
THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 22, 2023



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Isaiah 8:23-9:3

Second: 1 Corinthians 1:10-13, 17

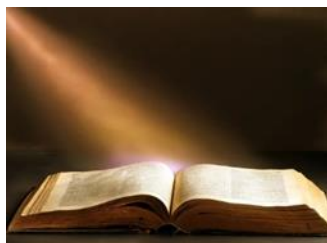
Gospel: Matthew 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

FOCUS: *Our salvation is at hand.*

In today's Liturgy of the Word, we read about God's power to fulfill promises. Acknowledging the darkness of life prior to the Messiah, the prophets assure us that there has always been the promise of our salvation. The Gospel proclaims this direct fulfillment of the words in Isaiah, and we know that it is only the beginning of what Jesus sets out to do. Our salvation is at hand.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Isaiah proclaims a new time, where once there was darkness and despair, there will now be light and joy. In the second reading, Paul urges unity among the community in Corinth, reminding them that the Church is one Church in Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee, preaching that the kingdom of heaven is at hand.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Victoria Mercado, June Bartol
and Ray Davis

10 a.m.: Frances Hernandez, Robert Carpino
and Marie Dushaj

LAST WEEKEND'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m.: 79
10 a.m.: 115

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest condolences to Deanna and Christopher Gorman upon the death of her mother, Carmela Marino. Longtime parishioner Connie Capria also died this week. Please keep these families in your prayers.

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE STUDY

Have you ever listened to the readings at Mass and struggled with the message? You're not alone. That was the inspiration for **Sunday Scripture Study**. It meets via ZOOM at **10 a.m. Wednesdays** to read the weekend's Scriptures and discuss them beforehand.

Meetings are informal. New participants are welcome; everyone attends as schedules allow. For more information, call Ernie Martin at 845-800-4342.

COOKIES FOR A GOOD CAUSE

The first weekend of February, the 4th and 5th, is a **Coffee Social** weekend. But a **Bake Sale** to benefit our Prayer Blanket Ministry was separately scheduled. Talk about serendipity!



The no-sew fleece Prayer Blankets are made twice a year in a multigenerational community that includes Confirmation candidates – unless the supply runs low in which case the core group convenes.

A few weeks prior, there's a bake sale to sweeten its coffers. Now in its sixth year, this ministry remains funded through donations and the bake sales - despite the continuing-to-rise cost of supplies

And in those years, St. Paul's Prayer Blankets have brought comfort to more than 500 people, near and far! What a warm outreach!

*Have patience with all things -
but first with yourself.
Never confuse your mistakes
with your value as a human being.
You are a perfectly valuable, creative,
worthwhile person simply because
you exist. And no amount of triumphs
or tribulations can ever change that.*

*Saint Francis de Sales,
"The Gentleman Saint"
Feast Day January 24*

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 8-15: Totaled \$ 5,199.70
Envelopes: \$ 1,715.00 – Online: \$ 3,484.70
THANK YOU!

PARISH MEETING RECAP

Last Sunday's **Parish Meeting** to primarily discuss the Financial Statement (which can still be accessed on our website) was very well-attended. About 70 people learned about the suggestions made by our Finance Committee to address our deficit position. They also had the opportunity to air concerns and ask questions in an open, transparent forum.

The primary recommendation from the Finance Committee is two-pronged: Increase the number of parishioners who contribute using WeShare from the approximately 134 now, and secondly, for those who are able, to increase weekly contributions by 25 percent. For

example, can a \$10-per-week donation become \$12.50?

As an incentive with an element of fun, anonymous parishioners will be donating gift cards in varying amounts to be raffled on **Sunday, April 2**, if certain benchmarks are reached. Should the number of WeShare users increase from 134 to 150 by March 31, then three \$100 gift cards will be raffled among all WeShare participants. If the number hits 175, then it's three \$200 gift cards. At 200 WeShare users, the drawing jumps to three \$300 gift cards instead. If the donor number reaches 200 AND average contributions increase by 25 percent (total contributions for the month of March must be at least \$32,400), then there could be as many as 12 \$300 gift cards.

Assistance with WeShare signup will be available. And when contributions are made, donors have the option to cover the 2.5% processing fee charged.

Many churches are facing the same challenges as St. Paul's: Insufficient income, declining number of younger families and a limited number of volunteers chief among them. While none of these will be solved overnight, the turnout at last week's meeting is a strong sign of hope for the future.



SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR KIDS WITH LEARNING DIFFERENCES

Did you know that there is a special education Catholic elementary school in our Archdiocese?

John Cardinal O'Connor School provides an affordable, language-based academic curriculum for kindergartners through eighth-graders with learning differences. JCOS empowers children of all faiths to thrive academically, spiritually, emotionally and socially in a supportive school community, says Sr. Jean Marie Humphries, OSU, Ph.D., the new principal.

The classes are small – between eight and 12 students – and are staffed with certified special education teachers and teaching assistants.

“You see students' confidence and abilities grow daily,” says Sr. Jeannie.

“Our school is very nurturing and really helps students learn.”

JCOS is in Irvington, about an hour from Middletown. Students are bused to JCOS from school districts throughout the Archdiocese – after the family arranges for the transportation with the district, says Sr. Jeannie.



For more information:

www.johncardinaloconnorschool.org

Or Sr. Jeannie at:

914-591-9330 or

sr.jeannie@johncardinaloconnorschool.org

IN THE LOOP

The date changed. The **Hooked & Happy** group will meet at 6:30 p.m. this Friday, **January 27**, in Deacon John Hall. Everyone is invited to an evening of crafting and camaraderie. Bring a project to work on.

Capuchin Youth & Family Ministries has scheduled a **Men's Retreat** titled: “What Can We Learn from the Early Followers of Jesus?” It will take place from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. on Saturday, **February 4**, at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center, 180 Sargent Ave, Beacon. The \$65 fee includes continental breakfast and lunch. Register online by January 28 at:

<https://secure.qgiv.com/for/capuchinyfm/event/862968>.

Find more info at:

<https://www.capuchin.org/cyfm/retreats/>

PATIENCE



LOVE



CHARITY

