

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 3rd
5 P.M. – Mary Polansky

Sunday, February 4th
7 A.M. – Hubert Smolik
9 A.M. – Mathilda Wick

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for those serving in our military for their protection and safety.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Dt 18:15-20; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

Your Gift to God: January 21st

Sweet Home	\$1,358
Online Giving	\$220
Building Fund	\$40
Koerth	\$722

May God reward your generosity!

Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

Feast of St. Blaise February 3rd

We will have Blessing of Throats after the 5:00 P.M. Mass on the Feast of St. Blaise.

Ash Wednesday – February 14th

Mass Schedule:

7:00 A.M. & 6:30 P.M.

Why I'm Catholic

(and you should be too)

Has anyone ever asked you why you're Catholic? Have you ever wondered yourself? Would you like some good reasons? If so, you might enjoy this six part series presented by Fr. Jacob. Sessions will take place on the **Mondays of Lent from 6:30 -7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Family Center beginning February 19th.**

You are Invited to: "Rediscover Jesus"

An invitation is extended to you to join a small group using the book "Rediscover Jesus" by Matthew Kelly beginning the week of **February 4, 2018 through March 23, 2018**. Small groups are being offered from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. Sunday through Thursday. Please call the Parish Office, 293-3518, if you would like to join a small group for Lent and indicate the best day of the week. If you would like to host or form a small group in *your* home (or for more information), call Ashley Hermes, 293-0700, Sharon Janca, 293-8367 or Joyce Harper, 798-6325.

Annual Contribution Statement

Those who would like a statement of their envelope support contributions should call the parish office, 293-3518.

"The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen."



**Lead Me Retreat
by God's Embrace
March 9-11, 2018**

Registrations are open for a Lead Me Retreat by God's Embrace. Come from wherever you are to experience a deeper walk with Jesus. Retreat will be held March 9-11 at the High Hill Conference Center of God's Embrace located at 2911 FM 2672, Schulenburg, TX. Weekend begins Friday evening and concludes with Sunday Mass. Open to couples and singles. Cost is \$100 for retreat and food. Overnight lodging is not provided, but discounted rate is available at Holiday Inn in Schulenburg. Register online at www.godsembrace.org or call 979-561-8883.

**2018 13-day
Camino de Santiago/
Fatima Pilgrimage!**

Please join other Catholics from the Galveston/Houston/Victoria area to hike the Camino de Santiago along the countryside of Spain. This tour begins in Sarria, the most popular Camino starting point, covering the last 100km of the Camino Francés to converge on Santiago de Compostela with an additional stop in Fatima and Porto. There are spots available for the following 2018 dates: June 4-16 and June 25-July 7. If you are interested in joining this spiritual journey, contact Jane Lakatos at jhlakatos@gmail.com.



**Looking for a Special Way to
Rekindle the Spark in Your Marriage?
How about an enrichment retreat for
marriages??**

Father Gary Janak, along with several married couples, will be sponsoring a special weekend for married couples. *Choosing to L.O.V.E.* is a retreat for couples seeking to enrich their marital commitment, by focusing on what brought their covenant into existence – their marriage vows. It is not a weekend for couples experiencing serious problems in their relationship, but for couples seeking to be faithful to their marriage vows and desiring to strengthen the core of who they are as husband and wife. **The retreat will be held at the Spiritual Renewal Center south of Victoria on February 16-18th.** Space is limited, so register now! The cost for the retreat will be \$275 per couple, which includes lodging, food, and materials. Registration forms are available at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Victory Parish Office in Victoria or by emailing jvincent@olvcathedral.org. *A truly special way to treat your favorite valentine!*



Why there's nothing ordinary about Ordinary Time

Brother Silas Henderson, SDS

This "green" season is stripped down for a purpose.

*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."*

—Mark 1:14-15

On January 9, the day after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, Roman Catholics entered upon the first span of that liturgical season called "Ordinary Time." This "green" season is generally composed of five or six weeks between the end of the Christmas Season and the beginning of Lent and a span of 25 or 26 weeks, lasting from Pentecost through the Solemnity of Christ the King (celebrated on the 34th Sunday of Ordinary Time). The term "ordinary" doesn't mean common or uneventful — though these are not big feast Sundays — but instead refers to the custom of naming the Sundays by ordinal numbers (5th, 16th, 23rd, etc.).

These are the weeks when we take a breath from the more focused seasons of Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter to ponder on the mysteries enshrined in those seasons, especially the Incarnation, the Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Glorification of Jesus in the Ascension, and the sending of the Holy Spirit. And, to be honest, as I grow older, I appreciate the stripped-down quality of Ordinary Time more and more. At the core of this span of time is the realization that the mysteries we celebrate in these other seasons are so rich, so wonder-ful that we need time to make sense of them.

This means that many of us may need to re-think the way we understand this season. After all, when we hear "ordinary" there is a temptation to shrug off these weeks because "there's nothing going on." After all, that's what "ordinary" means, right? Nothing special. Nothing to see here, folks.

The Gospel proclaimed this Sunday proves to us how wrong that attitude is. Here, in the first chapter of Mark's Gospel (which will be proclaimed on most Sunday's during the 2017-2018 liturgical year), we find Jesus just beginning his ministry. We almost get the sense that Jesus is picking up where John the

Baptist leaves off. After all, the passage opens by observing that John has been arrested and the Good News being proclaimed by Jesus sounds remarkably similar to John's clarion call to repentance (cf. Matthew 3:2 and 4:17)

There is, however, a significant difference in the proclamation of Jesus and that of John. John's ministry was oriented toward the One who was to come. Now, we hear Jesus proclaiming that what was promised has been fulfilled: "This is the time of fulfillment." The wait is over. What John and the prophets hoped and longed for has been realized and Jesus himself is the fulfillment of that promise. As Barbara Reid, OP, has observed, "We are urged to recognize that a new time presses upon us, requiring different responses from before. There is nothing ordinary about the invitation to follow Jesus more radically in this urgent time" (from *Abiding Word, Year B*).

This sense of urgency is demonstrated in the way in which Simon, Andrew, and the Sons of Zebedee leave their nets behind—no questions asked—to journey with Jesus. The nets they left behind were a symbol of an old way of life. As we will see in the coming weeks, these new disciples don't leave their families behind (see the Gospel for the 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time), but, as Reid notes, "Jesus becomes part of their family, making Capernaum his home, and the disciples become Jesus' new family, reorienting all relationships."

In the end, this reorientation—another word for conversion—is what is at stake in these days of Ordinary Time. If we take the revelations of Christ's presence among us to heart—and this is the heart of the Christmas and Epiphany celebrations—then we also have to recognize that "ordinariness" is no longer a possibility for us. The time has been fulfilled. This is Extra-ordinary Time!

How is Jesus calling you to radical change in these days of Ordinary Time?

What are the "nets" that you are hesitant to leave behind?

What does discipleship mean to you?

Words of Wisdom: "In St. Mark, the Good News, or gospel, is the person of Jesus himself, to whom women and men must cleave through faith. When a human being comes face to face with the gospel that is Jesus himself, two things are required of him: he must repent and he must follow Christ in an act of faith."—Adrian Nocent, OSB, *The Liturgical Year* (volume 1)

*"If today you hear his voice,
harden not your hearts."*