

**JANUARY 21, 2018  
THIRD SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK**

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The setting of today's Gospel is immediately after Jesus' baptism in the Jordan, when he received the commission from God the Father and was filled with the Holy Spirit. This Spirit will lead him to the desert, to public ministry, and finally to His suffering and His cross. The Gospel tells us that John the Baptist had been recently arrested. John came as the precursor and had completed his work of preparing the path for Jesus. He was arrested because he had challenged the authorities regarding their immoral behavior. After the imprisonment of John, Jesus began his public ministry in Galilee and proclaimed His mission. He commenced His task by announcing the Good News, the Gospel, filled with hope. He began with the declaration that this was indeed the time of fulfillment which means it was the period of human history when God's promises become a reality. Jesus summed up this message with two very simple lines: "*This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.*" The word gospel means good news. It was the Good News of truth, of hope, of peace, of Divine promise, of immortality and of salvation. This good news would embrace all of humanity and would enable them to share the eternal happiness with Him. Hence Jesus told His audience in Galilee that the time has now come, it was an opportune moment, and they were invited to take part into this new life. This expected time was the arrival of the Messiah, the Savior King for whom they had been waiting.

When Jesus preached the gospel message He called a small group of people to become His disciples and He gave them a mission – "*Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men*". The type of disciples He chose was surprising. In the choice of the first apostles we see a

characteristic feature of Jesus' work: He chose very ordinary people. They were ordinary, simple fishermen. They were not professionals and they had no wealth or status in society. They were chosen from among the common people who did ordinary things, had no education, and no social advantages. Jesus wanted ordinary people who could take an assignment and do it extraordinarily well. He chose these individuals, not for what they were, but for what they would be capable of becoming under his direction and power. The Lord takes what ordinary people have and makes use of them for His kingdom.

We believe that God works marvels through simple, ordinary people. Jesus speaks the same message to us today: we can do extraordinary things for the kingdom of God if we allow His light to shine through us. It is not about who we are, rather it is about who and what we can become under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Let us also extend that same vision to our brothers and sisters. Can we see potential in someone else? Can we imagine what they can accomplish or do we simply judge on first impressions? God wants others to see the light of Christ in us in the way we live, speak, and witness the joy of the Gospel. May each of us radiate the light of Christ and may we always see that same light in others.

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.

## BIRTHRIGHT OF DELAWARE

Birthright of Delaware is so grateful for your generous support of Bottles for Babies in October 2017. St Thomas the Apostle raised \$562.42. Thank you for sharing in our work of serving mothers and their babies! We really appreciate every one of you!

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month at 11:00am.

## VOCATION REFLECTION

Jonah did not answer God's call quickly; he wasn't interested in the mission God had for him. Sometimes the attraction of various career opportunities keeps us from being interested in hearing and responding to God's call. Is the Lord calling you to priesthood or to religious life? What could be more satisfying or fulfilling than taking on a mission from God? Call or write Father Norm Carroll, Diocesan Director of Priestly and Religious Vocations (302-573-3113 or [vocations@cdow.org](mailto:vocations@cdow.org)). Be sure to visit our website: [www.cdow.org/vocations!](http://www.cdow.org/vocations!)

## ST. THOMAS' PARISH OF TRUSTEES

We will be conducting our annual election for Parish Trustees to fulfill our legal obligation to the state of Delaware after the 10:00am Mass next weekend, January 28, 2018.

### LAST WEEKEND'S OFFERTORY

\$3,322.00

Christmas - \$2,085.00

12/31/17 - \$2,559.00

1/7/18 - \$3,150.00

Thank you for your generosity

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Monday, January 22

6:00pm – Special Intention

### Tuesday, January 23

8:00am – Michael Sarnecky.

### Wednesday, January 24

8:00am – Sister Helena Joseph Balbach, OSF

### Thursday, January 25

8:00am – Edward L. Kozlowski, Sr.

### Saturday, January 27

5:00pm – Michael Ryan Fitzpatrick

### Sunday, January 28

8:00am – Mass for the People  
10am – Helen Marie Buckworth

## BIBLE STUDY AT ST. ANN'S

St. Ann's Parish Wilmington is offering Part I (12 sessions) of Matthew: The King and His Kingdom in the Social Hall beginning Monday, January 22 at 6:30 pm to 8:15 pm and continuing every Monday through April 23 (weather makeup day April 30). The cost for the program is \$30 for the Study Guide (includes S/H). For more information or to register for the study, call Connie Winner-Varone at 302-765-9864 or via email: [cnwinner@comcast.net](mailto:cnwinner@comcast.net).

## MARRIAGE AND FAMILY

Marriage Moments: A common complaint among couples is, "You're not listening to me." When is listening hard for you? If you're busy or tired, ask for a better time. Is there a conversation you've been avoiding?

Parenting Pointers: Talk with your child about the value of life no matter how young or how old. Perhaps donate baby items to a center.

## **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](http://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. Monday through Friday.

## **WORLDWIDE MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER**

"For the world in its present form is passing away." If change in our lives is our lot, let us learn how to change with and for our spouses 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](http://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.

## **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](http://www.wdel.com). Next Sunday, January 28th, Ms. Jennifer Briemann from the Maryland Catholic Conference, and Fr. Leonard Klein, Director of Pro Life Activities for the Diocese of Wilmington, will discuss physician assisted

suicide. For photos, information regarding upcoming guests, podcasts and more, "Like" Catholic Forum on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/catholicforum](http://www.facebook.com/catholicforum). Listen to past episodes of Catholic Forum online at [cdow.org/communications](http://cdow.org/communications), or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple Podcasts or iHeartRadio podcasts.

## **RETREAT FOR PROFESSIONAL WOMEN**

The Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia are sponsoring an evening of prayer on Sunday, February 18, 2018, from 3 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. for young professional women (ages 18-35) to be held at Our Lady of Angels Convent, 609 S. Convent Road in Aston, Pennsylvania (near Neumann University). The theme is *St. Francis of Assisi and the San Damiano Crucifix*. A light dinner will be provided. There is no fee for this event. Reservations need to be made by February 11, 2018 with Sr. Christopher Marie Wagner, OSF, at (610) 558-6789 or [cwagner@osfphila.org](mailto:cwagner@osfphila.org). Bring a friend and have a relaxing, prayerful evening. A future Twilight Retreat is scheduled for April 8, 2018.

## **HOW DO WE PRAY OVER THE SACRED SCRIPTURES?**

The first element of this type of prayer is reading (lectio): you take a short passage from the Bible, preferably a Gospel passage and read it carefully, perhaps three or more times. Let it really soak-in.

The second element is mediation (meditatio). By using your imagination enter into the Biblical scene in order to "see" the setting, the people, and the unfolding action. It is through this mediation that you encounter the text and discover its meaning for your life.

The next element is prayer (oratio) or your personal response to the text: asking for graces, offering praise or thanksgiving, seeking healing or forgiveness. In this prayerful engagement with the text, you open yourself up to the possibility of contemplation.

# < KID'S > KORNER

## Gospel Today

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time | Mark 1:14-20

Jesus told the people to repent and believe the Good News and began to gather His first disciples.

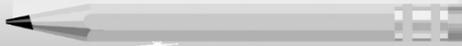
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"The time has come," he said. "The kingdom of God has come near. Repent and believe the good news!"

Mark 1:15



**BIBLE WORD SEARCH** Find all the words... left, right, up, down or diagonally.



- Jesus
- Announces
- Good News
- John Galilee
- Kingdom of God
- Time to Come
- Believe in
- First Disciples
- Simon
- Follow Me
- Send for
- Fishermen
- People
- Andrew
- Left
- Nets
- James
- Boat
- Sea
- Fishermen

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