



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



*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives  
and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to let the oppressed go free.  
- Lk 4:18*

**MASS:**

**Wednesday 9:00 a.m.**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m.**

## *On Some Glorious Day*

I'll never forget the call I once got from a priest in another diocese when I was editing a diocesan newspaper in another state.

"All you people ever write about is the pro-life issue," he said. "Why can't you cover other issues in the Church too?"

This call astounded me because, at that time, we were putting out about 50 weekly issues per year, and exactly two of them were focused on abortion and related life issues. There might have been a couple of other features and a handful of letters on these subjects from readers, but aside from various local Church issues, we covered peace and justice, the ongoing slaughter of missionaries in Latin America and elsewhere, challenges and triumphs in Catholic schools, news from the Vatican, and a dozen topics besides. But no amount of discussion could persuade that priest otherwise.

In a way, I should not have been surprised. Having worked in several chanceries across the decades, I saw that without question the staffers who worked in the pro-life/family offices were universally treated with the least respect by their fellow colleagues. This always amazed me, because the pro-life/family life office personnel were almost always the hardest working staffers with the smallest salaries and budgets in the building. Yet whenever a bishop or priest or editor focuses on that topic, the hue and cry would arise that the Church was "single-minded" and "only cared about the unborn."

I thought of all of this with the annual March for Life coming up this week (if Covid allows) in Washington, D.C. and California. Although this event has drawn hundreds of thousands of participants through the years among persons who work to support life "from conception to natural death," it rarely gets more than a minute or two of condescending coverage on the network and cable news channels, often delivered with a knowing sneer. Meanwhile, stand-up comedians devote entire routines to mocking those who believe our national shame since 1973 should not be celebrated.

But still the work goes on, quietly changing one mind at a time. What a glorious day it will be, on some unknown date in the future, when America's national consensus shifts and millions suddenly see, with searing clarity, that the richest nation on earth has for decades looked upon the lives of the most vulnerable of innocents as of equal worth with the trash we put out weekly on our curbs.

—Lou Jacquet

## *Our Upcoming 100th Celebration*

As you know, in May of 2023 St. Brendan Parish will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its 1923 founding. Who could have envisioned in that year long ago what marvelous deeds of faith would be enacted here, and what challenges would be faced and met?

In the months ahead, your parish bulletin will highlight various aspects of that history and upcoming celebration. This effort will be led by parishioners Debora Flora and Rosie Marich.

While specific plans are not yet firm at this point as to what items will be included, the ongoing look at the history of this parish that has so faithfully served the West Side of Youngstown for 10 decades of change, inside and outside the Catholic Church as a whole, will be both a reminder of our past and a call to commitment to our future.

## *'Church Overseas' Collection Today*

This weekend the Diocese of Youngstown is holding the Church Overseas Combined Collection for ministries of the Catholic 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.

Office hours are Monday-Friday 8:00 am to 12:30 pm  
Call 330-792-3875 with any questions.

### **Sunday, January 23**

**10:00 a.m.** Mary Terese (Teri) Laret  
by Yvonne Laret

### **Wednesday, January 26**

**9:00 a.m.** Donald Siembieda by family

### **Sunday, January 30**

**10:00 a.m.** Jean McGonnell by Altar & Rosary

## **Please Pray For Our Sick**

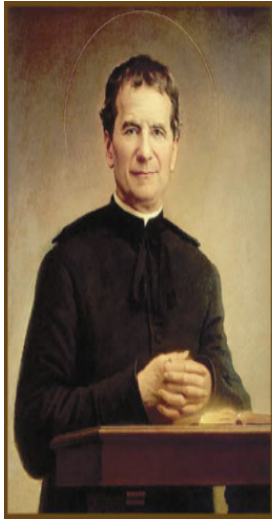
**Bob & Lois Slets, Fred Merlo, Catherine McCammon, Frank Modarelli, Jean Descenzo, Christine Kalhoun, Lynn Osting, Blanche Ruggiero**

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

## *Third Sunday in Ordinary Time*

### *St. John Bosco: Angel of Mercy to Destitute Boys*

While it is true that every saint the Catholic Church holds up for emulation is worthy of our respect and admiration, human nature tells us that some saints are just more admirable and lovable than others. Few are more widely admired and loved than St. John Bosco (1815-1888), founder of the Salesian order, whose feast day is Jan. 31.



*St. John Bosco*

1815 - 1888

Founder of the Salesians

Feast Day: January 31

Patron: Apprentices, Editors & Publishers, Schoolchildren, Magicians, Juvenile Delinquents

them to come to church.

By age 16, he had become a seminarian, so poor that the parish had to pay his way and buy his clothes and shoes. While studying for ordination, Giovanni still found time to help neglected and homeless boys with the permission of his teachers. He was ordained in 1841 at age 26 and,

Born Giovanni Bosco in Piedmont, northern Italy, Bosco was the youngest of three sons of a peasant farmer who died when Giovanni was two. But having had a dream at age 9 in which he led scuffling boys to calm down by gentle means, young Bosco was already teaching the catechism to indigent neighborhood youths and dazzling them with acrobatic tricks to entice

thanks to his charismatic style of preaching and his caring demeanor, had soon attracted more than a hundred boys to his chapel services and evening classes in Turin. He had established a Sunday school and recreation center there that soon outgrew its rooms.

Continued on Page 4

### *Sunday's Scriptures: The Importance of Ezra*

"Ezra, the priest, brought the Law before the assembly...he read plainly from the book of the Law of God, interpreting it so that all could understand what was read." This passage of scripture is part of our first reading today, from the Book of Nehemiah 8.

From time to time, you hear people say that Catholics do not know the Bible well, even though much of it is proclaimed to us through our three-year Lectionary cycle of Sunday readings. When we read Scripture, we seem to be far more familiar with the New Testament (the four Gospels, Acts of the Apostles, and the Letters) than we are about the Hebrew Scriptures/Old Testament.

One important figure of the Hebrew Scriptures surfaces today in the person of the Jewish scribe and priest, Ezra. He was living in Babylon during the period of the Jewish exile there. In the Book of Ezra, he is described as a Jewish authority among the people who returned to Jerusalem.

In the scene we read today, Ezra gathers the people into an assembly in Jerusalem where he reads carefully and clearly from the Torah (the Law), found in the Pentateuch (first five books of the Old Testament).

The importance of Ezra and the reading from the Law cannot be overstated. During the 70 years that the Judeans had spent in captivity in Babylon, they took on many customs of the pagan culture around them. Ezra desired to purify the community by exhorting them to understand and follow the precepts of the Torah. He commands them to observe Jewish worship practices, marriage laws, and ritual purity rules. They are admonished not to intermarry with pagans and to not practice any foreign culture.

Ezra asked them to recommit to the Covenant with God and live as God's people. He called them to return to the practice of their faith as was done by their ancestors of old. In doing so, Ezra helped reshape the returning Jewish exiles back to their Judean heritage, identity, and covenant practices.

We cannot imagine how different history and Judaism would have become if the people had not been asked to recover their observance of Jewish law. When we remember Jewish leaders such as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses, let us not forget the too-often-forgotten Ezra.

—Geri Jacquet

## St. John Bosco

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Struggling with overwork, Father Bosco — known in Italy as "Don" Bosco, the honorific title for priests there — almost died from a bout with pneumonia. His mother came to his aid, helping (for a decade!) to run a boarding house where workshops were offered to teach various trades and some academics to poor boys. In his "spare time," Don Bosco set about writing what became a very popular series of books for youth combining faith and history.

Meanwhile, the priest had long considered founding a religious order to carry on his work among poor youth. By 1874 the Vatican had given formal approval to the Society of St. Francis de Sales (the Salesians), which had grown to 8,000 members in 60 houses on two continents by the time of its founder's death. He had also founded a separate congregation of women religious to work with poor girls. Somehow, he found the time to travel for fundraising efforts that helped build churches.

Today, the Salesians number in the thousands to carry on the same work begun by their beloved founder. As one Catholic historian noted six decades ago, St. John Bosco "had insights well beyond the time in which he lived about the importance of music and play, linked with study, prayer and manual work among the youth he supervised without any use of punishment. He was renowned for his educational pioneering insights and his affection for the fatherless."

Don Bosco was beatified in 1929 and canonized in 1934. St. John Bosco, pray for us.

—Lou Jacquet

### Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For January 2022 **\$29,440.00**

#### Week of January 16

Sunday Collection	\$2,043.00
Increased Operating Exp.	\$15.00
Major Repairs	\$10.00
Rentals	\$1,050.00
Maint. Support	\$1,110.00
Total	\$4,228.00

**3 week total \$15,890 toward the goal of \$29,440**

**\$13,550 short**

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Mass 1/16 10 a.m.



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Administrator

Father Steven Agostino                      Ext. 11  
Email: [sagostino@youngstowndiocese.org](mailto:sagostino@youngstowndiocese.org)

Parish Secretary

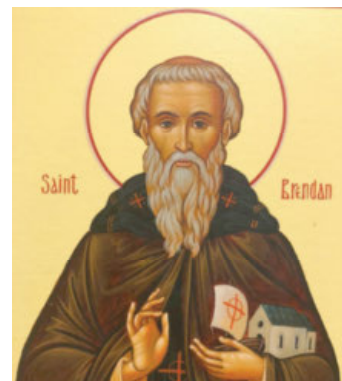
Liz Shina                      Ext.10  
Email: [office@stbrendanyo.org](mailto:office@stbrendanyo.org)

Music Director                      Geri Jacquet

Assistant Music Director                      Allyson Reed

*MASS      Sunday 10:00 am*

*Wednesday 9:00am*



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