

January 17, 2021

2nd
Sunday
in Ordinary Time

Samuel
answered,
“Speak,
for your
servant is
listening.”

1 Samuel 3:10



Photo: Fr. Lawrence Lew, O.P.

St. Ann's Church

652 Main Street, PO Box 488, North Oxford, MA 01537

Rectory # 508-987-8892

To help us to keep in touch with you please email us at stannsrectory@hotmail.com

Please check out our website for live streamed Masses www.stannschurch.us

Please send prayer requests to StAnnParishPrayerline@hotmail.com

Fr. Michael Lavalley, Pastor

Deacon James Denning (Retired)

Mary Lajoie, Administrative Assistant

Peggy Moynahan, Religious Education Secretary

Dennis O'Brien, Maintenance Director

CONFESSIONS

Confessions will be heard in the parish hall on Saturdays from 3:00 to 3:30 pm or by appointment.

Our new Mass schedule is Saturday, Mass 4:00 pm & Sunday, Mass 10:00 am

(The 4:00 pm Mass is live streamed directly to our website www.stannschurch.us)

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Dear Friends in Christ,

In this Sunday's Gospel, St. John the Baptist points out Jesus as the "Lamb of God." He directs those following him to follow Jesus instead.

When we are lost, it is wise to get directions! Those directions show us how to find our way and return to us a sense of security and peace. With directions, we no longer wander without knowing which way to turn. Rather, the path is made clear to us. We know the right way in which to travel.

When St. John the Baptist pointed out Jesus as the "Lamb" he was giving us the most important faith-directions we could ever want. He was showing us the way home to the Father. Since the Fall of Man at the beginning of Creation, we had been lost, wandering aimlessly in sin and unable to see the way back to God. St. John the Baptist pointed us in the right direction, showing us how we could get back on the right path.

God's love is like a warm and inviting home that waits for us to enter. In these cold months, we appreciate, more than ever, refuge from frigid temperatures and biting winds. God's love is our refuge from the world. We enter into that refuge through the gift of faith.

Like St. John the Baptist, we are called, through our Baptism, to point out Jesus, the Lamb of God, to others who do not know Him or who used to but have lost their way. This "pointing out" of Jesus to others is called evangelization. May our reflection upon this Sunday's Gospel give us new confidence in our call to evangelize and grow in friendship with our Lord.

In Christ, Fr. Michael

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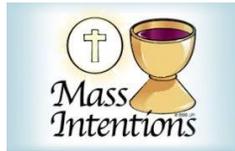
St. Ann's Parish

Drawing: February 6, 2021

Parish Fundraiser 2021

Coupons for the 50/25/25 Club are available after Mass in the sacristy or by contacting the Rectory. The drawing will take place on February 6, 2021 after the 4:00 pm Mass.

Please join us in this parish fundraiser instituted to help the parish through these pandemic times.



- Saturday Jan. 16** 4:00 pm James Kackley, requested by Fr. Michael & David Dumais.
- Sunday, Jan. 17** 10:00 am George Dion, requested by Gerry & Carol Degnan.
- Monday, Jan. 18** 8:30am For the health and well being of St. Ann's Parish & Families requested by Dee Archambault.
- Tuesday, Jan. 19** 8:30 am Ann Beesley, requested by the family.
- Wed., Jan. 20** 8:30 am Ronald Bullard, requested by Fr. Michael.
- Thursday, Jan. 21** 8:30 am All Souls Intentions of Fred & Dianne Haddad.
- Saturday, Jan. 23** 4:00 pm David D'Agostino, requested by Michael & Joanne Marcotte.
- Sunday, Jan. 24** 10:00 am Betty Beesley Watson, requested by the family.

Offertory for the weekend of January 9 & 10

Offertory	\$4,454.00
Online Giving	\$ 795.00
Children's offering	\$ 4.00
Bottles & Cans	\$ 5.00
Maintenance	\$ 139.00
Fuel	\$ 315.00
Catholic Free Press	\$ 302.00
Other	\$ 160.00
Total	\$ 6,174.00

SVDP Online \$ 60.00



Announcements

Our Tuesday evening Rosary group will be meeting weekly from 6-6:30 PM. Join us to pray for the needs of the Church, world, nation and community. All are welcome!

- Office Hours at the Rectory are Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-12.
- Fr. Michael will be available to meet with parishioners in the parish hall at this time.



If you are a parishioner and are in need of assistance, please call #508- 987-8892 and leave a message on the SVDP private line and someone from the SVDP will return your call. Maybe you have lost your job and are behind on your utilities or can't afford to have oil delivered. We can help. We also can point you in the direction of other resources that are available.

SCRIPTURE READINGS 2021

SUNDAY Jan. 17	1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42
MONDAY Jan. 18	Heb 5:1-10/Mk 2:18-22
TUESDAY Jan. 19	Heb 6:10-20/Mk 2:23-28
WEDNESDAY Jan. 20	Heb 7:1-3, 15-17/Mk 3:1-6
THURSDAY Jan. 21	Heb 7:25—8:6/Mk 3:7-12
FRIDAY Jan. 22	Heb 8:6-13/Mk 3:13-19
SATURDAY Jan. 23	Heb 9:2-3, 11-14/Mk 3:20-21
SUNDAY Jan. 24	Jon 3:1-5, 10/1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20

What is Ordinary time?

Ordinary Time, meaning ordered or numbered time, is celebrated in two segments: from the Monday following the Baptism of Our Lord up to Ash Wednesday; and from Pentecost Monday to the First Sunday of Advent. This makes it the largest season of the Liturgical Year.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM

This week: Monday, January 18, 2021. No Classes this week. Parents who have concerns regarding their child's health or well-being during the pandemic and about their child's participation in religious education on-site this year should contact Peggy Moynahan at the religious education office 1-508-987-8892.



Diocese of Worcester
Office of the Bishop
49 Elm Street
Worcester, Massachusetts 01609

January 2021

My dear brothers and sisters in the Lord,

January 22, 2021 marks the 48th anniversary of the tragic *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision which, with its companion case *Doe v. Bolton*, legalized abortion throughout all nine months of pregnancy in every state in the nation. The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* (n. 373), designates Friday, January 22 as a particular day of prayer and penance, called the "Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children". All the faithful in dioceses throughout the United States of America are called to observe this day in a spirit of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for the violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion.

Forty-eight years of legalized abortion in this country has left an incomprehensible aftermath. With over 62 million lives lost, and countless women and men, mothers and fathers, grandparents, siblings, and friends who have been deeply wounded physically, emotionally, and spiritually by this tragedy, we need now more than ever to re-commit ourselves to defending life. I encourage our diocesan parishes and institutions, and all the faithful, to observe reverently the Day of Prayer and Penance on January 22nd both personally and within your communities. Let us unite our hearts and minds through special acts of prayer, fasting, and sacrifice on this day, to uphold the inherent dignity of all human life from conception to natural death.

As we reflect on this unspeakable tragedy, we also recall how the Church for many years has continued to reach out to those who have been so sadly affected by the culture of death, particularly through ministries providing aid to women and families in crisis pregnancies, offering the healing love and mercy of Christ to those wounded by abortion through the ministry of Project Rachel, and by continuing to teach and preach the truth and beauty about love and life that bring authentic freedom and happiness. It is through our fervent prayers accompanied by our charitable works and loving sacrifices that the culture can be transformed.

Let us take this opportunity of the January 22nd Day of Prayer and Penance to renew our resolve to live and proclaim the Gospel of Life. May we respond generously to the challenge Saint Pope John Paul II put forth in *Evangelium vitae*: "A great prayer for life is urgently needed, a prayer which will rise up throughout the world. May an impassioned plea rise to God, the Creator and Lover of life, from the heart of every believer." Our active participation in the shared commitment to the sacredness of human life and the dignity of the human person will with God's grace, truly work toward the building up of a Culture of Life and a Civilization of Love.

With every prayerful best wish, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Most Reverend Robert J. McManus
Bishop of Worcester

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

READING 1 1 SM 3:3B-10, 19

Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the LORD where the ark of God was. The LORD called to Samuel, who answered, "Here I am." Samuel ran to Eli and said, "Here I am. You called me." "I did not call you," Eli said. "Go back to sleep." So he went back to sleep. Again the LORD called Samuel, who rose and went to Eli. "Here I am," he said. "You called me." But Eli answered, "I did not call you, my son. Go back to sleep."

At that time Samuel was not familiar with the LORD, because the LORD had not revealed anything to him as yet. The LORD called Samuel again, for the third time. Getting up and going to Eli, he said, "Here I am. You called me." Then Eli understood that the LORD was calling the youth. So he said to Samuel, "Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening." When Samuel went to sleep in his place, the LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

Samuel grew up, and the LORD was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM....PS 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I have waited, waited for the LORD,
and he stooped toward me and heard my cry.
And he put a new song into my mouth,
a hymn to our God.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

Sacrifice or offering you wished not,
but ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
then said I, "Behold I come."

R. Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

"In the written scroll it is prescribed for me,
to do your will, O my God, is my delight,
and your law is within my heart!"

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

I announced your justice in the vast assembly;
I did not restrain my lips, as you, O LORD, know.

R. Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.

READING 21 COR 6:13C-15A, 17-20

Brothers and sisters: The body is not for immorality, but for the Lord, and the Lord is for the body; God raised the Lord and will also raise us by his power.

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. Avoid immorality. Every other sin a person commits is outside the body, but the immoral person sins against his own body. Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own? For you have been purchased at a price. Therefore glorify God in your body.

ALLELUIAJN 1:41, 17B

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

We have found the Messiah:
Jesus Christ, who brings us truth and grace.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPELJN 1:35-42

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, "Behold, the Lamb of God." The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus. Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, "What are you looking for?" They said to him, "Rabbi" — which translated means Teacher —, "where are you staying?" He said to them, "Come, and you will see." So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. It was about four in the afternoon. Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter, was one of the two who heard John and followed Jesus. He first found his own brother Simon and told him, "We have found the Messiah" — which is translated Christ —. Then he brought him to Jesus. Jesus looked at him and said, "You are Simon the son of John; you will be called Cephas" — which is translated Peter.



**ST. PAUL CENTER
FOR BIBLICAL THEOLOGY**

By Dr. Scott Hahn
Hearing the Call

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (Cycle B)

1 Samuel 3:3-10, 19
Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-10
1 Corinthians 6:13-15, 17-20
John 1:35-42

In the call of Samuel and the first Apostles, today's Readings shed light on our own calling to be followers of Christ.

Notice in the Gospel today that John's disciples are prepared to hear God's call. They are already looking for the Messiah, so they trust in John's word and follow when he points out the Lamb of God walking by.

Samuel is also waiting on the Lord - sleeping near the Ark of the Covenant where God's glory dwells, taking instruction from Eli, the high priest.

Samuel listened to God's word and the Lord was with him. And Samuel, through his word, turned all Israel to the Lord (see 1 Samuel 3:21; 7:2-3). The disciples too, heard and followed - words we hear repeatedly in today's Gospel. They stayed with the Lord and by their testimony brought others to the Lord.

These scenes from salvation history should give us strength to embrace God's will and to follow His call in our lives.

God is constantly calling to each of us - personally, by name (see Isaiah 43:1; John 10:3). He wants us to seek Him in love, to long for His word (see Wisdom 6:11-12). We must desire always, as the apostles did, to stay where the Lord stays, to constantly seek His face (see Psalm 42:2).

For we are not our own, but belong to the Lord, as Paul says in today's Epistle.

We must have ears open to obedience, and write His word within our hearts. We must trust in the Lord's promise - that if we come to Him in faith, He will abide with us (see John 5:14; 14:21-23), and raise us by His power. And we must reflect in our lives the love He has shown us, so that others too may find the Messiah.

As we renew our vows of discipleship in this Eucharist, let us approach the altar singing the new song of today's Psalm: "Behold I come . . . to do your will O God."

A service of the St. Paul Center for Biblical Theology
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