

The Work of the People

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

This year this section of Ordinary Time is very brief because Ash Wednesday comes mid-way in February. Make sure, if you haven't already, that you download My Parish App so that you can keep informed about all the events leading up to and during Lent 2021. Instruction cards are available at the entrances of the church.

On this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time the first reading is from the Book of the Prophet Jonah. Jonah's prophetic task was not easy. No wonder he refused it the first time God called. In today's reading, God's word comes to Jonah for a second time, this time after God rescued Jonah from the belly of the big fish by having the fish spew Jonah out onto the seashore. Jonah calls the people of Nineveh to repentance based on his personal experience of God's mercy and opportunity to live a new life in God. God acknowledges the conversion of the Ninevites and God himself repents of the evil that he would've brought upon them.

In the second reading, this brief passage is Paul's advice to the Corinthians about how to live in the interim before Christ comes again in glory. Paul believes that the Second Coming of Christ is imminent, so he conveys his instructions with a sense of urgency. Christians are to live in the knowledge of the Second Coming for this world is passing away. What lasts is God's grace active in the risen Christ, now alive in the hearts of those who believe.

This Sunday we moved back into Mark's Gospel. Jesus' proclamation to repent and believe in the Gospel parallels Jonas call to the Ninevites to repent. What is unique in Jesus' proclamation is the preface to his announcement in which he states, "This is the time of fulfillment." Through our reading of the Gospel according to Mark, we, along with the disciples, will come to know that in Jesus' very person as the Son of Man who saves, is the fulfillment of all God's promises.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Fr. Daniel P. Horan, OFM, who holds the Duns Scotus Chair of Spirituality at the Catholic Theological Union in Chicago and who is the author of several books.

Most high school or college students looking to study at a particular school or with a potential mentor usually do the work of seeking out their options. Today's Gospel presents a very different experience of how one does (or *does not*) arrive at the choice of where or with whom to study. Like students today, disciples in Jesus' time generally made the choice. Inspired by some teacher or spiritual master, the would-be disciple sought a place among the students.

But Jesus does something very different.

In this case, the master seeks the students, recruits his followers, and invites his would-be disciples. We

are so familiar with Jesus' calling of the Twelve that we can miss the awe-inspiring nature of this approach. Not only does Jesus, the Son of God, humble himself to become a poor, itinerant preacher; he also seeks out disciples without waiting for them to first come to him.

Furthermore, Jesus does not meet his disciples while they're in the midst of some existential high point or mystical experience of prayer. No, he meets them in the boring, routine, ordinariness of life—repairing nets, fishing, collecting taxes, or doing whatever.

Jesus still seeks us out, approaches us in the midst of our busy and ordinary lives, and says, "Hey, come follow me." The question isn't whether we've been accepted into Jesus' school; it's whether we say yes to the personal invitation. The only thing left for us to decide is if we truly want to learn from the master, or simply ignore him and go back to the typical work of our lives.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Mk. 16:15-18

Tuesday: 2 Tm. 1:1-8 or Titus 1:1-5/Lk. 10:1-9

Wednesday: Heb. 10:11-18/Mk. 4:1-20

Thursday: Heb. 10:19-25/Mk. 4:21-25

Friday: Heb. 10:32-39/Mk. 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb. 11:1-2, 8-19/Mk. 4:35-41

Sunday: Deut. 18:15-20/1 Cor. 7:32-35/Mk. 1:21-28

PRAYER FOR ENTRUSTING THE CHURCH TO MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

*O Mother of all peoples;
you know all their sufferings and their hopes.
You maternally feel all their struggles
between good and evil,
between the light and the darkness
which shake the world.
Receive our cry,
directed in the Holy Spirit
straight to your Heart and,
with the love of the Mother and Handmaid
of the Lord,
embrace the individuals and peoples
who most look for this embrace,
together with the individuals and peoples
to whose trust you attend
in a particular way.
Take the entire human family
under your maternal protection.
With outflows of affection, O Mother,
we entrust it to you.
May the time of peace and liberty approach for all,
the time of truth, justice and hope
Amen.*

WORSHIP

Monday, January 25
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Tuesday, January 26
 8:00 am + Daniel H. Baker (Rita Baker & Family)
 Wednesday, January 27
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Thursday, January 28
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Friday, January 29
 8:00 am + NO MASS
 Saturday, January 30
 4:30 pm + Jerry Peters (Peters Family)
 Sunday, January 31
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Steve Scott
 (Parishioners of St. Bernadette Mission)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Living & Deceased Parishioners
 12:30 pm + LATIN MASS AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 William P. Lyons (Joyce Lyons & Family)

CATHOLIC COMMUNICATION CAMPAIGN

Today we take up the collection for the Catholic Communication Campaign (CCC). Your support helps the CCC connect people to Christ and builds Catholic communities in the United States and around the world using the internet, television, radio, and print media. Half the funds we collect remain here in the Erie Diocese to support local efforts. Be a part of this campaign to spread the Gospel message. Support the collection today! To learn more, visit www.usccb.org/ccc.

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

It must have been difficult for Zebedee to watch his sons walk away and follow Jesus as it seemed he had his own plans for this children. We often forget that our children were never ours to begin with. They are only on loan to us. We raise them to let them go.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, January 26
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Saturday, January 30
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, January 31
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

*Father, we seek Your wisdom daily.
 Be with people making decisions
 that affect the lives and futures
 of our families, communities,
 countries, and the wider world.
 We pray that they communicate clearly,
 truthfully, and calmly
 -with each other and with the public-
 and that their messages are received and heeded.
 May truth and empathy
 be the touchstones of people
 setting policies for our protection.*

*“Lord,
 change us by your word,
 and make us one
 so that the world might believe.”*

“It is God
 who arms me with strength
 and makes my way perfect.”
 Psalm 18:32

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$335.00
Candles	3.00
TOTAL	\$338.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$5,805.00 Paid: \$5,805.00	

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$1,507.00
Maintenance	325.00
Candles	31.00
Christmas	40.00
Immaculate Conception	40.00
Initial	27.00
Solemnity of Mary	10.00
Faith Communication	45.00
CSA	80.00
TOTAL	\$2,105.00
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$26,844.00 Paid: \$26,574.00	

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
