

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF SAINT BRENDAN



3rd SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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

MASS:

Sunday 10:00 am

Cold Weather Blues

Whenever the temperature drops down around the freezing mark or thereabouts, I start to think about how difficult and dangerous it must be to be homeless on such bitter nights. Even those who are not sleeping under bridges in cardboard boxes may be living in homes that have no heat. Winter is hard on everyone, but especially on those without adequate shelter.

My brother, who is something of a pioneer kind of outdoorsman, lived for years in a house where the winter temperature indoors was about 45 degrees every morning when he woke up. Fortunately, he had a reliable old woodstove and a large supply of firewood. Within an hour of rising he was comfortably warm.

Still, there is no way I could have lived in a house that cold. As my wife will attest, I am rarely physically comfortable after October or before May. I view cold weather as cruel and unusual punishment. I was clearly destined to be born and raised in the Caribbean but, by an accident of fate, have spent the bulk of my life dealing with northern Ohio winters. Something here is clearly amiss.

On a more serious note, speaking of the homeless, I once knew a deeply dedicated Catholic businessman in Washington, D.C., who often went out on the coldest winter nights to visit the homeless living under overpasses in cardboard boxes or trying to stay halfway warm huddled over a heating grate. He brought them hot soup, gloves, and stocking caps. He also brought a striking message: "You don't have to live like this." His city, he explained, had plenty of adequate shelter space with warm beds, hot meals, showers and caring staffers ready to help.

It was therefore quite surprising, my friend said, that so many of the homeless he wanted to help were not interested. They preferred living "off the grid" and did not want any part of the federal or local social services safety net. Some had mental health issues leading to that decision, but most were simply stubbornly insistent on being left alone.

We can and we should help those in need these winter nights. But for those who refuse that help, all we can do is pray they make it through until spring. Until then, it's a matter between them and the One who created them.

— Lou Jacquet

Church Overseas Collection

This weekend, the Diocese of Youngstown is holding the Church Overseas Combined Collection for ministries of the Church around the globe.

These ministries of the Catholic Relief Services (CRS), Holy Father/Peter's Pence, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Church in Latin America assist the Church in serving people who are hungry, refugees, victims of natural disasters, and development projects.

Please give generously to this collection which combines four collections into one.

Warm Hearts, Warm Homes

Catholic Charities launched the Warm Hearts for Warm Homes campaign (formerly Keep the Kids Warm) in 2008 in response to the economic recession impacting many local families.

Unfortunately, the need for this annual campaign still exists over 12 years later. Warm Hearts for Warm Homes aims to provide utility assistance during the cold winter months to families with children, working poor adults, and older adults on fixed incomes.

More information about Warm Hearts for Warm Homes, including ways to support this campaign with your prayers and financial support, can be found on the Charities website, www.ccdoy.org

Sunday, January 24

10:00 a.m. Mary Morley

By Altar and Rosary

Wednesday, January 27

9:00 a.m. Ludwig Holop

By Russ and Jean Hayward

Sunday, January 31

10:00 a.m. Arline Cannata

By Gloria and Larry Joachim

Please Pray For Our Sick

Ralph Ruggiero, Randy Bennett, Joe Gorman, Teri Laret, Pat Siembieda, Don Siembieda, Dorothy LoSasso

Pray for the Faithful Departed, May They Rest from Their Labors

Helen Ruscak, Jack Drony

Third Sunday In Ordinary Time

The Conversion of St. Paul: Every Detail Rings True

It's not often on the Church's liturgical calendar that a day commemorates specific events surrounding one of our saints. But Jan. 25 is one such occasion. The official title of the feast is "The Conversion of St. Paul."

And what a conversion it was, surely the most famous and arguably the most dramatic in the history of Christianity. It is an event without which the Catholic Church as we know and experience it today simply would not exist.



The scene as recounted in Chapter 9 of the Book of Acts has gripped the imagination of believers for as long as the story has been told. In the most unlikely of scenarios, the most zealous persecutor of the newborn Church (still known then as The Way) becomes its greatest and most fearless advocate. Saul of Tarsus becomes St. Paul, God's "chosen instrument" to bring salvation to the Gentiles and beyond Christianity's base among the Jewish community in Jerusalem. The events are so spectacular, so unlikely, that they ring completely true in every detail. No Gospel writer could have made this up and been believed had

the events not been experienced and witnessed to by those who were there.

You know the story. We find Saul, "still breathing murderous threats against disciples of the Lord," en route to Damascus in hopes of bringing any members of The Way found there back to Jerusalem in chains for execution. Instead, a light flashes from the sky. Saul falls to the ground from the beast that carries him. He is blinded, and hears Jesus say, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?"

The details are familiar to us, but what details they are. Saul spends three days without food or drink before eventually being baptized by Ananias, and becomes the indispensable disciple who spreads Christianity throughout the known world tirelessly for the rest of his life despite affliction and persecution.

Don't you love that detail in which Luke, author of both the Gospel of Luke and Acts, tells us that Paul's arrival among the disciples is not an easy one? After all, until recently this man wanted to kill the followers of Jesus. Now he wants to work side by side with them? No wonder they are skeptical and even fearful of his past reputation.

From fearsome persecutor to tireless disciple...truly a conversion story for the ages. St. Paul, help us to be bold like you in our desire to live out the Gospel in our daily lives, and to proclaim the Faith as fearlessly as you did.

— Lou Jacquet

Sunday's Scriptures: Showing A Sense of Urgency

The Scripture readings for this Sunday all center around a theme of urgency.

In the first reading, from the Book of the Prophet Jonah, we enter into a story about the ancient Assyrian city of Ninevah. We learn two details about Ninevah and its citizens. The city is enormously large and the people have been living in a sinful manner. God has decided to destroy Ninevah in 40 days but compassionately gives them one last chance by sending a prophet, Jonah, to warn them of their possible fate.

Jonah proclaims God's urgent message to the population of Ninevah. The people believe the prophecy and all the people, great and small, pray, proclaim a fast, and put on sackcloth as a sign of repentance to God. Seeing their converted hearts and lives, God shows mercy and

saves the Ninevites.

St. Paul, in a letter to the Corinthians, warns them and us that time is running out, and that the world in its present form is passing away. The people of Corinth and those of us listening today are to use the world but not fully. Our great focus and attention needs to be placed on God.

In the Gospel, Mark tells us soberly that John the Baptist has been arrested. Jesus has come, and now is the time of fulfillment: "The Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel." The words flow to us with a sense of urgency. Like the Ninevites, we are to make a decision. Are we followers of Jesus, or followers of the world?

— Geri Jacquet

Ursuline Open House, Registration, Tests Set

Ursuline High School will hold an Open House 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 6. Appointments are required. Register at www.ursuline.com/openhouse. School tours available. Applications for admission, financial aid forms and more available for pickup.

Ursuline will also host two registration nights for incoming Freshmen currently enrolled in a Catholic elementary school 4:30-7:30 p.m. Feb. 24 and 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Mar. 6 in the Library/Learning Center, 2nd floor, "old building." Students enrolled in a public school or other private schools should submit their completed application to the Ursuline Main Office. Information: Maggie Damore, Asst. Principal 330-744-4563.

Ursuline will give placement and scholarship tests 3:30-6:30 p.m. Thursday Feb. 25. No charge. Bring two No. 2 pencils, calculator, bottle of water. To register, call the office at 330-7444563. Test is crucial for honors courses, academic scholarships.

Volunteer For St. Vincent de Paul

St. Vincent de Paul soup kitchen is requesting help during the week of February 1- 5. Please volunteer to help serve the needy by signing up on the volunteer sheets at the church entrances.

Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For January 2021 **\$34,000.00**

Week of January 17, 2021

Sunday Collection \$2,799.00

Increased Operating Exp. \$90.00

Major Repairs \$70.00

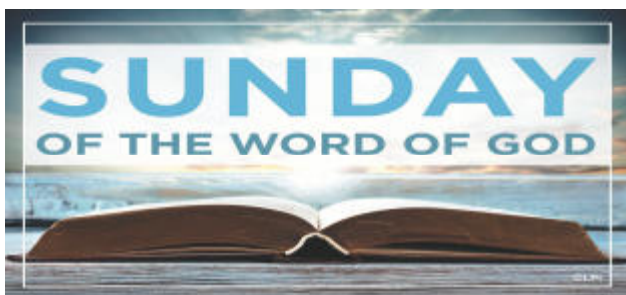
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Mass 1/17 10 a.m. 70

Congratulations

Judy and Sonny Lazar will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on January 28th!





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Father Leo Wehrlin Ext. 11

Email: lwehrlin@youngstowndiocese.org

Parochial Vicar

Father Simon Mino Ext. 11

Parish Secretary

Lynn Anderson Ext.10

Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

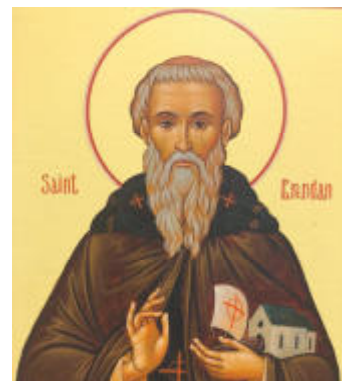
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Geri Jacquet

Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

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