

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 4, 2024



Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Saint Mary 14 Park Street + Sacred Heart 58 Church Street + Saint Mark 105 Stanley Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish

Rev. David A. Costa, Pastor
Rev. Deacon Joseph E. Regali, Parish Deacon
Sister Kathleen A. Corrigan, S.U.S.C., Pastoral Associate
Rev. Kenneth R. Sicard, O.P. & Rev. R. Gabriel Pivarnik, O.P., Weekend Assistants
Mrs. Martha O'Neill, Administrative Assistant
Mrs. Jean Howard, Business Manager
Mrs. Elaine Corvese, Director of Religious Education
Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal, Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School
Mr. Adam Turcotte, Director of Music
Mr. Miguel Peixoto, Buildings Supervisor
Mr. James Kitsock, Building Maintenance

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School

Mrs. Lisa Serak, Principal
57 Richards Avenue,
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-3072 FAX (508) 695-9074
smsh@smsh.dfrcs.org www.smshschool.com

Saint Mary Cemetery

Mr. Jarrod Ward, Superintendent
Towne Street
North Attleborough, Massachusetts 02760
(508) 695-1173 or email ripco@comcast.net

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saint Mary Church • Saturday 3:00 pm – 3:30 pm

Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated on designated Sunday afternoons at 12:30 pm, with a limit of four families at each baptism. Please contact the office at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information and available dates/locations.

Sacrament of Marriage

Marriage is usually celebrated on Saturday morning and afternoon. Please contact the Parish Office at least nine months in advance to begin preparation.

Sacrament of the Sick

Pastoral care to those in need of the sacrament of the sick is arranged through the parish office. Please call to arrange a visit.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament is offered on the first Friday of each month in **Saint Mark Church** beginning at 9:00 am and ending at 6:00 pm with Benediction.

Parish Offering

If you are attending in person, you may drop your contribution in the collection basket. You are welcome to mail your budget envelope to the parish office, at 14 Park Street, North Attleborough, MA 02760. You may also leave your envelope in the drop box located outside the parish office door, to the right on the landing. Or you can use this link for online giving:
<https://chms.ecatholic.com/guest/mafrdiocese/31>
Thank you for your ongoing support!

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:00 pm **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Sunday 9:30 am **Saint Mary Church**
Sunday 11:00 am **Sacred Heart Church**

Weekday Masses

Monday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Tuesday 4:30 pm **Saint Mark Church**
Wednesday 8:00 am **Saint Mark Church**
Thursday 8:00 am Communion Service
Saint Mark Church

Links to: Transfiguration of the Lord Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/Transfiguration-of-the-Lord-Parish-North-Attleborough-106529317647894/>
YouTube at <https://tinyurl.com/ysfaxaty>

Parish Office

14 Park Street, North Attleborough,
Massachusetts 02760
Parish e-mail • stmaryna@noozi.com
Parish website • www.saintmaryna.com
Phone 508-695-6161 Fax 508-695-5248
Faith Formation • TransfigurationRelEd@gmail.com
Faith Formation • 508-695-3823
Music Ministry • transfiguration.na.music@gmail.com

MASS Intentions

February 3/4 – 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	February 3 – Vigil (St. Mary)
4:00 pm	Gregory Fyfe
Sunday	February 4 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	People of the Parish
Sunday	February 4 (St. Mary)
9:30 am	John Reid
Sunday	February 4 (Sacred Heart)
11:00 am	Virginia B. Miller Esther Pinsonnault

+++++

Monday	February 5 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	Rene Poirier Pepito Munoz
Tuesday	February 6 (St. Mark)
4:30 pm	Felicia Idika
Wednesday	February 7 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	James McCormack
Thursday	February 8 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	People of the Parish

+++++

February 10/11 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday	February 10 – Vigil (St. Mary)
4:00 pm	People of the Parish
Sunday	February 11 (St. Mark)
8:00 am	People of the Parish
Sunday	February 11 (St. Mary)
9:30 am	Jeanette, Russell, & Allan Watson
Sunday	February 11 (Sacred Heart)
11:00 am	Brian F. Coyle

+++++

Parish Contributions

Collection for January 27/28: \$11,243.94
Offering for Local Catholic Education: \$1,673.00
Collection for the Church in Latin America: \$850.00

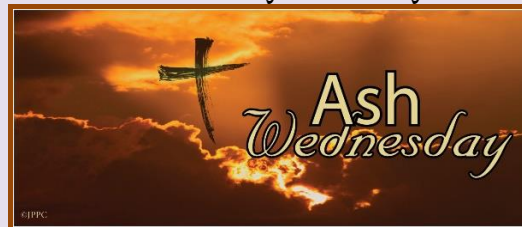
+++++

Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule



Tuesday, February 6, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, February 13, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, February 20, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
Tuesday, February 27, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, March 5, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)

Ash Wednesday: February 14th



The season of Lent begins on **Ash Wednesday, February 14**. While this is *not* a holy day of obligation, it is an important day for us as individuals and as a community to commence our 40-day journey of prayer, fasting, and charity, preparing for the Easter sacraments and the renewal of our baptism commitment to Jesus. The ashes we wear to begin this holy season are a stark and dramatic reminder of the call to repentance – our turning away from sin and turning toward the Lord, changing for the better.

We invite you to join as a family of faith to begin Lent. There will be **four** opportunities on Ash Wednesday, February 14, to join in prayer and to receive ashes. The schedule is as follows:

8:00 a.m. Mass with ashes at Saint Mark Church

9:30 a.m. Liturgy of the Word with ashes at Sacred Heart Church

12:05 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with ashes at Saint Mary Church

7:00 p.m. Mass with ashes at Saint Mark Church

2023 Donation Statements Are Now Available

The 2023 year-end tax reports will be available, **PER YOUR REQUEST, for those parishioners using the budget envelope system. Loose checks mailed or placed in the collection are not recorded by the budget company.** Please contact Martha in the office at smaryna@noozi.com or call 508-695-6161 and leave a message with your name and address if you would like your statement. Contribution letters will be mailed. Thank you for your support of our parish community.



Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be prayed each Friday evening during Lent at 7:00 p.m. in Saint Mary Church. Each week we will use a different set of themed meditations for our prayer which will be led by Deacon Joe, Sister Kathee, or Fr. Dave. All are invited to participate. Join us for Stations of the Cross on **Friday, February 16**, led by Fr. Costa. This will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and will conclude with Benediction!



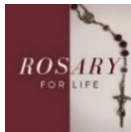
February Women's Guild Meeting



The Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Women's Guild will be meeting on **Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:00 p.m.** in the **St. Mary's Parish Center**. Come enjoy a decadent evening of sweets and games with chocolates made by our own Shirley Nolin. Please come and relish in an evening of friends, indulgence, and fun! Please contact Diana Gray with any questions at: dgraysix@yahoo.com or 508 695-1143.

Rosary for Life

The Respect Life Committee of Transfiguration of the Lord Parish is pleased to announce that we will lead a Rosary for Life at 4:00 pm, prior to the 4:30 pm daily Mass in **Saint Mark Church** on the *first, second, fourth, and fifth Tuesday* of each month. The communal Rosary is also livestreamed for any participants who wish to join us remotely.



Winter What-Not Shoppe: Season Ending Sale



Before we pack up and close...

Please join us to shop at the **What-Not Shoppe** in St. Mary's Church Hall, on Saturday, **February 17th** from **10:00am to 4:00pm**. We hope to see you there!



2024 Mass Intention Book

The 2024 Mass Intention Book is open. The current Mass schedule provides for fewer opportunities for parishioners to remember their beloved dead at weekend Masses. For this reason, we will schedule, when necessary, multiple intentions for weekend Masses. There is no limit on the number of daily Mass intentions. Please contact the office via email, phone, or in writing with your requests.



Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting



Knights of Columbus®

Council #330 of the Knights of Columbus has been serving the Catholic Community of North Attleborough for 125 years. The Knights meet on the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7pm, in the St. Mary Church Hall. Please drop by on meeting nights if you'd like to learn more about the Knights. Council #330 is committed to assisting local charities that align with the values of our Faith such as the Parish, the Parish school, and Abundant Hope. Contact Jim Schromm with any questions: jim.schromm@verizon.net.

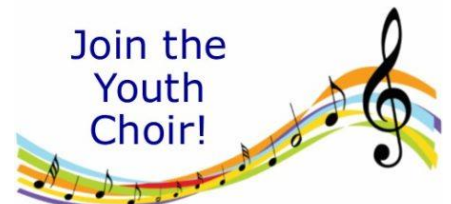
Music Ministry News: Youth Choir



If your child (*grades 3-8*) is interested in joining our youth choir, they will sing the **first Sunday** of every month at the **11:00 am Mass at Sacred Heart**. Please scan the QR code to sign up, or see Adam Turcotte after Mass.



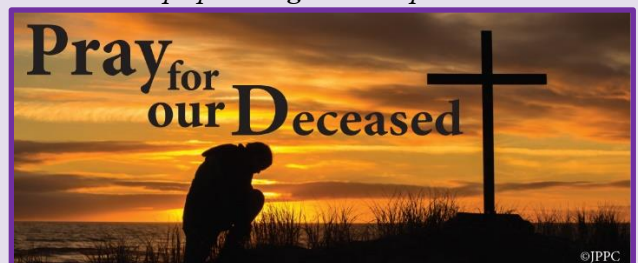
Join the
Youth
Choir!



Please Remember our Deceased Parishioners:

Colleen M. Domingos
Pamela S. Lunter
Paul F. Dugan
Denise A. Gaudette
Diane M. Kade
Gertrud K. Birle
Jeanne E. (Morriseau) Duphiney
Pauline L. (Dyer) Arruda
H. William "Bill" Donnelly

*Eternal rest grant unto our beloved dead, O Lord.
Let perpetual light shine upon them.*



SAINTS

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART

Alumni Spotlight: Sister Rachel Pinsonnault



Sister Rachel Pinsonnault graduated from Sacred Heart School in 1934, and went to High School in Canada where she was taught by the Presentation of Mary Sisters. She eventually joined the order and has had a remarkable career. She was assigned to the Missions in Japan, and was instrumental in setting up some schools there. After fifty years of service in Japan, she returned the Canadian Mother House and was later transferred to Methuen, MA to help her sister (also a member of the order) who needed assistance during the final years of her life. Sister Rachel is now in residence at an assisted living convent in Maine (**Sister Rachel Pinsonnault, St. Joseph Convent, 409 Pool Street, Biddeford, ME 04005**). She will be celebrating her 102nd birthday on February 11th. Many congratulations, Sister Rachel!

+++++

SMSH Auction - Friday, March 8, 2024, Luciano's Lake Pearl in Wrentham, MA:

This year's auction is particularly special as we celebrate the centennial of our school. We are expecting 200 in-person guests and will reach even more through our online auction. We greatly appreciate any donations you can make to support our cause. Whether it's a family vacation getaway or gift baskets filled with items from local businesses, every contribution is valuable. We also offer advertising and sponsorship opportunities for those who prefer to contribute in that way. Please reach out to our Auction Co-Chairs, Lisa Augusto O'Neill or Jillian Figueiredo at the following email address: SMSHauctioncommittee@gmail.com. Thank you for considering our request. We truly appreciate your support!

+++++

Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School Alumni:

Did you, your child, grandchild or other relative graduate from St. Mary's School, Sacred Heart School or Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School? If so, please go to the Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School website www.smshschool.com and under the Alumni tab fill in the form on reconnect with SMSH. We appreciate your support in this important part of our school's history!

Faith Formation Program 2023-2024

Director of Religious Education ~ Mrs. Elaine Corvese
508-695-3823; transfigurationreled@gmail.com

Faith Formation Office hours:
Monday – Thursday: 10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Class Schedule:

February 4th: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

February 4th: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

February 5th: **Grade 6**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

February 11th: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

February 12th: **Grade 7**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

February 25th: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

February 25th: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

February 26th: **Grade 8**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Please see website: saintmaryna.com for the 2023-2024 calendar for all grades. Faith Formation classes are held at Saint Mark Church hall in Attleboro Falls.

Dates of First Penance:



RECONCILIATION

February 6, 2024: 6:30 p.m. Saint Mark Church
February 7, 2024: 6:30 p.m. Saint Mark Church
February 10, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mark Church
February 13, 2024: 6:30 p.m. Saint Mark Church

Date of Confirmation:



CONFIRMATION

April 7, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church

Dates of First Communion:



HOLY EUCHARIST

May 4, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church
May 4, 2024: 1:00 p.m. Saint Mary Church
May 11, 2024: 10:00 a.m. Saint Mary Church

Cancellation of classes: In the event of cancellation of classes due to inclement weather, the Faith Formation Office will notify parents/guardians by email and the cancellation notice will also be on the answering machine of the Faith Formation office at 508-695-3823. Please note: if the North Attleboro School Department cancels school, Faith Formation classes are automatically canceled.

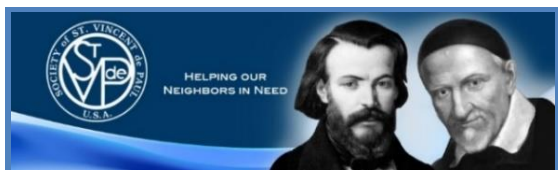


Prayer Shawl Ministry

The Prayer Shawl Ministry is looking for knitters/crocheters to help with making small Baptismal blankets to be given to the children being baptized in our parish. We have been doing this for quite a few years now and some members of our group can no longer participate. Any help would be much appreciated.

Patterns are available for both knit and crochet if needed. For more information, please contact Nancy Chapman at nchapman88@comcast.net.

Transfiguration of the Lord Parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society



Inspired by Gospel values, the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, a Catholic lay organization, leads women and men to join to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are in need or are suffering, in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frédéric Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul. The Society meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month in the parish hall in Saint Mary Church. Please join us!

Call for Assistance:

If you need assistance, please call the help line for our parish Saint Vincent de Paul Society. They can offer information about the types of assistance available. Please call 508-212-4755 for help or more information.

Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

RESPECT LIFE

Sisters of Life Talk:

Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center invites you to attend a free inspirational and educational talk by the nationally known Sisters of Life, a Catholic religious community whose members take a fourth vow to protect the sacredness of life. Join us on **Thursday, Feb 15th** from **3-5 PM** for a presentation, refreshments and "Meet & Greet" at the LaSalette Shrine Welcome Center. For questions, please contact Abundant Hope at 508-455-0425.

Monthly Meeting:

The next meeting of the Respect Life Group will take place on Thursday, **March 7, 2024 at 6:30 pm in Sacred Heart Church's Library**. We hope to see you there!

Winter Storm Mass & Parish Office Policy



As we face the unpredictable New England winter season, I share our Winter Storm Mass Policy.

Sunday Mass:

Should there be significant snowfall or extreme ice conditions on a weekend, especially if we have been warned or "encouraged" to stay off the roads, weekend Masses will be celebrated **ONLY** at Saint Mark Church. We will follow the usual Mass times, but all Masses will be moved to Stanley Street because (1) I live on that property and the Dominicans would not be driving from Providence to be with us, and (2) only one property will need to be plowed and shoveled in time for Mass. Please note: when we are told to stay off the roads because it is too dangerous to travel due to weather conditions, any Mass obligation does not hold. **STAY HOME** for your safety and the safety of others. The Lord certainly understands!

Daily Mass:

When school is canceled or delayed due to winter weather, the daily Mass is also canceled. If the delay is on a Tuesday, we will have Mass on Tuesday afternoon. If there is an early dismissal of school due to winter weather on a Tuesday, the daily Mass on Tuesday afternoon is canceled.

Parish Office Hours:

When school is canceled due to winter weather, the Parish Office is automatically closed. If school is delayed due to winter weather, the Parish Office will open when school starts if it is safe to travel.

I hope these directives are clear. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. If you have any questions, please call the parish office.



Saint Pope John Paul II once said:

"In the Mass and in Eucharistic Adoration we meet the merciful love of God that passes through the heart of Jesus Christ."

Please join us at **Saint Mark church** on Friday, **March 1st**, beginning at 9:00 a.m. and ending at 6:00 p.m. with Benediction. Remember, as we share in the work of Redemption, so will we be rewarded with our own redemption.

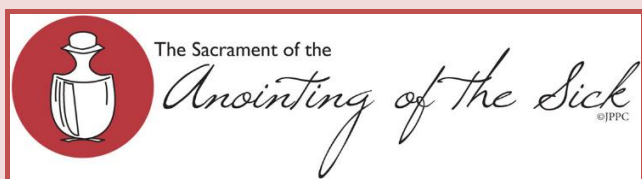
For more information call Joanne Regali (508-643-3821) or Arlene Hall (508-801-2243). Please leave a message if the call is not answered immediately.

Baptismal Preparation Classes Have Resumed



Parents requesting the baptism of their child should be registered members of the parish who attend weekend Mass here at Transfiguration of the Lord Parish on a weekly basis. Please pick up and complete one of the Parish Census forms if you have not already registered with the parish. If this is your first Baptism here at Transfiguration Parish, parents are asked to attend a brief baptismal preparation session. The next session will be held on Sunday, **February 11 at 12:30 pm** in the Sacred Heart Meeting Room. Advanced registration is required. Please call Martha at the parish office or email at stmaryna@noozi.com for more information.

The Sacrament of the Sick



If an ill family member is desirous of or in need of the comfort and grace of the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office to make an appointment for Fr. Costa to visit. With the present vocation crisis in our Diocese, priest chaplains are not available at Sturdy Hospital. Pastoral Care of the Sick is provided ably and graciously by Deacon Del Malloy. If a family member is at Sturdy and would like to celebrate the Sacrament of the Sick, please call the parish office in order for Fr. Costa to visit as soon as he is able. The hospital does not send out notifications to the parishes when parishioners are admitted.

Catholic Men's Conference: March 16, 2024

The Catholic Men's Conference returns to Worcester's DCU Center in 2024 with a program entitled: **'You Shall Know the Lord.'** Men (of all ages, including teens and college students) are invited to this important conference, scheduled to take place at Worcester's DCU Center on **Saturday, March 16, 2024**. Adult tickets are \$50 until March 4, 2024; afterwards \$60. Student tickets are always \$30. Tickets will not be available at the door this year because of advance planning for the luncheon. Visit the conference website at <http://www.catholicmenworc.org> for information and to purchase tickets online. Come and hear dynamic talks from Catholic leaders: Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers, James Wahlberg, Michael Nicholson, Bishop Robert McManus and Msgr. Thomas Sullivan. Adoration available all day. Closing Mass at 4:00 pm. For further information you can email cathmenworc@gmail.com.



Saint of the Week: St. Paul Miki & Companions Feast Day: February 6th

Nagasaki, Japan, is familiar to Americans as the city on which the second atomic bomb was dropped, immediately killing over 37,000 people. Three and a half centuries before, 26 martyrs of Japan were crucified on a hill, now known as the Holy Mountain, overlooking Nagasaki. Among them were priests, brothers, and laymen, Franciscans, Jesuits, and members of the Secular Franciscan Order; there were catechists, doctors, simple artisans, and servants, old men and innocent children—all united in a common faith and love for Jesus and his Church.

Brother Paul Miki, a Jesuit and a native of Japan, has become the best known among the martyrs of Japan. While hanging upon a cross, Paul Miki preached to the people gathered for the execution: *"The sentence of judgment says these men came to Japan from the Philippines, but I did not come from any other country. I am a true Japanese. The only reason for my being killed is that I have taught the doctrine of Christ. I certainly did teach the doctrine of Christ. I thank God it is for this reason I die. I believe that I am telling only the truth before I die. I know you believe me and I want to say to you all once again: Ask Christ to help you to become happy. I obey Christ. After Christ's example I forgive my persecutors. I do not hate them. I ask God to have pity on all, and I hope my blood will fall on my fellow men as a fruitful rain."*

When missionaries returned to Japan in the 1860s, at first they found no trace of Christianity. But after establishing themselves they found that thousands of Christians lived around Nagasaki and that they had secretly preserved the faith. Beatified in 1627, the martyrs of Japan were finally canonized in 1862.



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 4, 2024



First Reading

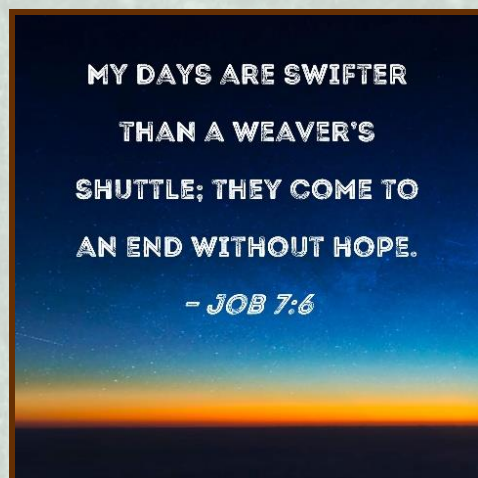
A reading from the Book of Job

Job spoke, saying:

Is not man's life on earth a drudgery?
Are not his days those of hirelings?
He is a slave who longs for the shade,
a hireling who waits for his wages.
So I have been assigned months of misery,
and troubled nights have been allotted to me.
If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?"
then the night drags on;
I am filled with restlessness until the dawn.
My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle;
they come to an end without hope.
Remember that my life is like the wind;
I shall not see happiness again.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Praise the LORD, for he is good;
sing praise to our God, for he is gracious;
it is fitting to praise him.
The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem;
the dispersed of Israel he gathers.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

He heals the brokenhearted
and binds up their wounds.
He tells the number of the stars;
he calls each by name.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Great is our Lord and mighty in power;
to his wisdom there is no limit.
The LORD sustains the lowly;
the wicked he casts to the ground.

R. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Second Reading

**A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the
Corinthians**

Brothers and sisters:

If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast,
for an obligation has been imposed on me,
and woe to me if I do not preach it!
If I do so willingly, I have a recompense,
but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with
a stewardship. What then is my recompense?
That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge
so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel.

Although I am free in regard to all,
I have made myself a slave to all
so as to win over as many as possible.
To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak.
I have become all things to all, to save at least some.
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*Christ took away our infirmities
and bore our diseases.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark
Glory to you, O Lord.

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Need for Quiet:

Sometimes days or weeks are so full that I find myself anxious to cross off each event as it is completed. Mostly these events are not moments to dread. They are enjoyable activities like a party, a play, a wedding, or graduation. As I race to check off each celebration, I look forward to a day I can relax. Suddenly, I become irritated with myself for not enjoying each event. Rather, the enjoyment comes in completing the activity so that I am one step closer to that day of relaxation.

Comment:

The first reading from the magnificent Book of Job is sobering indeed. Job, a good and upright man, has lost everything. We find him today sitting on the dung heap enduring the windy speeches of three so-called friends. They cannot make head or tail of Job's plight. They cannot crack the mystery of the good man's suffering. In this reading, Job gives his unpolished view of the human condition. Job has no view of life after death. Life is hard, and he knows it.

Though this reading carries the plaintive cry of the long-suffering and faithful Job, we know that after he endures endless lectures (thirty-six chapters worth!), God speaks to him and he is vindicated. The responsorial psalm that follows the reading of the Book of Job echoes this vindication while acknowledging acute pain: "Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted." Job speaks for all who suffer long and patiently, who struggle to understand their life and God's life. The brokenhearted can sing praise.

Paul, the minister of the good news of the Resurrection, voices an unshakable trust and hope. He is the servant of good news. His passion is as active as Job's is passive. Paul moves like fire and takes on its color and heat. He is poor with the poor; weak with the weak. He is all things to all people for the sake of the gospel that brings life and is literally good news.

We turn to that Gospel still carrying the tone and feel of these previous readings. We can imagine an assembly of the hopeful poor hearing Jesus' words in the synagogue at Capernaum on the Sabbath. We can see Jesus taking the short Sabbath walk to the home of Simon Peter, whose mother-in-law is in the grip of a fever so great that she is not able to render the simple hospitality permitted on the Jewish Sabbath. Crowds assemble at the door gawking and waiting—but not, probably, with the patience of Job! Jesus helps her up. Peter's mother-in-law is so fully returned to health that she is able to be hospitable! She welcomes and serves the one who restored her. And when the Sabbath sun sinks in the west, the crowds come and come and come. They want immediate physical healing. And Jesus does heal. He does forgive. He longs to lead those who gather around deeper and deeper into the mystery of the Kingdom of God that is now among them. Those who believe are raised to life, to physical health, to the renewal of the human spirit.

Reflection:

In the ideal world, commentaries and reflections for weekend readings would come immediately. A writer wouldn't have to spend much time researching, thinking, and praying. One would be done with the writing in good time and get on to the next project.

It's the same ideal world where all homilies last seven minutes exactly, where gourmet meals are on the table within thirty minutes, and every problem of the day is resolved in less than sixty seconds. Job's world wasn't like that and he was getting discouraged. The people who came knocking at Peter's door looking for Jesus wanted an instant cure for their ailments. Jesus was the one who knew that these things take time, yet he also sensed the urgent needs of these seekers, and responded in charity.

In order to refocus, recollect, and revitalize himself, Jesus went off in the midst of commotion to a quiet place to pray. Throughout the New Testament, we see Jesus take time away to revitalize himself in thought and energy through prayer and contemplation. We learn a great deal from the words of Jesus found in Scripture, but he also demonstrates life's healthy habits through his actions. Taking time to pray and place ourselves in God's presence is one of the many important actions we witness and follow through Jesus' good example.

Copyright © 2002, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, February 4, 2024



Invest time each week to
expand your vocabulary and
deepen your faith.

04 February 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Evangelization *\i-van-jə-lə-'zā-shən*

The act of preaching or proclaiming the gospel; how the Good News of Christ's coming is delivered to the ends of the earth.

Evangelizing begins with the witness of an authentic Christian life. This witness involves humility, detachment from wealth, faith, hope, and charity. In this way one becomes a credible proclaimer of the joy found in Jesus.

Pronunciation: <https://tinyurl.com/Take5-evangelization>

CONTEXT

An **evangelizer** must never look like someone who has just come back from a funeral!

—Pope Francis, *Evangelii gaudium*

The person who has been **evangelized** goes on to **evangelize** others. Here lies the test of truth, the touchstone of **evangelization**: it is unthinkable that a person should accept the Word and give himself to the kingdom without becoming a person who bears witness to it and proclaims it in his turn.

—Pope Paul VI, *Evangelii nuntiandi*

To teach in order to lead others to faith is the task of every preacher and of each believer.

—Saint Thomas Aquinas

WHY IT MATTERS

Jesus is the first **evangelizer** when he proclaims the coming of God's reign. Delivering the Good News of what God has done for us is, in fact, the entire mission of the church.

All people have a right to receive the gospel, and all Christians have a duty to proclaim it. This is not an obligation, says Pope Francis in *Evangelii gaudium*, but a joy as we "point to a horizon of beauty" for all.

RELATED WORDS

Gospel | *Evangelii gaudium* | Preaching

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What's the difference between catechesis and evangelization?

Catechesis is basically religious education. Rooted in the Greek word for "echo," its intent is to nurture the Christian life through imitation in word and deed. **Evangelization** also has Greek origins and means "proclaiming good news." That good news of God's reign is contained in the gospel. Just as catechesis doesn't mean memorizing rote facts about faith, **evangelization** isn't the same as shouting scripture verses to passersby. We can think of **evangelization** as creating the spark that ignites the fire, and catechesis as the work of tending the flame once it's established. . . . When the two work hand in hand, **evangelization** and catechesis can make us saints by bringing us to faith and then to holiness, inch by inch.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <http://tinyurl.com/QCA-evangelization>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (FEBRUARY 4)

Our everything

The Second Vatican Council said the church is "missionary by its very nature"—in other words, mission, these days also called "**evangelization**," is more than just another thing the church does: It is part of everything the church does. What is mission? It's not only the sending of missionaries to foreign countries. Most simply, **evangelization** is bringing to others the Good News to which Jesus witnessed. It means seeing the face of Christ in everyone, especially the poor and outcast.

READINGS: Job 7:1-4; 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-23; Mark 1:29-39 (74 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/020424.cfm>). "Let us go to preach . . . For this purpose have I come."

FAITH IN ACTION

We can all be missionaries and **evangelizers** by showing compassion, spreading goodness, transforming, forgiving, loving, serving, preaching, teaching, and healing.



©2024 TrueQuest Communications. All rights reserved. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: *Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com*. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Sign up to receive free weekly email at TakeFiveForFaith.com/subscribe. To receive Take Five Weekly in advance, subscribe to PrepareTheWord.com.