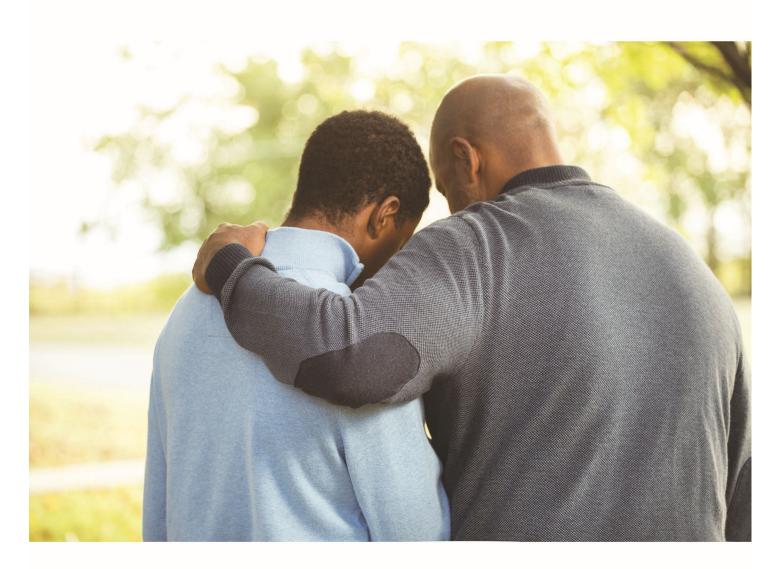
St. Bridget Catholic Church

FEBRUARY 6, 2022

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send? Who will go for us?" "Here I am," I said; "send me!"

~ Isaiah 6:8

My Dear St Bridget Family,

Welcome to the month of February 2022 and to the celebration of the fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time.

Last Sunday, at the 10:30am Mass, we celebrated the Sacrament of Baptism for Beckett
Paul who is now our little brother. As part of the Rite of Baptism, I addressed the
Godparents saying: "Are you ready to help the parents of this child in their duty as
Christian parents." Before the final blessing, I thanked the Godparents for taking on the
important responsibility of representing God in the life of Beckett Paul. I emphasized that
the closer they are to God, the more effective they will be in undertaking this role. At the end of Mass, one of

our parishioners approached me and said that he had been touched by what I said and noted that his own Godchild is currently going through some challenging times and needs God's intervention. He therefore felt compelled to be the instrument of God and yet at the same time, felt unworthy and did not know where to begin.

A close look at all our readings this Sunday reveals one common phenomenon, namely; **the feeling and expression of unworthiness when called by God.** We see this manifested in the experiences of the Prophet Isaiah and the Apostles Peter and Paul. Truly speaking and given the fact that they are humans beings, they were not worthy for God's mission. This is why the Bible tells us that: *There is none as holy as the Lord... (I Samuel. 2:2)*, and that: "all our righteous acts are like filthy rags (Isaiah. 64:6). Of course, any person who grasps this truth is already on the path of salvation. These feelings and expressions of unworthiness were marks of humility on Isaiah who said: "I am a man of unclean lips," on Paul who admitted: "I am the least of the apostles," and on Peter who Pleaded: Leave me, Lord; I am a sinful man."

These three men, who turned out to be great men of God, acknowledged their unworthiness, their weaknesses and their vulnerabilities before God. They acknowledged the fact that they were not worthy to bear the sacred message of God. Somehow, their feelings and humility were indirect means of drawing God's attention to the fact that they needed God's grace and blessing in order to succeed. Of course, God knew all these before choosing and calling them. It did not matter to God whether they were weak or strong. God is simply the one who sanctifies and makes us worthy for His work and mission.

Let us focus a little more on the gospel reading and the call of St Peter, our first Pope. We all know that he was a fisherman, and many Bible Scholars attest that he was a professional fisherman. After a fruitless night of fishing, Jesus asks to use his boat as a platform to address the crowds and Peter obliges. After using the boat, Jesus said to Peter: "Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch." Simon said in reply, "Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing, but at your command I will lower the nets." This request and invitation from Jesus did not make sense at all because fish do not bite in broad day light and furthermore, Peter had tried all night and caught nothing.

It is important to note that this was the early part of the ministry of Jesus. Peter had most certainly heard about Jesus and His mission (*through his brother Andrew*) and possibly even met him. That is why he readily gave Him to use the boat and also addressed Him as 'Master'. Pope St John Paul II reflecting on the call from Jesus to "put out into the deep" noted that this was ultimately a call from the Lord inviting Peter to a deeper relationship with Him.

My dear brothers and sisters, this gospel account is not so much an account of about fishing, but about trust in the Lord. Jesus, whom Peter was already familiar, was saying to him; "How far are you ready to trust me?" It was a turning point in the life of Peter. When they made the huge catch of fish, Peter was so overcome by a sense of the greatness and holiness of Jesus and of his own sinfulness, that he asked Jesus to leave him. Peter had not grasped that Jesus did not come to call the righteous but sinners. All he needed to do was to say "Yes".

My dear brothers and sisters, Jesus today calls each one us to cast into the deep. He is inviting us to a deeper and closer relationship with Him. The more we draw closer to Him, the more we become aware of our unworthiness and sinfulness and above all, the more He cleanses and purifies us, if only we say Yes to Him. Let us therefore resolve today to say "Yes" to the Lord.

Thanks and God bless,

Fr Simon Peter

GOD DOESN'T CALL THE QUALIFIED, HE QUALIFIES THE CALLED

I missed an opportunity to serve the Lord because of my insecurity and pride By Laura Beth Earhart

A week before I started school at the best university in Texas, I attended Foundation Retreat which is a Christ-centered camp for incoming freshman which was the best decision I made at college after deciding on Texas Tech. It's amazing, if you're coming to tech...GO! I promise you won't regret it.

Anyways, I thought about being a counselor there this year, but I didn't think I was qualified enough. I didn't think I was a good enough person or I would make a good leader for small groups. I have literally said before "God doesn't call the qualified, he qualifies the called" but I supposed that didn't apply to me. I forgot about it and then closer to camp, I began to really regret not applying. (But you can bet you're bottom dollar I'll be the first one to this year!) Lots of my friends were there and got to make friends with like-minded individuals and pour into these new college kids lives. The counselors aren't perfect, they're college students just like me who struggle and break down and sin just like me. But they're not leading kids because of anything they do or they've done, its God working through them.

My insecurity led me to being prideful because it was all about me, me, me and not God, God, God. I was focused on what I had done or not done and less focused on what God has done through me and can do through me.

Moses was called by God to deliver the Israelites out of Egypt, but said "Who am I (to bring the Israelites out of Egypt)?" and God told him "I will be with you." (Exodus 3:11-12) Then in chapter 4, God gives Moses 3 signs, and still Moses gave the excuse that he wasn't an eloquent speaker and was "slow of speech" as if God wasn't fully aware, oh we mere humans are funny. God told him He would help him speak, but Moses in his insecurity, said to send someone else. God wasn't calling the best speaker or naturally qualified for this job, but He was ready to qualify and help Moses do the job He called him to do. In chapter 4 verse 13, Moses says "Pardon your servant, Lord. Please send someone else." however a definition of a servant according to biblestudytools.com is "one who is obedient and faithful to God". Moses in his disobedience and reluctantness would hardly be qualified as a servant by this definition in this instance.

God doesn't ask us to do more than we are capable of and is already planning on helping us poor little sheep who would definitely not make it on our own. I pray that we would not be unwilling and disobedient to do what God calls us to do and that we would have a true servant's heart and the confidence to trust in God that He knows what He's doing in His plan for our lives.

TODAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING | (Isaiah 6:1-2a, 3-8)

PSALM | (Psalm 138)

SECOND READING | (1 Corinthians 15:1-11 [3-8, 11])

GOSPEL | (Luke 5:1-11).

THEOPHANIES

Today's readings recount three theophanies, or particular manifestations of God's presence. The prophet Isaiah is caught up in a dramatic scene of heavenly worship, with a royal throne, burning embers, and seraphim singing, "Holy, holy, holy." Isaiah is overwhelmed. In the responsorial psalm, the assembly adds its own worship to that of the seraphim: "In the sight of the angels, I will sing your praises, Lord" (Psalm 138:1). Paul reminds the Corinthians of his own experience of a post-Resurrection appearance of the Lord, making him an apostle, but one "born abnormally" (1 Corinthians 15:8), since he had no acquaintance with the earthly Jesus. The first of those who did know the earthly Jesus were surprised by fishing advice from the teacher who had commandeered Simon's boat, resulting in an extraordinary catch. Although less colorful than those of Isaiah or Paul, this theophany was just as overwhelming.

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PRAYER OF THE WEEK

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care,
that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace,
they may be defended always by your protection.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,

God, for ever and ever.

REFLECTION QUESTION

How can I come to rely more on heavenly grace?

SAINTS AND OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Scouting Sunday

Tuesday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine

Bakhita;

International Day of Prayer and Awareness

against Human Trafficking

Thursday: St. Scholastica

Friday: Our Lady of Lourdes; World Day of the Sick;

National Shut-in Visitation Day

Saturday: Lincoln's Birthday

THIS WEEK'S READINGS

MONDAY | 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13; Ps 132:6-7, 8-10; Mk 6:53-56

TUESDAY | 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30; Ps 84:3-5, 10-11; Mk 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY | 1 Kgs 10:1-10; Ps 37:5-6, 30-31, 39-40; Mk 7:14-23

THURSDAY | 1 Kgs 11:4-13; Ps 106:3-4, 35-37, 40; Mk 7:24-30

FRIDAY | 1 Kgs 11:29-32, 12:19; Ps 81:10-15; Mk 7:31-37

SATURDAY | 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34; Ps 106:6-7ab, 19-22; Mk 8:1-10

SUNDAY | Jer 17:5-8; Ps 138: 1-5, 7-8; 1 Cor 15:12, 16-20; Lk 6:17, 20-26

RECEIVING THE CALL

All three readings today feature what are known as the "call" stories of famous figures of our faith: Isaiah, Paul, and Simon Peter. Each story shares features common to scriptural "call" stories: First, an encounter with God or a messenger of God. Second, there is some sort of resistance, usually framed as a claim of unworthiness. Third, the one who has been called receives an assurance that they are, indeed, fit for the mission. In this way God has continued to call prophets, apostles, saints, and every-day women and men throughout time. It is unlikely that any of us will receive a "call" as dramatic as fiery angels in the temple, a booming voice from heaven striking us down, or sitting side-by-side in a boat with Jesus of Nazareth. This doesn't mean we can't, or won't, or haven't received a call from God. It may even be a "spillover" from somebody else's, the way James and John are called through Jesus giving Simon Peter his mission.

We can likely identify with Simon Peter who, in today's Gospel passage, is really having a bad day at work. When your job is to catch fish, and you're not catching fish, it's a bad day. To top it off, he knows he is in the presence of a holy man in the person of this Jesus of Nazareth, who had just commandeered his boat to do some spontaneous preaching. As good as the preaching may have been, it surely didn't put fish in the nets. So, as he will throughout the gospel, Jesus rectifies the situation. Simon Peter knows he's not merely in the presence of a holy man, but of holiness itself, and declares his sinfulness. Nevertheless, he is commissioned for the work of the Gospel. No matter how bad our day may be going, or how incompetent we think we are, we are receiving the call. Our role in the story? Listen.

Today's Readings: Is 6:1–2a, 3–8; Ps 138:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 7–8; 1 Cor 15:1–11 [3–8, 11]; Lk 5:1–11

Christian Giving

JANUARY 30TH 2022

Envelopes \$ 2,487.00 Collections \$ 643.00 Total \$ 3,130.00

Thank you for your generosity!

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2/6/2022

Welcome All!

WEEKDAY MASSES MONDAY—FRIDAY 8 AM

WEEKEND MASSES

SATURDAY | 4 PM SUNDAY | 8:00 AM 10:30 AM

CONFESSIONS

SATURDAY | 3 PM — 3:50 PM SUNDAY | 7:00 AM — 7:50 AM 10:00 AM — 10:20 AM

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THE SANCTUARY LIGHT | IN MEMORY OF

February 6th—February 12th Billy and Therese Gaubert by Lloyd and Faie Duplantis

MASS INTENTIONS		
February 6th	8:00 AM	Joe Richterberg by Amy Richterberg
		Therese Gaubert (B) by Lloyd and Faie Duplantis
		Marion Olivier by Shirley and Glen LeBoeuf
	10:30 AM	Claire Babin (B) by Andrew and Girls
		Ralph Melancon by Ava Percle
February 9th	8:00 AM	Theresa Pennison Barrios (DA) by Gale and Family
February 12th	4:00 PM	Rudy, Eric and Wendy Thibodaux by Family
		Tristan Ables by Ma Maw and Family
		Pat Olivier by Louis and Delsie Stevens
		Ronnie Thomas, Family of M & M Gaston Breaux, William Larousse (B),
		Emily Orgeron (B), Wesley Callahan (B), and Tori Orgeron (B) by Betty
		Thomas
February 13th	8:00 AM	Patricia Olivier by Glynn Olivier
		Marion Olivier by Family

PRAYER LINE

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, Donnie Aucoin Jr, Jacob Aucoin, Jeannie Aucoin, Sara Aucoin, Elvin Babin, Tommy Badeaux, Chad Barrileaux, Ronnie Bednarz, Chuck Beebe, Gertrude Benoit, Fr. Paul Bergeron, Mitzy Bettridge, Gretchen Bilello, Preston Billiot, Alvin & Gail Blanchard, Dennis Blanchard, Ronald Blanchard, Lynn Bonneval, Aline Boudreaux, Delores Bourgeois, Emile "Jay" Bourgeois, Patricia Bourgeois, Connie Bouterie, Emma Del Broussard, Susan Caillouet, Ronnie Carrier, Gary & Sheila Cavalier, Bessie Chiasson, Randy Chiasson, Jane D. Clement Bryce Comeaux, Huey Cortez Sr., Martha Cortez, Randy Davis, Cary Davis, Jr., Dorothy Didier, Barbara & Ronni Duhon, Linda Ekiss, Avery "Brother" and Sonja Fonseca, Melissa Fontana, Robin Ford, Marie Fournier, Alisa Frederick, Julie Frisella, Dante Galliano, Toby Gambarella, Leigh Ann Gardner, Carrie Gibbens, Belinda Gil, Brandon Gil, George Gil, The Gil Family, Carrie Mae Givens, Austin Gros, Chad Gros, George Gros, Rosebella Gros, Kendra Guillot, Kevin Hardee, Myles Harris, Joy Hebert, Katie Hebert, Jerrell Hebert, Sr., Cheryl Henderson, Jessie Hoffpauir, Samara Holland, Kristen Koppel, Eldine LaFleur, Jackson LaFleur, Mona Lambert, Elmay Landry, Joyce Landry, Craig Landry, Mark Landry, Barbara Nell Lapeyrouse, Allie LeBlanc, Emily LeBoeuf, Evelyn Leger, Tammy Babin Loney, Tim Long, Payton Martin, Keith Matherne, Rick Melancon, Asher Miller, Savannah Miller, Emma Mire, Bethany Moore, Meghan Naquin, Misty Naquin, Shannon Naquin, Eric Oliviery, Annie Ordoyne, Angie Parr, Kara Pellegrin, Sherry Pennison, Lisa Pennison, Kenneth Pitre, James Pierce, Kip Pierce, 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, Mike Stegall, Louis Stevens, Melissa Tardiff, Trish Templet, Pierre & Mary Theriot, Cammie Thibodaux, Earl Thibodaux, Lacey Thibodeaux, Thibodaux Family, Joyce Toups, Ricky Turner, Sara Day Vignes, Allison Walters, and Wanda Wawrose, Freddie Webre, Mike Wiley, Anna Wooten.

Please notify the office when names can be removed.



ood and gracious God, we place ourselves in Your presence today with grateful hearts. Every gift and grace that we receive comes from You. We thank You for the many ways that you have blessed us and will continue to bless us. Even through the many difficulties of this year, You have shown that You are still faithful and that You will continue to provide for our every need.

We ask that you would bless every person in our Diocese in a particular way. We pray that all who find themselves discouraged or disheartened would receive all that they need. We desire to accompany one another as we grow in our knowledge of You and of your love and mercy, and we seek to assist those in need in our local community through our generosity and care. Grant us the grace to be good stewards of the many gifts that You have given us, so that we can use all that we have received for the building up of Your Kingdom.

We know that You are a good Father who loves His children. Deepen our love for You, that we may respond more fully to the promptings if Your Holy Spirit in our hearts. Inspire us to love our neighbor with the same freedom that You have loved us, that the light of Christ may shine brightly in every part of our Diocese. Help us to put our faith and hope more fully in You. We ask all of these things in the name of Your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Let us join together to provide hope to others as St. Bridget Catholic Church launches our 2022 Annual Bishop's Appeal. St. Bridget is committed to supporting Bishop Fabre through the Annual Bishop's Appeal and supporting the key ministries that serve our parishioners directly through the appeal. We ask that you join us in prayer and generosity as we support our 10 Seminarians, our 16 retired priests, St. Bridget's Youth and Adult Formation, and Catholic Education through our Catholic Schools Office. We ask that you prayerfully reflect on God's great generosity, and respond with first a commitment of your prayers and if you are able, please consider a generous giving of our own. We encourage you to watch the Annual Bishop's Appeal Video at home this week on our Diocese social media page and online at

www.htdiocese.org/bishopsappeal.



Please be on the watch for your materials and how you can learn about how your prayers and gifts help us live the Lord's mission through the Annual Bishop's Appeal. If you would like more information about the 2022 Appeal, please contact the Annual Bishop's Appeal Office at 985-850-3122 or email nbernard@htdiocese.org.





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