

Bulletin: 3rd Sunday Ordinary Time Year A 2017

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. New Accounting and Sacramental Software Training: I will be in Anchorage from January 31, 2017 until February 3, 2017. ParishSoft uses a cloud based system that will standardize all the sacramental register software and accounting software around the Archdiocese.
2. First Communion: Bill Ewing will be celebrating his first communion at Mass Sunday January 29, 2017.
3. Baptism: Gabriel Mark Clark will be baptized at Holy Rosary Parish on February 24th, 2017, Friday, at Noon. Normally I do not perform baptisms outside of Mass but the Godparents are from out of town and could not attend a Sunday Mass. I am excited about my second baptism since I have returned to the Saint Paul Mission.
4. RCIA: I will begin working with one adult, George, from Clark's Point this month. He wants to become a Catholic!! I am so excited.
5. Around the Bush: I was able to fly to Clarks Point for Mass, Thursday, January 12, 2017. Catholics and non-Catholics attended. To warm up the Cherokee Warrior, I flew over Portage Creek first before turning back to Clarks.
6. PRAYERS: Please keep our homebound parishioners in your prayers: Joanne, Pat, Paul, Joe, and Merty. Also, keep my friend Matt, owner of VanAir, and his passenger in your prayers. They had to crash land over by pilot point Monday night. They are both recovering.

HOMILY

INTRODUCTION

In the readings this week we find that the early church cut down and gossiped about church leaders. Saint Paul found in Corinth a fractured Church. They were pleading allegiances to different leaders over and against Jesus.

FATIMA STORY

On my six-month sabbatical in 2015 I went to Fatima in Portugal for a week. One weekday morning I was walking by the church of Fatima and they were having a mass outside under an awning. Hundreds of people were seated.

HOMILY AT FATIMA

The homily was about loving our Church leaders, our deacons, priests, bishops, and pope. The priest said, "Being a Catholic is about unity and all of us focused on one goal: To be a beacon of Christ's saving gifts, faith, hope, and love. He said that anything bad said about a certain bishop or a certain priest tears down our church and separates it.

After listening to the priest's homily, here are a few of my reflections:

1. What about all the bad clergy, the child molesters and those who get rich off of the church by stealing. Should we bad mouth them? Answer: Reporting a clergy member and gossiping about a clergy member are two different things. Gossiping only divides our Catholic Church.
2. What good does it do to talk badly about a bishop? Answer: It does NO good. It only helps to fracture our Catholic Church and does no good. Gossip is a sin. Jesus teaches us not to judge others. My father always said, "If you don't have anything good to say about someone, say nothing."
3. Each one of us has the power to unite or divide our church. I can tear down the church or build it up, depending on how I disrespect or respect our Church leaders.
4. Cutting down a church leader cuts down ourselves. Gossiping about this bishop and that bishop divides the Catholic faith and gives power to other faith groups.
5. We are Catholic. That means we believe in unity among all people. Causing disunity by talking badly about a church leader is not Catholic.

CHURCH LEADERS ARE ALL DIFFERENT

None of our church leaders are the same. Some are super conservative or liberal, some are middle of the row, some are great leaders but poor administrators, and

some are outgoing while others are introverted. We will not get along or agree with every church leader, but here is some good advice.

DIVERSITY AND UNITY

God calls all of us because the more diverse we are in our strengths and weaknesses, the stronger we can unite together. If everyone was an accountant, who would teach our children? If everyone was an artist, who would fish?

COMBATTING DIVERSITY

Diversity can lead to a fractured community if there is no common goal. The secret to diversity is finding that common goal that unites us, despite our differences. Saint Paul tells us that our common goal is to: Teach the cross of Jesus, which is love and sacrifice.

WORDS TO LIVE BY FROM SAINT PAUL

Listen to Saint Paul's words from Corinthians, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by the name of Jesus Christ, that all of you be in agreement and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and the same purpose.

CONCLUSION

Love your priest, bishops, and pope. Every bad word we say about a church leader tears down our Catholic church. We cannot dislike a bishop and like the pope. We are all one in Christ with one purpose. That purpose is to preach Christ crucified. Our Gospel tells us to preach Christ crucified means to do as Jesus did in the gospel, teach, preach, and heal the sick (624 Words).

READINGS

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Lectionary: 67

Reading 1 [IS 8:23—9:3](#)

First the Lord degraded the land of Zebulun
and the land of Naphtali;
but in the end he has glorified the seaward road,
the land west of the Jordan,

the District of the Gentiles.

Anguish has taken wing, dispelled is darkness:
for there is no gloom where but now there was distress.
The people who walked in darkness
have seen a great light;
upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom
a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy
and great rejoicing,
as they rejoice before you as at the harvest,
as people make merry when dividing spoils.
For the yoke that burdened them,
the pole on their shoulder,
and the rod of their taskmaster
you have smashed, as on the day of Midian.

Responsorial Psalm PS 27:1, 4, 13-14

R. (1a) The Lord is my light and my salvation.

The LORD is my light and my salvation;
whom should I fear?

The LORD is my life's refuge;
of whom should I be afraid?

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

One thing I ask of the LORD;
this I seek:

To dwell in the house of the LORD
all the days of my life,
That I may gaze on the loveliness of the LORD
and contemplate his temple.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

I believe that I shall see the bounty of the LORD
in the land of the living.

Wait for the LORD with courage;
be stouthearted, and wait for the LORD.

R. The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Reading 2 1 COR 1:10-13, 17

I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose. For it has been reported to me about you, my brothers and sisters, by Chloe's people, that there are rivalries among you. I mean that each of you is saying, "I belong to Paul," or "I belong to Apollos," or "I belong to Cephas," or "I belong to Christ." Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? For Christ did not send me to baptize but to preach the gospel, and not with the wisdom of human eloquence, so that the cross of Christ might not be emptied of its meaning.

Alleluia MT 4:23

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Jesus proclaimed the Gospel of the kingdom and cured every disease among the people.

R. **Alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel MT 4:12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:
*Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death*

light has arisen.

From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,
"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand."

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers,
Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,
casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen.

He said to them,

"Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men."

At once they left their nets and followed him.

He walked along from there and saw two other brothers,
James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets.

He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father
and followed him.

He went around all of Galilee,

teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness among the people.

Or MT 4:12-17

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INTERCESSIONS

Celebrant

God promises to lighten our load and free us from oppression. Let us lift up our prayer, confident that God's reign is near.

Deacon/Lector

Let us pray for our Pope Francis: that he may be courageous in his role of service in the Church, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for our bishop, our priests, deacons, and religious: that they may be good examples of faith and hope to the people they minister to, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for those discerning a vocation: that they may open their minds and hearts to the power of the Holy Spirit, we pray to the Lord.

Let us pray for all who live the single life: that their freedom may be at the service of many people, we pray to the Lord.

Let us remember our loved ones who have died (especially.....) that God may welcome into the light of his face all who have fallen asleep in the hope of the resurrection, we pray to the Lord.

In Silence let us now add our own intentions for our community and for the world.....We pray to the Lord.

Celebrant

Loving Father, we ask you to hear and answer the prayers that we present to you in faith and in the name of your Son Jesus Christ, who is our Lord for ever and ever.