

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 26, 2020

Dear Parishioners:

Do you like to go deep sea “**fishing**” or even dream of ever doing so? What would you want to catch? I suppose those who enjoy deep sea “**fishing**” dream of catching an enormously large-mouth striped bass or perhaps an award winning size tuna or maybe even a great white shark. That would be awesome! Did you ever think that you could become a “**fisher**” of people? Say, what? Did you ever consider that you could cast your **net** to gather and help people? How so? Let me share a few examples with you. (1) Your teenager is experiencing a moment of angst that is part of growing up: failure with a school assignment or a broken relationship/friendship. By offering your sympathetic, caring listening ear you catch them in your **net** of affirmation and support and you get them through this storm in their life. (2) A person is new at a job, in a school, in a neighborhood or at your parish. You take time to introduce yourself to them and putting them at ease. You offer to show them around and introduce them to others. You may not realize it but you have gathered them in your **net** of kindness and welcoming. You help them begin a new start in their life. (3) Someone you know is on the verge of doing something destructive that could hurt others or themselves. They are angry, hurt, disappointed and ready to lash out. You calmly and gently gather them into your **net** of wisdom and experience and talk them down and advise them on how best to deal with their violable dilemma.

Today's Scriptural readings are intended to stir us into **action**. The prophet Isaiah reassures us that God's light is always being offered to us as it was given to the Jewish people who suffered exile, oppression, fear and shame. We must “**mirror**” God's light and share it with others. St. Paul reminds us that we are **not** to participate in factions and divisions within our Church. St. Matthew (in our Gospel passage) reminds us that the spread of Jesus' kingdom depends upon us as much as it depended upon the early disciples in His time. But how do we do this?

Jesus called His first disciples to follow Him, cast out their nets and become “**fishers of people.**” Through our baptism Jesus calls each one of us to do the same exact thing that His disciples did. We all possess “**nets**” that can catch the falling, rescue the endangered, welcome the stranger and gather in the lost, the lowly, the disenfranchised and the forgotten. Jesus calls each one of us to become “**fishers of people**” by using whatever “**nets**” we possess to continue doing His ministry and mission in our communities. Jesus invites each of us to use our gifts, talents and expertise to “**fish**” for those who are working to build fulfilling and meaningful lives for their families; to dedicate out time and treasure to “**fish**” for those who are struggling to survive; and to “**fish**” for the lost, the forgotten, the hopeless, sharing the Good News of His Gospel with them. Our baptism was our acceptance of Jesus' invitation to take on the work of discipleship in our homes, classrooms, workplaces and the neighborhoods where we live. So let us go out and continue to go “**fishing**”-doing Jesus' ministry and mission. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

## Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 25 4:00 p.m. Deceased members of the  
Mark and Louise Schmersal Family

Sun Jan 26 10:00 a.m. For our parishioners

Sat Feb 1 4:00 p.m. In Thanksgiving

Sun Feb 2 10:00 a.m. Special Intention

## Communion Service

Fri Jan 24 8:00 a.m. St. Mary's

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$4,132.00 Loose \$531.85

Children \$16.80 Total \$4,680.65

76 envelopes returned = 36%



*Thank you for your generosity!  
Thank you also to those who give  
electronically!!*

## Assignments for February 1 & 2, 2020

**Money Counters: Chad Wolford and Barb Galvan**

**4:00 p.m.** – *please sign the sheet in the main entrance*

**Greeters:** Basil Meyer

**Cantor:** Katie Hohenbrink

**Ushers:** Dave and Mary Hoffer

**Lector:** Jenny Roby

**E.M.:** Jennifer Tschuur, Brianna Atkins,

**Servers:** Adelyn Althaus,

### 10:00 a.m.

**Greeters:** John and Sarah Schulte and family

**Cantor:** Choir

**Ushers:** John Schlumbohm and Debbie Bullman

**Lectors:** Caitlyn Couch

**E.M.:** Logan Welch, Lisa Welch, Cathy Hermiller,  
Linda Kinn, Rachel Welch

**Servers:** Carson Meyer, Ty Meyer, Will Schulte

## **Readings for February 2, 2020**

### **The Presentation of the Lord**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Malachi 3:1 – 4

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Hebrews 2:14 – 18

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22 – 40

