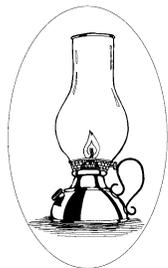


February 5, 2023
Ordinary Time
Fifth Sunday

“You Are the Light of the World”



We expect to hear Jesus say of himself, “I am the light of the world,” as he does in the Gospel according to John (8:12). Jesus is the light and for several weeks we have heard scripture characterize Jesus in this way.

This Sunday, however, as we hear another passage from the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus charges his disciples to be salt and light of the world. That commitment to be salt and light translates into the activities described in today’s first reading. Share your bread with the hungry; shelter the oppressed and the homeless; clothe the naked; remove from your midst false accusation and malicious speech and do not turn your back on your own.

Today’s Bulletin is sponsored
in memory of Trent Roznovsky by his family.



Flowers for the Altar this weekend are donated by Deana & Kenneth Bohuslav in thanksgiving to God on the occasion of their 40th Wedding Anniversary.

MASS INTENTIONS

Friday, February 10
8:00 a.m. Grace Schoenvogel
Saturday, February 11
6:30 p.m. Tivo Mejia
Sunday, February 12
6:30 a.m. Spec. Intention – For The Sick
9:30 a.m. Larry Seifert

PREPARING FOR SUNDAY LITURGY

Next weekend is *The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 119
Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10
Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37



The Sanctuary Light will be lit this week in memory of Larry Seifert.

**Annual Altar Society
Noodle Soup Dinner & Raffle
February 26, 2023**

The Altar Society members need your help.

The Altar Society is an integral part of our church community. The majority of our members are retired ladies of the parish. Many work behind the scenes in preparation for the liturgy, taking care of the altar linens, altar flowers ... as well as purchasing the hosts, wine and other items needed for celebrating Mass – things that we all take for granted. In addition, the Altar Society helps support the youth of our parish and other parish needs/activities. While we are honored to have this opportunity to minister to the parish, we still need funds to cover the costs associated with this ministry.

Our Annual Noodle Soup Dinner and Raffle is our only fundraiser. The majority of our members’ contact base is limited to family and friends. We are therefore appealing to the rest of the St. Joseph’s parishioners to help us by selling raffle tickets; reach out to your personal contacts, co-workers and or business associates

Raffle Tickets: 6 for \$10
50 Prizes Given Away

Top two prizes are \$1,000 each

Over \$4,000 in total prizes, mainly gift cards/gift certificates. *To help the Altar Society sell Raffle Tickets contact Bernice Ellinghausen at 361.596.7721. Raffle Tickets also available at the Parish Office.*

We appreciate your help.

Gussie Machalec, Altar Society President
Bernice Ellinghausen, Altar Society Raffle Chairperson

THE WEEK AHEAD

Mon. – Gold Star Club Meeting, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC
Wed. – Christian Mothers Prayers, Family Room
– Champions Club Meeting, 3:30-5:30 p.m., YMC
Thurs. – KC Bingo, 7:30 p.m., Moulton Oaks Hall
Fri. – Parish Office Closed on Fridays. For any Pastoral needs call the Parish Office at any time.

Remember the sick in your prayers this week, especially Carol Smith Brosh and Irene Meisetschleager.

Lenten Fish Fry: Plans are being finalized for the annual Lenten Fish Fry. To help, fill out the form below and drop it in the collection basket or mail slot.

✂ -----
Name: _____

Telephone: _____

- Yes, I can bake a cake(s) on the following day(s):
___ Feb. 22 ___ Feb. 24 ___ Mar. 3 ___ Mar. 10
___ Mar. 17 ___ Mar. 24 ___ Mar. 31
 My Monetary Donation: \$ _____

REFLECTION

**Isaiah 58:7-10 Psalm 112 1 Corinthians 2:1-5
Matthew 5:13-16**

Salt And Light For Others

The instructions given to the disciples in last Sunday's gospel continue in today's. Jesus employs two metaphors to characterize the essence of discipleship: salt and light.

The importance of salt cannot be questioned by anyone. It is not only essential for life itself, it is also valuable for preserving, seasoning and purifying food and for fertilizing. In a sense, salt loses its separate identity when it salts something else. Its value resides in the way it acts on another substance. This is what Jesus is alluding to when he says that salt is worthless if it loses its taste. It can no longer act on anything. This is an important characteristic to remember when we apply this metaphor to the disciples. Their worth is gauged according to the influence they have on one another.

The second metaphor is light. The disciples are told that they are the light of the world. Two distinct images are used to exemplify the role played by light. These are a city on a mountain and a lamp on a stand in a house. The first calls to mind the countryside at night. There are no lights on the road to dissipate the darkness. Then on a hill in the distance one can see the lights of a city. The surrounding darkness only accentuates the light from the city, which serves as a beacon leading the traveler to a place of safety. The second image is a lamp intended to provide light in a house. The flame is uncovered and held high, so its rays light up the entire room.

True disciples are the light that shines in the darkness of ignorance of faithlessness. They enlighten others not by words but by their manner of living. It is this manner of living that declares to the world that the reign of God has indeed been established in their midst.

How are you salt and light for others?

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Feb. 5 – Congratulations Deana & Kenneth Bohuslav
on your 40th Wedding Anniversary
– Odilia & Everado Fernandez
Feb. 6 – Tina & Eugene Trejo
Feb. 8 – Rosalyn & Alvin Kocian
Feb. 10 – LaSae & Eric Rother

YOUTH MINISTRY NEWS

Today – C.C.D.
Feb. 6 – K-2nd Grade After School Program
Feb. 8 – 3rd-6th Grade After School Program; 9th-11th C.C.D.
Next Sunday – * 7th Grade Youth Mass; C.C.D.
* All K-11th Grade C.C.D. Students are reminded to be in their classrooms by 9:15 a.m. so they can process into Church with their teacher and classmates.

PRAHA PANCAKE SUNDAY TODAY

TODAY'S LITURGICAL READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10

Isaiah prophesied: Share bread with the hungry. Shelter the homeless. Clothe the naked. Do not turn away from your own. "Then your light shall break forth like the dawn."

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 112

Response: The just man is a light in darkness to the upright.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

Paul's teaching did not come from himself but from the convincing power of the Spirit. So the faith he passed on rests "not on human wisdom but on the power of God."

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus called his disciples the "salt of the earth" and "the light of the world." He cautioned them not to let the salt lose its flavor and not to put a cover on the light but to let it shine. "Your light must shine before others... and glorify your heavenly Father."

LOOKING AHEAD ASH WEDNESDAY – LENT

Ash Wednesday is a couple of weeks away – February 22. It will be here before you know it. As we prepare for the upcoming season of Lent, when we turn our minds and hearts back to the God of mercy, we reflect on why we celebrate Lent.



Every year in the middle of a week in late winter we go to Church and have the ashes smudged upon our clean foreheads. Every year the churches are filled to overflowing with the regulars and the not-so-regulars. Why do we still undergo this ritual of ashes that is centuries old, as old as the prophets who pleaded with God's people to turn back from sin and toward God? We go because we need to go, because at least once a year we need to be reminded that our deepest hunger is the hunger for God.

Lent is a gift that the Church in her wisdom celebrates every year. It is a gift of time, a gift of contemplation, and a gift of quiet so that we may listen to the Word, who whispers to us to come back to the God who created us. It encourages us to turn away from the noise and over-indulged appetites so that we may understand the hunger that can be filled—with the grace of God—only by prayer, fasting, and giving to the poor.

– Cullen from Loyola Press: *Finding God in Ash Wednesday*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Feb. 5 – Diana Moeller Kloesel, Patricia Lombardo,
Mary Ann Rother, Georgia Wagner
Feb. 6 – Jamie Anderle
Feb. 7 – Kamryn Darilek, Judy Barta
Feb. 8 – Tom Lawrence, Madison Moeller, Robert Pilat,
Marilyn Strmiska
Feb. 9 – Brittania Darilek, Phillip Geissen, Michael Raab,
Taylor Self
Feb. 10 – Patrick Cinadr, Georgia Holub, Kyle Koncaba,
Daniel Kresta