

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 24, 2010

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

~Luke 4: 18a

A HOLY TIME

For those of us who live farther north, it is now the heart of winter. And for all of us, north and south, the holidays are over. We may sense the start of a long, hard stretch of blank time. These opening Sundays of "Ordinary Time" reflect this feeling of beginning.



Today's reading from the book of Nehemiah tells with great drama how the people gathered to hear, as though for the first time, a solemn reading of God's word. As they listened, they fell to the ground and wept. But the prophet said, "Today is holy to the LORD your God. Do not be sad, and do not weep" (Nehemiah 8:9).

Today's Gospel tells a similar dramatic tale. We are presented with the very beginning of Jesus' public life. The people gathered to listen, and Jesus proclaimed the fulfillment of the prophet's words. To his listeners—and to us—he announced "a year acceptable to the Lord" (Luke 4:19). © Copyright, J. S. Paluch Co.

We are His Hands

Submitted by Greg De Cristofaro

We are called as Jesus commanded, "go forth and serve one another as I have served you" with our God given gifts of time, talents and treasures. Each week one or more parish ministries will host the coffee and donuts after the 8 am and 10:30 am masses. This would be an opportunity for you to investigate if that particular ministry is a way for you to serve our parish community with your God given gifts.

Next week, Next week, January 31st, the 50+ Singles Group and Wednesday Hot Lunch Program will be hosting coffee and donuts.

The mission of St. Thomas More 50+ singles Group at St. Thomas More is open to single persons fifty or older who are Catholic or are of another Christian faith. The purpose of the 50+ singles group is to provide fellowship and spiritual support to one another. A variety of social activities and outings are planned to encourage one another both socially and spiritually. If you are interested in learning more about the 50+ singles Group and feel called to serve in this ministry, please contact Priscilla Hein at 876-1983.

The Mission of the Wednesday Hot Lunch Ministry, based on the principles of Christian service, compassion and acceptance is to integrate the physical, social, mental and spiritual hungers of the community by providing food and Christian hospitality at St. Thomas More.

We realize that accomplishing these goals is an ongoing process that calls forth the fulfillment of our own unique gifts from God. If you are interested in learning more about the Wednesday Hot Lunch Ministry and feel called to serve in this ministry, please contact Al Penna at 872-0460.

Readings for the Week

Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Mk 16:15-18
Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-17; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Mk 4:21-25
Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71; 1 Cor 12:31 — 13:13 [13:4-13]; Lk 4:21-30

RCIA

This Sunday, Jan24th at the 5pm Liturgy, we will welcome Kevin Kriebel in our midst. The rite includes welcoming him as the Mass begins. He is signed by the cross of Christ and affirms his intention to live under Christ's cross. His formation in God's Word begins as the Word we hear proclaimed each week in our assembly is presented to him. You are important in this rite, for it is the whole parish community that is welcoming him, As Christ's followers, we each embraces the cross; take some time this week to reflect on the cross you are embracing in your own life.



Missal reading for January 24th is located on page 66.

Weekly Calendar

Sunday, January 24

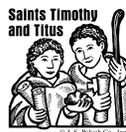
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Coffee & Donuts: Hospitality Ministry
Living Rosary, church

Monday, January 25

The Conversion of St. Paul
Noon Hot Lunch Provided by Methodist Church, main hall
7:00pm RCIA Inquiry, church conf. room

Tuesday, January 26

St. Timothy & St. Titus
9:15am Legion of Mary, church conf. room
7:00pm Peace and Social Justice meeting, conf. room



church

Wednesday, January 27

St. Angela Merici
9:30am Mothers and Others, small hall
Noon Wednesday Hot Lunch, main hall
1:00pm 50+ Singles, main hall
6:00pm KOC Potluck, main hall
7:00pm Breath of the Spirit Prayer Group, church conf. Room



Thursday, January 28

St. Thomas Aquinas
7:00pm Adult Faith Formation, small hall

Friday, January 29

9:00am Building/Finance Committee, church conf. room



Saturday, January 30

Blessed Virgin Mary
3:00pm Sacrament of Reconciliation, church
5:00pm Vigil Mass

Sunday, January 31

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Coffee & Donuts: 50+ singles and Wednesday Hot Lunch Bunch

Pilgrim of Our Lady of Fatima

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima is circulating in parish homes. Call Peter or Carmelisa at 876.1048 for further information.



Growing the Body of Christ

It is with great joy that we witness Mass attendance increasing and many old friends returning to the faith. There is little doubt that the Catholics Welcome Home campaign is having an affect. Perhaps we are all learning or relearning what a blessing we have in the faith that we share and how the Church brings us ever closer to Christ our Lord.

It is with great joy that we witness the Body of Christ grow. At this time we should remind ourselves that we are that Body, the assembled faithful who together make Christ visible to the world. We are his body because as we gather together as the body of faithful, we become His arms and legs and take on the role of the Body of Christ because it is Christ who leads us and we seek to do His will.

Calling ourselves the Body of Christ is a reminder that Christ is the head of the Church. The Pope is called the Vicar of Christ, that is one who works as an agent or in the name of Christ. The Pope is the visible symbol of unity of our faith but it is Jesus Christ who is the true head of our Church. We may never go against the Word He has given us and always submit ourselves over to His will.

When long time brothers and sisters return to the Church, this Body of Christ is strengthened. Our unity is a visible sign to the world of the presence of Christ. We make Him visible through our works of charity, our displayed faith, and through the faithful lives we live. Together we learn the joy of being brothers and sisters to Christ and thus children of God.

Coming together in our faith is our way of allowing God to work in our lives and to continue His creative process in us. Through our cooperation He is able to make us into something greater than what we are. We have to say "yes" to God's intervention in our lives because He has given us free will but once we say that "yes" and open ourselves to His leadership, to His formation of our conscience and to His revealing in us His divine presence, then wonderful things happen.

Being Catholic is much more than attending Mass. It is allowing God to work in our lives and, in doing so, finding with God the great peace and joy that comes from allowing our true nature of being Children of God, to come forth. The Mass is the center of our faith as it empowers us to carry God into the world. When we leave the doors of this parish we do not leave God. He comes with us for we are His Body and He is always our head, the one we give our lives over to.

Joyfully we go forth together to be the Body of Christ in the world and allow Him to lead us in our lives.

Father Steven Foppiano

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

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URGENT: USCCB NATIONWIDE BULLETIN INSERT

Stop Abortion Funding in Health Care Reform!

Protect Conscience

Ensure Affordable Health Coverage

Allow Immigrants to Purchase Private Health Insurance

As long-time advocates of health care reform, the U.S. Catholic bishops continue to make the moral case that genuine health care reform must protect the life, dignity, consciences and health of all, especially the poor and vulnerable. Health care reform should not advance a pro-abortion agenda in our country.

▣ On November 7, the U.S. House of Representatives passed major health care reform that reaffirms the essential, longstanding and widely supported policy against using federal funds for elective abortions and includes positive measures on affordability and immigrants.

▣ On December 24, the U.S. Senate rejected this policy and passed health care reform that requires federal funds to help subsidize and promote health plans that cover elective abortions. All purchasers of such plans will be required to pay for other people's abortions through a separate payment solely to pay for abortion.

▣ **Outside the abortion context, neither bill has adequate conscience protection for health care providers, plans or employers.**

▣ These two bills must now be combined into one bill that both the House and Senate will vote on in final form. Provisions against abortion funding and in favor of conscience protection, affordability, and immigrants' access to health care must be part of a fair and just health care reform bill, or the final bill must be opposed.

ACTION: Contact your Representative and Senators today by e-mail, phone or FAX.

▣ **To send a pre-written, instant e-mail to Congress go to www.usccb.org/action.**

▣ Call the U.S. Capitol switchboard at: 202-224-3121, or call your Members' local offices. Contact info can be found on Members' web sites at www.house.gov & www.senate.gov.

MESSAGE—HOUSE:

"I am pleased that the House health care bill maintains the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion. I urge you to work to uphold essential provisions against abortion funding, to include full conscience protection and to assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

MESSAGE—SENATE:

"I am deeply disappointed that the Senate health care bill fails to maintain the longstanding policy against federal funding of abortion and does not include adequate protection for conscience. I urge you to support essential provisions against abortion funding, similar to those in the House bill. Include full conscience protection and assure that health care is accessible and affordable for all. Until and unless these criteria are met, I urge you to oppose the final bill."

WHEN: Votes in the House and Senate on the final bill are expected in January.

Act today! Thank You!

“Table of Plenty” Food Ministry

As this ministry expands and serves more of our brothers and sisters in need of food, we continue to rely on suggestions, prayers, and donations from so many generous parishioners. Table of Plenty is currently serving over 180 families. This week we ask that you pray for all the families we are serving, that they may feel God’s love and compassion through the help our parish provides.

Since the cold winter weather is settling in; Table of Plenty is in need of **soup, stew, chili, hot cereal, pasta and sauce.** We can use anything and everything that you’d like to leave in the baskets in the vestibule. Please consider bringing a donation with you to Mass next week.



Thank you, parishioners, for your generous support! You are doing much more than providing food for those in need. You are sharing the love of Christ in a very practical way.

“For I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me drink...I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my brothers, you did it for me.”

Matthew 25:35, 40

Men’s Weekend Retreat

It’s almost time for our annual men’s retreat weekend. Sign up now for the weekend of Feb 5-7, 2010 at Christ the King Passionist Retreat Center. For reservation call Al Penna 872.0460 or Frank Salas at 877.7162 or the Retreat Center at 916. 725.4720. You can view the Center by visiting the website at: www.passionist.org/retreat/christtheking.

Weekly Sacrificial Donations

For the week of January 16-17, 2009

Our Regular Collection Weekly Goal is \$6,000.00

Regular Collection	\$	3,995.60
Catholic Relief Services	\$	1,991.00
Youth Ministry	\$	169.00
Table of Plenty	\$	85.00

Total Collections	\$	6,240.60
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Thank You for your generosity!

Mass Intentions

~January 23-31, 2010 ~

Sat.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
	5:00pm	Guy Saiani †
Sun.	8:00am	Intentions of Jean Pergande
	10:30am	Bob Wagner †
	5:00pm	Mario Vasquez †
Mon.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Tue.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Wed	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Thur.	8:30am	Mario A. Vasquez †
Fri.	8:30am	Charles Foley †
Sat.	8:30am	Marie Mansing †
	5:00pm	Evelyn Sailors †
Sun.	8:00am	Intentions of Mark Finn
	10:30am	Gail Lawly † & daughter
	5:00pm	Sam Gilardi †

† Denotes deceased

CATHOLICS COME HOME

~An invitation to ALL Catholics~
Practicing and Non-Practicing

Were you raised Catholic but do not come or seldom come to church anymore?

Are you a Catholic who now feels separated from the church ?

Would you like to know more about the Catholic church as it is today ?

Would you like to feel at home in the Catholic church again ?

No matter how long you have been away and no matter the reason, we invite you to consider renewing your relationship with the Catholic church.

Please join us for informational listening sessions and an update of the Catholic faith.

These sessions are held at Saint Thomas Moore Catholic Church, starting Wednesday evening February 3rd, 2010 at 7pm and continues for 6 weeks.

For more information please call 530-877-4501, leave your name and phone number and a parish coordinator will return your call.



QUESTION OF THE WEEK

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading: Nehemiah 8: 2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Second Reading: Corinthians 12: 12-30

Gospel: Luke 1: 1-4, 4: 14-21



Theme: Jesus is the one sent by God to save us.

Question for Children: Jesus is present to each of us in a different way. Tell about a time that you knew Jesus was with you.

Question for Young People: Name a moment or situation in your life where Jesus was present. What are some situations or places where you wish that Jesus was more visible?

Question for Adults: Jesus came to bring glad tidings to the poor and set free the enslaved. How has this mission of Christ in the world affected you personally?

Adult Faith Formation takes place each Thursday at 7pm in the small hall.

Happiness will never be ours if we do not recognize to some degree that God's blessings were given us for the well-being of all.

~Anonymous

Please offer your prayers for our brothers & sisters in Christ

Ruth Collins

Joell Curcuru

Dee Farina

Mark Ferguson

Ann Fry

Lou Gervais

Ernie & Elaine Guerrero

Priscilla Hein

Judith Hicks

Helen Huddleston

Debbie Miley

Rose Mittag

Kaleb Newhoff

Fran Nunes

Betty Pompermayer

Guillermo Rueda

Janet Smith

Mary Sparks

Marguerite Speegle

Jeff Sullivan

Bonnie Thibault

Gertrude Valentine

Margaret Vandergrift

Sarah Watson

Taylor Watson

Satrina Wohlauf

Haitian Relief Effort

Did you know that Haiti is about the size of the state of Maryland? Or that about 80% of Haitians are Catholic? Voodoo is a common practice in Haiti and has led many people to mistaken ideas of Christianity. Creole is the primary language in Haiti with French being spoken mainly by the upper class. Many Haitians live crowded together in slums, such as Cite Soleil in Port Au Prince, which is comprised of many dwellings made of cardboard or sheet metal tied to thin poles. Raw sewage runs down a ditch in the center of the slum. The stench is horrible and the flies are horrendous. Food is scarce. Clean water is not always available.

Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. Most people exist on less than \$2.00 a day. Their diet generally consists of beans and rice. Often, if a child is lucky enough to be able to attend school, especially if it is a mission sponsored school s/he will receive a meal at noon. They bring their own bowl and usually don't eat all of it, so they can bring some home to share with their families later. These people are destitute even in the best of times. There are few natural resources available in Haiti and very little industry. Since they have little to offer the outside world, they are often overlooked and neglected.

The recent earthquake left many people homeless and scrambling for food and water. Through the television, newspapers, and internet, we are able to look upon the faces of the despairing, those who have lost loved ones, those who are injured, those who are hungry and thirsty. And, when we do, we are seeing the face of Jesus. Here in North America, we are blessed with so many gifts, many that we take for granted, and we are called to share those with others. Even though most of us can't go to Haiti to help, one way we can all make a difference right now is by giving generously to financially support the efforts of those who are currently working in Haiti.

On Sunday, February 7th, you will have a unique opportunity to support the relief work and help provide necessary food and water to Haitians. The St. Thomas More Faith Formation & Youth Ministry will be sponsoring a fundraiser to help with the earthquake relief efforts in Port Au Prince, Haiti. We will be offering you the chance to pick up some delicious, homemade soup between the hours of noon and 3pm, to take home and serve to your family or guests on Super Bowl Sunday. Donation of any amount will be gratefully accepted. You don't even need to get out of your car! We'll bring the soup to you! We will have young people in the parking lot with donations cans so you may contribute as you feel called to do so. All donations received will be donated to Catholic Relief Services who already have a presence in Haiti. More details will follow next week, so watch the bulletin, but please keep this in mind as you plan for your superbowl parties. And be sure to tell your friends! We CAN make a difference.

