

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 7, 2021



Reading I: Job 7: 1-4, 6-7

Job temporarily pauses his dialogue with his three friends and turns to a lament about human life in general. He mentions three proverbially unhappy states in life and shows it is only with dependence on God that man has lasting happiness.

Reading II: I Corinthians 9: 16-19, 22-23

Preaching is Paul's acknowledged calling as a Christian, so he does not deserve credit for using the gift. His integrity is based on his love for all people, no matter their situation.

The Gospel: Mark I: 29-39

Jesus cures Peter's mother-in-law so completely that she gets up from bed to serve all in the house. Later, Jesus cures all the people who crowd Peter's door. We learn that the demons knew who Jesus was, but they were silenced by Him. The disciples will gradually come to know Jesus' identity.



- 5 p.m.: Grace Greenslit, William Spoko,
Doris Malantonio and Clare Costello
10 a.m.: Charles "Chuck" Saleski, Thomas O'Neil,
Carolyn Bender and Mark Dushaj

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

- 5 p.m. Saturday, January 16: **30**
10 a.m. Sunday, January 10: **56** in the church;
9 in the hall

GRATITUDE

Your Parish Community is

GRATEFUL

for your consistent contributions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 24-31: Totaled \$ 4,419.63

Envelopes: \$ 1,906.00 – Online: \$ 2,513.63

'LITTLE FEBRUARY'S' BIG GIFT

Poor little February! Even in its better leap years, it still has fewer days than its calendar-mates. Besides that, at least in the Northern hemisphere, it comes at that time of year when the weather offers a tiresome repeat of its neighbor January. Gone is the charm of that first snowfall when others arrive.

There is no significant holiday to prepare for as the previous three months offered. That is, unless one gives an extraordinary rating to Valentine's Day. No special decorating for most houses. There is no list of favorite songs for February. Add to all this the somewhat unwelcome news that Lent soon arrives, with all its purple weeks of fasting and other penances.

But wait! Isn't a convinced Christian an automatic optimist, no matter the season? Theologically, yes. Psychologically, I am not so sure. Whatever problem life doles out, it just seems that we're less likely to handle it well in February. This Sunday's First Reading from the Book of Job makes explicit what we might be thinking about in February. We get little comfort.



Then along comes the timeless "Good News" in today's Gospel passage. It can lift us up this month. The Holy Word offers not just a palliative but a painkiller because it highlights how a certain Jesus, the same we met as a mere babe two short months ago, comes to us with the very reason for our optimism. We re-learn that He is the cure for all our ills.

The demons at this point have a temporary advantage over the good people around Jesus who are seeking cures from various maladies. But Jesus orders their silence. He prefers a gradual realization among His newfound followers.

As a result, "little February" is not as forlorn as it may have seemed at first. For here, only seven days in, she presents a Gospel passage that gives us the whole reason for our main Christian claim. Bishop Robert Barron explains it this way:

Christianity is, first and foremost, a religion of the concrete and not the abstract. It takes its power not from a general religious consciousness, not from an ethical conviction, not from a comfortable abstraction, but from the person Jesus Christ. It is Christ who moves the believer to change of life and gift of self.

Of course, pessimists are always to be found. Usually they have a hard time believing in anything, much less Jesus. When someone is convinced that things can't be done, he will cling to that conviction. The story is told of the time when Robert Fulton gave the first public demonstration of his steamboat. One of those can't-be-done fellows chanted, "He can't start it."

Suddenly, there was a belch of steam and the big boat began to move. Startled, the man stared for a moment and then yelled, "He can't stop it!"

God love you and give you His peace,
- **Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**

IN THE LOOP ...



You might have noticed the hum of a fan during Mass. That is not merely the sound of air being circulated. (And it is not bringing in cold air from outside!) Rather, it is the sound of air being moved through our **new purification system**, which includes a pass through enhanced UV light. Photohydroionization technology helps reduce airborne bacteria, viruses, mold and odors so we can all breathe a little easier!



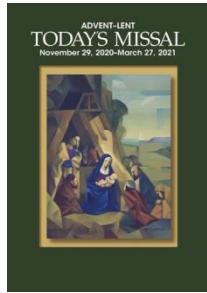
If you haven't done so yet, check out our **updated website**, redesigned to make it easier for you to access the information you need. The address is the same – www.stpaulsbullville.org – but the look is different.



February 17 is Ash Wednesday. Mass with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. There will be additional opportunities to receive ashes without attending Mass. Those times will be announced next week.



COVID-19 safety protocols preclude any papers or booklets from being left in the pews. However, there are copies of the current Missal, which runs through the end of Lent, at the doors to the church. You are welcome to take **your personal copy** to bring back and forth to Mass with you.



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– Matthew 25:40

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YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last week, participants talked about changes they'd make in a movie, book, TV show, video game, etc. Here are highlights – some of which might be perplexing to those of us of a certain age:

- Be able to change the text color in video-game chat.
- In the “Goblet of Fire,” keep the character at the end alive.
- In the first “Avengers,” change what Thanos looks like.
- In “Star Wars,” wouldn't have Padme die so soon.
- In “Revenge of the Scythe,” would not have had Anakin turn to the dark side.
- In “Toy Story,” wouldn't have separated the characters at the end of the last movie
- “The Office” would have ended when Steve Carell left.

Some of the Scriptures shared:

Joshua 1:9 - Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.

Hebrews 13:5 - Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, “Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.”

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need.

1 Corinthians 16:18 - For they refreshed my spirit and yours also. Such men deserve recognition.

2 Corinthians 4:17-18 - For our light and momentary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all. 18 So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.

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