



Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 7, 2021



SUNDAYS 10:30AM MASS Watch it live!!

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Did you miss the live streaming? Click the link above and watch when you are able to!

**WEEKEND MASSES:
SATURDAYS AT 5PM
SUNDAYS AT 10:30AM**

**DAILY MASSES:
TUESDAYS &
THURSDAYS 8AM**

**RECONCILIATION:
SATURDAYS 3:30 - 4:30PM**

**HOLY HOUR:
WEDNESDAYS 6 - 7PM**

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FURTHER NOTICE.**

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MASS INTENTIONS**Saturday, February 6**

8:00am: Living and Deceased
Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
5:00pm: William & Maria Vena
Jim McCarthy
Garrett Collopy

Sunday, February 7

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Anna Cortesi
Elzbieta Roza Rudzka

Monday, February 8

8:00am: Living and Deceased
Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish

Tuesday, February 9

8:00am: Matthew Lassus
John Dolan, Sr.
Frank & Mariangela Benincasa

Wednesday, February 10

8:00am: Maria Ori

Thursday, February 11

8:00am: Deceased Parishioners of
Immaculate Conception Parish

Friday, February 12

8:00am: Living and Deceased
Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish

Saturday, February 13

8:00am: Living and Deceased
Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
5:00pm: Margaret Vena
Vicenzo & Teresina Sorrentino

Sunday, February 14

10:30am: Parishioners of Immaculate
Conception Parish
Violetta Lattanzi

On February 6, 2021, the following students
experienced their First Reconciliation:

Caleb Adams
Camila Alcantar
Jazzlyn Aragon
Mateo Bonfranceschi
Hannah Brunk
Hailey Cordova
Margaret Clagg
Olivia Cardenas
AJ Casey
Charlotte Drummond
Neena Edison
David Ehr
Rowan Flanagan



Skylar Grant
Maddie Hintermeister
Hadley Killeen
Aislinn Kohlstedt
Sonia Kovacevich
Melissa Montes
Holly Pedersen
Guilianna Pesce
Canella Papakos
Ebby Schmeider
Alina Skillrud
Finley Smith
Addison Soriano
Julia Terranova

Father Mike's Homiletter – February 7, 2021 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Scripture: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

Well, last Tuesday, I enjoyed watching a few light snow flakes impart a sense of peace to our landscape. This Tuesday, the first heavy snow of the year has transformed the landscape. Gray, bare ground is now covered with pillows of white. The snow provides insulation for plants, protecting them from winter's brutally cold temperatures and drying winds – sheltering the life which continues underground.

Of course, with the snow comes the “exercise” of shoveling the snow. In clearing roads and pathways, we concentrate on the most useful ones – the ones which get us home, and into the garage and house. Stores focus on getting customers in the door. Since our time and energy are limited, we only clear the important areas. A worthwhile lesson – focus on the essentials. Our readings this week contain some striking examples of focusing on essentials.

Poor Job has been afflicted with a series of tragedies which are beyond imagination – loss of all his wealth and the deaths of all his children. He himself suffers from boils all over his body. Our reading contains Job's response to a friend [at least someone will still talk to him], who tries to convince Job that he must have done something to make God angry to have incurred such punishment. Job says no, he has not broken God's law, but nonetheless, he agrees life is hard, the bad parts seem to go on forever, and overall, our lives are really small drops in the sea of time. Job is sad, frustrated, depressed, but he does not blame God. He does not suggest he is entitled to better treatment because he has been faithful. Job knows an essential truth: God does not owe us anything, yet even at our poorest and most bereft, we have much, and it's all from God. Our Psalm summarizes Job's essential truth: Praise the Lord, for he is good.

Paul offers a different, but similar, story. He is a man of some substance, a well-educated Pharisee who studied with one of the most prominent teachers of the day. He has made a name for himself among the governing classes, since he was authorized to go to Damascus to arrest Christians who persist in following the “new way” founded by the crucified troublemaker Jesus of Nazareth. On his way, Paul is blinded by a vision and spoken to by Jesus himself. Paul listens up and follows directions to a house in Damascus where he is taken in by the very Christians he had targeted. He now knows the true path he should follow: it is his job to share the Gospel with the Gentiles. He does not look for attention, wealth, ease. He just puts 100% of his effort into his new job. He is a slave of the Gospel and its divine messenger. Paul is focusing on the essential.

After these lessons on minding the important stuff, we get the example of Jesus himself. After teaching and healing in the synagogue [which we heard about last week], he goes home with Peter and Andrew and James and John, his new fisherman-disciples. Peter's mother-in-law was at home, in bed, with a fever – something to which we can all relate these days! Of course, Peter tells Jesus immediately why she is not there to welcome him. Jesus doesn't wait – someone is in need, so he goes right to her side, helps her up and cures her. Normally, recovery might require a little additional rest, but Mrs. Mother-in-Law is up and about – waiting on them and making them welcome. [I like to think Jesus took care of both the fever and the fatigue which usually follows.] But the Greek word Mark uses in describing her revival is one which is also used in the sense of “resurrection.” After Jesus gives Mrs. Mother-in-Law new life, she uses it to serve others. As we all should. After being given a new life in Baptism, and restored through Reconciliation and the Eucharist, we too have new life – and should invest at least some of it in serving others. That is how we make our lives meaningful – rather than something which will leave no trace. After sundown, the end of the Sabbath and its restrictions on activity, the whole town comes to Peter's door, bringing all its problems with it. More healing and removal of demons. Then, presumably the whole household gets some rest – it's been quite a busy day. But Jesus is up early and out in a secluded place where he can pray and commune with his Father. This is his source of power and energy and focus. Peter and the others come looking for him, to tell him everyone else in town is seeking him too. Jesus could go back to town and enjoy a bit of adulation and ease. But he is focused on another essential – doing the work the Father gave him. He invites the others, who don't quite understand yet, to join him in going to the other towns of Galilee to share the good news and drive out evil. The work of salvation: another essential which Jesus will not allow to be lost.

I wish you all a week of essential goodness! Peace,
Father Mike

Food for Thought...

God has created me to do for Him some definite service; He has committed some work to me which He has not committed to another. I have my mission....I am a link in a chain, a connection between people. God has not created me for nothing. I shall do good, I shall do His work; I shall be a preacher of truth in my own place, while not intending it, if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.

John Cardinal Newman



Ash Wednesday Schedule February 17

8:00AM Mass/Ashes
12:15PM Prayer Service/Ashes
7:00PM Mass/Ashes - Live Stream



Stations on Fridays

7PM

February 19
February 26
March 5
March 12
March 19
March 26

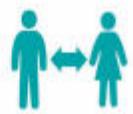
3 EASY STEPS
TO KEEPING YOURSELF
& OTHERS HEALTHY!



WASH YOUR
HANDS



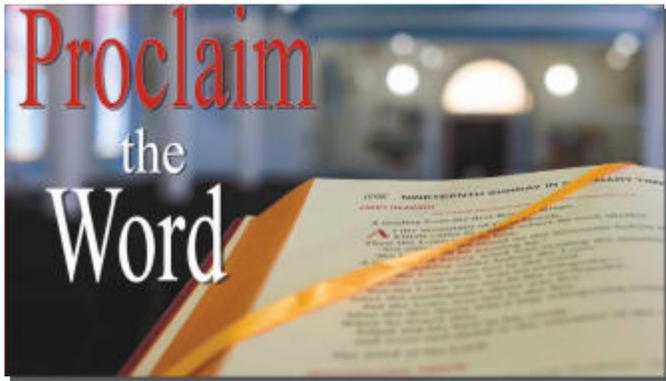
DON'T TOUCH
YOUR FACE



KEEP YOUR
DISTANCE

“The Lord has given me a well-trained tongue,
That I might know how to answer the weary a
word that will waken them.”

- Isaiah 50:4



Lector Training, Winter 2021

Learn the theology, skills and self-confidence to help communicate God's Word and make it come alive for the assembly.

FOR NEW MINISTERS ONLY (Adults and Teens)

When: Saturday, February 13, 2021

Check-In, 8:45 a.m.

Workshop, 9 a.m. to noon

Where: Zoom

Registration: www.vic1chicago.org



D. Todd Williamson is the Director of the Office for Divine Worship of the Archdiocese of Chicago. He is a speaker, author and liturgist whose ministerial experience includes teaching and parish pastoral ministry. His most recent publications, *Great is the Mystery*, *the Formational Power of Liturgy*, and *Guide for Celebrating the Rites of Christian Initiation with Adults*, are published by Liturgy Training Publications.



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Text-to-Give Instructions

There is an option to make a gift on mobile phones via a text-to-give number for this year's Appeal.

· Keyword: ACA2021

· Phone number: 345345

Text-to-Give instructions:

1. Using a mobile device, open your text message application.
2. Enter the phone number 345345 in the To: section.
3. Type the keyword "ACA2021" (not case sensitive) in the message of your text application.
4. Hit the send button.
5. A text reply to your phone will give you a hyperlink to a secure online giving form.
6. Complete your gift by filling out the form and submitting.
 - a. On the form, do not select the "Donate" button at the top; you are already in the right form through the text message hyperlink.
7. Gifts will be processed by the Annual Catholic Appeal.

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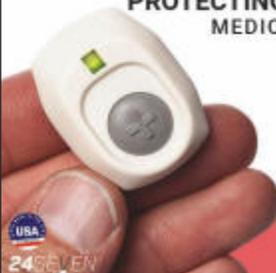
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Please Make Your Gift to the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal

Come, follow me ... and bring hope to the world

I invite you to spend some time this week reflecting on the Annual Catholic Appeal materials you should have received in your bulletin or in the mail. The Annual Catholic Appeal is much different than a one-time special collection: It is a pledged commitment to make a gift over time. Your pledge can be made payable in installments.

Each pledge makes a difference because all parishes participate in the campaign and the gifts of many enable our archdiocese to deliver needed ministries and services to answer the call of Jesus to “Come, follow me ... and bring hope to the world.”

If you received your pledge form in the mail, please complete it and mail it back. This year, we also encourage our parishioners to make their Annual Catholic Appeal gifts online: <http://annualcatholicappeal.com> or text the word “ACA2021” to Phone number: 345345.