

The Work of the People
The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

We have this Sunday and next before the beginning of Lent this year. We will be looking toward making our Lenten commitments this week and next. What are you considering as your Lenten offering this year? This is the work of a disciple of Jesus always and the readings for these next few weeks will call to a deepen our Baptismal commitment to following Jesus.

In the first reading for this Sunday Job laments his sleepless nights and a life of misery. He is hopeless, desperate to see happiness, but doubting whether he ever will. Many in our assemblies will resonate with Job's restlessness. Often people bemoan the misery that besets their lives. The world's misery frequently presents itself for us. As people of faith, we might feel hopeless like Job, yet we still do hope. Like Job, we can always trust in God.

In the second reading Paul expresses how important the Gospel is to him. He preaches it not on his own accord, but out of an obligation that comes from God. In other words, God called Paul to serve as a minister of the Gospel. For his free proclamation of the Gospel, Paul's free reward is a life of grace in Christ.

Today's Gospel begins on the same Sabbath day as last Sunday's Gospel in which Jesus taught in the synagogue and healed the man possessed by an unclean spirit. Inside the house of Simon and Andrew, Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law not by uttering any words, but with the simple gesture of taking her hand and helping her up. This individual healing leads to a multitude of healings and exorcisms the same day after sunset as the entire town comes to the doorstep of the house where Jesus was. Jesus' mission is clear: to preach, heal, and drive out demons with the divine authority given to him.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Kathleen Norris who is an oblate of St. Benedict and a well-known author.

Is not life a drudgery? Of course it is. And it is also a gift of unfathomable beauty. God gives us a choice. We can grow weary, like the poet Baudelaire, over the need to live twenty-four hours a day. Or we can emerge from bitter lament, like the biblical poet, to declare that the world is "new every morning" (Lamentations 3:23). Most of us spend our days somewhere between these two extremes.

When we read of Job lying awake, wracked with anxiety and wondering if the night will ever end, his ancient story seems completely up-to-date. One friend, a champion worrier, once asked me, "Why is it I can never think of the good things at 3:00 am?" Like Job, she often felt her life slipping away and despaired of ever feeling happy again.

Job accurately describes his condition as slavery, and it's worth acknowledging that we easily become enslaved by our misery. It feeds our narcissism and narrows our vision, making us incapable of appreciating the magnitude of a God who calls each star by name.

We can look to today's Gospel for ways out of our self-imposed prison. When Simon says to Jesus, "Everyone is looking for you," we are reminded to set aside our worries and look to Christ for consolation. When Jesus says, "For this purpose I have come," we are reminded that we too have a purpose. God calls us out of drudgery into freedom. God calls us by name.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Kgs. 8:1-7, 9-13/Mk. 6:53-56
Tuesday: 1 Kgs. 8:22-23, 27-30/Mk. 7:1-13
Wednesday: 1 Kgs. 10:1-10/Mk. 7:14-23
Thursday: 1 Kgs. 11:4-13/Mk. 7:24-30
Friday: 1 Kgs. 11:29-32; 12:19/Mk. 7:31-37
Saturday: 1 Kgs. 12:26-32; 13:33-34/Mk. 8:1-10
Sunday: Lv. 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor. 10:31; 11-1/Mk. 1:40-45

22:32 MEN 2024 CONFERENCE

All Faiths are Welcome!

The conference will be held live at St. Jude Parish in Erie from 8:30 am - 1:00 pm on Saturday, March 2, 2024. Inspiring national speakers including Father Larry Richards, Bishop Lawrence Persico, Damon Owens and Father Patrick Schultz. The conference will be held at St. Jude Parish in Erie and will also be live-streamed out to parishes in the Erie Diocese and others in surrounding areas. Our website has a list of those parishes.

Adult registration is \$25, groups of 8 or more is \$20. High School and college students are free. Please register beforehand.

LENTEN BIBLE STUDY ***"Bad Girls of the Bible"***

Every Thursday from 9:00 am - 10:00 am
Starts February 15th and ends March 21st
Class meets in St. Anthony of Padua Parish Center
Kitchen

For more information, call
Sue Parkin 814 450-2346

WORSHIP

Monday, February 5
 8:00 am + Living & Deceased Members of
 David & Christine Ochs Family

Tuesday, February 6
 8:00 am + Rose Smith (Plementosh Family)

Wednesday, February 7
 8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, February 8
 8:00 am + Felicia Gudinskas
 (M/M Gerard Adamczyk)

Friday, February 9
 8:00 am + Marcy Caldwell
 (Ginger (Weidner) & Dick Kester)

Saturday, February 10
 4:30 pm + Joseph Parlak
 (Fredric & Christina Thomas)

Sunday, February 11
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Elsie Weagraff (Kay Weagraff)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Sunday, February 4
 10:30 - Faith Formation Class

Monday, February 5
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

Tuesday, February 6
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, February 10
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, February 11
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession

*“Holy Spirit,
 help me to be the tassel of Jesus’ cloak
 so that I can bring his love
 to those who need it..”*

2024 CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

One Faith, One Family

Next weekend is Commitment Sunday for the 2024 Catholic Services Appeal. The CSA is essential to carrying out the Church’s mission to evangelize, educate, serve, proclaim the Word, celebrate the sacraments, and provide hope to people in need, beyond what any parish can provide on its own.

As baptized Catholics, the Lord calls each of us to share His love and build up His Church. Through our gifts to the CSA, we unite as *One Faith, One Family* in carrying out His life-giving mission. Thank you for faithful generosity and prayers for the CSA.

CHICKEN AND BISCUIT DINNER

On February 19, 2024 a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner will be served in St. Anthony of Padua Parish Center starting at 5:00 pm. Dinner includes chicken & biscuits, mashed potatoes, vegetable, apple sauce and slice of cake. Cost is \$7.00 and takeouts are available.

CALENDAR LOTTERY FUNDRAISER

A sincere thank you to everyone who helped make St. Anthony of Padua Calendar Lottery Fundraiser a big success. Also, many thanks to Sarah Medvec and Josie for their valuable assistance in keeping accurate records of all proceeds and the distribution of monies. Income was \$3,560.00, expenses were 1,228.95. Our total profit was \$2,331.05.

PUMPKIN ROLLS

The profit from Pumpkin rolls sold last November was \$1,777.24. A total of 114 rolls were made. A sincere thank you to all volunteers who helped make this fundraiser a huge success.

EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST

Fr. Mark would like to meet with all of you in anticipation of reintroducing the Precious Blood at Communion. The meeting will be on Sunday, February 11 after the 9:30 Mass and take about 45 minutes.

If you cannot make this meeting, please call the office.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$501.00
Initial	15.00
Faith Communications	45.00
Solemnity of Mary	5.00
TOTAL	\$566.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,373.25
Maintenance	378.00
Solemnity of Mary	10.00
Candles	51.00
Faith Communication	218.00
Initial	5.00
TOTAL	\$2,035.25
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$35,933.33 Paid: \$35,529.33	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
