

The Work of the People
Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

I was away this past week making my yearly canonical retreat and have returned somewhat refreshed to take on some of the pressing issues we face as a parish. The primary endeavor is to find an appropriate replacement for Mrs. Cindy Zemcik who has guided the Faith Formation Program for so many years. Thus far, this has not been easy. Please continue to ask God to guide us in this process. I thank Cindy for continuing to give time to keep this important program operating.

For this Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time we turn once again to the Book of the Prophet Isaiah. These verses from Isaiah are proclaimed as part of the fifth Old Testament reading at the Easter Vigil. Seek the Lord is Isaiah's invitation. The prophet invites even the scoundrel and the wicked to turn to God because Isaiah knows in God is forgiveness so generous and so abundant that one will never turn back to one's old way of life. God's thoughts are so infinitely high, like the heavens, that we find our hope for mercy in God.

Paul established the first Christian community at Philippi and he now writes to them from prison. He understands the core of his faith to be life in Christ. Whether he lives or dies, he knows that he glorifies Christ in his body. His dilemma is that if he went on living, he would still serve the Philippians and continue the work of spreading the Gospel. If Paul were to die, he would be with Christ. In the midst of his own suffering, he exhorts the Philippians to behavior befitting those who proclaim the Gospel of Christ.

In this Sunday's Gospel, we move ahead from the conclusion in Matthew 18 and Jesus' teaching on forgiveness to the beginning of chapter 20, where Jesus tells his disciples the parable of the landowner and his workers. The landowner hires workers at varying times during the day, but pays them each the customary daily wage. Those laborers who worked more hours understandably exhibit frustration. The landowner's generosity turns the workers' worldview upside down. Such is the way it will be in the Kingdom of Heaven, where the last will be first in the first, last. This is God's new paradigm.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Deacon Greg Kandra who serves in the Diocese of Brooklyn, New York. He is a broadcast journalist and maintains *The Deacon's Bench* blog.

The Presbyterian preacher and writer M. Craig Barnes once wrote: "God is always present, but not always apparent."

I think part of our job is to change that—to help others see God's work in the world.

St. Paul touches on a similar idea today in his letter to the Philippians, declaring, "Christ will be magnified in my body." A magnifying glass enlarges what is small, making it clear. Paul wanted to bring that kind of clarity, the clarity of Christ, to others. And he exhorted his readers, the people of Philippi, to do likewise: "Conduct yourselves in a way worthy of the Gospel of Christ."

That is one tall order. And it challenges us to ask ourselves: Is it an order I can carry out?

Do I live in a way "worthy of the Gospel of Christ"?

Do others see reflected in my life and my choices the teachings of Christ?

Do I magnify the Lord? Do I enlarge him, proclaiming him in a way that is clear and unmistakable, with tenderness and mercy and generosity and hope? Or do I keep him inscrutable, illegible, small?

Part of our call is to serve as magnifying glasses for the Gospel.

We need to remember that God is always present—but strive to live in a way that also makes God apparent.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Ezr. 1:1-6/Lk. 8:16-18

Tuesday: Ezr. 6:7-8, 12b, 14-20/Lk. 8:19-21

Wednesday: Ezr. 9:5-9/Lk. 9:1-6

Thursday: Hg. 1:1-8/Lk. 9:7-9

Friday: Dn. 7:9-10, 13-14 or Rv. 12:7-12a/Jn. 1:47-51

Saturday: Zec. 2:5-9, 14-15a/Lk. 9:43b-45

Sunday: Ez. 18:25-28/Phil. 2:1-11 or 2:1-5/Mt 21:28-32

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION

Last weekend, our parish took up a second collection to help support the lifelong faith formation and educational needs of our parish and diocese. Many parishioners responded generously. Thank you! If you missed last week's Catholic Education Collection, please consider a donation by using the envelope provided in your offertory box. Envelopes can be placed in the collection basket. Again, thank you.

WORSHIP

Monday, September 25
8:00 am + Sarah DeWoody/Sophia & Andy Yurcak
(Mike & Rita Yurcak)

Tuesday, September 26
8:00 am + Mary Mukina (Joan Rembielak)

Wednesday, September 27
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, September 28
8:00 am + PNA Lodge 1540

Friday, September 29
8:00 am + Joe Yusavage (Josie Osiecki)

Saturday, September 30
4:30 pm + Charles Metzler (Sheila Brainard)

Sunday, October 1
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Fred Weagraff (John & Kay Weagraff)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, September 26
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, September 30
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, October 1
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession

Monday, October 2
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

EUCARISTIC MINISTER SCHEDULE ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

Saturday, September 30, 4:30 pm
Ted Closky - Judy Kingston

Sunday, October 1, 9:30 am
Ginger Beck - Carol Rasavage

ANNUAL FALL DINNER

St. Lawrence/St. Philip Church
Annual Roast Beef Dinner
Restaurant-Style Meal
Take-outs Available.

Chinese Auction - 50/50 - Bake Sale - Raffle

Sunday, October 1, 2023
St. Lawrence Parish Center
129 E. Pearl St. Albion, PA

Serving time: 11:30 am until 2:00 pm
Serving 400 meals or until sold out

Price - \$14.00/person

*“Father,
I praise you for
your mercy and generosity,
which have no bounds!”*

OCTOBERFEST

St. Boniface Parish in Erie will celebrate Oktoberfest on October 6 beginning at 6 pm at the church, 9367 Wattsburg Rd, Erie. The adult-only event will feature craft beers brewed at St. Boniface Parish. There will also be music, games and food provided by Brady's Chuckwagon food truck. Come and join our celebration of the harvest feast in German style.

ROSARY MARCH

The World Apostolate of Fatima Diocesan Division is sponsoring a 29th Annual Diocesan Rosary March to be held on Oct. 8 from 2-4 pm at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie. The Rosary March will begin outside the cathedral and walk approximately one mile around downtown Erie. For those unable to walk outside, the rosary will be prayed inside the cathedral. The Rosary March will conclude with prayer service inside the cathedral from 3-4 pm with Bishop Lawrence Persico presiding, Fr. Scott Jabo as the guest homilist, Fr. Jerry Priscaro leading the Eucharistic adoration and benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. For more information, contact John Kostrubanic at 814 790-2046 or John Walsh at 814 868-1100.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$551.00
Maintenance	5.00
Catholic Education	110.00
Assumption	5.00
Latin America	5.00
Candles	12.00
CSA	5.00
TOTAL	\$693.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$703.00
Maintenance	276.00
CSA	85.00
Candles	22.00
Catholic Education	<u>536.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,622.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$34,622.33 Paid: \$31,193.33	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
