

THE WITNESS

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

JANUARY 16, 2022 | SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



MASS SCHEDULE

SUNDAY MASS

Saturday | 5:00pm Sunday | 8:00am, 10:00am, 12:00pm

WEEKDAY MASS

Monday through Friday | 8:30am

PERPETUAL HELP DEVOTIONS

Wednesday | Following Mass

EXPOSITION & ADORATION OF THE EUCHARIST

First Fridays | Following Mass Benediction | 6:45pm

SACRAMENT OF

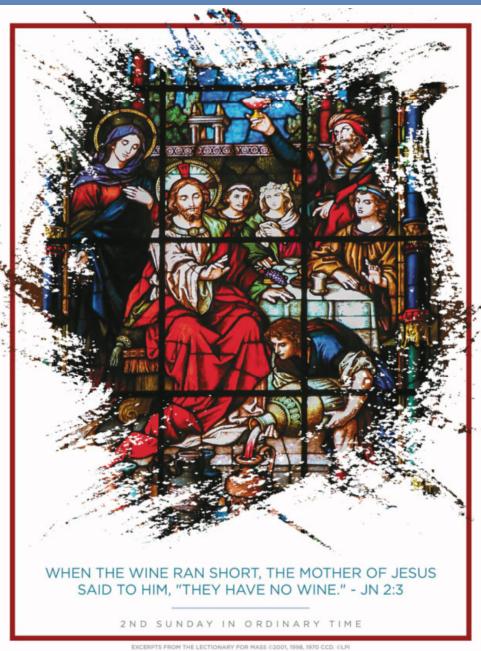
RECONCILIATION Saturday | 3:00pm-3:30pm

Or by Appointment

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday 8:30am-4:30pm Closed for lunch 12:00 -1:00pm





OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady Queen of Martyrs, through its members, is called to be a sign and sacrament of salvation to the entire Catholic Community. Essential to this Mission is the work of spreading Christian life and teachings.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS CATHOLIC CHURCH & SCHOOL

PARISH OFFICE

32340 Pierce Street, Beverly Hills, MI 48025 248-644-8620 248-644-8623 (Fax)

SCHOOL

32460 Pierce Street, Beverly Hills, MI 48025 248-642-2616

FAITH FORMATION OFFICE

32460 Pierce Street, Beverly Hills, MI 48025 248-647-6068

THIS WEEK AT OLQM

Monday, January 17 8:30 am Mass 7:00 pm Boy Scouts

Tuesday, January 18
8:30 am Mass
7:00 pm Catholic Biblical
School of Michigan

Wednesday, January 19

8:30 am Mass/Perpetual Help Devotions 12:30 pm Endow Group 7:30 pm Choir Practice

Thursday, January 20

8:30 am Mass 7:00 pm Charism Workshop

Friday, January 21 8:30 am Mass

Saturday, January 22

3:00 pm Confession 5:00 pm Mass

Sunday, January 23

8:00 am Mass 10:00 am Mass 12:00 am Mass



PARISH STAFF

REV. JAMES A. SMALARZ Pastor

MSGR. RONALD T. BROWNE Weekend Assistant

REV. MR. CHRIS BELTOWSKI Deacon

MR. MICHAEL HUGHES

Pastoral Associate mhughes@olqm-parish.org

MRS. KATIE WOLFF Business Manager kwolff@olqm-parish.org

MR. STEVE ATWELL

Communications Coordinator satwell@olqm-parish.org

MRS. MARY SCHELLPFEFFER Administrative Assistant mschellpfeffer@olqm-parish.org

SR. FRANCESCA THÉRÈSE, OSF Christian Service Director srfrancesca@olqm-parish.org

MRS. JILL GEDEN

Principal

jgeden@olqm-parish.org

MRS. MARY GARLOW Faith Formation Director mgarlow@olqm-parish.org

MR. MARTIN ZAPORSKI

Music Director

MR. ADAM MARTIN Maintenance Supervisor amartin@olgm-parish.org

SACRAMENT INFORMATION

RECONCILIATION

Saturdays 3:00 to 3:30; or by appointment by contacting the Parish Office.

MATRIMONY

Contact the Parish Office at least 6 months in advance to schedule your Holy Matrimony preparation.

BAPTISM

Please contact the Parish Office.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK

Please contact the Parish Office.

PARISH COUNCIL

Mark Everly, Chair, Mark Cope, Pat Costello, Mary Gilhuly, Ed Metsker, Patty Racco, Lucia Saad, Brad Simmons

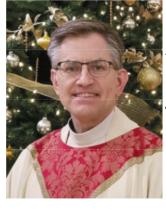
FINANCE COUNCIL

Brad Simmons, Chair, Jen Byrne, Joe Heikkila, Angie Janssen, Joe Kaperzinski, Bernie Ronnish, Dan Totonchi, Tim Weed

BULLETIN DEADLINE

Copy due by 12:00 pm on Friday of the preceding week.

Deliver to the Parish Office or email copy to: satwell@olqm-parish.org



A note from the Pastor . . .

On behalf of OLQM Catholic Church and School I extend my sincere thanks and gratitude to the many parishioners who generously volunteered their time and skills to create a beautiful Christmas worship experience in our parish. Many parish volunteers beautifully decorated the inside of the church, as well as the outside. Throughout the Christmas Season the poinsettias in the sanctuary were carefully maintained by volunteers so they would last throughout the season. The music at all the liturgies under the direction of Martin Zaporski and our parish

volunteer choir enhanced the prayerfulness and beauty of our Christmas liturgies. The greeters and ushers assisted with graciously welcoming parishioners and visitors. The many liturgical ministers and altar servers prayerfully served at the Masses to create prayerful liturgies. A parish needs its parishioners to give of their skills, time, talent, and treasures in order for a parish to actively share in the mission of Jesus and thrive! Clearly, many OLQM parishioners as members of the Body of Christ, the Church, play integral roles in the life OLQM Catholic Church and School.

The worn and tarnished candlesticks usually placed on each side of the Tabernacle have been sent away to be refurbished. Once the ten candlesticks are completed they will beautifully match the tabernacle which was refurbished just prior to my arrival in July 2017. I'm grateful to the parishioners who contributed the funds for the project. The candlesticks should be completed by Easter when we celebrate the resurrection of Jesus! In the meantime, the candelabras usually used during exposition of the Eucharistic will be placed on each side of the Tabernacle.

Thank you for your many prayers and words of support while I recovered from contracting the COVID-19 virus. Since I was vaccinated my symptoms were not terribly severe; although I did have a great deal of fatigue and exhaustion. I appreciate your caring thoughts, prayers and concern. Let's all continue to pray for an end to this terrible virus as we continue to pray with and for one another!

Monday, January 17th we celebrate the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday. This day is set aside as a reminder to all of us about the need for equality among all people regardless of race or nationality. Each and every person is created in the image and likeness of God and deserves to be treated with justice, equality, respect, love, honesty, and integrity from the moment of conception to their last natural death. Together may we all share in this holiday with great hope and expectation of what we can do to further the vision of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as we participate in the mission of Jesus Christ!

January 30th from 11:00 – 1:30 is the OLQM Catholic School Open House. Please be sure to visit the school to see the many engaging curriculums and programs being offered to our OLQM students and their families. OLQM offers a dynamic and nurturing Catholic environment for students to participate in. OLQM Parish is blessed to have a school affiliated with it! Please be sure to stop by the school on January 30th whether or not you have a child attending. I think you will be very proud of our school, our teachers, and our administrators!

God's peace and blessings to you and your family!

Fr. Jim Smalarz



January 16, 2022

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 62:1-5 | 1 Cor 12:4-11 | Jn 2:1-11

Written by THE FAITHFUL DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE | PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

It was several years ago now, but the scene is still vivid in my mind. My son stood confidently in front of the altar as the music rose in a crescendo and his bride stepped into sight. The love and joy he felt trickled down his cheek as she walked down the aisle. He broke into a smile as she joined him, and proudly took her hand to promise to become one with her forever. Isaiah writes: "As a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you." Isaiah was talking about the nation of Israel, but God loves and rejoices in each of his children and wants us to know the joy of being loved by him. He generously shares his gifts with us, "different kinds of spiritual gifts but the same Spirit," St. Paul explains to the Corinthians. All spiritual gifts come from God, and all are important and necessary: "To each individual, the manifestation of the Spirit is given for some benefit." God's gifts are distributed uniquely to each person to use in our own unique way to "announce his salvation, day after day," and invite others to discover the joy of his great love.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

You are a masterpiece! This message was conveyed at the camp our diocese held each year to help teens recognize that they are God's beloved sons and daughters, called and gifted by the Holy Spirit to be missionary disciples. Discerning what our gifts are and how to use them can be challenging. The Gospel about the wedding at Cana offers an interesting guide. Mary tells the waiters, "Do whatever he tells you." By reserving time for listening and not speaking during prayer, we can hear what Jesus is "telling" us. Jesus then says to the waiters, "Fill the jars with water." We can "fill our jars" with the knowledge of how to live as disciples by reflecting on Scripture. Finally, Jesus tells the waiters, "Draw some out." We can "draw" on his love for strength and courage when we need it, but more importantly, we are called to "draw some out" to share with others. In sharing the "good wine," the Good News of Jesus Christ, others will begin to believe in him, too.

PRAYER As the new year gets under way, devote time to discerning the unique spiritual gifts, or charisms, you have been given. Make time for silent prayer and reflecting on Scripture each day.

OLQM Ministers Schedule for January 22-23

Lectors

5:00pm John Rudolph 8:00am Jim Loch 10:00am Peter Rosinksi 12:00pm Patrick McCarthy

Extraordinary Ministers

5:00pm Sue Melendy Chris Henige

Volunteer needed

8:00am Pat Higgins

Mark Cope

Jane Dwyer

10:00am Michael Hughes

Rosa Stockel

Volunteer needed

12:00pm Volunteer needed

Volunteer needed

Volunteer needed

DECEMBER OFFERTORY REPORT

Fiscal Year 7/01/2021 – 6/30/2022 Offertory thru December 31, 2021

> Budget \$434,584 Actual \$418,327

Variance (\$16,257)

Christmas thru December 31, 2021

Budget \$100,000

Actual \$139,923

Variance \$39,923

Totals thru December 31, 2021

Budget \$534,584 Actual \$558,250 Variance \$23,666

GOSPEL MEDITATION

January 16, 2022 2ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

God delights in you. How do you feel when you hear that? Delight usually comes with an exuberant flow of joy that seemingly arises from one's toes with the expression of great glee. Reflecting upon the deep measure of joy God has in us can be a source of joy for ourselves. Delight is infectious. A very young brother and sister were playing on the beach when the all too familiar ice cream truck made its daily rounds. The boy shook with excitement and delight as he took his sister's hand and exclaimed, "The ice cream man is here, isn't it great!" As they ran off toward the truck, one could hear the girl reply, "Yeah, I can't wait!" The experience of a child's delight in something so simple as ice cream, lifts our spirits from our burdens and transports us to the lighter, more innocent side of life.

Life is not meant to be a burden. Believe it or not, God actually wants us to be happy! In fact, the wedding feast at Cana shows us that God even puts His blessing on our happiness. It is okay to celebrate the wonder of ourselves and others. Life is good. It is always interesting to note that Jesus saves the good wine until last. You would think it would be the other way around. The superb quality of Jesus' wine points to the superior quality of life we find in Christ. It is not a life of burdens but a life of wonder and delight! In Christ, we are lifted from the superficial and mundane to a life of purpose, hope, and love.

God is with us through the long haul, through the challenges and sorrows as well as the successes and accomplishments. In spite of the fact that we often wander from the path, God's celebratory delight in us remains. As spouses are asked to remain faithful to each other through whatever life brings, God remains faithful too. This promise remains through this life and into the next. All we have to do is take the advice of Jesus' mother to heart when she says, "Listen to him." This wisdom saves us from foolishly giving in to the illusion that we can make better wine than Jesus.

©LPi



PRAYER AND WORSHIP



From the Office of Faith Formation

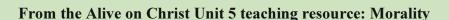
Sunday Family, February 13: Sunday Family session 5 will meet. We will hopefully meet in person but stay tuned as we may need to adjust to virtual again. Currently students should be completing chapters 14 and 15 in their Alive in Christ texts.

Monday After School session will meet not meet January 17 MLK Day.

Grades 1-6 will meet virtually on January 24, 31 and February 7, 14, 28. Grades 7 and 8 will meet **in person** on these dates.

OUR LADY QUEEN OF MARTYRS

Confirmation Charism Workshop: January 20, 7pm in the Church First Reconciliation Retreat: January 25, 6:30pm in the Church



The topic of morality in today's world could be overwhelming and is certainly broad. One of the questions we might ask is "How do I know I am doing right?" As parents and catechists, we follow that with, "How do I hand that on to my children when young people today get so many different competing moral messages from the society around them?"

Certainly, we teach them the content that is the foundation for Catholic morality. We also need to lead them to right action and continued practice. The Israelites looked on the Torah, their Law, with the utmost reverence. They regarded it as sacred because it confirmed the covenant between God and the people. Traditionally, laws have helped groups of people live together rightly and justly. Rules guide life at home and at work; in clubs, teams, and organizations; and in parishes. Behavioral codes and guidelines direct and preserve communities everywhere. The Ten Commandments and the Sermon on the Mount, which includes the Beatitudes, serve to guide the moral life of Church members.

The **Precepts of the Church** assist Catholics in determining those minimal actions expected for adherents of the Catholic faith. These Precepts specify some of the behaviors that will enhance Christian growth in love of God and neighbor. They help Christians choose moral living and faithfulness. The content of Christian morality is the same for children, adolescents, and adults. However, we learn to use that content differently as we grow in moral reasoning. Leading our children to right action and continued practice, means helping them to develop virtues. Virtues are good habits, and actions become habits with practice.

The **Theological Virtues of faith, hope, and love** are gifts from God. Christians accept these gifts, and practice them until they become second nature, blending human and divine characteristics. Other virtues that are an important foundation for moral behavior include Prudence, Justice, Temperance, and Fortitude. These are all habits to cultivate with children and to be intentional about having them practice virtues.

Cultivating virtue goes beyond instruction. Often this kind of practice takes place informally as situations arise during the school day. Cultivating virtue in the younger grades, often means helping children see that there are consequences to certain actions. Children in primary grades are not always aware of the consequences of their behavior on others. They need to have consequences pointed out to them and/ or be put in the other person's shoes through role-play. Older children are capable of seeing consequences and effects, but often, have not been asked to reflect on them. Helping them consistently reflect on the effects of their actions or the actions of others develops an attitude of **empathy and compassion, which is essential in moral development**. The same technique of role-playing can be effective with them. Being diligent about having older children choose actions they will take during the week, and then checking on whether they were able to follow through on them, is another way to lead them into the practice of habits or virtues.

(Adapted from Our Sunday Visitor Alive in Christ teacher development).

Mary Garlow, Director of Faith Formation mgarlow@olqm-parish.org 248-647-6068

Christian Service Connection

"Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." Hebrews 13:16



Sr. Francesca Thérèse, OSF Christian Service Director 248-644-8620 - srfrancesca@olgm-parish.org

SMALL ACTIVNS X LOTS OF PEOPLE = BIG CHANGE



Welcome Ministry - January
"Welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you" Rom. 15:7

Looking for a simple and easy way to serve your church, get service time in, put your faith into action, get to Mass on time or simply to do what Jesus asks us to do? This is the outreach for YOU and or your Family! We are in need of volunteers to welcome the faithful at weekend Masses here at OLQM. Please join us! See SignupGenius: https://bit.ly/WelcJan22 - or contact Sr Francesca: srfrancesca@olgm-parish.org or call: 248-644-8620.



Share the Warm

OLQM is collecting New Mens White Crew Socks for those in need.

Weekend of Feb. 12-13

Please drop off new socks in designated bins in the church vestibule.

Thank You For Your Support!



"One of you says to them, 'Go in peace, stay warm and be filled,' yet you do not give them what is necessary for their body, what use is that?" James 2:16



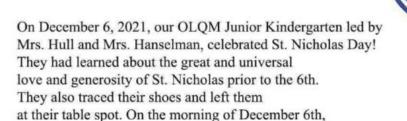
Thank you for your love of Jesus and of OLQM. Thank you for all you are and all you do to make OLQM the amazing, faith-filled, loving, serving parish family that we are today! Together we are making a difference in our community!

Peace and all Good, Sr. Francesca Thérèse, OSF, Christian Service Director

"Our works of service manifest God's love to those around us!" UNLEASH THE GOSPEL



From the School



they found their "shoes" filled with treats. They spent the rest of the day together on their Christmas Cookie Baking project: baking cookies to share with their families, coloring pictures about St. Nicholas and reading Christmas stories. The social hall provided the perfect safe location for this special event!





As we continue with the AOD virtue project,
Our Lady Queen of Martyrs School began
the start of the New Year learning about Justice.
Justice means to give God and neighbor what they are owed.
This month our second graders made posters that showed how they live out this virtue by making posters and showing examples through writings and drawings.

Nate and Joseph: "We made a poster showing being kind to your neighbor, being thankful to God for all the things He created, and to love God with all your heart". "This is justice".



Our Lady Queen of Martyrs Church and School

SCHOOL OPEN HOUSE

Sunday, January 30, 11am - 1:30pm



FREE THROW CHAMPIONSHIP



Attention OLQM Families!

All boys and girls - ages 9 to 14 - are invited to participate in the 2022 Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship, hosted by OLQM Council 15352! Winners will advance to a regional competition and will compete for a spot in the State Championship.

The OLQM competition will be held **Sunday**, **January** 23rd, in the OLQM gym. Doors will open at 2:00 pm, with competition starting at 2:30 pm. All shooters must arrive by 2:25 to participate.

<u>Participants</u> must be accompanied by **ONE parent/adult guardian** who will also retrieve rebounds for them. Registration will include proof of age and completion of health screening forms prior to competing. Ages are as of January 1, 2022

All attendees MUST wear masks & temperatures will be taken.

Water will not be available – **bring your own water bottle.** Basketballs will be provided – **do not bring your own ball.**

Winners will be decided in each age group for boys and girls.

Questions? Contact Jerry Krivda (248-420-9233 or gtkriv@comcast.net)

WHY DO WE DO THAT? CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

Faithful Departed

Ouestion:

How can we pray for the dead throughout the year?

Answer:

We commemorate the faithful departed on November 2nd each year. However, we can and should continue to pray for the dead. Our growth in Christian perfection takes a long time. At the time of our death, many of us might not be saints yet. But God, in His mercy, allows for those who love Him to experience purification after death. Our word for that state is Purgatory. It's the antechamber of heaven, so to speak. We know we're getting in the house, but we're not quite ready to go all the way in. There's rain to shake off our coats and dirt that's clogging our shoes.

Here on earth, we can pray for the souls in Purgatory. One way is to request that your parish offer a Mass for the intention of a specific loved one. We can also remember the departed in our daily prayers. Just as we have special intentions for family and friends here on earth, we can pray for those who have died. It's also a good act of Christian charity to pray for the forgotten, those who have no one else to pray for them. God knows who they are!

©LPi



St. Sebastian Feast Day: January 20

Not much is known about the life of St. Sebastian (256-287), except that he was a Roman martyr whose name has been mentioned throughout history since early 350.

We see St. Sebastian many times in art, especially from iconic paintings from Guido Reni, Andrea Mantegna and Hendrick ter Brugghen. Historical scholars now agree that a spiritual story has the beloved saint entering the Roman army because only there could he assist Christian martyrs without arousing suspicion on himself. Eventually he was found out, brought before Emperor Diocletian and delivered to Mauritanian archers to be shot to death. Pierced with arrows, he was left for dead, but managed to survive. He recovered from his wounds but still refused to leave.

One day, St. Sebastian took up a position near where the emperor was to pass. He confronted the emperor, condemning him for his cruelty to Christians. This time the sentence of death was carried out, and St. Sebastian was beaten to death with clubs. Today he is the patron saint of athletes.

©LPi



Baptized into the Body of Christ

January 09, 2022
Trey Smith Tessman
Son of

Danny & Angela (Caponigro)

OLQM CSA UPDATE

Goal: \$121,379

Pledged: \$121,272

Paid: \$110,233

Shortfall: \$11,146



Donate

"Each must do as already determined, without sadness or compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."

~ 2Cor 9:7



Scan the code to contibute a one time donation or to set up a weekly online offering.



PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS...

Dennis Bachellar Wendy Bachellar Giannna Baracos Charles Barron Charlie Blank Judy Cancro Isabella Cichoski Janet Chrzanowski Gerri Compton Nicholas Cornfield Bill Donnelly Michael Drellas **Marion Easton** Darren Eisenberg Nancy Finnell Lia Geftos Carol Gilhuly Benicio Goulding Steve Gucciardo Ian Haezebrouck Brian Hall **David Harrison** Richard Harrison Joel Holland Lisa Janes **Larry Jonas** Susan Karwacki Carol Keller William Kibbe Ken Koller Dennis Lacelle **Dolores Lowe** Richard Lowe Joanne MacDonald Monica Madigan Jerry Mansfield Gary Mark

Audrey Markiewicz Diane Mattis Derek McAleer Michael McCauley Scott McFall Marcia Michaels Arlene Naas Theodore Orlicki Carl Papa Joanne Pastula Owen Peraino Rosa Maria Petrozzi Dawn Pfander Richard Ricci David Roznowski Amanda Ruth Rebecca Ruth The Sewell Family Bill Schellpfeffer Hope Sovran Donna Stieber Ann Marie Teli Carson Toepfer Msgr. Dan Trapp Barbara Trotta Eric Vergeldt Arlene Walsh Tom Warner Michael Waterman Sue Weed Christine Wing-Charli Zafarana

Prayer for Vocations

O Virgin Mary, we commend to you those who seek to follow your son as priests, brothers and sisters. You know the difficulties, struggles and obstacles they face. Assist them to utter their "yes" to the divine call as you did at the invitation of the angel. Draw them near to your heart so that they may understand the joy and beauty that awaits when the Lord calls them. Make them witness the Lord's love. **Enable them to inspire the** church with their consecration. May your all powerful intercession touch the hearts of many that they may respond to the Lord's call. Repeat to them in the depths of their hearts what you said to the waiters at Cana: "Do whatever Jesus asks." Amen. Pope John Paul II

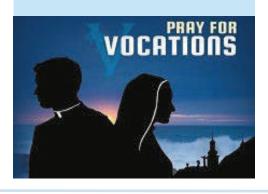
Please pray for our OLQM parishioners who are currently in formation:

Josh Burcroff Archdiocese of Detroit

> Dan Dixon Society of Jesus

Sr. Solanus Mary (Mary Margaret Payne) Franciscan Sisters of the Renewal

Kevin Zaporski Priestly Fraternity of St. Peter





In Loving Memory

Our sympathy goes out to the family of Colleen Giles

PROCLAIM HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS TO ALL THE NATIONS.

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CATHOLIC TRIVIA

JUST FOR FUN

Ouestion:

Who is the patron saint of lost things?

Last Week's Answer:

What are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit?

Fortitude, wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety, and fear of the Lord.

©LPi

Pray for the Sick!

PRAYER AND WORSHIP



MASS INTENTIONS

for the week of January 17 to January 23

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

8:30 am Deceased members of the Brennan Family Deceased members of the Friend Family

TUSEDAY, JANUARY 18

8:30 am †Maureen Bahm Special intention for Matthew John Schmitt

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

8:30 am Deceased members of the Jarandilla †Alice Schlegel

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

8:30 am †Dan Voss

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

5:00 pm †Istvan Chapo

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

5:00 pm For the people of the parish

SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

8:00 am For the people of the parish 10:00 am †Teresa Semak 12:00 pm †Bruno Gregoris

MASS READINGS

for the week of January 16 to January 23

SUNDAY, JANUARY 16

2nd **Sunday in Ordinary Time** Isaiah 62:1-5 Psalms 96:1-2, 2-3, 7-8, 9-10 1 Corinthians 12:4-11 John 2:1-11

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

St. Anthony, Abbot 1 Samuel 15:16-23 Psalms 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23 Mark 2:18-22

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 1 Samuel 16:1-13 Psalms 89:20, 21-22, 27-28 Mark 2:23-28

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19

1 Samuel 17:32-33, 37, 40-51 Psalms 144:1b, 2, 9-10 Mark 3:1-6

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr 1 Samuel 18:6-9; 19:1-7 Psalms 56:2-3, 9-10a, 10b-11, 12-13 Mark 3:7-12

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

St. Agnes, Virgin and Martyr 1 Samuel 24:3-21 Psalms 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11 Mark 3:13-19

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children 2 Samuel 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27 Psalms 80:2-3, 5-7 Mark 3:20-21

NEXT SUNDAY, JANUARY 23

3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time; St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10 Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 15 1 Corinthians 12:12-30 Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

It Takes All Kinds

"If every flower wanted to be a rose," wrote St. Therese of Lisieux, "spring would lose its loveliness."

Who is God asking you to be today? There is an obvious answer that springs to mind right out of the gate. God wants me to be a good person (a good father, a good husband) today; today, God wants me to be a saint.

But this answer fails to get to the heart of the question. We are all striving today to serve the same Spirit, but we are given different gifts to do so. The one who has the gift of knowledge may fail if today he decides he wants to be a healer. The one who has the gift of "varieties of tongues" might falter in the expression of wisdom.

Think about the wedding at Cana and the players in the scene: the servers, the guests, the bride and groom. They all have a unique role to play, and though it is to the servers that Mary gives the instruction, "Do whatever he tells you," her words apply to all.

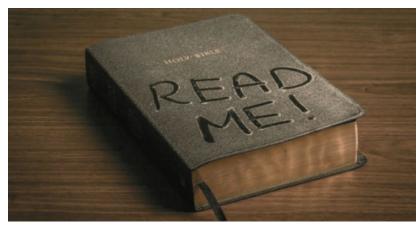
Today, are we called to be the servers—do we wait on God's instruction and carry it out, no matter how foolish or impossible it may seem to our human ears? Are we asked to be the disciples, to bear witness to a miracle and to give our testimony? Are we called to imitate the Blessed Mother herself and give encouragement to follow God's word?

Let us examine our gifts and listen in the silence of our hearts to the direction of the Spirit. Then and only then, let us do whatever He tells us.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi

Sunday of the Word of God

Next Sunday, the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time, we celebrate the **Sunday of the Word of God**. In 2019, Pope Francis



instituted the Sunday of the Word of God "so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people" (*Misericordi et Misera*, 7). The Scriptures are treasures filled with countless riches! From Genesis to Revelation, God speaks to us in human language. By speaking to us, God reveals his part in this great love story: "God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him" (1 John 4:16).

The Scriptures are not dead letters on a page, but living words that have been given life by the Holy Spirit, who also gives light to our minds when we read them. Nor is the Word of God a list of rules, but an invitation to share the life of the living God, their author.

In his letter establishing this special celebration, Pope Francis shares, "It is fitting, then, that the life of our people be constantly marked by this decisive relationship with the living word that the Lord never tires of speaking to his Bride, that she may grow in love and faithful witness" (*Aperuit illis*, 2). Every story told in the Scriptures, even the most challenging, reminds us that God loves his people and will always be faithful to the covenant he has made with us. God sent us his Son, the Word Incarnate, not only to *speak* these words of faithful love, but also to *show* us the depths of faithful love by dying on the cross and rising from the dead. Every word of Scripture points to this message of love enacted in the person of Jesus Christ, who is the Word himself.

In the Archdiocese of Detroit, we hear a lot about the power of the Word of God. We speak of the Gospel as something to be unleashed. We recognize that the Word of God has the potential to change hearts. When we proclaim the Word to others, they encounter the *power* of the Word and the *person* of the Word: Jesus Christ. But have you personally spent enough time hearing what Jesus is saying to you through the Word?

Pope Francis is asking everyone in the Church, every diocese, parish, family, and parishioner, to read and listen to the Word of God anew. Consider your favorite Scripture passage. How has God used it to speak to you, change your heart, lead you, or bring you peace? Ask yourself how can I be open in these coming days to receive the gift of loving the Word of God more?

In honor of this celebration, thank the readers at your parish who proclaim the Word of God and the priests and deacons who preach it. With your family or other parishioners, find a time today to re-read today's Gospel and plan a time this week to read next Sunday's Gospel. What does God need to teach you and cure within you so you can proclaim the Good News of his kingdom to others?

Written by Reverend Brian Meldrum

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First Reading:

As a young man marries a virgin, your Builder shall marry you; and as a bridegroom rejoices in his bride so shall your God rejoice in you. (Is 62:5)

Psalm:

Proclaim his marvelous deeds to all the nations. (Ps 96)

Second Reading:

But one and the same Spirit produces all of these, distributing them individually to each person as he wishes. (1 Cor 12:11)

Gospel:

Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs at Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him. (Jn 2:11)

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LIVE THE LITURGY

Relationships are hard to clarify. Determining whether people in our lives are simply acquaintances and associates or a deeper level of friend is a journey that takes time. Identifying and celebrating those people who really care about us is a lifelong adventure that involves both moments of intense elation and heartache. Some relationships are more easily definable than others. Two people who are in love must decide whether the love they share has the freedom and depth necessary for lifelong commitments. Other relationships may look like friendship but may harbor grave dysfunction and toxicity. Discernment is needed on all fronts. Our relationship with God also needs definition and discernment. God has taken creation as His spouse and human beings as His children. God delights in us and all that He has made. The wedding feast at Cana demonstrates God's investment in all of this, especially our happiness. Life is a time for celebration and great rejoicing!

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