

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 14, 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

January 13/14 – 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 4:00 pm	January 13 – Vigil (St. Mary) Denise M. Giers Rev. Ralph D. Tetrault
Sunday 8:00 am	January 14 (St. Mark) Charles O'Connor Pepito Munoz
Sunday 9:30 am	January 14 (St. Mary) Bob Schnack
Sunday 11:00 am	January 14 (Sacred Heart) Natalie Cahill David Parenteau

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Monday 8:00 am	January 15 (St. Mark) Dylan Quinn
Tuesday 4:30 pm	January 16 (St. Mark) George Pion
Wednesday 8:00 am	January 17 (St. Mark) Francis E. Kelly
Thursday 8:00 am	January 18 (St. Mark) Lucy Miranda

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January 20/21 – 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday 4:00 pm	January 20 – Vigil (St. Mary) Lillian Shea Frank Golden
Sunday 8:00 am	January 21 (St. Mark) Robert & Angela MacCormack
Sunday 9:30 am	January 21 (St. Mary) People of the Parish
Sunday 11:00 am	January 21 (Sacred Heart) People of the Parish

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Parish Contributions

Collection for December 30/31: \$13,497.44
Collection for January 6/7: \$11,746.89

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Tuesday Communal Rosary Schedule



Tuesday, January 16, 2024: Prayer & Pizza (5PM)
Tuesday, January 23, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
Tuesday, January 30, 2024: Rosary for Life (4PM)
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)

From Fr. Costa:

This weekend we begin a brief Sunday “slice” of Winter Ordinary Time. These Sundays of our liturgical calendar give us the space to take a breath after the rich feasts of Advent and Christmas. The Scripture the Church lays before us give us the opportunity to reflect that our God has created us as whole human beings, and has called us in Christ Jesus to continually develop, nurture and use our gifts – our entire persons – to proclaim God’s Kingdom.

We begin this new liturgical season, with the call of the disciples from Saint John’s Gospel. (John 1:35-42) In this gospel, the call of discipleship comes through the witness of someone else. John the Baptist brings Andrew and another unnamed disciple to Jesus. Andrew then brings his brother, Simon Peter, to Jesus. Later Philip brings Nathaniel to Jesus and still later the Samaritan woman brings her townspeople to him.

As we enter into winter ordinary time, take a few minutes to reflect on how YOU mirror Jesus. How your witness of faith – in the ordinary, ins and outs of your day – can and does bring others to Jesus. Let’s be conscious of this mission and pray for the grace to be authentic witnesses of Jesus!

Parish Office Closed – Martin Luther King, Jr. Day



Please note that the Parish Office will be closed on Monday, January 15th in observance of the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday. Daily Mass **WILL** be celebrated at 8:00 am in Saint Mark Church on the holiday. Thank you!

Open HOUSE

Come and see our school!

GRADES Pre-K - 8
JANUARY 21, 2024
12:30 - 2:30 PM

OUR SAINTS
LEARN. SERVE. LEAD. SUCCEED

CONTACT US
Saint Mary - Sacred Heart School
57 Richards Avenue
North Attleboro, MA 02760
508.695.3072 WWW.SMSHSCHOOL.COM @SMSHSaints

Prayer and Pizza

Are you looking for another way to deepen your spirituality? Do you have “knots” in your life that you need help undoing? Please join us on the third Tuesday of each month for “Prayer and Pizza.” Following the 4:30 pm Mass this **Tuesday, January 16**, we together will pray the rosary, which will be offered up to Mary, Undoer of Knots (maryundoerofknots.com). Whether you pray the rosary daily or have never prayed it before, please consider joining us for “Prayer and Pizza.” All are welcome! Please contact Rick Leco (508 930 9264) or Vicky Curran (508 930 3306) with any questions.



Adopt-A-Family Project: Thank You!



On behalf of Betty Poirier and the Adopt-A-Family, we wish to express our sincerest gratitude to our parish community which has so generously supported this project year after year whether sponsoring families, shopping, wrapping, donations, and much much more. Each year, your generous dedication and support have empowered us to deliver joy, blessings, and a splendid Christmas to so many families in need. The ongoing prosperity of this project, which has consistently made a positive impact for many years, wouldn't be possible without your steadfast support and commitment. We consider ourselves exceptionally fortunate to be part of the North Attleboro Catholic Community, blessed with such wonderful and thoughtful parishioners.

As we enter the New Year, we extend our warmest wishes to all of you and offer a heartfelt THANK YOU from the depths of our hearts.

God Bless,
Adopt-A-Family Committee

Knights of Columbus Coat Drive: Thank You!



Thank you to all who donated to this year's drive! All donations will be given to the SVDP Clothing Center in Attleboro, which distributes clothing for free to those helped by our SVDP conferences here in North Attleborough and the surrounding communities. God bless you for your help.

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.

January 15: Pax Christi Event

The Pax Christi local group that meets at LaSalette Shrine will host an Interfaith Prayer Service for Global Peace on Martin Luther King Day, Monday, January 15th, 2024, at **11:00 am** at The National Shrine of Our Lady of La Salette, 947 Park St. in Attleboro MA. In this reflective service, we will come together to pray for peace and harmony in our fragile world. All are welcome to participate. For more information, email leawoodstar@yahoo.com.



Transfiguration of the Lord Respect Life Group

Abundant Hope Baby Bottle Drive:



Please support Abundant Hope Pregnancy Resource Center by joining us in our Baby Bottle Drive. Bottles are still available for you to take home and return during the weekend of **Jan 20/21** with change, cash or a check (please make payable to Abundant Hope) with your most generous donation to help support young women and families in our community. In 2023, Abundant Hope helped over 1000 women with free services thanks to your generous donations!

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!

SAINTS

SAINT MARY-SACRED HEART

SMSH Teaching Team:



Join the SMSH teaching team and make a difference! Are you an educator who wants to give back to your community? Do you desire a faith-filled environment where the teachings of Jesus Christ are front and center? We would love to have you join our Saints Family. Currently, both day-to-day substitute teachers and a long-term substitute physical education teacher are needed. Please contact Mrs. Lisa Serak, principal at lserak@smsh.dfrcs.org.

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Saint Mary-Sacred Heart School Open House:

We cordially invite you to explore more about our school during our **Open House** on **Sunday, January 21, 12:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** This event welcomes current SMSH families, as well as new and prospective families. We look forward to seeing you there!

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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!

CATHOLIC
school education
Success - Learn - Serve - Lead

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:

January 21st: **Grades 1 & 2**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

January 21st: **Grade 9**, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.

January 22nd: **Grade 8**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

January 28th: **Grades 3 & 4**, 9:00 – 10:15 a.m.
(following the 8:00 a.m. Mass)

January 29th: **Grade 5**, 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

Second Grade Parent meeting will be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 9:15 a.m. at Saint Mark Church. Important information regarding the Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion will be discussed.



Ninth grade parent and candidate meeting to be held on Sunday, January 21, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at Saint Mark Church. Important information regarding the sacrament of Confirmation will be discussed.



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.

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.

Please Pray for our Deceased:

H. William "Bill" Donnelly
Denise M. Giers
Carol A. Onoyan
Colleen M. Domingos
Judith A. Svendsen



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

Winter Storm Mass 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.

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

Wedding Anniversary Celebration

Bishop da Cunha will celebrate a Wedding Anniversary Mass for couples marking significant anniversaries of the Sacrament of Marriage. This Mass will be held at the Cathedral of Saint Mary of the Assumption in Fall River on Sunday, **February 11, 2024**, at **3:00 p.m.** If you would like to receive an invitation and participate in this celebration please contact the parish office **THIS WEEK!**



Knights of Columbus Monthly Meeting

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.



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.

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.



Saint Alphonsus Ligori once said:

"Of all devotions, that of adoring Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament is the greatest after the sacraments, the one dearest to God and the one most helpful to us."

Please join us at **Saint Mark church** on Friday, **February 2nd**, 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.

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.



Saint of the Week:
St. Sebastian

Almost nothing is historically certain about Sebastian except that he was a Roman martyr, was venerated in Milan even in the time of Saint Ambrose and was buried on the Appian Way, probably near the present Basilica of St. Sebastian. Devotion to him spread rapidly, and he is mentioned in several martyrologies as early as 350.

The legend of Saint Sebastian is important in art, and there is a vast iconography. Scholars now agree that a pious fable has Sebastian entering the Roman army because only there could he assist the martyrs without arousing suspicion. Finally he was found out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. His body was pierced with arrows, and he was left for dead. But he was found still alive by those who came to bury him. He recovered but refused to flee.

One day he took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He accosted the emperor, denouncing him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs. He was buried on the Appian Way, close to the catacombs that bear his name.

The fact that many of the early saints made such a tremendous impression on the Church—awakening widespread devotion and great praise from the greatest writers of the Church—is proof of the heroism of their lives. As has been said, legends may not be literally true. Yet they may express the very substance of the faith and courage evident in the lives of these heroes and heroines of Christ.

Sebastain continues to inspire even today. Every year, this saint is one of the most popular among male candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. Perhaps this is because Sebastain is the patron saint of athletes. May his example of faithful witness continue to inspire and encourage our young men (and women) as they grow in Faith!



St. Sebastian
Feast Day: January 20th



"The devil strains every nerve to secure the souls which belong to Christ. We should not grudge our toil wrestling them from Satan and giving them back to God."

-St. Sebastian

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.

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 14, 2024

READINGS FOR THE WEEK



First Reading

A reading from the first Book of Samuel

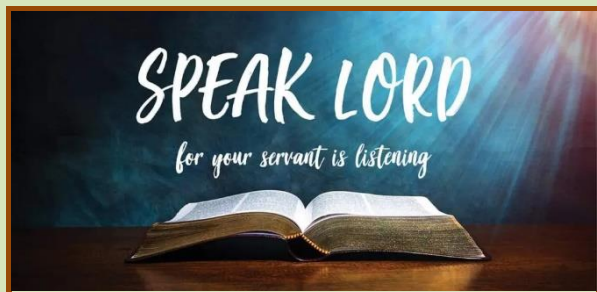
Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.



Responsorial Psalm

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
then said I, "Behold I come."

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
to do your will, O my God, is my delight,
and your law is within my heart!"

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly; I
did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Second Reading

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

Brothers and sisters:

The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

*We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.*

R. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel

The Lord be with you.

And with your spirit.

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

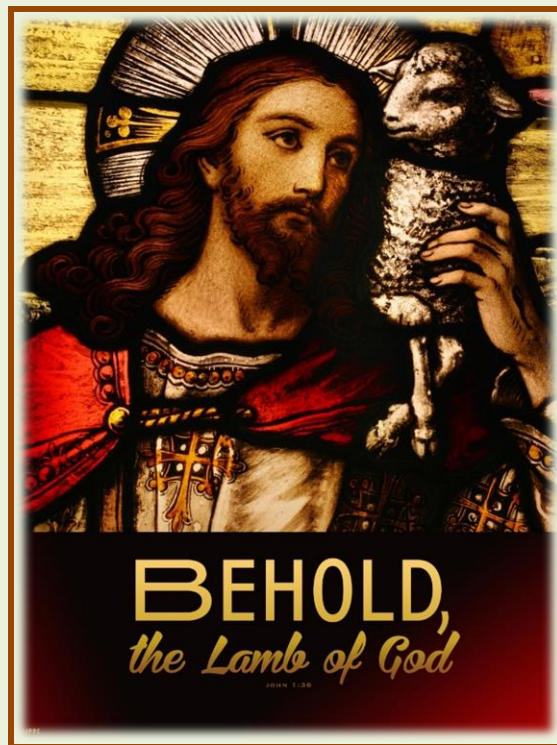
John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



REFLECTION FOR THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



You Will See:

Jesus' cousin, John the Baptist, baptized people with water but told his followers that someone was coming who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Today's Gospel reading does not record any conversation between John and Jesus, but emphasizes that as John watches Jesus go by, he announces that this man is indeed the promised one, the Lamb of God. Andrew and another man set out to follow Jesus, who turns and asks what they are looking for. Their answer is a strange one: they want to know where he lives. Jesus simply replies, "Come, and you will see." We are told they stay with him for the whole day. The next day, Andrew finds his brother, Simon, and tells him he has met the Messiah—the Anointed One—and takes Simon to meet Jesus. Like John, Jesus looks hard at Simon, taking the measure of the man, and in the light of what he perceives in him changes his name to Cephas—or as we more commonly know it, Peter ("the rock").

The two encounters seem very ordinary, yet they are life-changing. Jesus is not proclaiming a message, preaching to a crowd, or performing great miracles. Instead, he is simply walking past John, and when Andrew and his friend introduce themselves, offers them hospitality and companionship. When Jesus meets Peter, he does not ask probing questions about his family and his background or make solemn pronouncements. He just looks at the man, makes an assessment of his character, and accepts him as a friend. The simplicity of Jesus' manner demonstrates his willingness to receive people "as they are" but also to call forth their potential. He does not offer lengthy explanations of who he is, but takes people to his home and lets them see for themselves.

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Reflections for the Week beginning Sunday, January 14, 2024



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

14 January 2024

WORD OF THE WEEK

Justice \ˈjə-stəs \

The moral fiber of a religious people that mirrors the God of Justice. More than an expression of fairness or the execution of legal judgment, biblical justice demands that we be straight, true, and righteous in our relationships with God and others.

Pronunciation: <http://tinyurl.com/Take5-justice>

CONTEXT

Justice and revenge are not the same thing. As my father said, **justice** at its best is love correcting everything that stands against love.
—Bernice King

Without **justice** and love, peace will always be a great illusion.
—Dom Hélder Câmara

It is impossible to struggle for civil rights, equal rights for blacks, without including whites. Because equal rights, fair play, **justice**, are like the air: we all have it, or none of us has it.
—Maya Angelou

WHY IT MATTERS

The theme of **justice** is central to scripture. Divine law defines it and the prophets clamor for it. Matthew describes Jesus' mission with Isaiah's proclamation: "I shall place my spirit upon him, and he will proclaim justice to the [nations]." It is impossible to be the People of God and reject the way of God. To be unconcerned with the work of **justice** is to be indifferent to the divine will and the coming Kingdom.

From *Brothers and Sisters to Us* (USCCB Pastoral Letter on Racism, 1979): Racism and economic oppression are distinct but interrelated forces which dehumanize our society. Movement toward authentic **justice** demands a simultaneous attack on both evils.

RELATED WORDS

Racism | Eco-justice | Just War Theory

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What is meant by "just war"?

Just war theory is the body of moral reasoning developed to discern when the primary bias *against* war may shift toward an obligation to protect and defend. . . . In the Early Church, pacifism preceded just war tradition. The alliance of church with state under Constantine ensured that church policy leaned toward supporting the interests of the empire. Fourth-century theologians Ambrose and Augustine developed arguments that could, under limited conditions, make war not only permissible but obligatory in the service of a victimized neighbor.

Just war theory offers eight criteria for engagement. Seven determine whether a conflict is justified, including: just cause, competent authority, last resort, comparative justice, proportionality, right intention, and probability of success. The eighth consideration is reserved for an inevitable engagement and involves right conduct in wartime. In his 2020 encyclical *Fratelli tutti*, Pope Francis argued that "it is very difficult nowadays to invoke the rational criteria elaborated in earlier centuries to speak of the possibility of a 'just war.' Never again war!" Clearly, it's never enough simply to declare a cause righteous in one's own mind and issue a call to arms.

—Alice Camille, from *Questions Catholics Ask* <https://tinyurl.com/QCA-just-war>

REFLECTION OF THE WEEK

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY (JANUARY 15)

A matter of head and heart

"One day we will learn that the heart can never be totally right if the head is totally wrong," the Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote that in his book *Strength to Love* in 1963. He underscored the necessity of taking responsibility for the formation and lifelong education of our consciences. You have to be sure that your convictions are tied to more than your preferences, biases, and opinions!

READINGS: 1 Samuel 15:16-23; Mark 2:18-22 (311 <https://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011524.cfm>). "No one pours new wine into old wineskins. . . . Rather, new wine is poured into fresh wineskins."

FAITH IN ACTION

To be tethered to true north, reflect on scripture daily



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