

**Christ Child Catholic Church**  
*Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the  
Challenges of loving service*

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**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
**January 24, 2021**

**O sings a new song to the Lord; sing to the  
Lord, all the earth.**

**In his presence are majesty and splendor,  
strength and honor in his holy place.**

(cf. Psalm 96:1, 6)

**First reading Jonah 3:1-5, 10**  
**Jonah Preaches at Nineveh**

The **second** word Jonah receives from **the Lord** is the same as the first in 1:1, 2. This verse does not imply that those who reject Christ in this life will have a chance in the next (Heb. 9, 27). Rather, it represents what happens in believers' lives when they fail God. God loves His people, and He goes to the greatest of lengths to restore them to a place of usefulness and joy.

Scripture often uses the number 40 for times of testing. The prophetic warning to the Ninevites was conditional and designed to motivate repentance. Though Jonah declared that the Ninevites had **forty days** to turn from their wickedness, the Ninevite people did not wait to test God's mercy: they responded immediately.

To **be covered with sackcloth** was a visible sign of repentance and acknowledgment of sin. The Ninevites **believed God** – they took Him at His word – and **turned from their evil ways**. Once again, the pagans were more responsive to God's words than God's own prophet.

The phrase **God relented** means that He withheld His threatened judgment. His willingness to

“change” in this regard is an aspect of His unchanging nature.

**Teach me your ways, O Lord!**

**Remember that your compassion, O Lord, and  
your love are from of old.**

**In your kindness remember me, because of  
your goodness, O Lord.”**

Psalm 25: 4-5

**Second reading 1 Corinthians 7: 29-31**

**“But this I say, brethren, the time is short...!**

Day-to-day life is but a blink in the eyes of eternity. Christians should live their lives and manage their priorities as though the Son's return could happen at any moment – because it can!

Every believer should live every moment fully for God.

**The Gospel Mark 1: 14-20**

**Jesus Begins His Galilean Ministry**

Jesus did not officially begin His public ministry until the ministry of John the Baptist ended. Jesus announced the kingdom by saying that the “Kairos” (“time” or set duration”) had expired; it was now time for the kingdom to come.

In Mark, the call to discipleship often takes place by the sea, just as Israel faced its own moment of decision by the Red Sea. The **Sea of Galilee** is an inland lake stretching about 13 miles long and seven miles wide. Luke calls it the Lake of Gennesaret, while John calls it the Sea of Tiberius. Mark's terminology was used among Aramaic speakers.

Again, Mark uses the term **immediately** to express how crucial the disciples' decisive response was. Jesus called these fishermen (and calls all believers) to join Him in rescuing perishing men and women from the sea of sin and death.

Jesus gave the same call to **James** and **John** that He gave to Peter and Andrew, and they responded just as **immediately** as the first set of brothers.

**Zebedee** may have been prosperous, for he could afford **hired servants** to assist with his fishing business. This suggests that James and John were giving up a comfortable lifestyle to follow Jesus.

**I am the light of the world, says the Lord;  
whoever follows me will not walk in darkness,  
but will have the light of life!**

**Sacrament of Reconciliation**

By request or appointment

**Sacrament of Baptism and Marriages**

Call the office for an appointment

**Anointing of the Sick**

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment.

**For Pregnancy Support**

**Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900**

**MASS INTENTIONS January 23 - 29**

**Saturday 4:00 p.m. Marie Spooner**

**Sunday 10:00 a.m. + John Del Vecchio**

**Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Chuck McCrery**

**Thursday 9:00 a.m. + John Parker**

**Friday 9:00 a.m. + Chuck McCrery**

**Plate Collection Report for January 16 & 17,  
2021 – total was \$1,484.00**

**Thank you for your generosity!**

**We pray the ROSARY together every  
Saturday at 3:30 PM. Please come to pray for  
the families and our Country.**

**WOMEN'S CLUB/PRAYER GROUP**

We meet 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month,  
**January 27<sup>th</sup> 2021 from 1 to 2:30 pm.** Our focus  
is social and spiritual at the same time.

**It takes courage to go on facing the  
winds - Joan Chittister**

A Benedictine Sister of Erie, Pennsylvania, Joan Chittister is a best-selling author and well-known international lecturer on topics of justice, peace, human rights, women's issues and contemporary spirituality in the church and in society.

It is two weeks since the attack on the Capitol of this democratic republic by a single-minded but diverse group of Trumpists – dissenters, white supremacists, thugs, the delusional and Republicans. That energy, it

appears, arises from a kind of cult following of past-President Donald Trump. It certainly does not come out of either a love for the Constitution or a love for a country already struggling to find its way through a society and a globe in transition. It leaves us riven. It shakes the tectonic plates of our society. It sends us, under the shield of a pandemic, back inside our houses alone, unsure now who really are our friends, our comrades, our “good neighbors,” our leader and whatever of their impulses may be leading us. It is, in fact, a moment of great reassessment that may well affect our sense of self – of character and commitment – for years to come.

Clearly the common question that revolves around us now is a simple one: What next? What is holiness now? Where is wisdom now? What must the average person do, not only to meet our present pressures, but to shape the future, as well? Only one thing is really sure: Whatever we do now will set the precedent for future technologically organized threats. Among the Saying of the Desert Monastics is a piece of spiritual guidance from Amma (Mother) Theodora, the leader of a community of monastic women near Alexandria in the fifth century. When that society was in the midst of turmoil, she gives clear and straight direction: “Let us strive to enter by the narrow gate.” (If you want to really solve this situation, in other words, don't try to take the easy way out of it.) “Just as the trees if they have not stood before the winter's storm cannot bear fruit,” she goes on, “so it is with us; this present age is a storm and it is only through many trials and temptation that we can obtain an inheritance in the kingdom of heaven.”

Don't think for a minute that we can return to some semblance of peace by running away from the big questions, let alone by standing stoically aside while the big lies go on getting bigger...

We must not yield to the temptation to give up, let alone ignore the problem. We must not refuse to bear the trials that democracy and freedom, equality and justice demand...

To become that, however, will take the model of an unnamed wisdom figure from the past who set out to explain the glory of his life to his offspring.

“All I do all day long,” he told them with great humility, “is to stand and scatter my seeds to the wind. It is true that it takes no special ability to scatter seeds but it does take unrelenting courage to go on facing the winds.”

(If you want to read the full Sr. Joan Chittister’s column go

<https://www.ncronline.org/news/where-i-stand/it-takes-courage-go-facing-winds>)