

I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN

THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JANUARY 23/24, 2021

We're taught the concept of "being saved" from a very young age. Whether it's the princess locked in the tower, the cat stuck in the tree, or someone trapped in a burning building, for a story to end with "and they all lived happily ever after," someone or something generally needs to be saved. And although we might not be getting attacked by a dragon or waiting for a knight on a white horse to show up, we *all* need to be saved, as well.

During Biblical times, the seas were viewed as unpredictable and unsafe. That's why they're often used as a metaphor for something that is unholy (i.e. pharaoh's chariots being cast into the sea, Jonah and the whale, etc.). Jesus telling his first disciples that he will make them

'fishers of men (humans)' -ultimately pulling people from the dark waters of sin just like they do with fish- was telling them that they would save people with Jesus as the net. That's why the earliest Christians used the Ichthys (the "Jesus fish" you often see on bumper stickers) as a symbol that they were a follower of Jesus. They had been *saved*.

The only question is: Do we allow ourselves to be saved? Jesus is constantly tossing us a safety net to draw us closer to Himself. Do we go towards Him, or do we "swim" in the other direction into sinful waters? Our story has a "happily ever after," as well. It's called Heaven. Let yourself be saved to get there. (No white horse needed.)

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FROM FATHER MOCK

In my note last week, I wrote about three significant challenges that we pray can be turned into hope. I focused on the need for reconciliation. I'd like to develop that a little bit more this week, and offer reasons for my own personal view of the things that offer me hope in the middle of a world, a nation, and a diocese that are each in some form of crisis.

First, the importance of hope for the world in the midst of a devastating world-wide pandemic. I find great hope knowing that there are vaccines. The amazing work that scientists throughout the world have done to get us from where we were a year ago as all this was beginning is truly amazing. If you look at other epidemics this is truly amazing. It took Doctor Jonas Salk and his team years to complete the Polio Vaccine that has saved so many children from this dread disease. What we have seen is in every way a "scientific miracle" that certainly gives me great hope that by this time next year, or maybe by the end of this year, we will be "back to normal."

For our nation, I have been watching the inauguration of Presidents since 1960. I have never missed a single one. Each of these fills me with new hope no matter who is taking the oath of office whether I personally voted for him or not. I pray for every President, especially at the beginning of his term, knowing that the job is daunting and we all need the support of prayer. Every four years when we hear of the vision set forth, I am filled with hope. I am writing this on Tuesday evening, so I do not know what our new President is going to say, but if it is like every other inaugural address, it will be hopeful of the future. I encourage you to pray for our nation and all our leaders that they may be guided by the Holy Spirit to make good decisions for the common good of all who dwell in our land.

Finally, for our Diocese. Like you, I have been saddened by all the events of the last few years. They have been a terrible experience and the church and diocese have suffered greatly. I watched Bishop Fisher's installation Mass last Friday, and to be honest, he filled me with hope. I have spoken to one of his assistants who believes that he will offer the diocese an understanding heart and a vision for the future – as you probably know by now – my two criteria for leadership in the Church today. This fills me with great hope for the future of the Church in Buffalo.

I close with a prayer inspired by the Second Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation -- In the midst of conflict and division we know that it is you who turn our minds to peace and to hope for our world, our nation and our diocese. Grant us Gaudium et Spes (Joy and Hope)! Amen.

-Fr. Mock

A COVID-19 PRAYER

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing. For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity. Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

THE 3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Jon 3:1-5, 10

The word of the LORD came to Jonah, saying: "Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you." So Jonah made ready and went to Nineveh, according to the LORD'S bidding. Now Nineveh was an enormously large city; it took three days to go through it. Jonah began his journey through the city, and had gone but a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be destroyed, "when the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth. When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R/. Teach me your ways, O Lord.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me; teach me your paths,
Guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my savior. **R/.**

Remember that your compassion, O LORD, and your love are from of old.
In your kindness remember me, because of your goodness, O LORD. **R/.**

Good and upright is the LORD; thus he shows sinners the way.
He guides the humble to justice and teaches the humble his way. **R/.**

Second Reading

1 Cor 7:29-31

I tell you, brothers and sisters, the time is running out. From now on, let those having wives act as not having them, those weeping as not weeping, those rejoicing as not rejoicing, those buying as not owning, those using the world as not using it fully. For the world in its present form is passing away.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mk 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCIPLES STAY IN THE KNOW

CONFIRMATION REGISTRATION

High school students in grades 9, 10 or 11 who are interested in being confirmed in the fall of 2021 can register by coming to St Ambrose church on Tuesday January 26th at 6:00pm. Registration forms will be available as well as the expectations to complete the preparation process. We will be socially distant and all are required to wear a mask. The meeting will last approximately 30 minutes.

If you have any questions, please email Maureen Brown @ mbrown7627@aol.com

DRIVE-BY FISH FRY

It's "o-fish-al"! We're offering a drive-by fish fry!

WHAT: DRIVE-THRU BWs BBQ Fish Fry DINNER (PRE-SALE ONLY). Includes: Beer battered haddock, potato salad and coleslaw, lemon wedge, rye bread & butter, tartar sauce.

WHEN: Friday, February 26, 2021

TIME: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

WHERE: St. Amrbose Site (Okell St. side)
COST: \$15

Mail a check into the parish office, stop by during business hours, or order right online.

PARISH TRANSITION PRAYER

God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on Our Lady of Charity parish and guide us during our time of transition. We pray we will be saying "Welcome" to a new Pastor soon and ask that you bless our parish with a Priest whose presence will be a grace both for him and for us. We are filled with faith, energized by the power of your love and united in the mission entrusted to us. We need your grace to be receptive to this change and view it as an invitation to conversion and growth. We pray this in the name of your Son and Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Our Lady of Charity, pray for us.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of every month.

Immediately following the 8:00am Daily Mass till 9:30am.

Come spend some time with the Lord as he is exposed on the altar. Various devotions will be offered, with Benediction to follow.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17th, 2021

Lent will be here before we know it! Our Ash Wednesday Mass schedule is as follows:

8:00am - St. Ambrose Site

Noon - Holy Family Site

5:30pm - Holy Family Site

7:00pm - St. Ambrose Site

Temporary Administrator

Fr. Robert Mock

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Fr.Gallagher@olcp.org

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Deacon Steve Schumer

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Administrative Assistant

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SBCS at NDA Principal

Tristan D'Angelo
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Maureen Brown
Kathleen Mulqueen

Weekend/Weekday Help

Fr. Richard (Duke) Zajac
Fr. Robert (Bob) Hora

Prayer Link

768-4022

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

4:00pm (St. Ambrose Site)

Sunday

8:30am (Holy Family Site)

10:00am (St. Ambrose Site)

11:30am (Holy Family Site)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

Currently by appointment only.

(Office will be closed 12:00pm - 12:30pm for lunch)

Friday, closed

(716) 822-5962

Please consider remembering our parish community in your will.

DISCIPLES STAY ACTIVE

COMMUNITY DINNERS

If you are interested or would like some more information please contact the parish office at 822-5962 or Mary Anne at 822-1837. Thank you!

Sponsors for the coming weeks include:

January 29: Liturgy Committee

February 5: Boy Scouts

February 12: St. Vincent de Paul

February 19: Volunteers Needed (Meatless)

WEATHER UPDATE

Please note: If Buffalo Public Schools are closed due to hazardous winter weather, there will be NO Daily Mass that day. Please stay safe.

GOD BLESS AMERICA

Let us pray for our new President. That we may be united as one nation under God.

FROM FR. BRYAN

Grateful! I wanted to thank so many of you who remembered me in prayers, cards, gifts and kind words over the Christmas Season. While the decorations may be put away, the light you shared with me is much appreciated. Please know that I continue to pray for all of you each and every day and that I do miss you. Let's continue to pray for each other. Keep smiling :)
Fr. Bryan

NEW PARISH ENVELOPES

Our new church envelopes have arrived! Just like last year, they will not be mailed to your homes any longer. They are available to pick up at the Parish Office (260 Okell St.) during business hours. If you are unable to pick them up during this time, simply call the office and we will leave them in the unlocked vestibule for you to pick up at your convenience. Thank you for your understanding.

TAX STATEMENTS

Any parishioner who would like a statement of your donations for 2020 should submit your request in writing. Please include your name, address, and envelope number. All requests should be in the parish office by January 31, 2021. You may put your request in the collection basket. Thank you very much for those who include a self-addressed stamped envelope.

BRING BACK YOUR OLD PALMS!

We invite you to bring your old, dried palms from Palm Sunday last year back to church. These palms will be burned to make the ashes for Ash Wednesday on February 17th. Bins and boxes will be available at all entrances of each worship site. Please remember that these palms are blessed items, and can therefore never be thrown in the garbage. Thank you!

WELCOME!

MOST REV. MICHAEL WILLIAM FISHER
15TH BISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF BUFFALO

May God grant us open hearts and open minds as we begin this period of transition with a new shepherd.



SAVE THE DATES



• **Healing Mass in Honor of St. Agatha** •
Friday, February 5th, 5:30pm - St. Ambrose Site

All are invited for a special anointing in honor of St. Agatha, patroness of breast cancer.

• **Ash Wednesday** •
Wednesday, February 17th

8:00am - St. Ambrose Site, 12:00pm - Holy Family Site,
5:30pm - Holy Family Site, 7:00pm - St. Ambrose Site

FUN FACT:

It's the year of St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus. Let's lift up a special prayer to him as he is not only the patron of our Diocese, but also the patron saint of workers, families, and even death. St. Joseph, pray for us!

DISCIPLES PRAY TOGETHER

PRE-BAPTISM SESSION

Before your child's Baptism, parents must virtually attend a Pre-Baptismal instruction class. The next session will be on **Tuesday, February 2nd at 6:30pm** via Zoom. Please call the office (822-5962) to register. **Parents, remember you must have letters of recommendation from the godparents before the Baptism date can be set.**

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT NDA

Did you know that once your child is registered at Notre Dame Academy you are automatically a member of the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO)? We have been meeting via Zoom this year. Watch the Notre Dame Academy Facebook page for the link.

Do you know anyone looking for a great Catholic School? Please tell them about Notre Dame Academy. Please call 716-824-0726 today. For more information on South Buffalo Catholic School Notre Dame Academy please follow them on Facebook or visit: www.notredamebuffalo.org

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Let us remember all those who have gone before us.
+Elizabeth Gannon. May she rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

"MASTER, THE ONE YOU LOVE IS ILL." (JOHN 11:1-2)

Irene Andrzejewski, Irene Barrett, Louise Beamish, Teresa Beamish, Ann Alvira-Buchnowski, Patricia Cajak, Maureen Canney, Cheryl Clontz, Patricia Colern, Caroline Dominesey, Dottie Eberle, Brigid Evans, Vara Jones, Linda Kurcz, Janet Murray, Karen O'Neill, Maryann Rigby, Sandy Riley, Jane Rozek, Mary Sands, June Stebbins, Ruth White

Daniel Barry, Michael Beyers, Leon Bolick, Owen Chase, Eric Crawford, Vincent Crawford, Frank Czapezyk, Francis Davis, Larry Deskiewicz, Richard Dinnocenzo, Paul Fitzpatrick, Jason Florea, John Godwin, Eric G., Trooper Joseph Gallagher, Emmett Jakubowski, Rob Karr, Pat Kuhn, Robert Maggio, George Rodriguez, Josean Rodriguez, The family of Coach Frank Rossi, Jeremiah Smith, Jim Sweeney

If you have anyone you would like added to the sick list, please contact the Parish Office.

NEWLY BAPTIZED

A warm welcome to **Francis Charles LaMarca**, baptized this weekend in our parish! May God grant him every grace and blessing!

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. / Sun., Jan. 23/24 - 3rd Sun. in Ord. Time

- SA • 4:00pm
Madisyn Ledder (*Healing Prayers, req. by Great Aunt Eileen*)
- HF • 8:30am
M. Elizabeth Reidy (*req. by her family*)
- SA • 10:00am
Bruce Sage (*req. by Ron & Dolores DuBois*)
- HF • 11:30am
Carmela Schumacher (*req. by her children*)

Mon., Jan. 25 - Conversion of St. Paul

- SA • 8:00am - **Clara Reese** (*req. by Cathy Geary*)

Tues., Jan. 26 - SS. Timothy & Titus

- SA • 8:00am - **Donna Bow** (*req. by Maria Gallo*)

Wed., Jan. 27 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **People of the Parish** (*req. by Fr. Mock*)

Thurs., Jan. 28 - St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest

- SA • 8:00am - **Carl E. Reichmuth** (*23rd Anniv. Rem., req. by his family*)

Fri., Jan. 29 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **Pasquale Eusanio** (*30th Anniv. Rem., req. by his family*)

Sat. / Sun., Jan. 30/31 - 4th Sun. in Ord. Time

- SA • 4:00pm
Diane Deacon (*req. by the Feeley Family*)
- HF • 8:30am
Thomas Brinkworth (*req. by Tony & Cathy Bevilaqua*)
- SA • 10:00am
Catherine & (son) Jim Parkinson (*req. by their family*)
- HF • 11:30am
Steve Horvath (*req. by Maryann Csicsay*)

SANCTUARY LAMPS

Holy Family Site (January 24 - January 30)

M. Elizabeth Reidy (*req. by her family*)

HEALING MASS

We could all use some healing! Join us for a very special Healing Mass in honor of St. Agatha, patron saint of breast cancer, on Friday, Feb. 5th, at 5:30pm at the St. Ambrose site. All are welcome!

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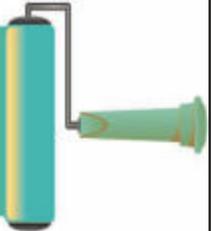
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