

St. Mary's Catholic Church

2nd Ordinary Sunday

January 17, 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

If God called and tried to speak to you, would you listen and answer? Today's Scripture readings are about certain people's particular "calls" to discipleship and ministry. Our readings remind us that God communicates with people in different ways and so we need to be listening for His voice. At times we might even need another person's help in recognizing God's voice. We might need someone to help guide us in the discernment process of interpreting and understanding God's message for us.

Today's first reading from the Book of Samuel is a vivid and dynamic account of the future prophet Samuel's call to ministry and discipleship. In today's passage we hear the story of God calling and speaking to a young Samuel in the middle of the night. While Eli, the priest, and Samuel were resting in the temple area, Samuel twice hears a voice calling him by name. Thinking it is Eli's voice, Samuel runs to him and says: "Here I am." But Eli responds to him: "My son, I did not call you. Go back to sleep." At that time, Samuel did not know God as God had not revealed anything to Samuel. A third time a voice calls Samuel and he runs to Eli thinking that Eli was calling him. Finally, Eli realizes that the voice calling and speaking to Samuel was God's voice so he tells Samuel: "Go to sleep and if you are called again, reply, Speak Lord, for your servant is listening." Again God called Samuel and this time God revealed His presence to him. Samuel responds to this vision saying: "Speak, for your servant is listening." The figure of young Samuel, as he is spoken to and called by God, is in some ways the figure of all of us. Like Samuel, at times we need another person's help in discerning God's voice and message for us. And like young Samuel, we usually take some time and effort in recognizing and realizing that the voice and call we hear is indeed coming from God.

There are times when intermediaries play important roles in leading others to God. Today's Gospel passage describes two such instances of this happening. In both instances, the faith of an associate begins another's journey to discipleship. First, John the Baptist directs two of his own disciples (often identified as Andrew and John) to Jesus. While standing with two of his disciples, John the Baptist makes an assertive move by pointing to Jesus and proclaiming that Jesus is "the Lamb of God." This title may be based on an interpretation of the description of the Suffering Servant found in Isaiah 53:7. After John identifies Jesus, his two disciples turn and begin following Jesus. Once Jesus sees these two disciples following Him, Jesus then asks them the question

Continued...

Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 16	4:00 p.m	Mel Schroeder, Jim Alt + Kathy Sehlhorst
Sun Jan 17	8:00 a.m.	Bernie + Nancy Brodman
Sun Jan 17	10:00 a.m	Charley + Mim Shepler
Sat Jan 23	4:00 p.m	Jim + Ruth Baderstcher
Sun Jan 24	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Jan 24	10:00 a.m	Jan Schulte

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults \$2,845.00 Loose \$998.00
Total \$3,843.00

47 envelopes returned = 24%

Christmas Collection to date: \$9,270.00

Thank you for your generosity!

*Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for January 23 & 24, 2021

**Money Counters: Nick Recker, Barb Galvan
4:00 p.m.**

Cantor: Dave Roby
Ushers: Jeanne and Jerry Wehri
Lector: Jenny Roby
E.M.: Edna Conkling
Servers: Elizabeth Honse

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: Roger Brodman
Lectors: Lisa Welch
E.M.: Betty Gerten
Servers: Carson and Ty Meyer

Readings for January 24, 2021

3rd Ordinary Sunday

1st Reading: Jonah 3:1 – 5, 10

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:29 – 31

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:14 – 20

