

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH  
JANUARY 24, 2021



# 3<sup>rd</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will  
make you fishers of men.” - Mk 1:17

**FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN**

My dear friends,

The Universal Love of God

We most likely remember Jonah as the Old Testament character who was swallowed by a fish. Many of us probably don't know why. Jonah is remembered as one of the great prophets, individuals who were specially called and commissioned by God to deliver a message to those who needed to hear it. Jonah was a reluctant prophet who, for a time, refused to deliver God's word. A great part of the book of Jonah deals with the prophet's futile attempts to hide from God.

The reason for Jonah's monumental reluctance is that God wanted him to deliver a message to the pagan city of Nineveh, a message of repentance from sin so that the people might be spared from punishment. For Jonah, however, Nineveh represented the foreign empire that had defeated Israel and caused the people much suffering. Why should he participate in their salvation? And so Jonah ran away. One of the places Jonah chose to hide was as a crew member aboard a ship. A mighty storm arose that threatened the lives of everyone, and so the sailors endeavor to discover whose God is angry. When they determine that it is Job, he is thrown overboard. But he doesn't drown because God sends a big fish to swallow him up and bring him to safety.

Finally, Jonah is persuaded to deliver God's message to the inhabitants of Nineveh, a message of just eight words: "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed." And, contrary to Jonah's wishes, the people believed him: "The people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth." God then sees their repentance and the people are spared.

The message of the book of Jonah is a comforting one. It speaks eloquently of God's incredible love and compassion for all people. While many parts of the Bible portray a god who can be described as tribal, marching with Israel's armies, and bringing good to Israel while inflicting evil on their enemies, Jonah reveals a universal God who wants the human race to repent and be saved.

The Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 25, rejoices in the universal goodness and mercy of God. "Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and your love are from of old. In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O Lord. Good and upright is the Lord; thus he shows sinners the way. He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way."

Our gospel passage, Mark 1:14-20, presents the beginning of Jesus' ministry with a brief invitation that serves as a summary of what Jesus will be about: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." Thus, Jesus' proclamation is in the same spirit as the book of Job. God does not want evil or destruction to come to anyone; rather, God wants us to give up the sins that enslave us and to live in the joy and freedom of God's kingdom.

The universal theme of the Scripture passages for this week is a reminder of what our nation and our world so desperately need to hear. The tribalism that divides us is very destructive and leads to much evil and suffering. Those who sow division and hatred need to let go of their anger and turn to God, who "shows sinners the way" and "guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way."

**MISSED MASS AND DIDN'T GET THE BULLETIN OR HEAR THE HOMILY?**

Go to our website [www.ourladyofpeacetf.org](http://www.ourladyofpeacetf.org)

Once again we will be collecting Valentine cards for our parish homebound and those who live in area nursing facilities. You may buy or make the cards and bring them to the church at weekend Masses where there will be collection boxes at the side entrance.

**DEADLINE IS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7!**





**FEAST OF ST. BLASÉ**

In honor of St. Blasé, the patron saint of throat ailments and choking, we will be blessing throats at all Masses the weekend of **January 30-31**.



**Saturday, January 23**

4:00P *John Pelis, Jr.*  
by his wife, Marilyn

**Sunday, January 24**

8:00A *John Bak*  
by Paul & Emily  
10:00A *Steven Saharceski*  
by the Daignault family

**Saturday, January 30**

4:00P *Mitchel & Louise Mroz*  
by Betty & Mitch Jr.

**Sunday, January 31**

8:00A *Robert Godin*  
by Ed & Robin  
10:00A *Robert Casey & Celina Sojka*  
by their family

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, January 25**

8:00A *Grace & blessings for Addison Bergeron*  
by Dennis & Cyndee

**Tuesday, January 26**

8:00A *Connor Bergeron*  
by Dennis & Cyndee

**Wednesday, January 27**

8:00A *Health & blessings for Cyndee Grader*  
by Dennis

**Thursday, January 28**

8:00A *Holy Souls in Purgatory*  
by Dennis & Cyndee

**Friday, January 29**

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

**NATIONWIDE VIRTUAL PRAYER VIGIL FOR LIFE** will be broadcast on EWTN at 8:00P Thursday, **January 28** with a rosary, followed by Mass. After the Mass and throughout the night, holy hours led by bishops from various dioceses around the country will be broadcast on the USCCB’s website. The vigil concludes at 8:00A on Friday, **January 29**.

**GILL-MONTAGUE EDUCATION FUND** Annual Gala has been cancelled due to the death of the main performer, Philip Bauer. Because of the pandemic, GMEF was unable to raise money with the Gala which supports student enrichment. It will continue to award 3 scholarships in June and the annual “roses for seniors” at graduation. Anyone who purchased advanced tickets, may donate the ticket money or receive a refund by contacting [www.thegmef.org](http://www.thegmef.org) or [info@thegmef.org](mailto:info@thegmef.org).

**LUCKY NUMBER CLUB**

Once again, the Social Justice Commission encourages you to join at a cost of **\$60.00 a year**. We urge you sign up in early January so that you can enter your number into the drawings for 1 of 2 Terrazzo’s Restaurant **\$50.00** gift certificates and/or 1 of 15 beautiful and unique metal hangers by local artist named Charlie.



Anyone who has paid for the full year (\$60.00) will be entered into a drawing for 2 Terrazzo’s Gift Cards (worth \$50.00 each) and 1 of 15 of these lovely hangers.

**DEADLINE FOR DRAWING IS JANUARY 31!  
DON’T MISS OUT!**

**Our Lady’s Window**

February 3 *Mitchel Mroz, Sr.*  
by Betty & Mitch Jr.

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

January 17, 2021

Regular collection/mail \$2,671.00  
On-line \$999.00

Thank you for your continued support of our parish!

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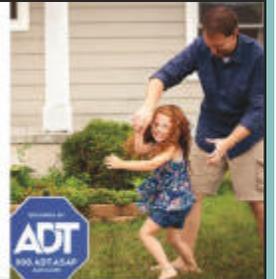
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