

**The Bells of St. Mary's
The Church of the Immaculate Conception**

**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 9, 2020**

From Fr. George Okoro, MSP

Saltiness is one of the basic human tastes. Salt is one of the oldest and most ubiquitous food seasonings, and salting is an important method of food preservation. In ancient times, kingdoms paid their workers (especially their soldiers) in salt. This is actually the origin of the word, salary, from 'sal', salt. States and kingdoms went to war to defend their salt mines or conquer new ones. With regard to human preservation and civilization, salt is more precious than diamond and gold. It gives flavor to food, it was used (and is still being used) to preserve foodstuff; it is also used as a purifying agent. Without salt food is tasteless, foodstuff decays, and materials remain unpurified.

Jesus tells us we are the salt of the earth. In other words, Jesus tells us we give flavor to the earth, preserve the world from decay, and purify the world. Without us, Christians, the world falls into decadence.

Jesus also calls us the light of the world. We are to put our light on the lampstand for the world to see. Not only does Jesus want us to preserve the world from deteriorating, he also wants us to influence the world positively, to shed light on the darkness of the world, to teach the world, to show the world the right direction. The darkness caused by all the violence and sin we see on TV and hear on radio certainly needs the light of Christ. You are the best person to shed light on your neighborhood. Through words and actions, we can let the light of Jesus to shine in the world. We can allow the light of Jesus to shine on those with whom we live, to shine on those with whom we work, and to shine on our parish community. Every parish has many examples of very good people who allow the light of Jesus to shine, people who have put their lamps on the lampstand so that it shines for everyone in the house. As in the Gospel, seeing their good works we praise our Father in heaven. There are many unknown charitable acts which allow the light of Jesus to shine, neighbors helping neighbors, family members helping family members. Churches helping the needy. Even though their good works are so often unknown we give praise to our Father in heaven. Those who shine the light of Christ on others by what they say or do are fulfilling the words of Isaiah in our first reading,

“Share your bread with the hungry, And shelter the homeless poor, Clothe the man you see to be naked
And turn not from your own kin. Then will your light shine like the dawn....”

“If you do away with the yoke, the clenched fist, the wicked word, if you give your bread to the hungry,
and relief to the oppressed, your light will rise in the darkness...” (Isa 58:7-10)

To use the words of Isaiah, our world is hungry and poor, naked, and under a yoke as we can see from all the concern and worry about what is broadcast on TV. For those we meet every day may we be salt to the earth, preserving the world from evil and decay. We could radiate the light of Jesus with which people could experience divine love and begin to walk in the way of salvation and healing. Let us reflect deeply on these words by Jesus: “May your light shine before men so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in Heaven”. Friends, a tasteless Christian is an oxymoron.

Stewardship

*Tithing - God's Plan for Giving on Sunday, 2/02/2020 our Offering was \$ 3, 524.00

.. Today's our second collection is for the Peter's Pence.

.. Next Sunday's second collection is for Church Property Insurance.

* In observance to Presidents Day the Rectory will be closed on Monday February 17, 2020

Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal

2020 Appeal Goal: \$37,500

The Goal Formula & Calculation is based on collections from the 2018 fiscal year. Please note that our assessment remains the same as our 2019 assessment, 2 month (s). Parishes are assigned an assessment between one month and three months to raise in support of the Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal.

The parish goal assessment does not include archdiocesan second collections, holy days, or major holidays in this fund.

Rebate Policy

Any cash received over goal is subject to a 60/40 split , with parishes keeping 60 percent and the Appeal/retaining 40 percent of the cash over goal. Appeal / rebate will be paid twice, first in round in October of the same calendar year and again in March of the following calendar year.

Our Parish Community which is made up of Arabic, Spanish, and English speaking parishioners, has never lacked behind in these annual efforts. May you all experience in this New Year God's blessings in all you do.

YOUTH CORNER

The next meeting for the youth group will be Saturday February 29, 2020 in the Church Hall from 12:00 p.m. at 3:00 p.m.

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: Isaiah 58: 7-10 p. 62

Isaiah prophesied: Share bread with the hungry. Shelter the homeless. Clothe the naked. Do not turn away from you own. “Then your light shall break forth like the dawn.”

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 112: 4-5, 6-7, 8-9 p. 63 The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2: 1-5 p. 63 Paul's teaching did not come from himself but from the convincing power of the Spirit. So the faith he passed on rests: not on human wisdom but on the power of God.”

Gospel: Matthew 5: 13-16 p. 64

Jesus called his disciples the “salt of the earth” and “the light of the world.” He cautioned them not to let the salt lose its flavor and not to put a cover on the light but to let it shine. “Your light must shine before others...and glorify your heavenly Father.”

Religious Education

February: 2020

2/15/20 - Religious Education Classes

2/22/20- No Religious Education Classes

2/22/20 - For children being baptized in the Religion program Baptism will be at 2:30 pm.

2/23/20 - Sunday Confirmation Class 2nd Retreat at Stepinac High School.

Please be at the Rectory at 11:00 am. Please eat lunch at home.

2/29/20 - Religious Education Classes

2/29/20 - Our 2nd grade class will be doing Reconciliation @ 9:45 am. They are to come to the Hall like always.

Parents please have all the children come to Mass as a family and study their PRAYERS.

BIBLE STUDY

“Ignorance of the Scripture is Ignorance of Christ!” - St Jerome, 5th Century

Our Bible studies have started on Monday nights at 7:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

Studies are both in Spanish and in English.

MASS BOOK

If you want to book a Mass for any particular Intention, call the Parish Office .

HELP KEEP OUR CHURCH CLEAN

We are still working on the Guidelines for the use and rental of our Parish Hall.

CONTRIBUTION STATEMENT

To catch up with your Sunday contribution, you can do it now before we start preparing the statements for your Tax purposes.

Mass Intentions for the week of
February 8 to February 16, 2020

Saturday, February 8, 2020:

12:05 pm - Jack Brennan & Family (Living) * Maureen Brennan

5:00 pm - Francis J. Walsh + * Catherine Reid

7:30pm - Sagrado Corazón De Jesus * Lila Peréz

Sunday, February 9, 2020:

7:30 am - For The Parishioners/Por Los Parroquianos

9:00 am - Luz Cortés & Candida Figueroa + * Maria Ramirez

11:00 am - George F. Russ + * Jenny Brown

Monday, February 10, 2020:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Miriam Marzan + *Rosa Tiru

Tuesday February 11, 2020:

8:15 am - Winnie O'Flaherty (Healing)

12:05 pm - Baby Rory Rodden (Healing) * Winnie & John

Wednesday, February 12, 2020:

8:15 am - Winnie O'Flaherty (Healing) * Carmel Mangan

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Thursday, February 13, 2020

8:15am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Carl & Vee Motta + * Son George Motta

7:00 pm - Ester Pimental + * Angela Jáquez

Friday, February 14, 2020:

8:15 am - Available/Disponibile

12:05 pm - Available/Disponibile

Saturday, February 15, 2020:

12:05 pm - Selma Louise Peoples + * Donna Peoples

5:00 pm - Joanne Kunny + * Kunny Family

7:30pm - Sagrado Corazón De Jesus * Lila Pérez

Sunday, February 16, 2020:

7:30 am - Julián Hernandez Gálvez + * Familia Hernandez & Gálvez

9:00 am - Eneroliza Guzman & Ramón De Jesús + * Paula Manzueta

11:00 am - Domingos & Coltidle Rodrigues + * Eduardo & Esther Rodrigues

+Indicates deceased

***Indicates the person (s) who requested the Mass.**