

The Work of the People
The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

With the celebration of the Baptism of the Lord, this year on January 8, the Christmas Season comes to a close. We move into the winter portion of Ordinary Time which is just a few weeks long this year. The time between the close of the Christmas Season and Ash Wednesday's introduction to Lent does not have to be fallow; it can be a time in which our faith can flourish and grow, "greening" in the spirit of this season's liturgical color. Perhaps one of the great opportunities of Ordinary Time – whether in winter or summer – is to make our discipleship visible not only through our words but also through our deeds.

On this Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, we hear from the first Book of Samuel. Four times Samuel utters the phrase "Here I am." He desires to respond to whomever calls him, whether Eli or God. Often, we think that Samuel does not respond to God's call until after Eli instructs him to say, "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Yet the reading opens with God calling to Samuel and Samuel's first utterance of "Here I am."

The second reading today is from the first Letter of St. Paul to the Church in Corinth. In this section of the letter Paul deals with moral issues dividing the Corinthian community. His point is clear: avoid immorality. We are so united with Christ in our body that Paul instructs us that each person's body is the temple of the Holy Spirit.

We begin this Ordinary Time with a reading from the Gospel of John even though Mark's Gospel is the primary Gospel for this year. The choice of two of John the Baptist's disciples to follow Jesus after John identified Jesus as the Lamb of God corresponds to Samuel's call in the First Reading. Jesus' invitation to the two disciples of John parallels God's invitation to Samuel. Samuel recognized it was God calling, so the disciples recognize Jesus as the Messiah.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. Daniel Groody, CSC, who is associate professor of theology and director of the Global Leadership Program at the University of Notre Dame.

For the last few years I have been teaching a course called "The Heart's Desire and Social Change." The class helps students discover where the deepest longings of their lives meet the needs and suffering of the world.

More often than not students can identify a global issue in the "outside world" that challenges

them. But they frequently struggle with the personal issues of the "inside world" that confound them. Without spending time in personal reflection before God, the heart can feel like a foreign territory. Unless we periodically disengage from the busyness of daily life, it is hard to listen to what is stirring within us.

When Jesus first sees John's disciples in today's Gospel, he asks them about their heart's desires: "What are you looking for?" In turn they also ask him a question, but it is not "what are we to do?" They ask first about where he dwells, where he lives in his innermost heart.

Discipleship begins with dwelling in Christ, entering the place of his loving embrace, staying under the gaze of his tender mercy. It involves living with a heart open to love, a heart willing to change, a heart ready to serve, a heart disposed to pray, like Samuel, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

The world is hungry not for busier people but bigger hearted people. They seek not only people who work for God but people who are so at home with God that they become a doorway into God.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1Sm. 15:16-23/Mk. 2:18-22
 Tuesday: 1 Sm. 16:1-13/M. 2:23-28
 Wednesday: 1 Sm. 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Mk. 3:1-6
 Thursday: 1 Sm. 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Mk. 3:7-12
 Friday: 1 Sm. 24:3-21/Mk. 3:13-19
 Saturday: 2 Sm. 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Mk. 3:20-21
 Sunday: Dr. 18:15-20/1 Cor. 7:32-35/Mk. 1:21-28

*"Lord,
 help me to hand over my battles to you,
 who are always at my side."*

11TH ANNUAL MEN'S CONFERENCE

Saturday, March 2, 2024
 St. Jude Parish
 More information to follow

PARENTING POINTERS

Here we are in the middle of winter in the Northern Hemisphere. Are you getting tired of it? Find something fun for your family to do together. Play a new game. Draw cartoons of each other. Dress up in costumes. Be silly together. Let your kids lead.

WORSHIP

Monday, January 15
8:00 am + Joan Rosenthal
(Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)

Tuesday, January 16
8:00 am + Mark & Rose Smith (Smith Family)

Wednesday, January 17 - AT ST. BERNADETTE
8:00 am + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Thursday, January 18
8:00 am + Jim Rasavage (Carol Rasavage)

Friday, January 19
8:00 am + For the Repose of the Soul of
Msgr. Robert M. Malene

Saturday, January 20
4:30 pm + Living & Deceased Parishioners

Sunday, January 21
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
John Weagraff (Jim & Fran Peters)
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Deceased Members of Weidner Family
Ginger (Weidner) & Dick Kester

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 16
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, January 20
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, January 21
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession
10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes

MARRIAGE MOMENT

What does it mean to be equal? Are both of you equally good at cooking, mechanical things, sewing, small talk? Probably not. Even though your spouse may have a natural talent for a particular task, try trading chores for a day. Trading places can bring new appreciation for each other. Even if the job doesn't get done as well, it can provide a laugh.

HAM DINNER

Tomorrow, January 15 starting at 5:00 pm a Ham Dinner will be served in the Parish Center. Dinner includes ham, vegetable, potato, home-made rolls, and a slice of cake. Cost is \$7 and take outs are available.

**SAINT HIPPOLYTE CHURCH
LE NOM du PERE SOCIETY**

Members of Saint Hippolyte Church's Le Nom du Pere Society will have their annual French Dinner on Saturday, February 3 in the Saint Hippolyte Church social hall, located on Rt. 27 in Frenchtown. This elegant four-course dinner includes French Onion Soup, Salad with Vinaigrette Dressing, Chicken Crepes, Honey Garlic Butter Roasted Carrots and Chocolate Mousse for dessert. The cost for this delicious dinner is \$20/person, in advance. Seating will take place on the hour at 5 pm, 6 pm, and 7pm. Dinners are sold by advance reservation only. Make your reservation by calling Connie at 814 967-3813 no later than January 20.

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 for more information.

SNACK & PAINT

CSMA Church, 257 Church St. Alliance Women Snack & Paint on Saturday, February 3 from 6pm - 8pm. Invite a friend to come with you. Cost is \$30 (includes all your supplies) Please call the church at 814 398-2542 to reserve your spot, registration fee must be paid by January 28th.

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$4,957.00
Maintenance	302.00
Candles	11.00
CSA	955.00
Solemnity of Mary	55.00
Initial Offering	105.00
Catholic Communication	45.00
TOTAL	\$6,430.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$35,923.33 Paid: \$35,329.33

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$541.00
Maintenance	50.00
Initial Offering	35.00
Solemnity of Mary	30.00
Catholic Communications	40.00
Candles	51.00
TOTAL	\$747.00

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
