

JANUARY 24, 2021 | THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

ST BRIDGET CATHOLIC CHURCH

PASTOR | VERY REV SIMON PETER ENGURAIT, VG
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THEY ABANDONED THEIR NETS *AND* FOLLOWED JESUS.



~ MARK 1:18

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE

MONDAY-FRIDAY | 8A M

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

SATURDAY | 4 PM

SUNDAY | 8:30 AM
10:30 AM

OFFICE HOURS

MONDAY-FRIDAY | 9 AM TO 4 PM

CONFESSION SCHEDULE

SATURDAY | 3 PM—3:50 PM

SUNDAY | 7:30 AM—8:20 AM

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TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING | Jonah 3:1-5, 10

PSALM | Psalm 25

SECOND READING | 1 Corinthians 7:29-31

GOSPEL | Mark 1:14-20

A NEW DAY DAWNS

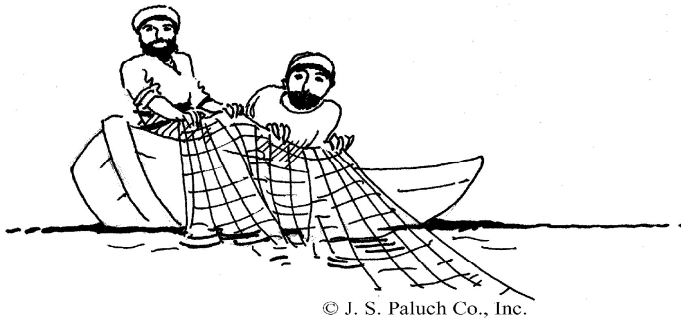
Today we hear how Jonah, sent by God to warn the people, storms through the streets of Nineveh, scaring the citizens out of their wits. And it works! God has a change of heart, seeing “by their actions” how the people turn from evil (Jonah 3:10). A new day dawns.

Next we hear Paul telling the Corinthians, “The world in its present form is passing away” (1 Corinthians 7:31). He calls for a change of heart. Stopping short of telling them to stop carrying out their everyday activities, he urges them—rather mysteriously—to live “as though” they aren’t doing the things they are doing. A new day has dawned.

Finally, Jesus stands on the shore and cries, “The kingdom of God is at hand!” (Mark 1:14). Simon and Andrew abandon their nets—and even their father—and follow him. A new day had dawned.

Everyone has to change when a new day dawns: the Ninevites, the Corinthians, the apostles, even Jesus! Didn’t a new day dawn today for us as well?

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Third Sunday in Ordinary Time January 24, 2021

The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.

— Mark 1:15

FEAST OF FAITH The Penitential Rite

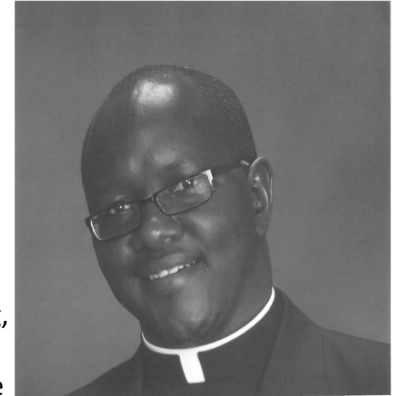
Standing together in the presence of the Lord, we acknowledge our weakness, our sins and faults and failings. But the penitential rite is really less about our sins than it is about God’s mercy. It is not a time for individual confession, like a mini-sacrament of reconciliation. It is, rather, a preparatory rite, preparing us to praise the mercy of Christ as we acknowledge our own weakness. When Simon Peter witnesses the miraculous catch of fish—when he realizes who is in the boat with him—he falls at Jesus’ feet with the words, “Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man” (Luke 5:8). We are like Peter. The more aware of the Lord’s presence we become, the more awareness we also have of our sinfulness, our weakness.

The penitential rite of the Mass takes several forms, from the traditional Confiteor or “I confess” to a litany, spoken or sung by the deacon or cantor with responses by the entire assembly. The penitential rite always includes the words Kyrie, eleison; Christe, eleison—Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. This ancient Greek prayer came to the Roman liturgy from the East, and still echoes in many of the litanies of the Eastern Rite Churches. These words turn our gaze from our own weakness to the gentleness, the kindness, the forgiving love of Christ.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

My Dear People of God,

Welcome to the **Third Sunday of Ordinary Time**. Ordinary Time is a period in the liturgical cycle in which we focus on different aspects of discipleship. Last Sunday, the readings invited us to consider and reflect on God's call to each one of us and our response to that call. Today we are invited to reflect on the first and most important responsibility in responding to God's call, namely; **Repentance**.



The theme of repentance runs throughout the readings this Sunday. In the first reading, we see how the prophet Jonah preached repentance to the pagan city of Nineveh, and was met with an immediate and whole hearted response. In the gospel reading, we see the beginning of the public ministry of Jesus. His ministry began with a message of repentance: *"This is a time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe the Good News."*

The question we should then ask is: **What is repentance?** In the Catechism of the Catholic Church, we read this: ***Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace. This conversion of heart is accompanied by a salutary pain and sadness which the Fathers called animi cruciatus (affliction of spirit) and compunctio cordis (repentance of heart)*** CCC 1431.

Repentance means a radical change in one's outlook on life, and to adjust one's actions accordingly. It means a change of heart, a change of life and, for some, a complete reversal of life. Therefore, it goes without saying that repentance comes with pains of letting go. This is why some people are slow or reluctant to embrace it, and prefer to be left alone. It is important to know that repentance is, first and foremost, founded on the admission that all is not well with one-self. Secondly, repentance is based on the understanding that there is something better. Ultimately, repentance is essentially positive.

To whom is the call of repentance directed to? It is very easy to point fingers at people who are 'public sinners' as the ones who need repentance. However, if we are honest with ourselves, all of us need repentance in one way or another. In fact, it is said that the people who struggle the most with repentance are the '*good people*' because they don't see the need for conversion. We see this in our present day lives as well as in the scriptures.

To answer the call to repentance, one must feel a dissatisfaction with oneself, and have a longing for something better. There must be a sense that something is wrong or that something is missing. The experience of repentance and conversion begins with the realization that we are not who we could and should be. This realization is the first stage in the journey of repentance. A true call to repentance demands openness, honesty, humility and above all, courage – the courage to put an end to self-deception, to confront painful realities, admit one's guilt, ask for forgiveness and resolve to change.

My dear brothers and sisters, the call to repentance is a call for each one of us. We are to repent of all things in our lives that are contrary to God. Repentance and conversion are essential aspects of our journey of faith that prepare us for the Kingdom of God. In fact, the Christian life is a continuous process of repentance and conversion. Until our earthly journey concludes, we must continue on the path of repentance. We should never sit back, relax and say; we have made it, we have arrived. After his big conversion and repentance, St. Paul himself did not think he had 'arrived'. Instead he said: *"Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize of God's heavenly calling in Christ Jesus...."* Phil 3:13-14

Let us embrace the path of ongoing conversion and live a life of continuous repentance.

Thanks and God bless,
Fr Simon Peter

REPENTANCE & CONVERSION: Living 'As If'

It was 30 years ago, January 18, 1982, that I decided to quit smoking. I was 51 years old and my golfing buddies had quit smoking six months before. I was tired of being short of breath and stuffed up all the time. I really felt good about my decision and wondered why I hadn't quit years before! In fact, I felt so good and confident about my decision I decided to announce to the congregation the following Sunday at all the masses. I told everyone I needed their prayers and support. I knew I was just a cigarette away from starting all over again and I needed them to remind me of that.

Quitting smoking is a big decision and it's not easy to do! But I thought of what I really wanted. I wanted freedom. I was slave to smoking. I loved it and hated it at same time. Smoking ran my life. I was not free to quit or even to cut down as long as I continued to smoke. So I began living my life in a new way, living 'as if' I had never smoked before, 'as if' I was always a nonsmoker. I began living each day as if I didn't need to light up every time I had a cup of coffee, or talked on the phone, or drove my car. (All this ties in with today's readings). What does all this have to do with today's readings? In today's gospel Jesus is telling us to behold because the Kingdom of God is at hand. He wants us to repent and believe in the gospel. He is saying live 'as if' Jesus and the Kingdom of God are the most important thing in your life. Live 'as if' nothing else mattered in this world. The entire gospel is a call to live 'as if' Christians.

In our first reading, the pagan Ninevites listened to Jonah the Prophet and they repented. They turned away from sin and accepted the God who set them free from the worship of false gods and they were willing to pay the price! The early Christians heard the good news of the gospel and responded to Jesus' invitation to "*come follow me.*"

We see James and John turn their backs on their fishing boats and their fishing nets (the source of their income) and they even left their father to follow Jesus. They experienced a true conversion! They began living 'as if' nothing else mattered but Jesus Christ and they were ready to pay the price! St Paul turned out to be an 'as if' Christian when he could say, "It is no longer I who live... it is Christ who lives in me."

The decision to stop smoking is not 'a one-time' decision. It is a decision that is made time and time again. In fact I have to make a confession to you. Six months after I announced my nonsmoking decision to the congregation, I began smoking again! I thought I could just smoke one cigarette, but I couldn't, so I had to confess my failure to the parish. Likewise, the decision to follow Jesus is not a one-time decision made at our baptism, but a daily decision which involves struggle, temptation, failure and sin. But we have to be willing to pay the price. Conversion is an ongoing process, which constantly invites us to a deeper, more personal relationship with God. The essence of the Christian faith is this, to keep on repenting, and keep on believing in the good news of the gospel and to keep on following Christ even though we might fail.

But how do we do that? St Paul tells us how in the second reading, he says this, "Make use of the world 'as is' not using it." He is saying that jobs, homes, cars, money, clothes, and even relationships are not the most important things in life, but Jesus Christ is the most important. Once I believe that, then I'm free to listen to Jesus. I am free to allow Him to come into my life and lead me back to the Father.

So each day Jesus is inviting us "to come follow me." In order to respond we have to live 'as if' people. We are a pilgrim people, not attached to this world, but free to follow Jesus wherever He may lead us. So during this New Year, let us pray for each other, and support each other in our daily decisions to follow Christ and to live 'as if' that is the most important thing.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
Tuesday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 3:31-35
Wednesday: Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20
Thursday: Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25
Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41
Sunday: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28



THE SANCTUARY LIGHT IN MEMORY OF

JANUARY 17TH—23RD

Kip Paul Pierce Jr by Mom and Dad
Brandon Filardo by Mom and Dad

JANUARY 24TH—30TH

Rudy Thibodaux by Family
Kip Paul Pierce Jr by Mom and Dad

MASS INTENTIONS

JANUARY 23 4PM: Vilrey "TV" Gagneaux (DA) by Seal and Knight families
JANUARY 24 8:30AM: Loyd Olin Sr (DA) by Olin family. Kip Paul Pierce Jr by Mom and Dad
10:30AM: Laurie Hebert by Mom and Dad
JANUARY 25 8AM: For all the Guardian Angels
JANUARY 26 8AM: For Rita Mae and William M Jeff and descendants
JANUARY 27 8AM: Whitney Landry (DA) by Margaret and Burnelle Landry
JANUARY 28 8AM: For the Coming of the Kingdom of God
JANUARY 29 8AM: For the Seven Archangels who stand before God
JANUARY 30 4PM: Thanksgiving to Miss Betty McShane and family
JANUARY 31 8:30 AM: Billy Gaubert (DA) by Deacon Lloyd and Faie Duplantis and family

PRAYER LINE If you or someone needs to be added to the prayer line, call Nina Richard at 446-1206 or the rectory at 446-6801. In the charity of your prayers, please pray for the sick, elderly, and homebound. Please pray for: Elaine Ables, Susan Arceneaux, Heidi Ardoin, Jacob Aucoin, Jeannie Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Jane Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Rosemary Besson, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Pat Billiot, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Aline Boudreaux, Cody Bourgeois, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Troy & Joan Bourgeois, Wade Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Beau Brassette, Dustin Brassette, Mark Brassette, Emma Del Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Gary & Sheila Cavalier, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Brad Clement, Bryce Comeaux, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Alan Dunbar, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Darin Fonz, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Bryan Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Kendra Guillot, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Eldine LaFleur, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Judie Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Emily LeBoeuf, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Olivieri, Annie Ordoyne, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Penison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, Owen Prejean, Sharon Prejean, Ed Raidl, Kerri Reynolds, Bryce Richard, Ella Richard, Gladys Richard, Lorita Rodrigue, Susan Rodrigue, Cynthia Rogers, Danielle Samanie, Chester Sanchez, Karla Saunier, Kathy Savoie, Earline Simmoneaux, Penny Simmons, Brenda Sonier, Deacon Ryan Stawaizz, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Wendy Thibodaux, Ronnie Thomas, Chris Touns, Joyce Touns, Ricky Turner, Suzanne Usey, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Anna Wooten. **Please notify the office when names can be removed.**

**CELEBRATING OUR PAST
BUILDING OUR FUTURE**

2021

ST BRIDGET'S 110TH ANNIVERSARY!

May this anniversary year bring a fresh start, new aspirations and inspiring success to our parish. Let us walk with grace and achieve greater heights.

**YOUR GIFT MAKES A DIFFERENCE.
WE APPRECIATE YOU!**

JANUARY 17, 2021

Envelopes: \$ 4,111.00

Collections: \$ 311.00

\$ 4,422.00

TO GIVE ONLINE | VISIT:

<https://stbridget-htdiocese.org>



Domestic Church

Married Couples Retreat

Upcoming Retreats

March 18-21, 2021

Lumen Christi Retreat Center
Schriever, LA

Would you and your spouse enjoy a relaxing and revitalizing weekend to spend time together with no distractions?

Do you want to grow in your spiritual life together with your spouse and family?

Check out Domestic Church, a movement influenced by Saint John Paul II for Sacramentally married couples that is growing in our nation and diocese!

Questions?

Kate and David Dawson

ddawson.totustuusmaria@gmail.com or 504-206-8957

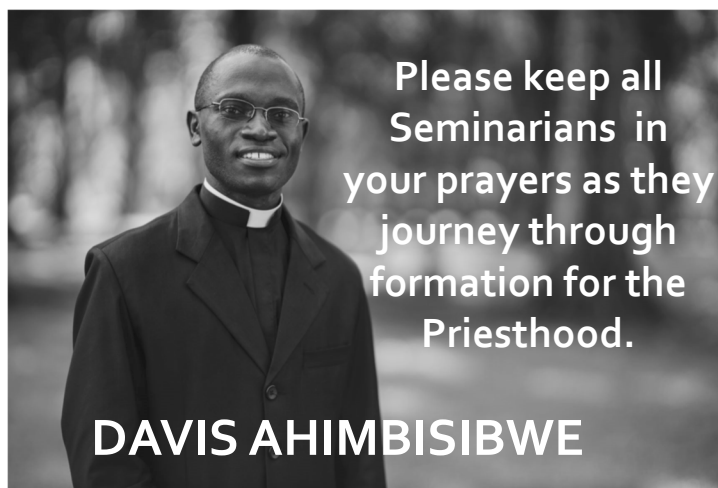
Stephanie and Justin Touns

stephtouns@gmail.com or 225-439-0734

<https://www.cfr-htdiocese.org/domestic-church-retreat>

WWW.DOMESTICCHURCHFAMILIES.COM

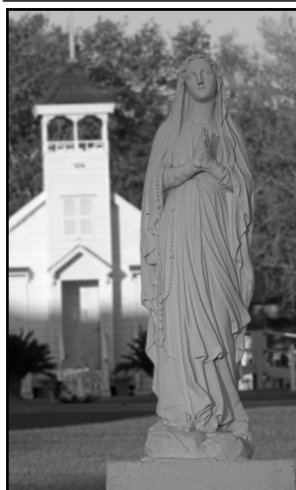
**FOR CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES
CALL 985 446-6801**



Please keep all
Seminarians in
your prayers as they
journey through
formation for the
Priesthood.

DAVIS AHIMBISIBWE

GOD IS GOOD | ALL THE TIME



**ST BRIDGET
ADORATION
CHAPEL
OPEN | 6 AM—8 PM**

**"Come to me, all of you
who are weary and
loaded down with
burdens, and I will give
you rest."**

- Matthew 11:28

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Youth Activities

**YOUTH FORMATION OFFICE: 985-446-1985
CONTACT: BERNADETTE MABILE**



St. Thomas Aquinas

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A STUDENT'S PRAYER

Come, Holy Spirit, Divine Creator, true source of light and fountain of wisdom!

Pour forth your brilliance upon my dense intellect, dissipate the darkness which covers me, that of sin and of ignorance. Grant me a penetrating mind to understand, a retentive memory, method and ease in learning, the lucidity to comprehend, and abundant grace in expressing myself. Guide the beginning of my work, direct its progress, and bring it to successful completion. This I ask through Jesus Christ, true God and true man, living and reigning with You and the Father, forever and ever.

Amen.

-St. Thomas Aquinas



Come after me. Mark 1 : 17



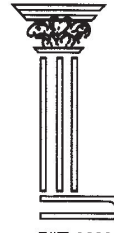
THAT THEY MIGHT HAVE LIFE

This week the Church reminds us of our duty to respect life. We must recognize that God created all life and that life is a precious gift. We are called to protect it and care for it from the moment any life begins until the moment it ends. It is our responsibility, our share in the work of creation, to help all life grow. We must try to provide everything necessary for life to continue to become what God created it to be.

All life on earth begins very small—an egg, a seed, an acorn, a bulb, a baby.

Look at each of these pictures. Think about what each one might grow into and then draw a picture of it. Beside each picture, write one way in which you can care for and help that life to grow.



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catholicmatch® Louisiana  CatholicMatch.com/myLA		 Get this weekly bulletin delivered by email - for FREE! Sign up here: www.jspaluch.com/subscribe Courtesy of J.S. Paluch Company, Inc. 		WHY IS IT A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress and pulls off ADVERTISED pajamas bathes in an ADVERTISED shower shaves with an ADVERTISED razor brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste washes with ADVERTISED soap puts on ADVERTISED clothes drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't pay. Later if business is poor he ADVERTISES it for sale. WHY IS IT?	
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