

The Work of the People  
*The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time*

I thought it might be good to break from my usual column on the scriptures for this Sunday to looking a bit at this time in our Liturgical Year. Besides the times of the year that have their own distinctive character, there remain in the yearly cycle thirty-three or thirty-four weeks in which no particular aspect of the mystery of Christ is celebrated, but rather the mystery of Christ itself is honored in its fullness, especially on Sundays. This period is known as Ordinary Time. It seems as though those who put the Lectionary of Sunday Readings together decided that this would be a time in and through which we follow Christ in his mission and ministry on earth and through the example that Christ gives us come to a better understanding of our call from God and response to that call. We come to see more clearly how we are called to participate in the mission and ministry of Christ through Baptism.

After the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Ordinary Time begins. In these Sundays, we all witness the beginning of Jesus's ministry. We will hear the call to discipleship and the paradoxes and difficulties, the clarity and misunderstandings that will be encountered in the proclamation of the reign of God. There is a continuity between Christmas Time and these Sundays of Ordinary Time. In fact, this time used to be called the Sundays after Epiphany to make that continuity a little more apparent. That continuity is the call for a time of recommitment to our own baptismal mission. *(Have you ever taken time to think about what your baptismal mission may be and how you are responding to it?)*

After the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, we return to ordinary days, to the ordinary rhythms of life. It is a time to get back to our places of education and business, a time to pack away the lights and trees and decorations and experience for a time a kind of plainness or emptiness. But our lives are not empty since we are living Emmanuel, God with us. The gifts that gave such joy and delight when they were received become a part of daily life, speaking to us of the giver's love whenever we see or use them. We might most appropriately then ask ourselves: "What about the greatest gift of all – the Son of God, whose Incarnation we have just celebrated?"

Ordinary Time could be called the "season of Sundays." Interspersed with a certain number of Holydays of Obligation, it allows us to celebrate fully the special character of our original feast day, Sunday, called the Lord's Day, the first day, the eighth day, and the day beyond our cycle of time.

Ordinary means "numbered" not "commonplace." It is based on the use of our ordinal numbers that count days and time as first, second, third, etc. However, we do tend to think of Ordinary Time as the

"nothing in particular" time of the year. But since the Resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, time itself is anything but ordinary. Not only on Easter, but every Sunday of the year, the Church relives the Paschal Mystery. Ordinary Time, because it celebrates no particular mystery of Christ, gives an opportunity to enter more deeply into the mystery of Sunday.

This is a time, too, to reevaluate how I have been honoring the Lord's Day and responding to God's presence and action in my life by gathering with the worshipping community to give thanks to God. If my relationship with God is at all important to me, this is the primary way through which I can express that. In this Ordinary Time, let us continue to give thanks to God by our full, conscious, and active participation in the great prayer of thanksgiving, Sunday Eucharist.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 1 Sm. 15:16-23/Mk. 2:18-22  
 Tuesday: 1 Sm. 16:1-13/Mk. 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: Neh. 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10/1 Cor. 12:12-30 or  
 12:12-14, 27/Lk. 1:1-4; 4:14-21

### HELP SPREAD THE FAITH

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I am grateful every day for the resources we have to help spread the Gospel message. Imagine how different our experience of the pandemic would be if we did not have the ability to Zoom or to livestream. It is changing the way we approach so many aspects of our lives.

At the heart of all that communicating is strong content. That's why the Diocese of Erie continues to invest in a team dedicated to providing you with thoughtful publications, social media posts, web resources and more, all designed to help me in my role as shepherd of the Diocese of Erie. Some of it comes right to your mailbox in the form of *Faith*, an engaging magazine filled with the stories and testimonies of Catholics striving to grow closer to Christ in northwest Pennsylvania. Despite the challenges of the pandemic, we have not missed a beat with this important resource, and in fact, have used it to provide much-needed encouragement and updates.

When I emphasize the need for strong communications, I am thinking first and foremost of you. My work is done in service to Christ and to you. I strive to take full advantage of every tool at our disposal to keep you informed about what is happening with the Catholic Church worldwide across the United States, and here in northwest Pennsylvania. Do you know why the upcoming Synod on Synodality at the Vatican is important? Are you aware that the US bishops are collaborating on an effort to help American Catholics understand and embrace the church's teaching on the Eucharist over the next three years? And what's the latest on pastoral planning in our diocese?

This year we've reported on all this and more in *Faith*, in the weekly Diocese of Erie news, at [www.ErieRCD.org](http://www.ErieRCD.org) and on our social media platforms. Thanks to your generous support, all of it remains available free of charge.

Please consider participating in the 2022 *Help Spread the Faith* collection scheduled for the weekend of January 22nd-23rd. It's one important way to fulfill Jesus' command to go forth and make disciples of all nations.

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

## WORSHIP

Monday, January 17  
8:00 am + John E. Bauer

Tuesday, January 18  
8:00 am + Jim Rasavage (Carol & Family)

Wednesday, January 19  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Living & Deceased Parishioners

Thursday, January 20  
8:00 am + Daniel H. Baker (Rita Baker & Family)

Friday, January 21  
8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of PNA Lodge #1540

Saturday, January 22  
4:30 pm + Dec. of Miller/Mazzotta Famillies  
(Rose Miller)

Sunday, January 23  
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION  
Richard Baker (Shirley A. Knierman)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
Living & Deceased Parishioners

## PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday, January 17  
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

Tuesday, January 18  
After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Thursday, January 20  
6:00 pm - Finance Council Mtg.  
6:45 pm - Pastoral Council Mtg.

Saturday, January 22  
3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession (or by appointment)

Sunday, January 23  
AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION -  
Before Mass - Confession

AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA  
After Mass - Confession

*“Come, Lord Jesus  
and give us the Spirit of unity!”*

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$321.00
Candles	6.00
Quilt Guild	<u>635.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$962.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$7,100.00	Paid: \$7,100.00

**IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING  
YEAR-END FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

If you want a year-end statement of your annual contributions to St. Anthony of Padua Parish or St. Bernadette Mission **PLEASE CLIP THIS FROM THE BULLETIN AND RETURN IN THE COLLECTION BASKET BY JANUARY 25, 2022.**

**NAME:**

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(Please Print)

**CATHOLIC MEN’S CONFERENCE**  
**22:32 MEN**

*The conference will be held on Saturday, February 12 from 8:30 am - noon and men from our diocese will gather to pray, reflect, and be inspired in three different ways:*

1. *Live in-person at St. Jude the Apostle parish in Erie;*
2. *Virtually at hosting parishes via YouTube; participating parishes listed on our website, [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com);*
3. *Virtually via YouTube in your home.*

*The morning program consists of two amazing speakers, and Mass with Bishop Persico. If you attend at St. Jude’s or a satellite hosting parish, you will enjoy two of our life-giving Sacraments: Holy Eucharist and Reconciliation. The event is \$20. For more information or to register visit [www.2232men.com](http://www.2232men.com) or call 814 455-7364.*

**CATHOLICS FOR LIFE AND LIBERTY**

Adoration and Holy Hour for Respect Life and Religious Liberty held the third Friday of each month will be January 20th at 10 PM at St. Agatha Church. All are welcome!

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP	
Offertory	\$928.00
Maintenance	382.00
Candles	20.00
Solemnity of Mary	20.00
Christmas	100.00
Special Offering	5.00
Initial	<u>40.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,495.00</b>
Catholic Services Appeal	
Pledged: \$29,595.00	Paid: \$29,130.00

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

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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