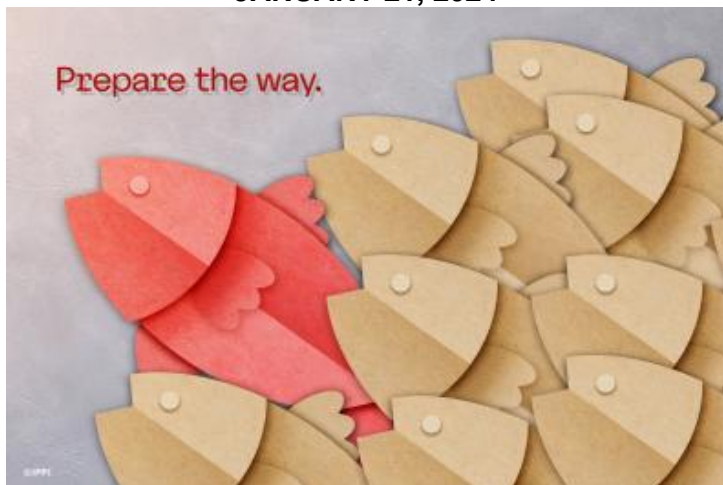

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

JANUARY 21, 2024



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Jonah 3:1-5, 10

Second: 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Gospel: Mark 1:14-20

FOCUS: *Jesus is calling us today.*

Jesus is calling *us* today. Maybe he is calling us to drop something we have been clinging to. Maybe he is calling us to lay down our weeping or rejoicing, to move into something new. Maybe he is calling us to listen. In the precious time we give to him, he will give us all we need to answer his call, big or small.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the first reading, Jonah answers God's call to preach in Nineveh, and the city repents. In the second reading, Saint Paul urges the Corinthians to act as if *time is running out*. The Gospel tells of the beginning of Jesus' ministry, as he calls the Galileans to repent and believe in the Gospel. We also hear of the call of James, John, Andrew and Simon.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Richard Worthington, Mary Alice Zittle and Marie McClure

10 a.m.: Robert Carpino, Frances Hernandez, Pamela Jinks and Angela Comizio

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday – 79

Sunday – 135

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH PERSONAL HYGIENE

Soap. Toothpaste. Shampoo. Deodorant. Dental floss. Most of us could never imagine going without these personal hygiene products, even for a day.

But these items are actually beyond the reach of many people in very low-income communities. For these families, it can boil down to a tough choice: Paying for food or buying a bottle of shampoo or a bar of soap.

According to a Feeding America survey, 58 percent of low-income families reported cutting back on food to pay for hygiene products in the past year. Of those, nearly a quarter need to make this choice every month.

Maintaining good hygiene is the most cost-effective measure against disease, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In fact, researchers estimate that if everyone routinely washed their hands, a million deaths a year could be prevented.

Given the importance of personal hygiene, you might be surprised to learn that benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP (also known as food stamps) cannot be used to pay for toiletries such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, feminine products or diapers.

As with food insecurity, hygiene insecurity is more prevalent than most people realize. When you're struggling to make ends meet, buying toiletries for an entire family can get expensive. Or when you've lost everything in a house fire or a flood, just getting the basic necessities to stay clean can be a big challenge.

HELP US HELP THE HOMELESS

Our **Youth Ministry** is participating in a program to assist those who have fallen on hard times and are homeless. It's not uncommon for people to arrive at the Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen in Middletown outside its hours of operation. Take-away bags, then, can make all the difference for those who are trying to survive brutally cold temperatures.

Our kids will be assembling bags on Friday, **February 2**, and each must contain similar items. The goal is to fill at least 40-50 bags. Here's what's needed:

Small hand sanitizers

Healthier snacks

Socks

Lip balms

Toothbrushes

Small bottles of water

Gloves

Packets of tissues

Hand warmers

Travel-size mouthwash

A collection box can be found in Deacon John Hall. Thank you for all that you do!





GAME ON!

They dealt. They spun. They rolled. They strategized. They laughed. They had fun.

The multigenerational mix came as singles, doubles and families. Although respiratory illnesses sidelined a few potential players, those present said they were glad they made the effort to attend the **inaugural Game Night** – even those who admitted that the thought of leaving their warm homes after a long Friday ...

The next Game Night is set for 7 p.m. **Friday, February 23**. Along with a favorite game to play, don't forget your snacks!



EXPERIENCE A CURSILLO WEEKEND

For more than 60 years, the Cursillo movement has been helping Catholics bring about changes in themselves and the world around them.

Cursillo provides an opportunity and method by which to make a difference in all aspects of your life. It is an ongoing tool in fulfilling the commitment to grow closer to Christ and to bring Christ to the world.

Participants are sustained and nurtured in their Christian journey. And as faith grows, so does an awareness of the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us.

The three-day Cursillo weekend, then, is a joyful workshop on the fundamentals of our Catholic faith and the value of becoming a member of a living Christian community. The next men's weekend is **March 14-17**; the next women's weekend is **April 11-14**. For more information, call Debbe Garry at 845-695-1944.



THERE'S STILL TIME TO PARTICIPATE

Because of a delay in the receipt of the books, the **Scripture Discussion Group** postponed the start of the session on the Book of Hebrews until **January 29**. Zoom meetings will take place from 10-11:15 a.m. Mondays. Everyone is welcome. Call Gail Van Tassel at 845-457-3432 to get your study guide.

HEALING WEEKEND SCHEDULED

The next weekend retreat for men and women **grieving the loss of a spouse** is scheduled for **April 19-21** in Beacon. It is sponsored by Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley. Call Phyllis at 914-261-5812 or Jim at 845-220-7883 for info.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The MLK holiday followed by a snow day has delayed this week's report. The totals for two weekends will appear in next week's bulletin.

