

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

For those of you who have been anticipating the return of the Precious Blood at communion time, I decided that it may be wise to delay the reintroduction a bit longer. There is a new COVID variant and there has been an uptick in cases. I hope that this delay won't be long, and this will also give me the opportunity to meet with all of the Extraordinary Ministers of the Eucharist to review our procedures at Mass.

On this Sunday we hear from the Prophet Ezekiel. A prophet is like a watchman appointed to herald the advance of a country's enemies by blowing a trumpet. God appoints Ezekiel as the watchman for the house of Israel. The watchman's task is to speak the truth to others and lead them from their evil inclinations. Should the watchman not to do that, he is liable for the person's injury or death. But the persons who simply do not heed the watchman's words or the sound of the trumpet, are responsible for the consequences that befall them.

In the reading from Paul's Letter to the Church in Rome we hear today that Christ's own love shown for us through his Death and Resurrection means that love is now the fulfillment of the law. Following the letter of the law no longer satisfies, but rather embracing fully the commandment to love one another does. Love is the opposite of evil. When we love our neighbor as ourselves, we fulfill the law as Jesus did, for he is Love, the Love whom God calls us to imitate.

We skip ahead a few chapters in Matthew for this Sunday's Gospel reading where we find Jesus teaching his disciples how to handle a situation in which a person sin against them. Jesus' instructions initially follow the pattern of Ezekiel's words from the First Reading in which a disciple is to speak honestly with the person who sinned. If the sinner does not listen, then a small group of people comes to address the situation as in a trial. Failing resolution, then one is to tell the Church which, Jesus instructs, is to treat the sinner as he treated tax collectors and Gentiles.

The reflection for this Sunday is from Paula Huston who is a Coalholes Benedictine oblate and the author of two novels and seven works of spiritual non-fiction.

Many years ago a close friend betrayed me. A teaching position I'd long been aiming for suddenly opened up at the university where I taught,

but when I turned to my friend and colleague for advice on how to get the job, he was evasive and noncommittal. Only when someone else had been hired did I find out why: my colleague had recommended I not even be considered for the post. Baffled and furious, I took an early retirement, declaring to myself that I never wanted to see him or the campus again.

Fifteen years later, I bumped into him at a funeral. I was shocked at how old and careworn he looked. Before I could stop myself, I was embracing him, my eyes filling with tears of . . . what? Could this be love I was feeling?

Love is the energizing force behind biblical teachings that forbid us from harming others. At first, we try our best to obey those rules because we are afraid of what will happen if we don't. Then, after what seems a lifetime of learning how to set aside our temptations toward envy, vengeance, and self-pity, something new begins to reveal itself in us. We realize that we are no longer capable of wishing evil upon our neighbor, no matter what he has done. The law has been fulfilled in us.

As I hugged the friend who had once betrayed me, the room seemed suddenly awash in the light of Christ.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Col. 1:24; 2:3/Lk. 6:6-11
 Tuesday: Col. 2:6-15/Lk. 6:12-19
 Wednesday: Col. 3:1-11/Lk. 6:20-26
 Thursday: Nm. 21:4b-9/Phil. 2:6-11/Jn. 3:13-17
 Friday: 1 Tm. 1:1-2, 12-14/Jn. 19:25-27 or Lk. 2:33-35
 Saturday: 1 Tm. 1:15-17/Lk. 6:43-49
 Sunday: Sir. 27:30; 28:7/Rom. 14:7-9/Mt. 18:21-35

FAITH FORMATION

We would appreciate all parents and students to register today after Mass and attend this first class.

— Thank you, Barb Milligan, Faith Formation Coordinator.

***“Lord,
 remind me of how much I need you,
 even on my busiest days.”***

WORSHIP

Monday, September 11
8:00 am + NO MASS
Tuesday, September 12
8:00 am + NO MASS
Wednesday, September 13
8:00 am + NO MASS
Thursday, September 14
8:00 am + NO MASS
Friday, September 15
8:00 am + NO MASS
Saturday, September 16
4:30 pm + Claudia Geroni (Kathleen Lipkovich)
Sunday, September 17
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Living & Deceased Parishioners
9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
Gary Parkin (Sue Parkin)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Saturday, September 16
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
Sunday, September 17
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
Before Mass - Confession
AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
After Mass - Confession
Monday, September 18
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

The key word in today's gospel is "listen". We cannot change another person; not alone, not with others and not with a whole Church. All we can do is state our position and "if he listens to you" then he/she can take the steps necessary to change themselves. Change comes from within.

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
HOLY ROSAY SOCIETY**

Meeting — Tuesday, September 12 - 1:00 pm

**ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$871.00
Maintenance	75.00
Candles	27.00
Catholic Education	50.00
TOTAL	\$1,023.00

THANK YOU

Thank you to Erik Fort, a Pastoral Council member, for repainting the railings in the Gathering Space. The disinfectant that we had used during the COVID pandemic had taken some of the paint off.

CATHOLIC EDUCATION COLLECTION

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I ask for your support of the Catholic Education Collection being held on the weekend of September 16-17.

This annual second collection supports lifelong education and faith formation opportunities for everyone throughout our entire diocese. Please generously support this collection. You play an integral part in our success in nurturing growth in mind, heart and spirit of the faithful.

Half of the funds raised from this collection remain in your parish to support your local education and faith formation programs. The other half provides funds across the diocese for ministry and leadership training, technology support, creative projects in faith formation, as well as tuition assistance for families attending Catholic schools. A small portion also supports The Catholic University of America.

Thank you for your generosity. Contributions can be made directly at your parish or online at <https://www.eriecd.org/cec.html>. Be assured of my prayers for you and your family. With every best wish, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,
The Most Reverend Lawrence T. Persico, JCL
Bishop of Erie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - ST. ANTHONY

Saturday, September 16
Ted Closky
Judy Hermann
Sunday, September 17
Carl Archacki
Ginger Beck

**ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,191.00
Maintenance	424.00
Assumption	10.00
Candles	52.00
CSA	2,760.00
Catholic Education	55.00
TOTAL	\$4,492.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$34,582.33 Paid: \$30,878.33

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
