

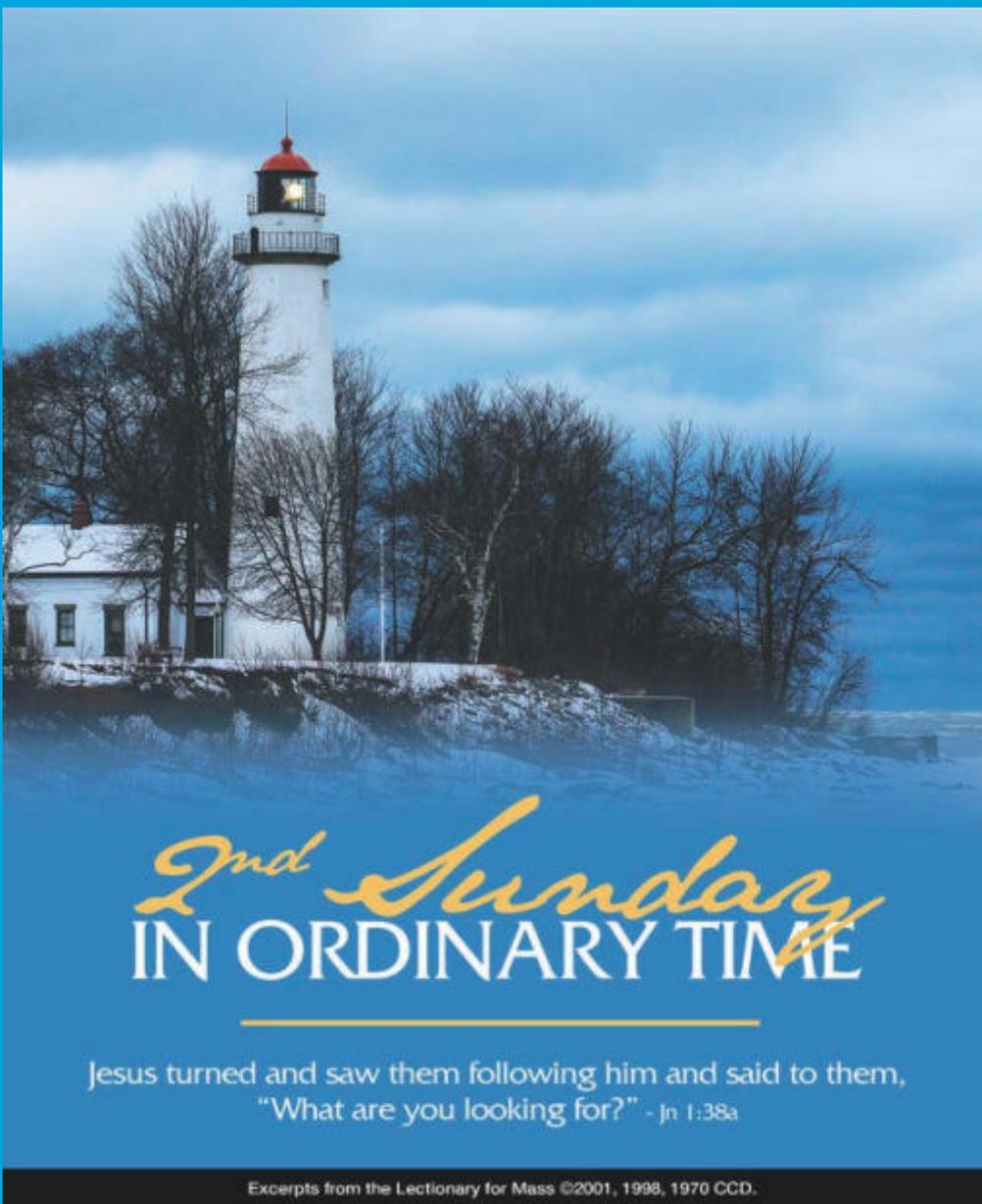


**St. Patrick
Elroy**

**St. John the Baptist
Wilton**

**St. Joseph
Kendall**

THE TRI-PARISH BULLETIN
January 17th, 2021



2nd Sunday
IN ORDINARY TIME

Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them,
"What are you looking for?" - Jn 1:38a

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

Pastor

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New Members

Always welcome to our parishes.
Please call the office to register.

Baptism

Parents and/or those expecting
in the near future may request
Baptism for their child by call-
ing the office to begin prepara-
tions.

Marriage

Please call the parish office at
least six months prior to the
anticipated date.

Pastoral Care of the Sick

If you are homebound and wish
to receive Holy Communion,
please contact the office.

Confessions

Saturday 3:15 pm at Kendall or
call Fr. John for an appoint-
ment.



Monday	January 18th	K
9 a.m.	Bob Mahr	
Wednesday	January 20th	E
	NO MASS	
Thursday	January 21st	K
8 a.m.	My Son	
Saturday	January 23rd	K
4:00 p.m	All Parishioners of EKW	
Sunday	January 24th	E
9:00 am	Tony Bradley	
11:00 am	Duane & Joy Evans	W

BAPTISMS

We welcome Sophia Kate Stockwell, daughter of Jacob & Shelly Stockwell. She was baptized in water and the Holy Spirit at St. Patrick's on Sunday, January 10th, 2021.



CONDOLENCES

Our Condolences to the Family and Friends of Father Eugene Trainer, who passed away on January 5th, and received a Mass of Christian Burial on January 9th at St. Patrick, Sparta. Burial will be at a later date at St. Mary's Catholic Cemetery in Lyndon Station. He will be sadly missed by all who were touched by his wisdom and wit! Our three parishes were extremely fortunate to have him helping out with Masses and Sacraments for so many years! May his priestly soul and all the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Thank you Father Trainer!!

Tri-Parish Prayer List

We pray for the sick and those who have asked for our prayers, especially, David Gorman, Pat Kranz, Bev Cousineau, Carla Von Haden, Ron Hendrick, Joe Ennis, Margaret Leis, Patti Vlasak, Ray Schmidt, Jim Lunde, Ron Miller, Natalie Kiel, Jim Petrowitz, Jim Wopat, Mary Mahr, Madelyn Novachek, Ken and Larry Oliver, Kay Larson, Jerry & Susie Mahr, Don Schreier, Jim Meckstroth, Patty Behan, Avery Brueggen, Katie Wallace, Larry Goodman, Those serving in the Military and Folks in Nursing Homes.

Reflections on the Gospel

January 17, 2021 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

Our faith is not just about ideas. It's really about having an encounter with God and, in particular, the Risen Christ! Once we give ourselves over to the notion of God's presence, we have to train ourselves to listen for God's voice and be attentive to God's call. Having companions on our faith journeys is so incredibly important as they can help us fine-tune our listening skills and discern God's voice from others we may be hearing. Faith is all about having these profound encounters not only with God but with our brothers and sisters, and creation itself. Anyone or anything that is alive with God's presence becomes an occasion for God to speak and call us to deeper graces and experiences. "Come, and you will see."

The example and teaching of Jesus, the lives of the saints, those living among us and those glorified in heaven, and the wonder and beauty of creation can all serve to help us listen more clearly and assist in positioning ourselves for this profound God meeting. It is an encounter that can quickly and easily lead to a friendship and intimate intertwining of our souls to their Maker, making a claim on us like no other. Then, the Word of God moves from being just a body of ideas to something we simply accept and do. The person of Jesus Christ swiftly moves from being just a good prophet in word and deed to the incarnate presence of God Himself, the Lamb of God. The voice leads us to the Person behind it.

The Gospel is hard to follow. We can intellectually debate whether what Jesus said is really what we are asked to do. The Gospel ideas do not always make sense in our practical, secular world. The person of God always does. We can debate the practicality and sense of ideas and doing so often keeps the more difficult ones at a safe distance away from us. Jesus said to love our enemy, but we really don't need to do that, our minds try to convince us. It just doesn't make sense. Yet, if we are truly in love with the God who is behind the voice of those words, they make perfect sense. Our deep and intimate love of this God would even find us laying down our lives for Him if necessary. Speak Lord, your servant is listening.



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Readings for the week of January 17, 2021

Sunday: 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/ Jn 1:35-42

Monday: Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday: Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12

Friday: Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19

Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday: Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

ST. PATRICK

Thank you to all, from St. Patrick's who volunteer at the Food pantry. Your services are very much appreciated. May you be blessed for your kindness in

Location of Blessed Sacrament Question: Why do parishes have the Blessed Sacrament in a separate room?

Answer: While many Catholics of a certain age have memories of the Blessed Sacrament being housed in the tabernacle on the high altar of the church, many parishes in the decades since the Second Vatican Council have chosen to build a separate space — a reservation chapel — where the Blessed Sacrament is kept. Although this practice is not universal, it is in keeping with the guidance offered by the US Bishops in their document *Built of Living Stones* (see nos 77-78). The goal is to create a space that is separated from the nave and sanctuary, but which is “integrally connected with the church” which can foster “reverence and can provide the quiet and focus needed for personal prayer.” This can be especially important for communities that have continuous eucharistic adoration, allowing people to come and pray in a space separate from the normal activities of parish life. The practice of reserving the Eucharist in a separate space — or in a dignified location away from the altar where Mass is celebrated — is that it emphasizes the importance of the liturgy itself, which is the “source and summit” of the life of the Church. As with many things in the Church, the practice of placing the tabernacle in the sanctuary or in a separate chapel is not universal (as can be seen in visits to historic churches in Rome and other places). The important thing is that as communities question where to place the tabernacle, they listen to the voice of the Church, explore the ancient and varied liturgical tradition of the Church, consider the needs and life of the community, and also take into account the architecture and limits of the spaces they might already have.

WELCOME

ST. PATRICK

We are happy to officially welcome Deena Jackson and Jim Schweick as members of St. Patrick's parish.



Parish Support

1/3/2021

	K	E	W
Adults	\$ 585.00	\$ 2,471.00	\$ 1,475.00
Children		\$ 5.00	
Offertory	\$ 81.00	\$ 183.00	\$ 55.00
TOTAL	\$ 666.00	\$ 2,659.00	\$ 1,530.00

Catechetical

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The Season of
ORDINARY TIME

The Church is now back to **Ordinary Time**, until February 17th, which is Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Let's take this time, between the two prominent seasons of Advent/Christmas and Lent/Easter, to more quietly deepen our relationship with Christ, our Savior. Let's try to find more ways to walk more closely with the Lord in our daily lives. Hopefully, everyone has added a new Catholic Resolution to help stay more connected to God, and to make this new year even better!

Discerning God's Will

Life is full of decisions and the best way to decide is to strive in doing God's Will. Here is a guide to help you with your decision-making process. Also remember that God will help, sometimes in unsuspecting ways!

- #1 **Identify** the decision
- #2 **Gather** the information
- #3 **Think** of the solutions
- #4 **Weigh** the consequences of each
- #5 **Ask** the Holy Spirit to guide you
- #6 **Choose** the best solution
- #7 **Implement** your choice
- #8 **Evaluate** your decision - Was it the right one? What can I learn from it?

No matter how He speaks to us, God wants to help us make good and constructive decisions in every circumstance. The more we ask Him to show us His Will *before* we decide, the better our decisions will be.



This Friday, January 22nd, is the **Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children**. Please pray for the Unborn, and those considering abortion. Fasting or any act of penance that day will also help in their protection!

Group Humor

At our weekly Bible Study, the leader asked an elderly gentleman, Walt, to open the meeting with prayer. Walt did so in a soft voice. Another man, straining to hear, shouted, "I can't hear you!" Walt replied, "I wasn't talking to you."

Sermon Humor

During our priest's sermon, a large plant fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the ground. Acknowledging his sometimes longer sermons, he smiled and said, "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep."

Let's make this Ordinary Time, an Extraordinary Time!
~ Dianne Hansen, CRE

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