



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 22, 2023

“COME AFTER ME, AND I WILL MAKE YOU FISHERS OF MEN.”

Matthew 4:19

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Today's Gospel from Matthew sketches the initial movements of Jesus' public ministry. The arrest of John the Baptist signals that Jesus' time has come. His first actions include the call of his first disciples, and proclaiming the reign, or kingdom, of heaven. Jesus first gathers a community, which he can gradually form to become living evidence of this coming reign. His preaching, which begins just a few verses later in the Sermon on the Mount, is not just essential guidance for each individual life, but for life within a community of his followers.

It can be very challenging for most of us, who live in a highly individualized society, to hear this story of being summoned into community, committed to learning together and from each other. Our parishes and Christian communities need to be safe places so that we can open our hearts to each other, learning the Way of Jesus, and sharing this Way with others.

UNITED IN CHRIST

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul addresses many pastoral issues, and begins with questions of division over leader-

ship. We hear of rival camps of loyalty for various leaders and preachers: Paul himself, Apollo, or Cephas. Paul fears that the community has lost the center of the faith, that is, Christ himself. The community is to be united in mind and purpose under Christ.

Many today experience in a very similar division. Some Christians will in effect say: "I belong to . . . (fill in the name of your favorite preacher, theologian, or leader), and those who don't are not to be trusted." Diversity of thought and background are essential to the vitality of Christian community, but here Paul describes a division that hides the message of Christ. It hides Christ's call to charity and forbearance toward all. This division hides the truth that we are all at the foot of the cross, a cross that reveals our own brokenness and our need for mercy.

Today's Readings: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
Deacon John Erdag

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday:
45 minutes before Mass

Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six
(6) months prior to the

Holy Spirit Catholic Church

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Welcome Visitors!

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us
and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home."
Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years,
you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Fr. Francis O'Dowd. Melinda Hlavenka. Fr. Mark Kusmirek. Verna Sloan. Mike Stephens. Suzanne DiCarlo. Kathy Bowers. John & Nitja McGrane. Pat Schmeier. Ethan Cowles. Cayla Goodson. Ruth & David Barber. Msgr. Ron Diegel. Richard & Dottie Schuetz. Tom Fabitz. Jodie Woods. Doris Hoffman. Yolanda Boyd. Wanda & George Duke. Jean Hamilton. Kathleen Fleming. Jaye Anderson. Greg Mooney. Karee Haney. Charlie Parker. Jacob Stephens. Elise Sugg. Avery Boultinghouse. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially Patsy Strifler (Sister of Wanda Duke) 123 CR 3525, Hawkins, TX 75765.

PLEASE NOTIFY THE CHURCH OFFICE TO REMOVE OR ADD A NAME TO THE PRAYERS OF THE SICK.

Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community: Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike Stephens). 1LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jemigan). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Staff Sergeant, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Lt. Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Eamma). Petty Officer 2 Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 1/21 Anges Laudt+ (M/M Laudt)
Sun. 1/22 Jerry & Vicki Hauck (Ellis Family)
Mon. 1/23 Special 9:00am Mass for Unborn Children
Tues. 1/24 Jane Davis & Family (Elaine March & Rosemary Seltzer)
Wed. 1/25 First Responders
Thurs. 1/26 Tyler Diocese Bishop, Priests & Deacons
Fri. 1/27 Prayers for the K of C Fish Fry to be successful
Sat. 1/28 Anges Laudt+ (M/M Laudt)

PARISH SUPPORT

Attendance: 1/14 Sat: 65 1/15 Sun: 82

Expenditure Changes Coming in a New Format

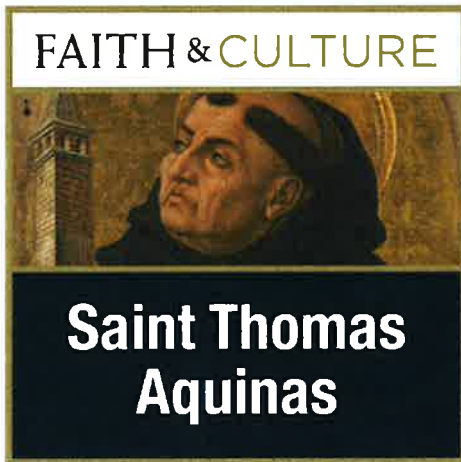
Offertory	\$ 3,532.00
Building & Maintenance Fund	\$ 450.00

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

Cenacle of Life: Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed., from 3:00 — 4:00pm.** Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. Questions call Vicki Hauck 817-637-9382



THE CATHOLIC FAITH.
ON DEMAND.



Saint Thomas Aquinas with Randall Smith

The Angelic Doctor is often associated with his Summa Theologica among his other great works. Join Drs Christopher Blum and Randall B. Smith as they explore some of the lesser known works of St. Thomas Aquinas.

Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
Visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

Scan the QR code to download the FORMED app to your phone.



January Second Collections:

7th & 8th: "Building & Maintenance Fund."
 21st & 22nd: "Church in Latin America."
 28th & 29th: "Diocese of Tyler Catholic Schools."

Pope's Intention for January:



For educators. We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fellowship rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope
Tuesday: St. Francis de Sales
Wednesday: The Conversion of St. Paul; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
Thursday: Ss. Timothy and Titus
Friday: St. Angela Merici
Saturday: St. Thomas Aquinas

Anyone involved in any Ministry at our Parish, you will need to be compliant on your ethics and integrity training with VIRTUS. Please notify our contact person to get signed up contact person Justin Mahaffey 903-714-3649 or justin.mahaffey@icloud.com

Legion of Mary— Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. **There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749.** If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

JANUARY 2023 NEWS & EVENTS

Sat., Jan. 21st: 5:00pm Mass.

Sun., Jan. 22th: 9:00am Mass. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass.

Mon., Jan. 23rd: **Special 9:00am Mass in Reparation for the Overturning of Roe v. Wade, Legal Protection of Unborn Children.**

Tues., Jan. 24th: 9:00am Mass followed by Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm. **Casino Fundraising Meeting** 6:00pm in St. Jude's Hall. Everyone is welcome to attend this meeting!

Wed., Jan. 25th—Fri., Jan. 27th: 9:00am Mass.

Fri., Jan. 27th: **K of C Fish Fry— St. Jude's Hall.** Dinner served with all the trimmings from 5:00-6:30pm. Tickets at the door. Adults \$ 15.00 (Children under 5 yrs free) Carry-out available.

Sat., Jan. 28th: 5:00pm Mass. 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend begins.

Sun., Jan. 29th: 9:00am Mass. 2023 Bishop's Annual Appeal Commitment Weekend begins. **No** coffee/donuts after Mass.

Mon., Jan. 30th: Fr. Mike out of town through Friday, Feb. 3rd.

Tues., Jan. 31st: **No** Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm. Adoration 6:00—8:00pm.

FEBRUARY NEWS & EVENTS

Sat., Feb. 4th: 9:00am Mass of Reparation to the Immaculate Heart & Patriotic Rosary. 5:00pm Mass.

Sun., Feb. 5th: **K of C Breakfast following 9:00am Mass.** Adults \$ 5.00. Children through senior year in high school is free.

GAME DAY in St. Jude's Hall

Date: Fri., Feb. 17, 2023 Time: 10:00am—2:00pm

Tickets: \$ 15.00 per person includes stuffed baked potato, dessert and beverage

Door prizes & 50/50 drawing

Set up your own group or join another

"Gentlemen are welcome"

Call Carol Szczepanski 903-638-9974 for tickets & info

HLVF SPAGHETTI FUNDRAISER

The Holly Lake Volunteer Fire Dept is having a spaghetti dinner/lunch on **Sunday, Jan. 29th from 11:00am—6:00pm to raise funds for a 15 yr veteran firefighter on the Holly Lake Fire Department. All monies will go directly to the firefighter.** He was diagnosed with Stage 4 Colon Cancer. This may be a result of using firefighting foam which has been verified as causing various types of cancer. \$ 10.00 (spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert). They will deliver anywhere within the fire district. Call 903-769-2659 at least 1 day in advance for home delivery.

The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all parishioners for the food and monetary donations. The large plastic bin is located in the hallway by Bridget's office. We can always use can soups and can vegetables.

We're still feeding 15 families on a weekly basis.

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email Bryan Todd at 972-672-4218 or toddtalk@hotmail.com Thank you, to our Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team!

If you are still wanting to join our **weekly Bible Study**, now is a great time to do so. We meet every Wednesday (except the first one of the month) at 10:30 am. For more info please contact Randy at 972-971-4067. God bless you.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass-February 11, 2023

All couples in the Diocese of Tyler who are celebrating their 5th, 15th, 25th, 35th, 40th, or 50th+ anniversaries in the year 2023 are cordially invited to attend the Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass celebrated by Bishop Joseph Strickland on Saturday, February 11, 2023. The Mass will begin at 2:00 pm at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception and there will be a reception at the Cathedral Center following the Mass. For more information and to RSVP online please visit www.stphilipinstitute.org/events or contact the St. Philip Institute at 903-630-5055 Ext. 117. Deadline to register is February 3rd.

FROM THE DESK OF DEACON JOHN

Please take a look at our new Parish Prayer Wall for Active Military members. It's located in the aisle across from Deacon John's office. In line with our new parish holiness initiative, this is intended for our parish community to pray for our loved ones who have so selflessly placed themselves in harm's way to protect us and our country. So please stop by frequently and pray for these brave soldiers. Also, if you have a loved one in active duty, please e-mail a picture and their name and rank to Deacon John at jerdag@hotmail.com to be put up on the wall. If you don't do email, please leave a picture in Deacon John's folder on Bridget's door.

Are you interested in being a reader at Mass? It's such a blessed service to God to help proclaim His word during the Mass celebration. If you would like to join this liturgical ministry, please contact Deacon John who will be scheduling a half day spiritual retreat and training on March 18th for all current and new Readers in preparation for the Holy Week readings.

“Light In the World”

By Deacon John

“the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light. On those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen” – Matthew 4:16

In today’s readings we see the same words twice; in the first reading from Isaiah, and also in Matthew’s Gospel: *“the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light. On those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.”* Isaiah was prophesizing what would happen, Matthew was stating what actually happened.

The Messiah would settle in Capernaum, a city in the northern part of Galilee where He would start His ministry. The people there who sat in darkness, would be the first to experience His light. And that’s exactly what happened to Peter, and Andrew, and James, and John. They were simple fishermen, men who were not necessarily following the laws of God. Yet they experienced Jesus, and immediately dropped everything on the spot to follow Him.

They were called by Jesus to a mission; they would become fishers of men. The Good News of the Lord was to people of Galilee, and all throughout the world, that the light had arisen. They would no longer sit in darkness. Christ has come.

Think about walking in darkness. Basically, to be walking in darkness not only means that you are living in scandalous sins, but it also means your life is not regulated by the knowledge of God. The Catechism of the Catholic Church states: “If we say we have fellowship with him while we walk in darkness, we lie and do not live according to the truth.”

We know so many people who are walking in darkness. Those who reject the light of faith in their lives. That’s pretty common. How many of us have relatives or friends who aren’t connected to Church anymore? For whatever reason they’ve decided they don’t want the fullness of Christ in their lives. Or they’ll say things like, “I’m spiritual, just not religious”, which basically means they want to pick and choose what they believe. To pretty much make up their own version of God. Usually that’s the easy way for themselves or desires that make them feel good. They don’t even see that they’re walking in darkness.

And there are some other types of walking in darkness. Those people who suffer from addictions to alcohol, drugs, power or material things. Or those people who prefer to remain in darkness when it comes to the myriad of other immoral aspects of today’s society.

Like Peter and Andrew and James and John, we have been called by Christ to be fishers of men. To catch souls for Christ. We must continue to bring the light of His truth to those who suffer darkness. We can love them. We can let them know that they are not alone in the world. We can fight for them. We can pray with them. For those who choose darkness, we can teach them and awaken them to the light. We can help them.

To quote Pope Francis, “The Lord continues to walk the streets of our daily life, calling us to join Him, to work with Him towards God’s reign in the Galilee of our times.”

In today’s second reading, St Paul wrote to the Corinthians, “I urge you, brothers and sisters, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that all of you agree in what you say, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be united in the same mind and in the same purpose.”

That purpose is to serve like Christ. To seek out the lost. To save and serve the least. To bring everyone out of the darkness and into His light.

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 18 January 2023 Edition
(Submission date: 13 January 2023) Submitted by Randy Munoz

A History of Lent and Lenten Practices <https://www.catholicsteward.com/a-history-of-lent-and-lenten-practices/>

When we approach the start of Lent on Ash Wednesday, we look toward a season of preparation, sacrifice and penance, culminating in Holy Week and the joyous celebrations of Easter. And while the liturgical season of Lent offers us a time for solemn reflection, it is also widely welcomed each year as an opportunity to be drawn closer to our faith.

But just how did this penitential season come to be? And how did the reverent hallmarks of Lent – such as fasting and prayer – become so deeply engrained in our observance of this season?

To understand the Lenten season, it is important to understand the word “Lent” itself, which is derived from 2 Anglo-Saxon terms: lencten, meaning “spring,” and lenctentid, which is the term for both “springtide” and “March” – of course, Lent often falls throughout most of the month of March, and during the transition into/renewal of the spring season. In Latin, the corresponding term for “Lent,” quadragesima, refers to its dating from the 40th day before Easter.

This brings us to another hallmark of the Lenten season – its length of 40 days. However, Lent was not originally observed for this length of time. During the first 3 centuries of the Christian era, Easter preparations consisted of 3 days of fasting and prayer. In some places, this preparation was extended into the entire week prior to Easter – which we now observe as Holy Week. There is also some evidence that, in Rome, Easter preparation was as long as 3 weeks.

In its early form, Lent was an intense period of spiritual and liturgical preparation for catechumens who were to be baptized at Easter. At the time, many members of the community observed this period of preparation alongside the catechumens. But, as time passed and more people were baptized as infants, the connection between catechumens and Lenten preparation gave way to a focus on the themes of repentance and fasting during Lent for all Christians. It was not until the fourth century – upon the legalization of Christianity – that Lent developed into its current length of 40 days, which mirrored the length of Jesus’ fast and temptation in the desert, as chronicled in Luke 4:1-13.

Yet, interestingly, the Lenten observations of fasting and prayer did not always take place for 40 consecutive days. For instance, in Jerusalem, fasting was observed for 40 days, Monday through Friday, but not on Saturday or Sunday – thus, Lent lasted for a total of 8 weeks. In Rome and the West, fasting took place for 6 weeks, Monday through Saturday, with Lent being observed over six weeks. The practice of fasting for 6 days over the course of 6 weeks eventually prevailed, with Ash Wednesday being instituted to account for 40 fasting days prior to Easter. And as the length of Lenten observance developed over time, so did the observance of fasting itself. At first, some areas of the Church abstained from all meat and animal products, while others made exceptions for certain foods, like fish. And while a person was to only have one meal a day, a smaller repast would be allowed so that manual laborers could maintain their strength throughout the day. Eventually, eating meat was allowed throughout the week, save for Ash Wednesday and on Fridays.

In fact, two of our most common and beloved Lenten and Easter traditions – the Shrove Tuesday meal and Easter eggs – developed from these early Lenten observations. Initially, abstinence from dairy products was observed during Lent, with dispensations given if pious works had taken place. Eventually, this particular rule of abstinence was relaxed entirely. Today, pre-Lenten pancake breakfasts, Easter egg decoration and egg hunts remain as enjoyable seasonal opportunities for fellowship and fun within our parish families!



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