

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time Gospel Meditation

Human history reveals many periods where people lost a sense of God's transcendence. It may even be argued that human beings have been wandering and lost more than they have been at home and focused. Human nature being what it is, we struggle with who God really is — the God of our salvation history or the "gods" of human constructs. Relying on our own designs and pursuits, we forget that we really are meant to listen to One upon whom the Spirit of the Lord rests, Jesus Christ, and not to ourselves. That same history that reveals our fickleness and infidelity also reveals God's constancy and faithfulness. God always finds us.

As people wander and fumble to find their way, God is there bringing them back to holiness and giving them the assurance of His presence. We have to allow God's Word, God's life, to touch us and change us. It can make us more flexible and attentive to the sacred in all facets of life so that every day is one that is holy. Every day is a time when fulfillment is possible for one's soul. Jesus stood before those gathered in the synagogue as the fulfillment of words of promise that were echoed long ago. God doesn't forget. He always comes for us.

Now it is time to remember to go to God. Sometimes our lives are so confused and tangled that it is difficult to see the Word and hand of God. But when we realize, deep within, the depth of friendship God offers to us it really has the power to turn sadness to joy. The promise is fulfilled. Going frequently to God's Word, allowing ourselves to be enriched and rejuvenated, and pondering the certainty of God's fidelity and promise permanently transforms us. We will be more aware of the sacred and the holy and less invested in things that pull us away.

THE HORRIFYING NUMBER OF ABORTIONS

A new factsheet that tallies the number of babies killed in abortions since 1973 presents heartbreaking news for pro-life Americans. The new figures from the National Right to Life Committee show that almost 63.5 million babies have been killed in abortion since the Supreme Court legalized abortion in *roe v. Wade* in 1973. Randall O'Bannon, Ph.D., is the director of education and research for the pro-life group, provides further analysis of the chart and the horrifying figures. Although abortion totals per year have gone down since their highs just after *Roe*, almost 900,000 babies are killed in abortions every year.

Source: LifeSite News, 7 January 2022

January 23 Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday

January 26 6:30 pm Rosary at Nativity BVM
Wednesday

January 29-30 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sat./Sun. Fifth Sunday Rosary, KC's

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn't even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate "listening attentively." Whether it's at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we mindful — truly?

The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can't quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We "clock in" with Bible reading instead of "diving in."

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life.

- Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



MASS INTENTIONS - ST. MARY

Monday, January 24, St. Francis de Sales, Bishop
7:00 AM Gail & Ray Ryan (Carol Dolan)

Tuesday, January 25, Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
5:30 PM Lucille & Don Jackson (Family)

Wednesday, January 26, Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops
7:00 AM Joe Sutter (Carol Dolan)

Thursday, January 27, St. Angela Merici, Virgin
7:00 AM Doris & Earl Hasken (Rose Nauman)

Friday, January 28, St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest
7:00 AM Gila & Leander Merfeld (Ray Merfeld)

Saturday, January 29
8:00 AM Mary Gail Ryan (Elizabeth & Stephen Robb)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, January 29
4:00 PM Ed Jansen (Karen & Ron Larson)

Sunday, January 30
6:30 AM Madonna Risley (St. Mary Parish)
8:00 AM St. Mary & Nativity BVM Parishioners

LITURGICAL & VOTIVE MEMORIALS

The Blessed Mother & St. Joseph Candles are lit this week in memory of †St. Mary Parishioners.

The Eucharistic Bread and Wine being used this week is given in memory of †St. Mary Parishioners.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

Weekdays, January 24-29
Server, Lector..... Tom Francois, Kathy Herting

4PM SATURDAY, January 29
EM/MC.....Deacon Doug
Lector..... Kyle Larson
Servers.....Wyatt Foley, Joshua Schlickman

6:30AM SUNDAY, January 30
EM..... Deacon Jamie
Lector.....Kathy Herting
Server.....John Herting

8:00 AM SUNDAY, January 30
EM/MC.....Deacon Doug
Lector.....Mary Jo Lange
Servers..... Thomas & Luke Williams

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

For January 15-16, 2022

Total Received.....\$3,075.00

Thank you!

We continue to use the Debt Envelope, Tree of Life & Votive Candles to help defray the annual property insurance.

MASS INTENTIONS - NBVM

Monday, January 24, St. Francis de Sales, Bishop
No Mass

Tuesday, January 25, Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
No Mass

Wednesday, January 26, Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops
8:00 AM Bud Welp (Joyce & Ed Kuhle)

Thursday, January 27, St. Angela Merici, Virgin
No Mass

Friday, January 28
8:00 AM Mary & Tom Sheehan (Deb & Jeff Theill)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Saturday, January 29
4:00 PM Lavonne Heitkamp (Family)

Sunday, January 30
9:45 AM Lucille & Dave Coates Family (Julie Cannistra)

ROSARY WEDNESDAY EVENINGS

We pray the Rosary every Wednesday at 6:30 PM in church, for all who are sick and for any other special intentions that people may have. To everyone, both men and women as well as children, all are welcome to come and join us.

MINISTRY SCHEDULE

4PM Saturday, January 29
EM.....Vickie Middendorf
Lector.....Jenny McDermott
Servers.....Volunteers
Ushers..... Dale Bussan, Bob Bussan

9:45AM Sunday, January 30
EM.....Natalie Berning
Lector.....Janet Swift
Cantor..... Stacy Bowman
Servers.....Volunteers
Ushers.....Jim Vormezeele, Gene Osterholz

OUR WEEKLY OFFERING

For January 15-16, 2022

Will be reported later.

Thank you!

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