

THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

St. Stephen's Catholic Parish

JANUARY 23-24, 2021



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

GLP

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MASS INTENTIONS

3rd Week of Ordinary Time

+ Sunday of the Word of God +

SATURDAY, JANUARY 23rd

4:00-4:45pm – Confessions

+ RCIA – Rite of Acceptance +

5:00p - For the People of our Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 24th

9:00a - (+) Jim & Nell Gilbank

MONDAY, JANUARY 25th

+Conversion of Saint Paul+

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26th

+Saints Timothy & Titus+

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 27th

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

THURSDAY, JANUARY 28th

+ Saint Thomas Aquinas+

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

FRIDAY, JANUARY 29th

- No Mass at St. Stephen's

Daily Mass @ Cluster Parishes

OLA	Tuesday	5:00pm
	Thurss/Fri.	8:15am
St. Thomas	Tuesday	5:00pm
	Thursday	7:15am
St. Jude	Wednesday	7:00am
	Fri.day	7:00am

4th Week of Ordinary Time

SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th

4:00-4:45pm – Confessions

5:00p - For the People of our Parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st

9:00a - (+) Bob Roth

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Total Pledged = ~\$112,000

Pledges Received = ~\$78,000

Dear Friends of Saint Stephen's,

I hope the new year has started favorably for you and your families! Stay warm and know of my prayers! Even after a packed season of Christmas, there isn't much slowing down in Ordinary Time as we have much to celebrate and prepare for.

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY

Many of you have already taken the initiative to dive into Scripture this coming year, either on your own or following Fr. Mike Schmitz's "Bible in a Year" Podcast (currently the #1 podcast on the internet!). What a great resolution for 2021, and you will be amazed by the fruit and ability to hear God's voice in your own life of prayer as the Scriptures transform your heart. For those that have the desire for such, it's never to late to start! In an effort to encourage Catholics to spend more time with Scripture, Pope Francis instituted that the 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time be focused on the Word of God. "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ," Saint Jerome once wrote, and as a font of God's inspired revelation to man of His salvific plan, we as Catholics are always called to go deeper and spend more time with the living word. On the opposite page I have listed some resources for your consideration and study. I would love to start up some Bible Studies in the near future, but until then, if you ever have questions as you read and pray, please feel free to send me a message!

FIRST RECONCILIATION & RITE OF WELCOMING

Many congratulations to our four students that completed their preparations to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation for the first time. (*pictures coming next week!*) . A word of congratulations to the three individuals from our parish that are participating in the Rite of Welcoming this weekend—Kevin Hildebrandt, Stephanie Hunt, and Ryan Hunt. Let us pray for them all the more fervently as they continue their journey towards the Sacraments and full communion with the Church on the Easter Vigil!

RETREAT

I am departing Monday morning for retreat. Canon Law requires priests to make a yearly retreat of 5 days and there is a great deal of logic to this requirement. Just as Jesus went up the mountain to pray and refocus on the Father and His plan, so too do priests need the time to "go up the mountain" and reconnect with the one who has called him to serve as His priest. Please know of my prayers for all of you, and feel free to send any special intentions along that I may pray for in a particular way during retreat. This will be a perfect time to prepare for the great season of Lent that is quickly approaching.

God Love You and have a great week!

In Christo per Mariam,
Fr. Andrew

FAITH FORMATION

CLASS – January 27th @ 6:30pm

PRAYER CHALLENGE –

Keep memorizing those Prayers!!

Congratulations to our students who recently completed their preparation for the Sacrament of Reconciliation!!

- Brooks Benisch
- Christian Garcia Magana
- Wesley Brueggen
- Kylie Karstaedt

(Pictures not taken in time for this issue)

If you have any questions, please contact the Faith Formation Coordinator
Heather Schneider 608-676-7329.

COMING SOON

Tuesday, Feb. 2nd @ 6:30pm (Family Center)

50th Anniversary Celebration

Brainstorming Session

Wednesday, Feb. 3rd @ 8:30am (Church)

Blessing of Throats for Feast of St. Blaise

(Possible blessing that evening at Faith Formation as well for those desiring – 6:30pm)

Saturday, Feb. 6th @ 10:00am (Church Entry)

Men's Group to meet after Mass for breakfast and discussion *(check e-mail)*

Saturday, Feb. 13th – 9:30am to 11:30am

Altar Server Training

Wednesday, Feb. 17th – ASH WEDNESDAY

Masses @ 7:00am & 6:30pm

Saturday, Feb. 20th @ 10:00am (Church Entry)

Men's Group to meet after Mass for breakfast and discussion on Consecration to St. Joseph *(check e-mail)*

WORD OF GOD SUNDAY – 23/24 January 2021

“The relationship between the Risen Lord, the community of believers and sacred Scripture is essential to our identity as Christians. Without the Lord who opens our minds to them, it is impossible to understand the Scriptures in depth. Yet the contrary is equally true: without the Scriptures, the events of the mission of Jesus and of his Church in this world would remain incomprehensible. Hence, Saint Jerome could rightly claim: ‘Ignorance of the Scriptures is ignorance of Christ.’”

~Pope Francis, Apostolic Letter: *Aperuit Illis*, 30 Sept. 2019

Opportunities to Go Deeper:

- “Bible in a Year” Podcast or Other Similar Programs
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, nn. 101-141
- Spend 15 minutes a day reading Scripture
(+Bishop Hying Recommendation!)
- Vatican II Document on Revelation, *Dei Verbum*
(Google & Download)
- Read Pope Francis’ Letter, “*Aperuit Illis*”
- Pick a passage or read the Mass Readings as a Family on Sunday

“And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us.”



Diocese of Madison Annual Catholic Appeal 2021 *“The Kingdom of God is at Hand”*

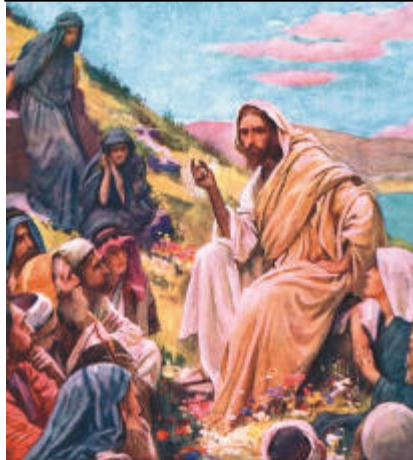
The theme for the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal of the Diocese of Madison is “The Kingdom of God is at Hand.” We ask that God guide us, and give us the ability to put our *faith* in Him to allow us the capacity to love and care for those in our parishes, our diocese and the Church throughout the world. We ask that His grace make us even more generous in supporting those needs.

Each pledge to the Annual Catholic Appeal supports diocesan ministries, education and services and assures a strong future for the Diocese of Madison and the people that it serves.

This year each of us is asked to consider making a pledge, payable over six months. Your gift will help enable the diocese to reach its goal and provide to the ministries supported by the appeal.

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.



the
Kingdom of God
is at hand

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