

*22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time (B-2021)*  
*St. Patrick Church*

All three readings this weekend are summed up in one line found in today's 2nd Reading from the letter of James. "Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves." How many times have you found yourselves shopping and the attendant comes over to you and says: Can I help you? And you respond: NO, I'M JUST LOOKING! Sometimes we shop "just looking" at our dreams. Sometimes we "just look" --never willing to invest our energies or emotions because of the risk of becoming involved. We drift through the events of life - drift through relationships without investing - that is - opening our hearts to the spirit of God or feeling the pulse of Christ's body in the event or in the relationship.

At this Mass, it's as if Moses, St. James, and Jesus are speaking to us ... and they all insist that just HEARING the word of God isn't enough either. If we are stuck, we can't stay stuck as dreamers! We must become DOERS who are willing to take the risk ... and act.

Our biblical ancestors give us plenty of faithful examples for ACTION without a PLAN, but very few examples of PLANS without ACTIONS.

Abraham didn't have a plan ... but, in the twilight of his life, he packed up and left home to start all over again - at God's invitation.

Moses didn't have a clue about where God would lead the Jewish nation ... but he confronted Pharaoh with an ultimatum - free the Israelites from slavery - and he led the people of God to the Promised Land.

Mary didn't have a prominent name ... but she gave up her plans for an ordinary life and said yes to God and gave birth to the Son God. So too did Joseph make the same sacrifice!

John the Baptist didn't have a home ... but he made the wilderness his pulpit. He preached a very unpopular message of repentance and gave up his life for the message!

Peter didn't have courage ... but he became the Rock of the Church and a fearless preacher for Jesus Christ. We would not be sitting here today had it not been for his faith and leadership.

**FAITHFUL CHRISTIANS MUST BE DOING SOMETHING, NOT JUST LOOKING.**

The whole point of faith is that we don't know every detail --- every possible struggle that awaits us or every ramification of our decisions. Faith tells us that WE are not in charge - - God is! We are only asked to show up for work, be available and be willing instruments - to be willing to be used by God! When we are God's active instruments, we are not "just along for the ride".

I used to love listening to the young people in HS wishing for the day when they could just do what they wanted without having to answer to someone!! Yeah, right! Maturing Christians realize that we will never be called to just do what we want. We were created - we are alive to serve God's will and wishes. That's how the Church grows and the Kingdom gets built on earth as it is in heaven.

We're here in Church today to continue a conversation with God to know His will. Prayer kept our Christian ancestors motivated and moving. It was only when the prophets lost contact with God through cowardice or indecision or stubbornness that their witness became bogged down. Let us not let that happen to us!