simplicity* by Jeremy Hall, OSB (1918-2008), who was a gifted retreat leader, and a member of St. Benedict's Monastery in St. Joseph, Minnesota.

As Christ asks us—asks you, asks me—who we say he is, we are surely on solid ground in responding with Peter and the creedal professions, “Messiah, Son of the living God.” But we are not asked the question at one definitive time (except maybe at our death) or only once. I am asked again and again, in times of joy and of pain, sometimes of anguish, as I experience life, grow up, grow old. We might well answer the Lord differently at different times.

What if Jesus stood before you now and asked you, as a profoundly personal question, “Who do you say that I am?”

Maybe insights and events in your life, enlightened by Scripture, have helped you to see Jesus as the Way: the way to the Father, the way to live now, trying to live by Jesus' commandment of love and the life of his Spirit within you and eternal life as the fruit of the way. Saint Thomas Aquinas, commenting on John 14:6, says that Jesus “is himself at once both the way and the goal. In his

human nature he is the way, and in his divine nature he is the goal. . . . Christ is the way by which we come to know truth, though he is also that truth.” And then he adds: “It is better to limp along the way than to stride along off the way.” I may limp along the true way and seem to advance but little, yet I move toward the goal. Tireless running on the wrong road only takes me ever farther from the goal, “Christ the Way”—the Christ who said, “I am the Way.” And to be on the way is itself a kind of arrival; to seek Jesus as the Way is already to have been found by him.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 1 Tm. 2:1-8/Lk. 7:1-10

Tuesday: N. 21:4b-9/Phil. 2:6-11/Jn. 3:13-17

Wednesday: 1 Tm. 3:14-16/Jn. 19:25-27 or Lk. 2:33-35

Thursday: 1 Tm. 4:12-16/Lk. 7:36-50

Friday: 1 Tm. 6:2c-12/Lk. 8:1-3

Saturday: 1 Tm. 6:13-16/Lk. 8:4-15

Sunday: Wis. 2:12, 17-20/Jas. 3:16; 4:3/Mk. 9:30-37

**CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION**

Next weekend is the 2021 Catholic Education Collection. Please give generously. Without you, our faith formation and religious education programs would not be as successful as they are. Because of you, our many children and their families, both young and old, are led to greater faith. THANK YOU for your support.

**RE: PERSONAL DATA**

*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, September 13  
8:00 am + John E. Auer

Tuesday, September 14  
8:00 am + Daniel Baker (Rita Baker & family)

Wednesday, September 15  
8:00 am + Richard Hogue (Shawn Pflieger)

Thursday, September 16  
8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak (Gerry Odtemi)

Friday, September 17  
8:00 am + Vincent Novotny (PNA Lodge 1540)

Saturday, September 18  
4:30 pm + James Rasavage (Family)

Sunday, September 19  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Richard Baker (Shirley A. Knierman)  
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Living & Deceased Parishioners

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 14  
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, September 18  
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)

Sunday, September 19  
Before Mass - at ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Confession  
After Mass - AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Confession  
After 9:30 Mass - Faith Formation  
LATIN MASS - Last Sunday of the month

*“Jesus,  
help me to love with humility.  
May I never judge other people  
as less important than myself.”*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$661.00
Maintenance	60.00
Candles	47.00
Catholic Education	40.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$808.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$7,040.00    Paid: \$6,840.00	

### 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.

### HAITI COLLECTION

This weekend 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 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. Please give generously. We ask you us a plain envelope marked "Haiti Special Collection" and your name/or envelope number.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

If commitment is the choice we make to give up other choices, then it is about "losing ourselves". If we try to be independent from others by "saving ourselves" we end up lonely and alone. Happiness is found in commitments. The gospel is true: We save our life by losing it!

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$925.00
Maintenance	283.00
Candles	40.00
Hurricane Ida	50.00
Donation	50.00
Catholic Education	25.00
Assumption	25.00
Share the Faith	25.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,423.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$28,390    Paid: 25,761	

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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