



# THE SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

*St. Mary's Catholic Church*  
*Hamburg, Iowa January 17, 2021*

Today's Gospel features Jesus calling his first disciples. The invitation is welcoming and intriguing: "Come, and you will see." How are we called by the Lord? The Lord has called us all here today on this Sunday in the middle of January and so we have come together to listen to God's word and to receive our Lord in the Eucharist. How is the Lord speaking to us today?



## Cycle B -- Reflections on the Readings

### Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Samuel 3:3-10,19; Psalm 40; 1 Corinthians 6:13-15,17-20;  
John 1:35-42

### **Theme: The Divine Call**

Today's readings show us people searching for meaning in life and "faith interpreters" unlocking the answers to their questions.

#### **Story of the dream trees**

Three young trees were once growing side by side in a huge plantation. With typical youthful enthusiasm, they shared with one another their hopes for life when they reached maturity. One hoped to be used in the building of some mansion, so that its grain and quality would be admired by the great and the famous.

The second hoped to form the tallest flagpole in the most beautiful sailing ships, thus gaining full attention as it sailed into any port.

The third hoped to be part of some big public spectacle, well out in the open, so that passers-by would stop and look on in wonder. But what actually happened to the trees, according to the legend, was: The first was cut down, and part of it was used to make a trough for animals, and later became a manger in a stable. The second was cut down, and part of it was used to make a quite simple fishing boat that spent a lot of its time tied up on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. The third was cut down, and part of it was used to form the beams of a cross, which was used for crucifixion. Thus, despite the dreams of each individual tree, God had a personal plan and purpose for each.

## **God has a plan for each of us**

It is so with each of us. God has a plan for each of us. The divine call comes to us in many ways and at many different levels. He called us into life. Throughout our lives God continues to call us to a life worthy of our dignity as his children. In particular, through Baptism, God has called us to be Christians.

The nature of the Christian vocation can be spelt out in these words. "All Christians in any state or walk of life are called to the fulness of Christian life and to the perfection of love, and by this holiness a more human manner of life is fostered also in earthly society. The forms and tasks of life are many, but holiness is one: to follow Christ poor, humble and cross-bearing, that they may deserve to be partakers of his glory. Each one, however, according to his own gifts and duties must steadfastly advance along the way of a living faith, which arouses hope and works through love.

## **We all have a specific call**

Within our Christian vocation or call to be disciples of Christ, there comes a specific call. This is like the call that came to Samuel. Even though it is described as an outside voice, it may well have been inside himself. Voices can be dangerous. People have done dreadful things while claiming that a voice told them to do them. Therefore, Samuel had to discern the voice and helped by Eli he recognized that it was God calling him to be his prophet and so he answered: "Speak, Lord, your servant is listening" (1 Sam 3:9). Just as Samuel was called to do some specific work for God and seek holiness through a particular way of life, so we are.

The gospel is John's account of the call of the first disciples. In the company of two of his disciples, the Baptist interprets the person of Jesus: "Look! Here is the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36). As a result, the two disciples decide to stay, to follow Jesus; the same happens with all the rest.

### **The challenge**

Sometimes we meet people who may not be aware of their gifts. At other times, they may be too shy to use their talents. In these circumstances, we are called to encourage the talented to step forward. *Where do you see yourself responding to God's call? Shalom!*

### **MOTIVATION FOR THE WEEK**

The camel's hair is woolly and can easily be pulled away in clumps from its skin. Thus, if you recall, in the Bible it speaks of John the Baptist wearing a garment of camel's hair in Matthew 3:4. But why a camel's hair? The camel is a desert animal ... It can survive longer than any other creature of its kind in the desert ... It doesn't require nearly as much moisture as does other animals of its kind. They can survive in a wilderness when other animals would be perishing! No other animal can survive life, carrying heavy burdens, in usually dry and hot climates on small supplies of food and water. Let us step deep into the new year knowing that, like the camel, we need to adapt to our desert lives! Many have entered the year 2021 with lots of doubts, questions and fear lingering on our minds. Many are asking, even if not verbally, will 2021 be like the previous year or is the worse still yet to come? Yes, we are living in a wilderness era, where within the current world order and amidst the vicissitudes of life, God has put adequate spiritual resources in us that we might survive and maintain our spiritual health. If John wore camel's skin as dress to wait for the appearance of the Christ, then we too can pick up life's lessons from the camel for the year 2021.

Like THE CAMEL, we are called to be BURDEN BEARERS but often WE ARE OVERLOOKED! Life has its burdens to bear ... it's not all rosy! There are sobering and serious decisions in the year ahead that we must face. However, we must remember that just as it was difficult for the desert traveler to survive without a camel, so also are we important even if we are not acknowledged. Like the camel, your life, your gifts, your contributions, your presence may seem not to add to the lives of others in a fair weather, but only God knows your true value when the desert storms come.

There was once an old Arab who died and left 17 camels to his three sons. His will was very explicit about their inheritance. One-half of the camels were to be given to the eldest son, one-third to the middle son, and one-ninth to the youngest son. The sons were extremely perplexed, since seventeen cannot be divided by two, three, and nine. As they were pondering how they might divide up their inheritance without spilling either their own blood or that of the camels, a neighbor came to their aid. "I will lend you my camel," he said. With the neighbor's camel there were now eighteen camels. The oldest son took one-half or nine camels; the middle son took one-third or six camels; and the youngest son took one-ninth or two camels. Nine plus six plus two camels totaled 17, and the neighbor took back his 18th camel and all the sons were happy. Don't focus on your burdens but rather learn to make use of your 18th Camel throughout the year to make a positive difference.

Sometimes that which may not seem to add anything to the sum total in reality becomes the game changer. If you have begun the year and are under a load you feel that you cannot carry any longer, you need the sustaining grace of God and toughening of yourself with a "Camel's skin" for the days ahead. We are going to survive this year together as "Camels". !

May your week not be weak but with Him. I send you my prayerful wishes for the week.



*I can't say how much I appreciated all your cards, texts and wishes of Happy Birthday from our parish family. You people are the best! It was a wonderful day, and a big Thank You to all of you!!*

*Be Blessed.*

*Cheryl*

### Support our parish

From celebrating Mass, to calling parishioners, arranging for outreach and more, our parish continues its mission of helping people know and love God. Please continue your support so that we can continue our mission during these challenging times.

### Bring your mask

If you're coming to Mass, please bring your mask. While you may not fear getting sick, it's an act of charity and love to do what we can to prevent others from getting sick. Thank you for doing all you can to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

## Readings for the week January 17, 2021

**Sunday:** 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10 [8a, 9a]/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

**Monday:** Heb 5:1-10/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 2:18-22

**Tuesday:** Heb 6:10-20/Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9 and 10c [5]/Mk 2:23-28

**Wednesday:** Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Ps 110:1, 2, 3, 4 [4b]/Mk 3:1-6

**Thursday:** Heb 7:25—8:6/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 17 [8a and 9a]/Mk 3:7-12

**Friday:** Heb 8:6-13/Ps 85:8 and 10, 11-12, 13-14 [11a]/Mk 3:13-19

**Saturday:** Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Ps 47:2-3, 6-7, 8-9 [6]/Mk 3:20-21

**Next Sunday:** Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [4a]/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

# ST. MARYS HAPPENINGS

## PRAY FOR THOSE SERVING IN THE MILITARY

CHRIS HINES  
JOSH SIMMONS  
JACOB ANDERSON  
DERRICK HUBARD  
STEVEN ANDERSON  
COLBY MCGINLEY

## *Your Contributions*

**January 10, 2021**

**Tithes—\$2859.00**

**Plate—\$31.00**

*Thank You!!*

## Interesting January facts:

January is the considered second month of winter season and coldest month in the Northern Hemisphere.

Garnet is the birth stone of this month which represents constancy.



1-2— Mary Burkhiser  
1-9-- Quentin Laumann  
1-10---Tanya Hayes  
1-15—Mike Moody  
1-17--Jason Foster  
1-18—JoElla Travis  
1-20—Noah Goodman  
1-23—Annie Wakefield  
1-26—Mark Gude  
1-26—Angie Sheldon  
1-26—Kate Roberts



1-3 Harold & Anne  
Hendrickson  
  
1-4 Bob & Judy Clark



Greg Andersen  
Grady Secht  
Reese Kemp  
LeRoy Herscheid  
Noah Howe  
Mary Lou Miller  
Dottie Dankof  
Isacc Durr  
Todd Quick  
Verona Mitchell  
Joel Loggins  
Kenneth Russell  
Bill Long  
Henry Johnsen  
Lawrence DuBois  
Pat Sheldon  
Joe Kirk  
Tim Konecny  
Esther McCowan  
Shawn Collins  
Drake Travis  
Martha Gude  
Bill & Gloria Green  
Larry Dalton  
Glen Whitehead  
Zayne Osborn  
Cathy Mason  
Anna Weber  
Alan Briggs  
Chuck Mitchell  
Dee Ann Crews  
Deb Haughton  
Robert Haughton  
Maurie Maher



<b>2021</b>	<b>January 17</b> 2nd Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30	<b>January 24</b> 3rd Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30	<b>January 31</b> 4th Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30	<b>February 7</b> 5th Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30	<b>February 14</b> 6th Sunday of Ordinary time 8:30
<b>Lector</b>	Teresa Jamison	Joe Travis	Dave Dowling	Carolyn Maher	Susan Hilton
<b>Mass Setup</b>	Rosie	Joe travis	Rosie	Joe travis	Rosie
<b>Cantor</b>	Beth Phillips Anna Zavadil	Kate Roberts Cora Hirner	Beth Phillips	Cora Hirner	Beth Phillips Anna Zavadil
<b>Accompanist</b>	Nicole Zavadil Emily Welch Cale Phillips	Nancy Pitts	Donna Whelan	Kate Roberts	Nicole Zavadil Emily Welch Cale Phillips
<b>Wash Linens</b>	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Ruthie Paper	Annie Wakefield	Annie Wakefield
<b>PASTOR</b>		<b>PASTORAL ASSISTANT</b>		<b>BOOKKEEPER</b>	
Fr. Raphael Assamah 712-246-1718 Shen(office) 712-246-8876 (c) e-mail <a href="mailto:max.assamah@yahoo.com">max.assamah@yahoo.com</a>		Cheryl Phillips 712.382.2668 (h) 712-350-0169 (c) <a href="mailto:cherylphil@gmail.com">cherylphil@gmail.com</a>		Anne Hendrickson Bookkeeper 712.382.2432 (h) 712.350.0368 (c)	

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**Journey Song books**—These books will be in the pews in the near future. If you have not purchased one yet in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone, please do so. Your name and that of the person will be embossed in the hymn book. Please send your request and \$25 to St. Mary's and we will develop a label to be placed inside of the book. The books will remain in the church for everyones use. These are a hard copy book with 3-year cycle readings.















