

## The Work of the People

*The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time*

For this Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, the Collect (Opening Prayer) recalls that God's love and grace are super-abundant and overflowing; this is the basis for our asking God "to pardon what conscience dreads and to give what prayer does not dare to ask." God will always surpass our expectations and fill us with life and love, despite our unworthiness.

The First Reading from the Second Story of Creation in Genesis presents us with the image of a person alone and helpless. To resolve the problem, God puts the man into a sleep so deep that he cannot watch what is going to happen. Then, having created the woman, God presents her to the man, almost like the father of the bride escorting a daughter to her groom. The man expresses his delight as he repeats: this one, this one, this one! The point is that it is not good for a person to be alone. Human beings are social by nature. We are created to be partners and helpers one for another.

This week we move from the Letter of St. James to the Letter to the Hebrews. The author admits that Jesus was, for a time, less than the angels, and immediately explains why that was so. Jesus chose inferiority to the angels precisely so that he could be one with humanity and all things, including death. Adding an exceptional development to the teaching of Genesis, Hebrews asserts that in the person of Jesus, God became one with humanity to consecrate us, to be brother and sister to God and one another.

In this scene in the Gospel of Mark, we find the Pharisees trying to put Jesus in danger or trap him in legalities. The danger came from the fact that John the Baptist had been beheaded over the question of divorce. While that lurked in the background, rabbis of that day debated the legitimacy of divorce. As so often happened, rather than answer the Pharisees question, Jesus asked one of his own and, as usual, caught them in their own trap.

The reflection for this week is from Michelle Francl-Donnay who is the mother of two college-aged sons, a professor of chemistry, and writes for *CatholicPhilly.com* of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

"Are you trying to tell me that my husband is dead?" I asked the surgeon. "Yes." In that harrowing moment of my first marriage's dissolution,

I finally grasped in my bones the reality of these words: They are no longer two but one flesh. Half of me had been torn off, and what remained was pouring out onto the floor in a pool of tears.

It is tempting to hear these readings from Genesis and Mark as mere marriage instruction, demanding husbands and wives to cleave to each other no matter the cost. I see in them instead potent images of what it feels like to be one body, not just in marriage but as the People of God: you are bone of my bone, flesh of my flesh. We proclaim in the Communion Antiphon that we are one body (1 Cor 10:17). But do we feel in our bones that we are one flesh, mingled with Christ in our communion, as the water and wine mingle in the cup we share? One. Inseparable.

These readings point us to realities beyond marriage, challenging us to deepen our fidelity to one another and to Christ as members of his One Body. This indeed is a hard teaching for all of us, not just those struggling with marriage. Are we torn open by the sufferings of our brothers and sisters? Do we weep for each other as we would weep for a beloved spouse? We are no longer two, but one flesh.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Jon. 1:1; 2:2, 11/Lk. 10:25-37

Tuesday: Jon. 3:1-10/Lk. 10:38-42

Wednesday: Jon. 4:1-11/Lk. 11:1-4

Thursday: Mal. 3:13-20b/Lk. 11:5-13

Friday: Jl. 1:13-15; 2:1-2

Saturday: Jl. 4:12-21/Lk. 11:27-28

Sunday: Wis. 7:7-11/Heb. 4:12-13/Mk. 10:17-30 or 10:17-27

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
HELPING HANDS GALA**

Catholic Charities Helping Hands Gala will be live-streamed for the first time ever! You can enjoy the festivities and bid on fabulous silent auction items all from the comfort of your own home. Watch live from 7:00 - 8:00 pm on October 9th. Register online at [hhgala21.givesmart.com](http://hhgala21.givesmart.com). Silent auction opens at 12 Midnight on October 1st and closes at 8:15 pm on October 9th. Sign up today!

**27th ANNUAL  
ROSARY MARCH**

Fatima's 104 year anniversary, Sunday, October 10, 2021 at 2:00 pm at St. Jude the Apostle Church in Erie. Please come and pray the rosary. Sponsored by the World Apostolate of Fatima. The services will be live-streamed on St. Jude's website: [www.stjudeapos.org](http://www.stjudeapos.org). For more information call John Walsh 814 868-1100.

## WORSHIP

Monday, October 4  
 8:00 am + John E. Auer  
 Tuesday, October 5  
 8:00 am + Josephine Haluch (James & Karen Mott)  
 Wednesday, October 6  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, October 7  
 8:00 am + Vincent Novotny (PNA Lodge 1540)  
 Friday, October 8  
 8:00 am + Kathleen Nowak  
 (Deacon Ron & Marsha Fronzaglia)  
 Saturday, October 9  
 4:30 pm + Bernadette deSaint Pol (Josie Osiecki)  
 Sunday, October 10  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Richard Dale Baker (Pauline Baker)  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

### CHILD PROTECTION AND CREATING SAFE ENVIRONMENTS

#### Diocesan Code of Conduct:

The Diocese of Erie is committed to protecting the children and youth who are entrusted to its care and to ensuring that those in ministry with our young people are in right relationship with the children/youth receiving services. To share in the ministry of Christ is a great privilege as well as a tremendous responsibility. The *privilege* is the joy of sharing in the mission of Jesus Himself. The *responsibility* is acting in a way that conforms to the attitude and actions of Christ. In this spirit, the diocese has issued a ministerial Code of Conduct. The code is included in the diocesan *Policy for the Protection of Children*. To read the Code of Conduct, go to: <https://www.eriercd.org/images/sections/childprotection/pdf/CURRENTPolicy.pdf> For more information, contact Mrs. Cindy Zemcik, in the diocesan Office for the Protection of Children at 814 824-1195.

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, October 4  
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO in St. Anthony Parish Center  
 Tuesday, October 5  
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena  
 Saturday, October 9  
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)  
 Sunday, October 10  
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
 Before Mass - Confession  
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
 After Mass - Confession

### RED MASS

The Erie County Bar Association cordially invites you to attend Red Mass celebrated by The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL, Bishop of Erie Monday, October 18, 2021 at 5:15 pm Mary, Seat of Wisdom Chapel - Gannon University, 513, Peach St., Erie. RSVP by Monday, October 11. Questions? Call the ECBA at 814 459-3111.

*“Lord,  
 when I am feeling angry with you,  
 give me the courage to express it  
 so that I can receive  
 your healing touch.”*

### ST. BERNADETTE MISSION

Holy Name Society - Meeting on Monday, October 11 at 6:00 pm at St. Bernadette Parish Center.

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Perhaps Jesus’ two-fold message in today’s gospel is a reminder to married couples to return to the innocence of the early years of their love - like children, loving each other with abandon. Do you know any couple who have recently married? Their love is contagious, and glowing, right? Married couples are called to be a sacramental reflection of God’s faithful and selfless love...a place where people live and love beyond rules and formulas.

#### ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$390.00
Maintenance	10.00
Candles	3.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$403.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$7,040    Paid: \$6,890

#### ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$713.00
Maintenance	295.00
Catholic Education	33.00
Candles	20.00
Latin Mass	400.05
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,461.05</b>

Catholic Services Appeal  
 Pledged: \$28,440    Paid: \$25,922

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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