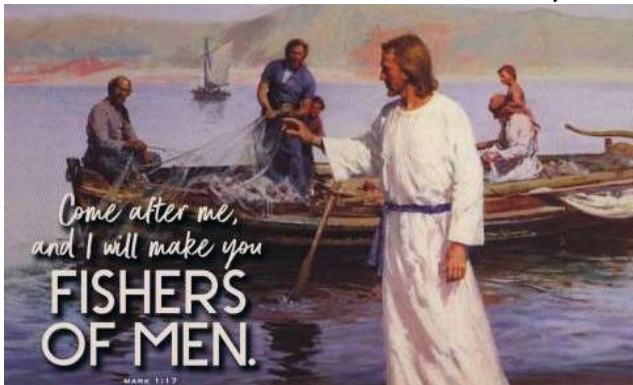


THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 24, 2021



Reading I: Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

The prophet, as God's spokesman, brings about a miraculous turnaround by the people of Nineveh. Prior to that, the city was known only for its sinful cruelty and wickedness.

Reading II: I Corinthians 7: 29-31

St. Paul believed in an imminent end of the world, so he recommends detachment from earthly ways. It would be ridiculous to maintain one's "status quo" in such circumstances.

The Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

Jesus calls His first disciples. He was so compelling that they were immediate with their responses. Jesus describes their new life's work as their becoming "fishers of men."



- 5 p.m.: Frances Hernandez, Elsie Hayden, Victoria Mercado and Ann Nesnadny
10 a.m.: Evelyn Joyce, Jeanette Greising, Robert Carpino and Maria Dushaj

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

- 5 p.m. Saturday, January 16: **55**
10 a.m. Sunday, January 10: **57** in the church;
11 in the hall

GRATITUDE

Your Parish Community is

GRATEFUL

for your consistent contributions.

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 10-17: Totaled \$ 4,847.91

Envelopes: \$ 1,673.00 – Online: \$ 3,174.91

Additional Christmas donations: \$ 100.00

'SELLING' THE KINGDOM OF GOD

St. Mark, in giving us this scene for meditation as the Holy Spirit's spokesman, hits upon the secret of every good salesperson as well. For it seems to me that such people are actually selling a dream - one they passionately believe in.

My own dear Dad spent the bulk of his working years selling life insurance. In this case, the "dream" is guaranteed security and strong protection against the twin nightmares of uncertainty and fear. Most salespeople offer a product that attempts to solve a problem – and comes with the additional perk of a strong dose of hope and optimism.

Our Lord Jesus could also be called The World's Greatest Salesman. He has all the good qualities of a person who believes in what he or she is selling, so to speak, and none of the dark characteristics often attributed to salespeople. His "product," of course, is

the Kingdom of God. He tells us it is nearer than we think.

In the process, He was actually selling Himself as

the perfect actualization of that kingdom. He made His hearers understand that this kingdom is such that positivity is the law of the land and undying love is its hallmark. In other words, He was "selling" God back to those who had abandoned Him. How good He was at His work shows in the way even His first listeners were so quickly able to leave behind much of their old life and walk with Him.

Some of the actors who have played Jesus in Hollywood films have managed to capture His charm to a satisfying degree for me. It may be that as a confirmed romantic, I fell for their portrayals too easily. Still, I watched through the lens of a committed believer in Jesus, and one who has his own ideas of how to play Jesus. However, the Bible tells me not just to play the role but live it.

No matter our nature or temperament, we are all hard-wired to be attracted to truth and the obvious conviction of authentic truth-tellers. We buy into their wares with ease. Is it any wonder that Simon and Andrew, James and John dropped their fishing nets to follow the Divine Troubadour? And aren't you glad that you did too?

What we have gained from this magnetism of the Master is the joy of having Someone to believe in. That cannot be taken away from us by anyone, especially the one "evil salesman" who was formerly an archangel. That's why it's best for us to remember:

"You are writing a gospel, a chapter each day,

By deeds that you do, by words that you say.

People read what you write, whether faithless or true.

Say! What is that gospel, according to YOU?"

God love you and give you His peace!

- Rev. Leonard N. Peterson



Covid-19: A Prayer of **Solidarity**

For all who have contracted coronavirus,
We pray for care and healing.

For those who are particularly vulnerable,
We pray for safety and protection.

For all who experience fear or anxiety,
We pray for peace of mind and spirit.

For affected families who are facing difficult
decisions between food on the table or public safety,
We pray for policies that recognize their plight.

For those who do not have adequate health insurance,
We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.



For those who are afraid to access care due to immigration status,
We pray for recognition of the God-given dignity of all.

For our brothers and sisters around the world,
We pray for shared solidarity.

For public officials and decision makers,
We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father, during this time may your Church be a
sign of hope, comfort and love to all.

Grant peace.
Grant comfort.
Grant healing.
Be with us, Lord.

Amen.



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“We must love them both, those whose opinions we share and those whose opinions we reject, for both have labored in the search for truth, and both have helped us in finding it.”
- St. Thomas Aquinas

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Peggy and Marc Brunetti, upon the death of her sister, Terry McGeehan, and to Elaine McCormick, also upon the recent death of her sister, Lynn Christenson. Please keep them in your prayers.



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Last week's theme was suggested by a participant: If you could invent anything, what would it be?

So the kids tapped into their imaginations and came up with cures for cancer and covid - as well as a time portal from which to see or change history. They'd devise a phone with an uncrackable screen, a device to improve a singing voice and a computer that does their homework.

Technology would also be used save wildlife, produce anything at all out of air, "auto correct" IT issues, as well as create the YM Question Solver wherein a scanned question would move through Einstein's brain that's wired to the computer and produce the answer. And perhaps someone would wear a helmet that is also a crystal ball while in their personal underground train or warthog plane - en route to a "Henry Danger" food machine.

Some of the Scripture choices were:

"Psalm 107:8-9 - Let them give thanks to the Lord for his unfailing love and his wonderful deeds for mankind, 9 for he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things."

Mark 11:25 - And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Galations 5:22-23 - But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.

Ezra 7:10 - For Ezra had devoted himself to the study and observance of the Law of the Lord, and to teaching its decrees and laws in Israel.

FINANCIAL INTEGRITY HOTLINE

The Archdiocese of New York takes stewardship of your donations seriously. If you have knowledge of or reason to suspect misconduct, please report your concerns via a toll-free hotline at 877-820-0541 or on the internet at <http://www.reportlineweb.com/ADNY>.

Both are available 24 hours per day."



MASSES NOW ON YOUR DEVICES

The 5 p.m. Saturday Mass and the 10 a.m. Sunday Mass are being live-streamed into your home via the following link (which can be copied into your browser):

<https://www.twitch.tv/10915spmb>

However, we still need to train a few more volunteers in the art of streaming. The more people to rotate into a schedule, the easier it will be to ensure its continuation without over-burdening one or two.

The streaming setup is simple and does not require more than a few minutes of training - and no professional background is necessary!

Interested? Let Deb in the office know at 361-3107.

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