



# 5<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." - Mk 1:38

Our Lady of Peace Church  
February 7, 2021

## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN



My dear friends,  
Why must innocent people suffer?

If you wanted a Scripture reading that seems to fit our situation of pandemic, economic hardship and social upheaval, you couldn't do better than our first passage for this Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time—Job 7:1-4, 6-7. The Book of Job takes up the monumental and very difficult question of why innocent people have to suffer. This has been a stumbling block to faith throughout the ages, and many great minds have wrestled with the problem of innocent suffering. To begin with, Job was a very fortunate man, having a wonderful family, beautiful home, wealth, livestock—everything he needed to be happy and considered successful.

Then, all of a sudden the very things that brought joy to Job are taken away: family members die, Job himself becomes quite ill, crops fail, animals die or are stolen, and Job's days and nights are filled with misery. An interesting aspect of the Book is the visit of three of Job's friends who, in a series of long speeches and reflections, try to convince Job that he must have sinned in some way, and thus is being punished by God. Job fights fiercely against this interpretation of his wretchedness, arguing that he had always been faithful to God in every respect.

All of this explains the dark and foreboding nature of our reading. Job spoke, saying: "Is not man's life a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, 'When shall I arise?' then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again."

Our Responsorial Psalm seems inconsistent with the passage from Job, being upbeat and joyful. The refrain, "Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted," is fleshed out in the verses. "Praise the Lord, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him....He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds. He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name. Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit. The Lord sustains the lowly; the wicked he casts to the ground."

Ultimately, the Bible does not directly answer the question of unjust suffering in an abstract or theoretical way. Instead, we have our God assuring us that we do not have to go through it alone. Jesus, taking on human flesh, is unjustly condemned, made to suffer and abandoned by his followers. He dies a horrendous death, even wondering if God has abandoned him! Thus, through his life and death, Jesus is with us in our time of pain and suffering. But there is a reality that is even more important. At Easter Jesus rises from the dead, never to die again. And he has said that he has gone to prepare for us a place of unfathomable fulfillment and joy. Our gospel reading, Mark 1:29-39, presents Jesus as giving a foretaste of the ultimate restoration of the human condition as God intended it from all eternity. He is told that Simon Peter's mother-in-law is sick, and he takes her by the hand and helps her up, and "the fever left her and she waited on them." Then, word spreads that Jesus is in town, everyone comes to the door, and "he cured many who were sick with various diseases and drove out many demons." In our time of trial and suffering our God is with us. And he gives us to each other to carry on his ministry of "healing the brokenhearted and binding up their wounds" until that day when there will be no more suffering and death, and every longing of our heart will be fulfilled beyond our imagining in eternity.

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

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



Let today be the  
day you give up  
who you've been  
for you who can  
become.

*Blessed* Ash Wednesday

The season of Lent will begin  
**FEBRUARY 17**  
and Masses with the distribution of ashes will be at  
8:00A & 6:00P. We will have a drive-thru in the  
parking lot from 11:00A-12:00P.



**Saturday, February 6**

4:00P *Cora Demers*  
by Nancy Aubrey

**Sunday, February 7**

8:00A *Tami Socquet Mayers*  
by her family

10:00A *Guyla Rodovich*  
by her family

**Saturday, February 13**

4:00P *Helen Wesolowski*  
by Diane Tabor

**Sunday, February 14**

8:00A *The Musiak family*  
by Lillian Prunier

10:00A *Camilla Lusco*  
by Marcia Caloon

**DAILY MASS**

**Monday, February 8**

8:00A *Fr. Stan Aksamit*  
by Dennis & Cyndee

**Tuesday, February 9**

8:00A *Fr. Galadima Goni*  
by Dennis & Cyndee

**Wednesday, February 10**

8:00A *Deceased members of the Hartnett family*  
by Jim & Judy

**Thursday, February 11**

8:00A *Jimmy Brodie*  
by Sandra Rose

**Friday, February 12**

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

*Our Lady's Window*

**February 9** *Catherine Mathieu*  
by George & Marilyn  
*Jimmy Brodie*  
by Sandra Rose

**February 10** *Catherine Matheiu* on her birthday  
by Harry

**February 11** *Mrs. Greco*  
by the Friday Morning Friends

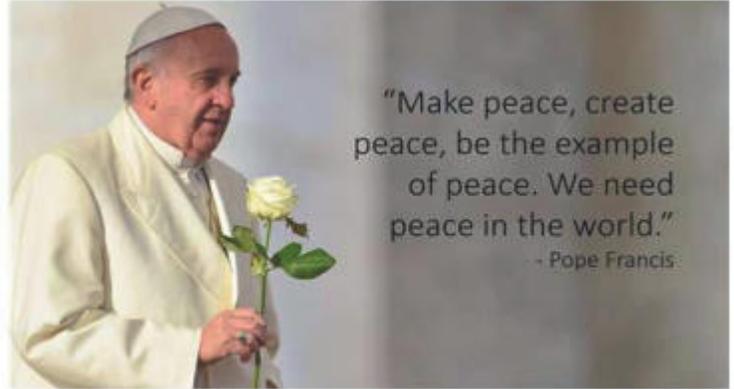
**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

January 31, 2021

Regular collection/mail \$2,166.00

On-line \$454.00

Thank you for your continued support of our parish!



**KEEP US INFORMED!** Please contact Marguerite if you or a family member are ill, hospitalized or in an area nursing facility so that we may stay in contact with them. Even though we can not visit, we can call and send a card.

**RECTORY CLOSED** on Monday, February 15 in observance of Presidents' Day.

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** with Deacon Joe will be offered on the Saturdays of Lent at 3:00P. All are invited to spend this time of prayerful reflection to deepen their relationship with God and to enter into the spirit of Lent.

A SPECIAL BIRTHDAY?  
UP-COMING GRADUATION?  
ANNIVERSARY?  
CONGRATULATIONS ON A  
NEW JOB?

Contact Marguerite and we will send a card marking the special occasion. Remember to call 863.2585 ext. 103 in advance so we can guarantee that your card arrives.



**PLEASE HELP US!** The Monday Community Meal Program is serving 150-200 people each week. Individuals and families are always looking for jars of peanut butter and boxes of cereal. Please add these items to your shopping list and bring them to church. **THANK YOU!**



**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

In memory of *Leo Woznakewicz* by Ray Mancini; in memory of *Catherine Mathieu* by George & Marilyn Newman; and in memory of *Loretta Demers* by Ed & Robin Sargent.



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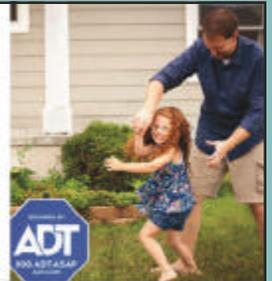
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