

**JANUARY 14, 2018
SECOND SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Our religion in its most distilled form is a friendship between ourselves and God in Jesus Christ. Jesus had no army. He neither needed one nor wanted one. He had the only one power with which to conquer the human spirit, the power of a loving friendship. That is the only thing that can invade and conquer the human heart. Brute force always fails; love always wins.

Our Catholic Faith is one of the largest and most influential in the world and its membership is presently over one billion souls. It has built thousands of churches, hospitals, children's homes, nursing homes, schools, and universities. It has rites, rituals, ceremonies, and the holy Sacraments of Jesus Christ. It has theologies, philosophies, systems of ethics, moral codes and a Code of Canon Law. It is vast; it is intricate; and it is complex. But it is built on one thing and one thing alone, a personal, intimate, and loving friendship with Jesus Christ. From that flows all of Christianity's hope, power, and vision of the truth about who we are.

Whenever we feel lost in a religious life that seems too complicated, or whenever we feel lost in a world that seems to be unmanageable and out of control, and whenever we're tempted to give up on ourselves, remember that our faith in its purest form is the personal friendship we can have with Jesus. That is how it began with Andrew and his brother Peter. And that is the solid rock upon which our relationship with Jesus is grounded.

For no matter what happens in our world, or in our spiritual lives, or in our relationships with others, we can always find our way once again with those words we heard in today's Gospel. "What do you want?" "Come and see!" Listening to God's voice is of the essence of religion, it is

the nourishment of our spiritual lives. When we come to celebrate the Mass the first thing the Church does is to offer us God's word. Then having received His word for our hearts and minds we receive His Word made flesh for our human nature in Holy Communion.

The truth is that God has a word for you, personally. He has something He wants to say to you. The story of Samuel in the first reading today is a story that we should make our own. The story in today's Gospel account is a story we should likewise make our own. For God is calling you and inviting you to come and stay with Him, to come and be close to Him.

I would suggest that a good way to start your day is to repeat Samuel's words each morning. When you begin the day with your first morning thoughts say: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." And then at the close of each day when you interpret the events of the day and try to make some sense out of them, repeat Samuel's words: "Speak, Lord, for you servant is listening." Each time you pray, after having told God about all that's happening in your life and about all that you need from Him, say: "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening."

May God bless you,

Monsignor Hurley

FLU SEASON COMMON SENSE

As you know, the flu season is in full swing and I would like to offer a few suggestions:

1. If you don't feel comfortable shaking hands at the sign of peace this time of year, a simple bow will suffice.
2. If you are not feeling well or are uncomfortable with receiving from the Cup then don't. It is fine to just receive the host only.
3. If you are sick, stay home until you are better. The Lord understands!
4. Wash your hands before and after Mass.

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM

Baptism Preparation Classes will be held on Sunday following the 10:00am Mass. The next class will take place on **Sunday, March 4** in the church. Do both parents have to attend the class? No, only one parent must attend, but it is highly encouraged that both do. Godparents are invited and encouraged to attend also. Please call the Parish Office to register. The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 11:00am.

VOCATION REFLECTION

The Prophet Samuel did not recognize the Lord's voice immediately; it took very careful listening on his part. Could God be calling *you* to serve as a priest, deacon, religious sister or religious brother? If you'd like to discuss the possibility, please speak with your pastor or call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or vocations@cdow.org). Be sure to visit our website: www.cdown.org/vocations!

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage Moments: It's the season of New Year's Resolutions. This can be good, but it can also turn your focus away from your beloved to self-improvement. Today, make one specific Resolution to deepen your love.

Parenting Pointers: Does your child have any friends from different ethnicities? Find ways to mix or read stories of a different ethnic group.

LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY

Will be published in next week's bulletin

There will be a 2nd Collection next weekend, January 20 & 21 to benefit Catholic University and Catholic Communications
Thank you for your generosity

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, January 15

6:00pm – No Mass

Tuesday, January 16

8:00am – Lucy & Charles Robino.

Wednesday, January 17

8:00am – Collette Walker

Thursday, January 18

8:00am – James T. Skilling

Saturday, January 20

5:00pm – John DiFebo

Sunday, January 21

8:00am – James J. Centini

10am – Mass for the People

Flowers on the Main Altar
In Loving Memory of
John Murray

CATHOLIC CEMETERIES

All Saints, Cathedral and Gate of Heaven Cemeteries are offering families the option of purchasing winter grave decorations directly from the cemetery. Your selection will be placed by cemetery personnel on the graves that you specify on your order. For more information go online to cdow.org/cemeteries and click on the special notices tab. The brochure and order forms are available. You can also visit any of the cemetery offices. Office hours at Cathedral and All Saints are 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m. Mon through Fri.

WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER

"Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." Let us practice listening better to God and our spouse by participating in a Worldwide Marriage Encounter (WWME) weekend. The next weekends are March 2-4 and November 2-4, 2018, in Rehoboth Beach, DE. For more information and to apply online visit wwww-delmar.org, or call Tony & Linda Massino at 302-220-9833.

MEMORIAL BRICKS

The five bricks, ordered last year, have been installed in the Memorial Walk at the front of the church. This is a great way to honor a loved one past or present, and it makes a great unusual Christmas gift. Go to the web site or call the rectory to place an order. Also, a great way to remember the original church, old school/ gym building is to buy a brick. This is a neat gift for an old alumnus. There are still bricks available at the rectory for pick up. This donation goes to the good work done by our Saint Vincent DePaul Society.

MARCH FOR LIFE

St. Thomas the Apostle Knights of Columbus has chartered a bus for people of all ages, weather permitting, for the **March for Life** held on Friday, January 19th. There will be a stop at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for those unable to make the March. Seats will be available on a first come basis. The only cost to the individual passenger is a tip for the bus driver. Please contact Theresa Collurafici at 12374Columbiettes@gmail.com or 302-322-2929 to sign up.

GOD IS ON THE AIR

Listen to Catholic Forum every Sunday morning at 10:05 a.m. on WDEL 101.7 FM, 1150 AM and www.wdel.com. Next Sunday, January 21st, tune in to hear an interview with Father Tom Peterman, a diocesan priest for 57 years, and an expert on the history of the Diocese of Wilmington.

WHAT IS MEDITATION?

Meditation is a Christian practice of prayer dating back to the early church. As the Catechism states: "meditation is above all a quest. The mind seeks to understand the why and how of the Christian life, in order to adhere and respond to what the lord is asking." By meditating on the Gospels, holy icons, liturgical texts, spiritual writings, or "the great book of creation," we come to make our own that which is God's. "to the extent that we are humble and

faithful, we discover in meditation the movements that stir the heart and we are able to discern them. It is a question of acting truthfully in order to come into the light: "lord, what do you want me to do?" (CCC 2705- 2706). Meditation is an essential form of Christian prayer, especially for those who are seeking to answer the vocational question, "Lord, what do you want me to do?"

ORDINARY TIME

Most of the Seasons of the Church Year are organized around the two major feasts that mark sacred time, Christmas and Easter. The Christmas Season encompasses the time of preparation during Advent and the celebration of the Twelve Days of Christmas and Epiphany in early January (the 6th). The Easter Season encompasses the time of preparation during the 40 weekdays of Lent and Holy Week, and is linked with Pentecost Sunday 50 days later. While there are other individual holy days within the church year, these seasons mark the movement of sacred time within the church calendar.

The rest of the year following Epiphany and Pentecost is known as Ordinary Time. Rather than meaning "common" or "mundane," this term comes from the word "ordinal," which simply means counted time (First Sunday after Pentecost, etc.), which is probably a better way to think of this time of the year. Counted time after Pentecost always begins with Trinity Sunday (the first Sunday after Pentecost) and ends with Christ the King Sunday or the Reign of Christ the King (last Sunday before the beginning of Advent).

The color for Ordinary Time is dark green, although other shades of green are commonly used. Green has traditionally been associated with new life and growth. Even in Hebrew in the Old Testament, the same word for the color "green" also means "young." In Christian tradition, green came to symbolize the life of the church following Pentecost, as well as symbolizing the hope of new life in the resurrection.

< KID'S > KORNER

Gospel Today

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time | John 1:35-42

John saw the Holy Spirit when he baptized Jesus and told the others "this is the Lamb of God". Interested people began to follow Jesus.



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BIBLE WORD SEARCH

Find all the words...
left, right, up, down
or diagonally.



- | | | |
|----------|-----------|---------|
| Look | John | Messiah |
| Lamb | Disciples | Teacher |
| God | Heard | People |
| Jesus | Followed | Spent |
| Holy | Andrew | Day |
| Spirit | Peter | Come |
| Baptized | | See |



S	B	S	P	E	N	T	E	R	W	L
F	P	D	E	E	L	P	O	E	P	S
O	P	I	H	I	T	S	L	H	O	P
L	D	M	R	S	D	E	P	C	D	S
L	E	E	L	I	W	O	R	A	M	E
D	W	B	A	P	T	I	Z	E	D	L
A	O	S	M	N	C	E	S	T	N	P
Y	L	H	B	C	D	S	M	H	P	I
S	L	S	E	E	I	R	O	S	O	C
K	O	O	L	A	M	J	E	S	U	S
D	F	A	H	J	R	O	U	W	P	I
A	N	M	B	G	O	D	C	R	I	D

Draw a picture of the Holy Spirit in the form of a dove as John saw it appear above Jesus after His baptism.

