

For The Bulletin Of January 21, 2018



THE THIRD SUNDAY IN WINTER'S ORDINARY TIME

From Father Robert

Cycle B of the Lectionary means we are reading primarily from the Gospel of Mark, even though last week we read from the Gospel of John, and heard about the call of the first disciples, Andrew, and an unnamed disciple. This week we have a different version, Mark's version, of the call of the first disciples. Though Andrew is still part of the story, we do not have the "unnamed disciple" from the Gospel of John.

There are some significant differences between last week's story and this. For one, in last week's story Andrew and his companion were initially followers of John the Baptist. After the Baptist pointed out Jesus, they began to follow Him.

In Mark's story Jesus is walking along the Sea of Galilee when He calls the brothers Simon and Andrew. They abandon their nets and follow Jesus. He then calls the brothers James and John, sons of Zebedee. All four become Jesus' followers that day, whereas Zebedee is left holding the net!

The sons of Zebedee are critical figures in the Synoptic stories as opposed to the Gospel of John. In fact, we only hear of the "sons of Zebedee" in the epilogue of the Gospel of John, but nowhere in the first twenty chapters. Even in John 21 we don't learn their names. They are merely the sons of Zebedee.

But the image Mark paints for us is different. He gives us their names and depicts them as giving themselves in complete dedication to following Jesus. All is abandoned in their pursuit of him.

In this story we also hear something of the preaching of Jesus, which to a certain degree echoed that of John the Baptist. Jesus' preaching will be developed and expanded throughout the Gospel of Mark, but at this early stage it is centered around the twofold command, "Repent, and believe."

The story is certainly idealized for dramatic effect; we only need to look at the Gospel of John to see another version of Andrew and Peter being called by Jesus. But what is Mark telling us by narrating the story the way he does? Certainly that these first disciples left everything in a single-minded pursuit of Jesus. As such, they represent the ideal. Still, as we will learn throughout this gospel, the disciples did not often live up to that ideal. And perhaps this is another lesson of Mark's story. Our beginnings can be filled with such idealism, promise, and pure-hearted devotion. Only later will "reality" begin to sink in and our failings and shortcomings become apparent, as they no doubt will with the disciples.



Living The Paschal Mystery

Think back to the first time you fell in love, not a crush, but a true love. The emotional, spiritual, intellectual connection was undoubtedly strong and probably seemed like it would last forever. That's also the way the love songs often sing of it. Yet, those initial stages inevitably recede and the grind of daily life looms larger. At that point, the love may have developed into something deeper, stronger. Or perhaps it died out altogether and is now only a happy memory.

Something similar often happens with a faith life and the disciples were not immune to this. Today we hear the story about how they started out strong, abandoning everything to follow Jesus. We know that Simon Peter will eventually confess Jesus as the Christ. And later, Peter will deny three times that he even knows Jesus. The relationship that starts out with such promise, even reaching soaring heights, can truly crash and burn. This happened with the disciples; it can happen with us.

Our faith life might start out strong. It might need to be rekindled from time to time. We might need to go to the well of that initial experience of falling in love to draw sustenance and inspiration. And yet, there may be times when we effectively hang it up or abandon it, as Peter did. In those times we know that Jesus still sought Peter. Peter was forgiven and brought back into the fold.

There will be another example later in this gospel of a disciple who abandoned Jesus and did not seek forgiveness. His end was not like Peter's. Our living relationship with Jesus is not a one-time exhilarating moment, but, like all relationships, it is a lifelong give and take, wax and wane, love and be loved.

These Sundays of Winter's Ordinary Time are challenging. They raise pointed questions about our own personal level of discipleship. How are you responding?

- What "fishing nets" must we "abandon" if we are to wholeheartedly follow Jesus?
- Who are Jesus' most unlikely disciples among us today?
- How have Jesus' teachings on forgiveness, compassion, and healing been the beginnings of new possibilities in your life?
- What do you find to be the most difficult aspect of "following" Jesus?



About Liturgy: Hearing Is Believing!
Have you ever noticed how central hearing is in the Scriptures? God's first act was to speak. Who was meant to hear? If the Creator creates by speaking and our Savior is the "Word made flesh," then we have been created to hear

what God speaks and to proclaim what we have heard. Yet we've become so tied to our visual sense. Much of our time is spent looking, scanning, scrolling, watching. We've lost the art of listening with the "ear of our heart," as St. Benedict instructed. Our faith is handed down from ear to heart and back out through our mouths to repeat the cycle for any who would listen. Perhaps today's readings are *calling* us to close our eyes, turn off the screens, put away the missalette, and just listen. Listen to what Jonah *announces*. Hear what Jesus *proclaims*. Attend to His *call* to follow.

Proclaiming Is Different Than Reading

One way we can attune our ears is to practice liturgical hearing and proclamation. The spoken and sung word in ritual is symbolic. It resists being didactic or pragmatic, because the exchange of words is not about exchanging information but about opening hearts to one another and to Christ, the Logos (the Word made flesh). Liturgical hearing and proclamation is a form of communion – common union – because if we really hear what has been proclaimed, our hearts will be moved to respond by opening our lives to others and putting into action what we have heard. For when God speaks, something new is created: new faith, courage, hope, wisdom, life. Here are some ways to practice liturgical hearing and proclamation:

1. Read and pray with the Sunday readings during the week before coming to worship.
2. Avoid the temptation to read along as the Lector or Psalmist proclaims the Scripture. Just actively listen and respond.

3. If you are a Lector or Psalmist, commit each week to doing one thing to help you believe what you will proclaim or sing on Sunday. Work on one thing this year to improve your proclamation skills.
4. Attend to what you say from the moment you arrive at church to the moment you leave. Your words have great power to build up or destroy a person's faith.
5. At liturgy, communicate with your actions and body language, not just your words.



Shelter Inc. Ministry Meals – From Catherine Vidaurri

Jan. 8-12 were the dates scheduled for our much-anticipated return visit to Shelter Inc. in Martinez, a transitional residence for families who have experienced recent homelessness, and who are working to regain the independence they have temporarily lost.

Shelter Inc. operates in the building of a former church which has a large working kitchen, a spacious living area, and downstairs offices and classrooms which have been refurnished as bedrooms for family privacy. Unfortunately, necessary renovations below have meant fewer accommodations are available for a time, so only three families are guests there right now, meaning dinners for 8-10 instead of 30. St. Ignatius of Antioch has

a wonderful reputation there for serving healthy, comfort-filled plates that the residents repeatedly compliment, and this cold, wet January with the flu season heavily upon us, certainly underlines that need. The camaraderie and sense of mission already at work in each of the several parish teams to volunteer, is quite evident.

The week ended Friday night, as it always does, with **Steve Rojek**, who treated the guests to his linguine with homemade meatballs, and offered them a choice of marinara or Alfredo sauce, alongside garden salad and garlic bread, followed by chocolate custard cake for dessert. Steve reported great dinnertime conversation, which is no wonder, really, with a meal like that, and Steve's gentle, insistent hospitality inviting people to linger!

Thursday night offered the Fatima Prayer Group of St. Ignatius of Antioch, represented by **Estrella Rusk, Crispina Malonosan, and her grandson, Alex Como**, an evening to put prayer into action. What is remarkable about this trio is the fact that in addition to serving the guests at the shelter, Estrella and Crispina used this opportunity to teach young Alex, a 7th grade student at Holy Rosary School, the value of caring for others. He helped serve behind the buffet line, (though not his debut; Alex has also helped with Winter Nights and Stand Down on the Delta!), and also made his way around the room, visiting with the eight other children there, inquiring about where they go to school, their favorite subject, favorite sport, etc., and other various topics youngsters love to share. Estrella first thought of bringing her crowd-pleasing pancit, but as the cold, damp weather refused to abate,

decided upon a homemade soup of her own: a turkey and ham broth crowded with fresh carrots, cabbage, Italian parsley and other treats. At least one lunch this weekend will satisfy the shelter guests with her gift of leftover soup! She also brought lumpia, (of course), packed with turkey meat and a mix of vegetables that brought them back and back again for more--who wouldn't? Their delicious food, however, came in second place to Alex, the real winner here, who grew a step stronger in the joyful tradition of service. What a team!

Wednesday night's menu was the hearty fare that our **Knights of Columbus** so expertly prepare! **Sharon and Dave Simpson, with Bill Barbanica**, arrived with a wonderful lasagna to share, offered with Caesar salad and garlic bread. They too, enjoyed easy conversation with the residents. Their dessert of ice cream and cookies was heightened by a load of fresh oranges they had brought, a real gift to a shelter placing such a priority on fresh fruits and veggies, often unavailable unless someone brings them in. Thank you for doing that!

As always, **Sue and Rick Howell, along with Vicki and Brian McCoy**, make a power team, showing up with Sunday dinner on a Tuesday! Their opportunity to visit *was* their special occasion, and they marked it with a roast of sirloin pork and all the fixings: pork gravy, mashed potatoes, and green peas with mushrooms and onions. A salad platter of sliced peaches brightened their buffet. When two loving groups come together like this for a meal, St. Ignatius of Antioch and Shelter Inc., with homemade double fudge brownies added

for dessert, the room glows. The Howells and McCoys make that happen!

On a rainy Monday, **Parish Council represented by Reggie Desmond, Will and Catherine, and Don Benson**, prepared a comforting supper of hot cider, meatloaf studded with sweet peppers and bathed in tomato sauce, mashed potatoes and gravy, salad of kale and mixed greens, blueberries and apples, chard with caramelized carrots, and roasted broccoli with garlic and pine nuts. The St. Ignatius of Antioch garden, stunned by the cold weather, yielded a small but adequate cache of parsley and greens for our use. Everything came together at serving time though, and Reggie and I shared a smile those last few seconds of frenzy and forgetting, with the microwave dinging, electric beater going, pot lids clanging--that the kids on the couches, just as our own kids and grandkids (used to) do, reacting to the delicious sounds and smells, became loud and joyfully rambunctious...and there was more joy when Reggie, our Queen of Cookies, topped off the meal with her chewy chocolate chip and butterscotch chip cookie bars. Not much remained from a new gallon of milk just purchased that evening—not with Reggie's cookies!

Thank you to everyone who participated, shopped, prepped, and helped negotiate dates. We did not need, and have never needed to be reminded that we are feeding Jesus, just as we would feed and shelter Him in our homes. Shelter Inc. appreciates our preliminary inquiries as to inventory, pantry needs, etc., and we often show up with sundries, in addition to our meals, that are necessary to make a house run smoothly. What is significant and obvious about this house,

is that the evening meal, because of the residents' circumstances, needs to be an explicit statement of love and support. They need that daily affirmation. Maybe the sight of fresh fruit piled in the basket for tomorrow, and sweet taste of a little dessert before going off to bed, is an important part of that. I think probably so.

It was a small group this past week, and the individuals were easily observed. When dinner was laid out at 6:00, two school-age children hung back at the end of the line and kept their eye on the door. They served themselves a little, and ate slowly, until... Mom walked in the door at 6:45, professionally dressed, but wet and bedraggled from standing on BART platforms and trudging to her car in the rain. She works for a technology company in SF. They jumped up and greeted her, and she served herself a plate. After nuzzling her children for a few moments, the family resumed eating, with gusto this time. I thought it notable that rather than disappear downstairs for a few moments to change into dry clothing, the mother would not sacrifice even one second with her hungry children, so they could all eat as a family. How they recently came to be homeless is still a question that bothers me, but the only answer that comes, loud and glaring, is that it could happen to any of us. Knowing that, as we all do, our support for this shelter and other efforts is no surprise and will continue. We thank **Estrella Rusk and Rick Howell** for organizing and assigning us our days, and for seizing this opportunity for St. Ignatius of Antioch to serve.

Ash Wednesday

Lent begins this coming February 14th with Ash Wednesday. The schedule of liturgies that day are as follows:

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

12:00 Noon Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

5:30 p.m. Liturgy of the Word with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

7:30 p.m. Solemn Sung Evening Prayer with the Blessing and Distribution of Ashes



...to our volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Cathy Romeo, Carole Miller, Rose Salamanca, Mency Osborne, Jack Goncalves, and Emilia Freking.**

...to our volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall during

the week: **Steve Rojek, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.

...to our counting teams who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

Jeannine Ford, Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Alicia Perez, Yvette Young, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

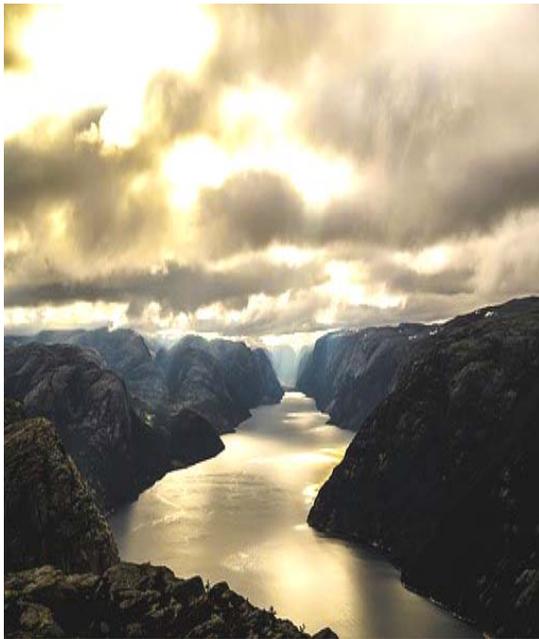
...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Carole Miller, Dave Costanza, Beth Enea, and Kathy and Vince Augusta.**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Don Benson and Steve Rojek.**

ANNUAL REPORT

Each year, on the last weekend of January, it is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the previous year to the congregation. Much more than just a statement of facts and figures, it is a wonderful way to look back over 2017 and remember all of the ways in which

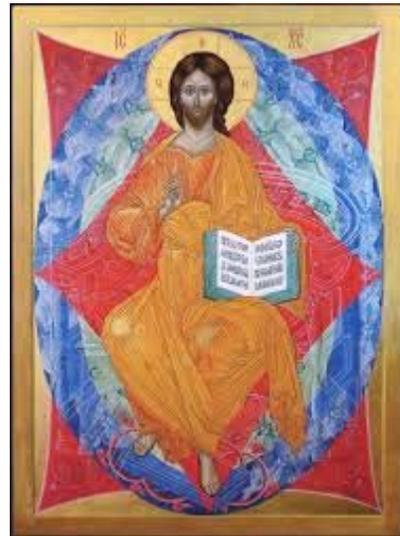
God has been at work in our lives and in our faith community, how each one of us has lived our discipleship, how we together are making a difference here in Antioch and beyond in building God's kingdom in our midst. It includes a financial report on our Stewardship of Treasure, how well we made the Budget for 2017 and what actually happened as well as presenting the Budget for 2018. I hope you will plan to be with us for liturgy that weekend as the Annual Report is presented to you at each of our liturgies. Printed copies will be made available for every registered family.



The Norway Trip Is On for 2018!

Presently 16 people are confirmed for our trip to Norway, Sweden, and Denmark this coming August. Both Fr. Mangini and I are leading the tour and we invite you to join us! This will be a tour of a lifetime and there is room for you to join us. Linda Grelli from Black Diamond Travel is arranging the details with round trip flights on SAS Airlines from San Francisco and back.

This is a tour arranged through InsightTours, one of the leading Tour companies in the world. If you are interested in joining us, please contact me or give Linda call at Black Diamond Travel.



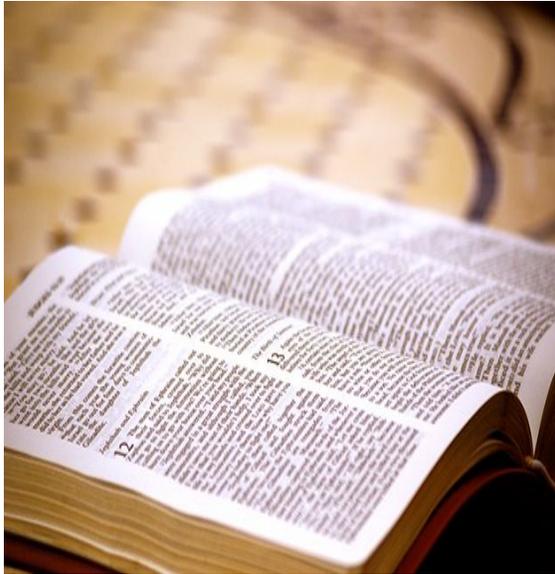
The Christ In Majesty Icon

Last weekend, many of you noticed and commented on the magnificent new Icon of Christ in Majesty that has been installed at the tympanum. Designed and executed by **Shirley Smith of Tesserae Studios in San Francisco, it is the Gift of Don Benson in loving memory of his wife, Sheryl Young Benson.** With its installation, the artwork for the exterior of the sanctuary is now complete. Please watch my insert for the announcement of the Icon's Blessing and Dedication. On behalf of all of us, I extend heartfelt thanks and gratitude to Don for his generosity in making the Icon possible.

Listening to God's word between Christmas and Lent

Jan 16, 2018

by [Thomas Reese](#), [Religion News Service](#)



The daily Scripture readings used at Mass during Ordinary Time provide Christians with the opportunity to get acquainted with the Bible. The title "Ordinary" actually comes from "ordinal," as in "ordinal numbers," since these weeks are numbered. (Courtesy of Adam Dimmick)

The beginning of the calendar year is a time for making resolutions, but in the Catholic liturgical year it is called "Ordinary Time" — a boring title for the part of the year that's not Advent, Christmas, Lent or Easter!

But it is also an opportunity to be an extraordinary Catholic — one who reads the Scriptures daily.

In the bad old days, Catholics were discouraged from reading the Scriptures because clerics feared their parishioners would become like Protestants and start thinking for themselves. "You don't need the Scriptures; just memorize the catechism and do what I tell you."

Today, the church encourages Catholics to nourish themselves with God's word, and has some of the best Scripture scholars in the world. But sadly polls show that Catholics still read the Scriptures less than their Protestant brothers and sisters. Only 17 percent of Catholics read the Bible every day as compared to 38 percent of Protestants.

There are lots of ways to read the Scriptures, but one of the best is to read the passages used during Mass, even if you do not attend daily Mass. Over its two-year cycle, the weekday lectionary gives readers a comprehensive taste of the best passages in the Old and New Testaments. The Sunday lectionary follows a three-year cycle.

These lectionaries are also used by many Protestant churches. When you pray over these readings, you are united with Christians across the world who are reading the same passages. It is an experience that can be shared in prayer groups or with family and friends.

The daily Scripture readings during Ordinary Time provide Christians with the opportunity to get acquainted with the Bible. The word "ordinary" comes from "ordinal," as in "ordinal numbers," since these weeks are numbered. The first weeks of Ordinary Time use the first chapters of Mark's Gospel, and during even numbered years, the first reading is from the Book of Samuel.

These readings often have relevance today.

For example, during the first week in Ordinary Time, the First Book of Samuel begins with his mother, Hannah, who like many women today is being badly treated by her culture and her priest. She is told she has no value unless she has a son. When she prays in the temple, the priest Eli accuses her of being drunk. The only person on her side is God who hears her prayer.

I first got acquainted with the Gospel of Mark in high school when for homework we were told to read one of the Gospels from beginning to end. Word quickly spread that Mark was the shortest Gospel, so being high school seniors, you know which Gospel we read.

Later, as a student of theology, I learned more about Mark. It is generally thought by scholars to be the first written Gospel, which Matthew and Luke had at their sides when they wrote their Gospels. Most scholars also believe that the original Gospel ended with the appearance of Jesus to the women at the tomb.

Mark is challenging. Mark's Jesus demands uncompromising personal commitment. In Mark's mind, nobody understands Jesus, not even the Apostles and his mother Mary. At the end of the Gospel, the women do not tell the disciples that Jesus is risen. Rather, they "fled from the tomb, seized with trembling and bewilderment. They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." With such a downer for an ending, it is no surprise that someone added to Mark's Gospel the appearances to Mary Magdalene and the disciples. It was not

that Mark was ignorant of the appearances; he did not include them because he wanted to keep on message to his fellow Christians: "You just don't get it."

Mark's Gospel was sufficient in the early days of Christianity when people had to make a personal choice for Christ, but as time went on it was hard to live with his relentless calls to total commitment. Matthew realized that Christianity was not only about personal commitment, but about a Christian community that needs teaching, structure and rules. Luke understood that we never are as committed as Mark wanted and therefore need a compassionate message that gives hope.

Each of the four Gospels has a special message. At the beginning of Ordinary Time, Mark tells us that we need to make a personal commitment to Christ and this commitment needs to be absolute. But lest we get too proud, we also need to be reminded that no one really understands Jesus. If we think we do, we need to return to Mark.

There are many ways to get the daily Mass Scripture readings, including buying hardbound missals or monthly missalettes with the readings. The readings are also online in text and audio at the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

For those with smartphones or tablets, there are also free apps, like iBreviary. Or they can be heard on iTunes in "Daily Readings from the New American Bible."

Catholics need to be nourished by the word of God, and this is a way to do it

with the whole Catholic community, even if they don't go to Mass every day. This is a great New Year's resolution. If every day is more than you are willing to commit, at least read the Sunday Scripture readings during the week before attending Mass.

[Jesuit Fr. Thomas Reese is a columnist for Religion News Service and author of *Inside the Vatican: The Politics and Organization of the Catholic Church*.]

Thank You From Turner Elementary

Dear Father Robert, Frances Rojek, and Members of the Parish,

Thank you so much for your exceptionally generous donations to the families and students of Turner Elementary this past Christmas. The toys and games your parishioners donated created a brighter and more joyful holiday season for many of our children and their families. The pure joy and surprise in the faces of the parents as they selected gifts for their children was truly unforgettable. Your wonderful act of charity and kindness is greatly appreciated and I am honored that you chose to help the Turner community.

Happy New Year and many blessings to you all.

Humbly, Deborah Meylan
Principal, Turner Elementary School

Thank You Letter – Jose and Alicia Perez

Father Robert,
Jose and I would like to wish you and our parish family a wonderful and prosperous New Year!

We also want to give our most heartfelt and sincere thank you to all for the

beautiful plaque presented to us as a gift for our many hours of service to our church and our community.

Jose has always said we do not serve to be recognized but rather serve to honor Jesus' words.

When asked what is the greatest commandment, Jesus replied: “‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’^[a] This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’^[b] ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.”

We try to live by these words on a daily basis and believe me when I say some days it is not easy. Yet, we continue even when sometimes we are outnumbered by those who hold biased and judgmental views of others. We hold dear to us those many hours of volunteering for Corazon (building a home for a poor family in Tijuana) and for Relay for Life (raising money for continued research, education, and support of cancer patients). Alicia's personal support to those facing cancer issues (phone calls made to cancer patients and received from cancer patients).

In conclusion, we continue to love and cherish each member of our parish family. In whatever capacity we can help we are there. Join us in celebrating the continued love that Jesus gives each and every one of us. Fill your hearts with desire to share the love of Christ with others through unselfish help and aid to the least of your brothers and sisters.

May God bless each and every one of you and fill you with His grace, through his most blessed Son Jesus. If you need more information on the Corazon build or Relay for Life, please feel free to talk to Jose or Alicia, and let the gift of giving continue with you.

Yours in Christ

Jose and Alicia Perez 