

3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time - Jan 24, 2021

Sunday's Readings

First Reading

Jonah 3:1-5,10

God spared the people of Nineveh because they heeded the message God sent through Jonah.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 25:4-5,6-7,8-9

The Lord teaches us his ways.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:29-31

Paul warns the Corinthians that they must act differently because the world in its present form is passing away.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:14-20

Jesus calls the fishermen, Simon and Andrew, James and John, to be his disciples.

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel describes how Jesus called his first disciples and the immediacy with which these men dropped everything to follow him. We can only begin to imagine what Jesus' presence must have been like to invoke such a response in these first disciples. While a few of us might relate to such a radical conversion, many of us would find such a sudden change in ourselves or in another person unsettling. There are few things for which we would willingly drop everything. And yet this is the immediacy with which these first disciples responded to Jesus. These first disciples were willing to drop everything in order to make Jesus and the Kingdom of God the most important things in their lives.

How did you feel about having to change your plans in each of these situations? How do we feel when someone asks us to drop everything to help him or her? For many of us, it is not easy to drop everything to respond to the needs of another.

How might our life change if we understood the Kingdom of God to be as important and immediate in our lives? Ask God to help you experience the Kingdom of God with such immediacy.

Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.

Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

<https://www.loyolapress.com>

Liturgical Calendar

Jan 25- Conversion of St. Paul

Jan 26- St. Timothy & Titus

Jan 27- St. Angela Merici

Jan 28- St. Thomas Aquinas

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Joseph, Patron Saint of the Dying

Faithful Joseph, with the fulfillment of the Lord's promise, you peacefully leave this world in Jesus and Mary's hands. Your faith transforms death into the sowing of life; thus, God considers you to be a just man. Your heart overflows in the presence of the Lord. With your hands outstretched to God, your night is filled with prayers. Surrounded by the living, you embark upon the great march to the promise Land.

Open our eyes that we may glimpse the road to Life that lies beyond death. May nothing, not denial, anger, nor depression, separate us from the Love of God. Strengthen our faith in God who always finds ways of preserving us in his friendship. Be beside us to hold our hands when we take our first steps toward the Eternal Kingdom. Amen.

<https://www.saint-joseph.org>

To view Daily Mass and Sunday Mass Services please visit: www.archtoronto.org or www.hamiltondiocese.com or dailytvmass.com

Spiritual Communion:

My Jesus, I believe that You are in the Blessed Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I long for you in my soul. since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You have already come, I embrace You and unite myself entirely to You; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

Special announcement from Fr. Joe

Hello my dear parishioners,

I hope you are all doing well. I remember all of you and your families in my daily prayers and the Holy Mass.

Please keep me in your prayers as well.

In these challenging times you may wish to offer a Mass for a special intention. For those of you who wish to offer a Mass for a special intention such as a Mass for your beloved dead or for any intention in this time of pandemic, please call 519 323 1054 Ext. 7 and leave a message or send an email with your request to stmarypastor@wightman.ca I am very happy to do any Mass request for you while I am doing my daily Mass. May God bless you and keep you safe.

Fr. Joe (Pastor)

Know that the greatest service that a person can offer to God is to help convert souls.
-St. Rose of Lima

You will accomplish more by kind words and a courteous manner than by anger or sharp rebuke, which should never be used except in necessity.
- St. Angela Merici

Do not try please everybody. Try to please God, the angels, and the saints - they are your public.
-St. John Mary Vianney

CORONAVIRUS PRAYER

Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our **fear**, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our **pride**, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, **healer of all**, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace. **Jesus Christ, heal us.**

The more I follow him without fear, the more he will protect me. The more I do his will, the more he will prove his love for me.
- St. Marguerite Bourgeoys

The one who has faith, no explanation is necessary. To one without faith, no explanation is possible.
- St. Thomas Aquinas
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