

St. Richard Parish

11223 Schuetz Road, St. Louis, MO 63146

(314) 432-6224

www.strichardstl.org

“Put out into deep water
and lower your nets for a catch.”

Luke 5:4



Fifth
Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 6, 2022

**The Miraculous Draught
of Fishes**

c. 1520

Attributed to Ugo da Carpi
(Italian, c. 1480–after 1525)
after Raffaello Sanzio, called
Raphael (Italian, 1483–1520)
Art Institute of Chicago

OUR MISSION

*Know Him more clearly,
Love Him more dearly, and
Follow Him more nearly, day by day.*

Parish Contact Information

The office is open Monday-Thursday from 9 a.m.-2 p.m.
You can contact the parish staff at
314-432-6224 or info@strichardstl.org.

Parish Staff

| | |
|-------------------|--|
| Pastor | Rev. Gene Robertson Ext. 1015 grobertson@strichardstl.org |
| Deacon | John Bischof 569-3855 jbischof@strichardstl.org |
| Admin. Assistant | Kathy Reznikov Ext. 1003 info@strichardstl.org |
| Business Manager | Mary Steingrubby Ext. 1002 msteingrubby@strichardstl.org |
| Music Director | Jim Randazzo jrandazzo@strichardstl.org |
| St. Richard Choir | Jim Randazzo |
| Emmaus Choir | Ruth Ferris 991-6854 |

If someone is in danger of death and needs the sacrament,
please call: 314-432-6224 Ext. 1016

Mass Schedule

| | |
|----------|-------------------|
| Weekdays | 8:15 a.m. |
| Saturday | 5 p.m. |
| Sunday | 9 a.m. 11 a.m. |

Sacrament of Reconciliation

| | |
|----------|-------------------------------------|
| Saturday | 3:45-4:30 p.m. Or by appointment |
|----------|-------------------------------------|

BAPTISM

Registered parishioners please contact the Parish Office to schedule a Baptism and necessary preparations. For your first child, a Baptism Preparation Class must be completed. Baptisms are typically held after Sunday 11 a.m. Mass.

MARRIAGE

Couples planning marriage should contact the Parish Office **at least six months** in advance for proper procedures.

INTERESTED IN BEING A CATHOLIC?

The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults, or RCIA, program prepares all who wish to join the Catholic Church. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

HOMEBOUND COMMUNION

Contact the Parish Office to arrange a visit by the Pastor or an Extraordinary Minister of Communion.

Lector Schedule

| | |
|--|---|
| Saturday, February 5 5 p.m. Mary Claire Hachmeister | Saturday, February 12 5 p.m. Sheri Deighton |
| Sunday, February 6 9 a.m. Seth McVicar 11 a.m. Lisa Sword | Sunday, February 13 9 a.m. Dave Peters 11 a.m. Pam McCaskill |
| Saturday, February 19 5 p.m. Gerald Chmielewski | Saturday, February 26 5 p.m. Carol Underriner |
| Sunday, February 20 9 a.m. Kaye Hartweger 11 a.m. John Tucker | Sunday, February 27 9 a.m. Lisa Sword 11 a.m. Paul Wienke |

Beware: A number of scams are floating around the Internet.

"Need a Favor" Spam, Malware or Virus

You may receive an email that looks like it comes from a coworker, friend, a familiar organization, or your pastor/church staff saying something like: "Can you do me a favor?"

These emails are not legitimate. They are being sent by scammers who are impersonating people in your contacts list to gain your trust and exploit you. These kinds of fraudulent emails, known as "phishing", attempt to gain your trust in order to access your personal and/or credit card information, or to get you to purchase gift cards. These types of emails could also contain malware or viruses.

DO NOT open, click any links or reply to such messages. Delete these emails immediately! We at St. Richard will never ask you to do this!

Norton 360 Phishing Invoice Scam

Norton 360 is a trusted name in cyber safety, unfortunately hackers and scammers are using their name to trick customers. Parishes or individuals may receive an email from a scammer posing as Norton for a Norton 360 renewal or subscription. In this recent scam, the email is directing you to call an 843 number to cancel the order. There are a number of red flags that indicate that this is a scam. Your name does not appear anywhere in the invoice and the email was sent from a gmail address not from Norton. In this particular email they have a "Shipping To" name listed, which is obviously not you, trying to prompt you to call the number.

The scammers often count on people being concerned that they are being wrongfully charged a substantial amount for a product they did not order. You are provided a telephone number to call to cancel the subscription or dispute the bill. If you call the number, you will be prompted to provide personal information that will be used to make you a victim of identity theft. If you ever receive a phony invoice such as this and you think that it may possibly be true, don't click on links or call phone numbers provided in the email. We recommend you contact the company directly at a phone number or website that you know is legitimate so you can confirm that the invoice was a phishing scam.



PARISH CALENDAR

Sunday February 6

9 a.m. Mass
11 a.m. Mass

Monday, February 7

8:15 a.m. Mass
9 a.m. Faith Share - Sacred Heart Room
7 p.m. Rosary - Church

Tuesday, February 8

8:15 a.m. Mass - followed by
Our Mother of Perpetual Help devotions
6:30 p.m. Men's Ministry - St. Joseph Room
7 p.m. Lectio - Marian Room

Wednesday, February 9

8:15 a.m. Mass
2 p.m. Discussion Group - Marian Room
7 p.m. Emmaus Rehearsal - Church

Thursday, February 10

8:15 a.m. Mass

Friday, February 11

8:15 a.m. Mass

Saturday, February 12

5 p.m. Mass

BULLETIN DEADLINES

All items must be submitted no later than 2 p.m. on Tuesday (*unless otherwise noted*) for publication the following weekend.

February 13 bulletin **Deadline 2/8**
February 20 bulletin **Deadline 2/15**

The Little Ones

Jim Burrows



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Scripture from the New American Standard Bible © (NASB), © by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

ST. RICHARD ACTIVITIES & ORGANIZATIONS

| | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------|
| Liturgy Committee | Doris Smith | 872-7823 |
| Finance Committee | Rich Lewis | 567-6860 |
| Athletic Association | Bill Davidson | 732-3814 |
| Helping Hands | Kathy Peters | 569-0678 |
| Art & Environment | Kathy Engelbrecht | 808-0307 |
| Ladies' Club | Carolyn Sousa | 489-2358 |
| Leisure Club | Sharon Cusick | 482-3317 |
| Men's Club | Eric Vehige | 640-0786 |
| Prayer Chain | Mimi Minner | 650-7893 |
| SVDP Helpline | 289-6101 | #2292 |

Stewardship Reflection - 5th Sunday of 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

Every day, in little ways and in big ways, God asks, "Whom shall I send?" Whether it is someone to take on a new ministry, to give a friendly smile to a stranger or to say a word of encouragement to a friend, God constantly provides opportunities to help someone in need. God is always talking to us; we just need to pay more attention. When you hear God calling have the courage to walk through the door and say "Here I am, Lord."

Dynamic Catholic, *Alive!* – Reconciliation

Today we hear how Isaiah saw the Lord seated on a "high and lofty throne." Isaiah was concerned that his sinfulness made him unworthy for this honor, but the Lord took care of his "wickedness" by sending a Seraphim to put a hot ember on Isaiah's lips! In the Gospel we hear how Peter was also concerned about his own unworthiness and sinfulness and Jesus brushed Peter's concerns away by appointing him to be a "fisher of men." Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the institution of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, we don't need hot embers to have our sins forgiven. We are absolved of our sins through Reconciliation. With our busy schedules it is easy to procrastinate and we may put it off for all kinds of reasons. If it has been awhile since you have celebrated the Sacrament of Reconciliation consider adding that to your "To Do" list, because God's mercy is endless.

Weekly Offering



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Offertory for 1/30/2022

| | |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| General Offering | \$ 4,029.00 |
| Capital Improvement | 55.00 |
| Repairs & Maintenance | 115.00 |
| St. Vincent de Paul | 43.00 |
| Other Collections | 270.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 4,512.00 |
| Online Giving (average est.) | \$ 4,200.00 |



ALL THINGS NEW

STEADFAST IN FAITH
FORWARD IN HOPE



Learn more about the
**Strategic Pastoral
Planning Initiative**
allthingsnew.archstl.org



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

We have officially launched All Things New, the strategic pastoral planning process for the Archdiocese of St. Louis. All Things New will evaluate the effectiveness of the Church in St. Louis in proclaiming the Gospel and will identify opportunities for improvement and renewal within all parishes, schools, curia offices and agencies. Here is some information from Fr. Chris Martin, Vicar for Strategic Planning.

Why a pastoral planning initiative?

Well, why does the church exist? The Church exists to make disciples, not to run hospitals, schools or homeless shelters. The latter are all good fruits that flow from discipleship, but if we are not effective in making disciples, the institutions become hollow.

We all know that the Church of today is not the same that it was 50, 100 or 150+ years ago, yet we are still functioning in many ways out of the same mode of evangelization. We have inherited a great treasure of Catholic institutions from previous generations, but as the Catholic population and society have shifted over the past several decades, those institutions are no longer as effective or sustainable as they once were.

We are closer now to 2050 than to 1950. We need to ask ourselves what our parishes, ministries and institutions need to look like in order to effectively share the faith in a way that is suitable and sustainable for our children and for generations to come.

What does All Things New entail?

We will be utilizing three guiding principles for All Things New; unceasing prayer, a unified vision for evangelization, and intentional stewardship.

***Unceasing Prayer**

Prayer resources for individuals and parishes, as well as local and diocesan events, will help us to renew our own personal call to holiness and evangelization and will ask the Holy Spirit's guidance as we discern what is best for our local Church moving forward.

***Unified Vision for Evangelization**

Evangelization is the mission Jesus gives to us. To share the Good News is the responsibility of all of us. Yet only 0.6% of Catholics say that they feel equipped to share their story and invite others into relationship with Jesus and the Church. We need to renew and rediscover this call in our lives.

***Intentional Stewardship**

The Church is made of living stones, not just those of brick and mortar. We cannot allow our attachment to infrastructure impede our primary mission of building up disciples and saving souls. Empty churches don't save anyone.

How will this initiative be accomplished?

Your prayers and input are needed. Opportunities for prayer, to provide feedback, and to attend listening sessions will be occurring all across the archdiocese. We invite you to stay informed and sign up for regular updates on the All Things New website at AllThingsNew.archstl.org. Sign up today!

Steadfast in Faith, Forward in Hope.

God Bless,
Rev. Chris Martin



ALL THINGS NEW

STEADFAST IN FAITH • FORWARD IN HOPE

Heavenly Father, you sent your Son Jesus as the first Evangelizer of the Good News.

Send forth the power of the Holy Spirit upon the Church of St. Louis and grant us the gift of true discernment so we may do your will in all things.

Help us be totally free to follow wherever you lead us, totally generous to be good stewards of your many gifts, and totally passionate to suffer all in order to be more closely united to you.

Commissioned by your Son and empowered by the Spirit to "Go and Make Disciples of all Nations," strengthen us by the power of your grace as we bring the Good News of Salvation into the lives of all those we touch, so that individual hearts and all of society may be converted to you and all things might be made new.

Inspired by the apostolic zeal of previous generations, as we begin the process of planning for the future, may our only desire be to do all things for the greater glory and honor of your name and for the good of your people in the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



ARCHDIOCESE OF ST. LOUIS

We will be saying this prayer in support of the All Things New strategic pastoral planning process for the next year or so. You will find All Things New Prayer Cards in the pews for use before, during or after Mass.

Know Him More Clearly

DAILY MASS READINGS

Sunday, February 6

Is 6:1-2a, 3-8; Ps 138:1-5, 7-8;
1 Cor 15:1-11 [3-8, 11]; Lk 5:1-11

Monday, February 7

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

Tuesday, February 8

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

Wednesday, February 9

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

Thursday, February 10

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

Friday, February 11

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

Saturday, February 12

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

Are You Doing Your Part?

It is important for everyone to do their part to keep our faith family and community as healthy as possible. Therefore, while you are inside any St. Richard parish buildings, whether you are vaccinated or not, you **must** wear a mask (over your nose and mouth). Please remind any family or guests joining you at St. Richard to wear their masks. Masks are available for anyone forgets one.

Thank you for helping keep everyone healthy and safe!

Grief Support Program Available

"Blessed are those who mourn for they will be comforted."

~ Matthew 5:4

The loss of a loved one can be painful, emotional, lonely and confusing. If you, or someone you know, is in need of consolation after losing a loved one, you are invited to a Grief Support Program, *Seasons of Hope*, at Incarnate Word Parish.

The group will meet at Incarnate Word 13416 Olive Boulevard in Chesterfield, on six Tuesday evenings (February 22 - March 29) from 7-9 p.m. in the Parish School.

For more information or to register, contact:

Deacon Ron Reuther

(636-675-1364 or deaconronreuther@yahoo.com)

Young Catholic Professionals St. Louis has leadership opportunities in your city! YCP's mission is Working in Witness for Christ and offers young adults (age 20-39) the opportunity to develop professional and leadership skills while serving in a dynamic apostolate.

Email info@stlouis.org to request an application today or visit our website

www.youngcatholicprofessionals.org to learn more!



Our publishing company updates e-bulletins each week and sends them out to subscribers. To subscribe, visit ebulletin.jspaluch.com enter the zip code 63146, choose St. Richard, give them your email address and you are subscribed to receive the weekly bulletin in your inbox. You can, also, find a copy of the weekly bulletin on our parish website: strichardstl.org.

VOLUNTEER IN THE NEW YEAR...

Looking to volunteer? The Society of St. Vincent De Paul offers a variety of opportunities for young adults, including:

- Home visitation of the needy through 140 area chapters, to provide food, rent, and utility assistance
- Join one of four young adult chapters, in Souldard, South Grand, Maplewood and Florissant
- Work at 10 area thrift stores
- Clerical and office work

For details, please contact Bryan Kirchoff at bryankirchoff@att.net or (314) 640-4366.

IF YOU VOLUNTEER AT ST. RICHARD, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO REGISTER ON THE ARCHDIOCESE'S NEW SAFE ENVIRONMENT COMPLIANCE SITE.

The Archdiocese of St. Louis has developed a new system for safe environment compliance called **Prevent and Protect STL**. Please register at: www.preventandprotectstl.org (passcode: **stlprotect**)

Contact Mary at msteingrubby@strichardstl.org with any questions. Thank you.

Love Him More Dearly

Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer 5th Week of Ordinary Time



On the Fifth Sunday of Ordinary Time, we reflect on Luke's Gospel's marvelous call of Peter. Jesus preaches from Peter's boat, invites Peter out into "deeper water" and shows him his power to catch fish. When Peter recoils in fear, Jesus calls him to gather people with Jesus' same power.

"Do not be afraid," Jesus tells him, and says that from now on he will be catching people instead of fish.

Thursday is the Memorial of Saint Scholastica, virgin.

The first reading this week is from the First Book of Kings continues the story of David's family as his son the wise Solomon is now King of Israel. He is honored and praised for his wisdom, but falls away from the Lord and worships false gods, and for that the Lord tells him he will lose the Kingdom of Israel.

During the week, the fast-paced Gospel of Mark continues with stories of Jesus healing, teaching and challenging the authorities. As Jesus and his disciples step on shore, people scurry from all over to bring those in need of healing. The Pharisees, watching for Jesus to break rules, criticize his followers for not washing their hands. Jesus responds, "You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." Jesus teaches his followers, "Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." Jesus goes to Tyre and tries to slip into a house unnoticed, but a foreign woman finds him and Jesus, impressed by her faith, heals her daughter. He heals a man of his deafness and speech impediment and like so many others he healed, he orders him not to tell anyone. "But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it." Moved with pity, Jesus feeds the huge crowds who had followed him for three days. "They ate and were satisfied. They picked up the fragments left over – seven baskets. There were about four thousand people."

On the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time we hear Luke's account of the Beatitudes and warnings. "Blessed are you who are poor, for the kingdom of God is yours." As Jesus proclaims the blessings he offers us and the warnings he gives us. It all is about accepting discipleship now versus choosing our own way now.

Daily Prayer This Week

"My heart is moved with pity," Jesus says in one of the gospels this week, and we see his compassion in the healing stories in this week's gospels. This seems like the perfect time for us to ask Jesus for the healing we need in our lives.

We can take one gospel - for example the Monday gospel - and pray with it as if we were in the story. Jesus and his disciples cross the sea and as soon as they land, people rush to bring those who need healing to him. We can imagine ourselves seeing Jesus, the crowds gathering, the jostle of people bringing their sick on mats. People yelling for Jesus' attention.

Then we can imagine a moment where Jesus steps away from the throng and takes us aside. With loving eyes he looks at us and asks us, "Where do you need healing? Where can I be with you?"

It is there, in that powerful moment, that we can speak to Jesus as we would a friend. We can search our hearts and ask Jesus for the healing he already knows we need:

- ◆ "Help me, Jesus, with my impatience with my family. Let me not nag at those I love so much. Heal my lack of compassion for them."
- ◆ "Touch my heart, Jesus. Give me the selfless love I need in my marriage not to 'keep score.' Only with your help can I continue to be loving, even when it feels like some days I am the only one carrying my marriage."
- ◆ "Jesus, I become afraid of failing and I feel like one of those people lying on a mat, waiting for you to touch my life. Yet when I sense your healing presence coming close, I roll away from you so you don't see me. Give me the courage I need to ask for your healing and to get up and answer your call for me to serve."

When we pray with a gospel, we can carry an image from that prayer with us all day long. As we get out of bed in the morning, cook meals or go about our day, we can be aware of Jesus standing with us, ready to heal us, if only we would ask.

What is it that needs healing in me this week? Where will I allow Jesus to touch my life?

*Taken from 'Weekly Guide for Daily Prayer' on the Creighton University's Online Ministries website: <http://www.creighton.edu/CollaborativeMinistry/online.html>
Used with permission.*



Adoration - Community - Theology – Service

Have you been on a retreat before?
 If you have, remember how rejuvenating it was?
 If you haven't, don't you owe it to yourself to experience the benefits of a retreat?

Give yourself the gift of a retreat this Lent.

Join the St. Monica/St. Richard with Our Lady of the Pillar Woman's ACTS Retreat from
Thursday evening March 10 -Sunday early afternoon March 13.

This is a time for you to renew and grow in your faith.

Brochures are available in the vestibule with more information and a registration form.
 You can, also, call/text Ann Woods at 314/341-2967 for more information or to register!

O Prince of Peace, humbly we ask your protection for all the men and women in service of our country.

CAPT David Butz,
 Fort Bliss, TX
 Grandson-in-law of
 Fran Waelterman

SGT Thomas M. Euson,
 Camp LeJeune, NC
 Great Nephew of
 Neil & Paulette Byrne

1LT Anna Ferris RN,
 Fort Bliss, TX
 Granddaughter of
 Fran Waelterman

CAPT John Andrew Floro,
 Scott AFB, IL
 Nephew of Marcella &
 Deacon Del Leonardo

L CPL John M. Geringer,
 Camp Pendleton
 Grandson of Ceil Geringer

LT COL Christopher Higgins,
 Goodfellow AFB
 Nephew of Robert & Paula
 Brose

CW3 Erick Knarzer,
 Afghanistan
 Nephew of Jean O'Keefe

SGT Matthew Mansfield,
 Joint Base, Andrews, MD
 Son of John & Jane Mansfield

SGT Joe Meadows,
 Fort Bragg, NC

SGT Sam Meadows,
 Fort Bragg, NC
 Sons of Doug & Karen
 Meadows

2LT Brittany Menzenwerth,
 Reserve Center,
 Grand Prairie, TX
 Daughter of Laura
 Menzenwerth

2LT Michael Mulligan, Jr.,
 South Korea
 Nephew of Kathy Soucy

CAPT Matthew Primm,
 AFB Kuwait
 Grandson-in-law of
 Marie Everhardt

SSgt Eric Reuther,
 Ft. Gordon, GA
 Son of Deacon
 Ron & Cathy Reuther

LT COL Mark Scherrer,
 Travis AFB, CA
 Son of Marilyn Scherrer

TSgt Kendall Washington,
 Hurlburt Field, FL
 Son-in-Law of
 Laura Menzenwerth

1LT Emily Weismiller,
 Ft. Bragg, NC
 Daughter of Roger &
 Michele Weismiller

SSgt Tyler White,
 Eglin AFB, FL
 Nephew of Mark &
 Lynn Pfothenhauer

SRA Randi White,
 Eglin AFB, FL
 Niece of Mark &
 Lynn Pfothenhauer

Please remember in your prayers:

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Anna Angert | Dorothy Meyer |
| Moe Berk | Cheli Ohms Mosby |
| Jane Concannon | Jennifer Mosier |
| Pat Corkery | Patrick Nickens |
| Patricia Daher | Jean O'Keefe |
| Joe Deluca | Betty Penn |
| Al & Betty Eise | Jonathon Penne |
| Patricia Filko | Florence Rahubka |
| Marie Graves | Thomas Reuther |
| Jerry Huelsman | Bernard Ruthmeyer |
| Toni Jodlowski | Denise Sahrman |
| Russ Kasper | Jerry Saxe |
| Patricia Kelley | Gloria Smythe |
| Cathryn Kinamore | Coletta Thomson |
| John Klein | Eileen Thomson |
| Jane Kreher | Mike Underriner |
| John McCormick | Phyllis Walsh |

To add or remove yourself from this listing,
 please contact the **Parish Office** at **432-6224**.
 If you would like to add or remove a name from the
 Prayer Chain, please contact **Mimi Minner** at **650-7893**.

Mass Intentions

| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|-----------------------|
| Sat., February 5 | 5 p.m. | Fr. David Hudgins+ |
| Sun., February 6 | 9 a.m. | People of St. Richard |
| | 11 a.m. | Timothy O'Grady+ |
| Mon., February 7 | 8:15 a.m. | Florence King+ |
| Tues., February 8 | 8:15 a.m. | Clara McCarty+ |
| Wed., February 9 | 8:15 a.m. | Hugo Wilke+ |
| Thurs., February 10 | 8:15 a.m. | Frida D'Souza |
| Fri., February 11 | 8:15 a.m. | Purgatorial Society |

+ Indicates an individual is deceased

Annual Statements Notice

The annual statements were mailed
 the week of January 16.

If you do not receive yours,
 please contact the Parish Office
 (314-432-6224 or info@strichardstl.org).

Follow Him More Nearly

Fifth
Sunday in
Ordinary
Time

February 6, 2022

“Put out into deep water
and lower your nets for a catch.”

Luke 5:4



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The Miraculous Draught of Fishes

c. 1520

Attributed to Ugo da Carpi
(Italian, c. 1480–after 1525)
after Raffaello Sanzio, called
Raphael (Italian, 1483–1520)
Art Institute of Chicago

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 everyday 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.

SINFUL MAN, HOLY MAN

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.

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Franklin Park, IL 60131-2158 1 800 621-5197. With Ecclesiastical Approbation.

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

