

Saint Jerome Catholic Church

January 23, 2022



*THE SPIRIT OF THE
LORD IS UPON ME...
- LK 4:18*

3RD SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

EXCERPTS FROM THE LECTIONARY FOR MASS ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

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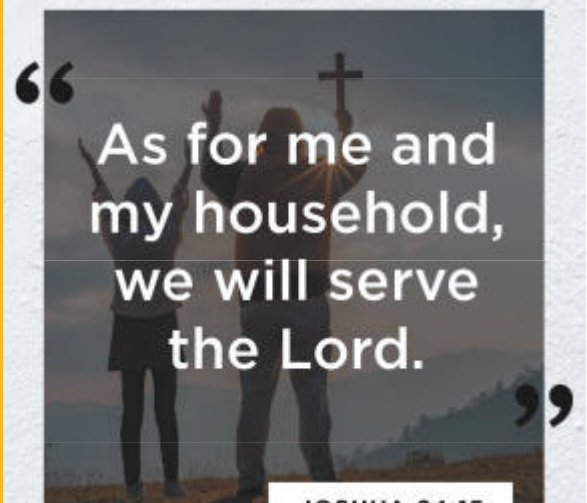
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Mass Schedule

- ◆ Monday-Friday 8am
- ◆ Saturday vigil 4:30pm
- ◆ Sunday 8:30am,
10:30am, 12:30pm
(Nigerian Community)
- ◆ Holy Days as announced

Sacrament of Reconciliation

3pm to 3:50pm in the Gold
Room, sign up via Flock-
note



As for me and
my household,
we will serve
the Lord.

JOSHUA 24:15

Mass Intentions

For the week
of
January 23

Sunday: Mary McAuliffe; For the People

Monday: Frances Harp

Tuesday: Michael Kniffin

Wednesday: Joyce Howard

Thursday: Richard Harp

Friday: Beverly Hanby

Items Requested for the Cafe

The guests of the Cafe are in need of cold weather gear. If you have new or gently used (clean and in good condition) items to donate, please drop them off in the back of church between now and the end of February in a bag marked "Cafe". We distribute items weekly.

Please note: **95% of our guests are men.**

Requested items:

- 1) Socks
- 2) Shoes (men's, athletic, heavy-duty) no dress shoes
- 3) Underwear, undershirts
- 4) Coats
- 5) Hats, scarves, gloves,
- 6) Sweaters, shirts

CAFE
ST. JEROME

Donate warm clothing through February



PLANT YOUR WORKS IN THE WORD

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.

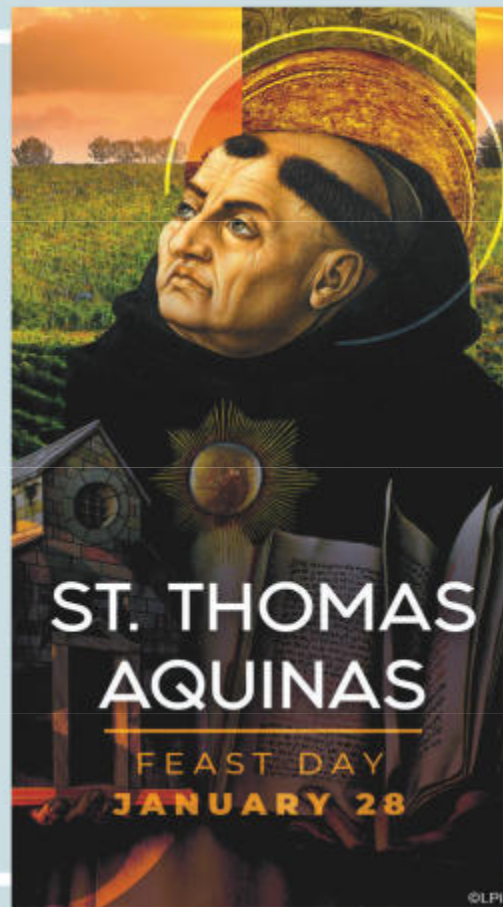
So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Jesus stood in line with everyone else and was baptized. There is something incredibly humbling about how this must have played out. Then, God did something truly awesome and inspiring. Through a very gentle and simple action he let the world know about the special relationship He shares with Jesus. That's exactly what is so incredible about our baptisms as well! Through those holy waters God announces to the world the special place we also occupy in His heart. We no longer have to wonder about the purpose of our lives or struggle to find our way. We do not need to fumble around, tripping over ourselves and wondering why we are even here. The answer has been given. All we have to do is live out the vocation we have received, to live the Gospel in fidelity to our Creator. There is nothing to fear and worry has no place. Standing in line with other sinners, we have our anchor and God is very pleased.



Saint of the Week

One of the most famous members of the Dominican Order, St. Thomas Aquinas (1225 – 1274) is well-known by many for his theological work, "The Summa Theologiae." Born in Italy, his mother wanted him to become a Benedictine and had high hopes that he would eventually become abbot of Monte Cassino, where he spent much of his youth. To change his vocation, she had him kidnapped by his brothers on his way to Paris at the age of 19. He spent two years in their captivity. Despite this, nothing could shake him from his vocation to become a Dominican priest and he was eventually released. Once free, he went to Paris and then to Cologne, where he finished his studies with Albert the Great.

His greatest contribution to the Catholic Church is his writings. The unity, harmony, and continuity of faith and reason, of revealed and natural human knowledge, encompasses his writings. The Summa Theologiae, his last and, unfortunately, uncompleted work, deals with the whole of Catholic theology.

The patron saint of teachers, theologians and students, St. Thomas Aquinas died in 1274. His life and the impact he had on the whole Church, however, remains alive today.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

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 Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me to bring
glad tidings to the poor... and to proclaim
a year acceptable to the Lord."*

- Lk 4:18a, 19

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