

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

3<sup>rd</sup> Ordinary Sunday

January 24, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

**Hope** looks for the good in people instead of harping on the worse. **Hope** opens doors where despair closes them. **Hope** discovers what can be done instead of grumbling about what cannot be done. **Hope** regards difficulties, challenges, and problems as opportunities for personal growth. **Hope** cherishes no illusions but does not yield to cynicism. **Hope** enables us to set big goals for ourselves but isn't frustrated by small or temporary setbacks. **Hope** puts up with modest gains realizing that "the longest journey starts with one step." **Hope** accepts misunderstandings as the price for serving the greater good of others. **Hope** is a good loser because it has the divine assurance of final victory.

Today's Scripture readings point out the necessity of the virtue of **hope** in our lives. Our readings remind us that there is always **hope** that we and others may **repent** and transform our lives. There is also the possibility that God may call us to help others to repent and transform their lives. We may believe that it is highly unlikely that God would ever call "little old me" to do His ministry. However, if we reflect upon today's readings we will see and understand why God chooses and sends "unlikely people" to do His work: (1) the reluctant Jewish prophet Jonah to the pagan Ninevites, (2) a hesitant pharisaical Paul to the Gentiles for whom he initially had contempt for, and (3) simple ordinary fisherman - Simon, Andrew, James, and John to the "ends of the earth" spreading Jesus' Gospel message.

Today's first reading from the book of Jonah is an unusual story of **hope** and **conversion**. Nineveh was Israel's mortal enemy yet God calls Jonah to preach a message of **hope** and **repentance** to its inhabitants. Initially Jonah refuses to listen to God because he believed the Ninevites didn't deserve a chance to **repent** and be saved. However, eventually Jonah reluctantly goes to Nineveh and is surprised that the people actually heed his message. All the people of Nineveh (including the king) put on the garments of penance (wearing sackcloth and ashes) and proclaim a fast. With such a dramatic display of **repentance**, the Ninevites return to the path of life that God's word holds out to them.

The story of Jonah holds out **hope** for all of us. In the story everyone **repents**: Jonah and the king and people of Nineveh. The good news is that no one is tied to a planned fate; nobody is doomed to embrace disaster. By choosing to **repent** we too can transform our lives. **Repentance** is good news because it means that nothing is settled or sealed. Things can change and punishment and disaster can be cancelled. We can begin again over and over.

Today's Gospel presents St. Mark's account of the call of the first disciples. The Gospel passage begins with Jesus' programmatic statement which inaugurates and summarizes His entire mission and ministry: "This is the time of fulfillment."  
*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

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, Jose Perez Family
Sat Jan 30	4:00 p.m.	For our Diocese
Sun Jan 31	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Jan 31	10:00 a.m.	Rosemary Meyer

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,950.00	Loose \$299.00
	Total	\$3,249.00

53 envelopes returned = 27%

**Christmas Collection to date: \$9,570.00**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

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

## Assignments for January 30 & 31, 2021

**Money Counters: Angie Wenger, Deb Goldenetz  
4:00 p.m.**

**Cantor:** Jenny Roby  
**Ushers:** John Parinello and Bob Minto  
**Lector:** Jenny Roby  
**E.M.:** Edna Conkling  
**Servers:** Elizabeth Honse

**8:00 a.m.**

**Cantor:** Courtney McLaughlin  
**Ushers:** *Volunteer*  
**Lector:** *Volunteer*  
**E.M.:** *Volunteer*  
**Server:** *Volunteer*

**10:00 a.m.**

**Cantor:** Courtney McLaughlin  
**Ushers:** John Schlumbohm and Debbie Bullman  
**Lectors:** Jenia Freewalt  
**E.M.:** Wes Lovett  
**Servers:** Lovett Boys

## **Readings for January 31, 2021 4<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Deuteronomy 18:15 – 20  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 7:32 – 35  
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21 – 28

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...The kingdom of God is at hand. **Repent**, and believe in the gospel." Jesus never intended to undertake His mission and ministry alone. He invited others to join Him in mission and ministry. He called Simon, Andrew, James, and John to follow Him. The abruptness with which these men left their familiar lives and all of the relationships and obligations associated with them is a final indication of the radical nature of life in the kingdom of God. These first disciples were "ordinary people" doing their day's ordinary work - fishing. However, once they followed Jesus, placing their **hope** in Him, their lives became "extraordinary."

God entrusts to each of us the ministry of discipleship: extending the love of God to all, regardless of our ordinary circumstances, proclaiming the forgiveness, compassion, justice, and mercy of the Gospel to all, taking on God's gift of reconciliation and forgiveness and sharing this gift with others, and becoming signs of **hope** in our communities. Our God invites all of us to be part of the solution rather than the problem; joining in the mission and ministry begun by Jesus and preaching God's offer of salvation to all. Have a blessed week.

Love & prayers,  
Fr. John

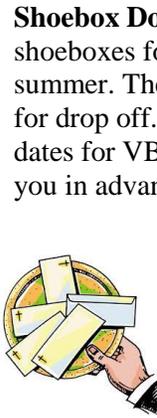


**YouTube Page** We can now live-stream our 10 a.m. Sunday Mass! To watch our Sunday Mass online, please go to our YouTube page at: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK-4hQ9QbgP7sH4EhD9YA> Be sure to click the "Subscribe" button while you are on our page so you don't miss out on any of our uploads!



**Data Base Update:** Please help St. Mary's update our database so we can better connect with our parishioners. There will be cards in each pew for households to fill out, or if you would prefer to do it online, scan the QR code using your phone's camera and open the link, or you can follow the link directly here: <https://forms.gle/ncnakEfxBS7sRNFn7> Thanks for your help in updating our system! We are looking forward to being able to better serve you this way.

**Bible Study** Please let Deb Hohenbrink know by January 31<sup>st</sup> if you are interested in joining the next Bible Study Group, which will start on Monday, February 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. The study will focus on the Eucharist, and books are \$11. If interested, please call or text (567) 204 [redacted]. Thank you!



**Shoebox Donation** We are asking for donations of shoeboxes for our Vacation Bible School activities this summer. There will be a location in the main entrance for drop off. Also, be sure to mark your calendars – the dates for VBS will be July 18 – July 22, 2021. Thank you in advance for your help in making it successful!

**Offertory Envelopes** There are still many envelopes ready to be picked up in the main entrance. Please be **very** attentive of the name on your box! Some numbers have changed this year. If you cannot find yours, please ask the office before taking any. Thank you!



**Online Giving** If you would like to give online, please visit our website and click on "E-Giving" under the "Home" tab. Create your profile and set up the amount and rate at which you'd like to give. If you have questions, please contact the office.

**Engaged Couples Conference** – St. Anthony of Padua, Columbus Grove will be sponsoring their first Engaged Couples Conference on Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, from 8:30 a.m. until Mass at 4:00 p.m. The conference will include talks on topics of interest for those preparing for marriage and discussion by St. Anthony's couples and Fr. David. The day will also include some games, lunch, and great company. The cost of the day is \$35.00. Any interested couple can call the St. Anthony Parish Office at (419) 659 – 2263. Deadline for registration is Monday, March 1<sup>st</sup>.

## P.R.E.P

**K-5:** Class will **not** meet this Wednesday. There is a Teacher In-service starting at 6:30p.m.

**6<sup>th</sup> Grade:** Class will meet February 7 from 11 – 12:45

**Jr High:** Class will meet February 7 from 11 – 12:45



God Squad--High School Youth Group



**God Squad High School Youth** will meet February 7 from 11 – 12:45