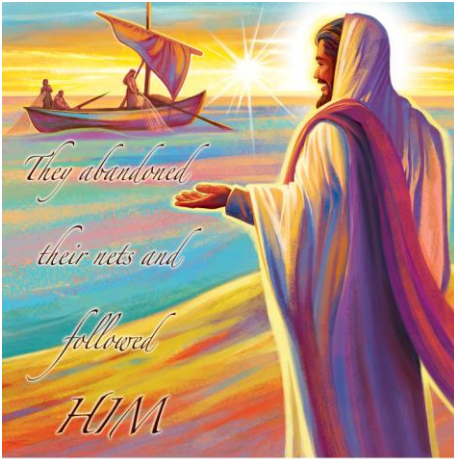


**THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME**

JANUARY 24, 2021

*The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.*

— **Mark 1:15**



THE DEMANDS OF DISCIPLESHIP

Today we encounter readings that already have a Lenten feel about them. Nineveh undergoes a forty-day fast, the psalmist reminds us that God alone can show sinners the way, Paul shows us how fleeting the things and events of this world are, and Jesus cries out "Repent!" before he calls his new followers. "Come after me," Jesus says, but if we are to truly live out the commands and demands of our discipleship through baptism, we must first know our need for conversion, our repentance, our need to believe in the gospel fully. Today's Gospel opens with the stark reminder of what befell John the Baptist for completely living out his vocation as the herald of Christ and the gospel: he was arrested, imprisoned, and martyred. Though few of us will experience consequences that extreme, we must all be ready to risk some sort of rejection as, heeding the call of Jesus, we live out the kingdom of God at hand, repent of our sins, and believe in the good news of salvation.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The Ninevites turn from their evil ways in response to Jonah's message (*Jonah 3:1-5, 10*).

Psalm — Teach me your ways, O Lord (*Psalm 25*).

Second Reading — The world in its present form is passing away (*1 Corinthians 7:29-31*).

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

- | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------|
| Edith Bolder | Holmesdale Care Center |
| Jeanette Hamilton Evans | Home |
| Inell Hunter | Home |
| Carlos Nix | Home |
| Lavel McCullough | Home |
| Rosa Birch | Home |
| Sandra Cloyd | Home |
| Kevin Brown | Home |
| Jackie Countee | Home |
| Sharon Shackelford-Allen | Home |
| Earnestine Nard | Home |
| Earl Greene | Home |
| Michael Mize | Home |
| Chaunceyetta Mize | Home |
| Margaret Jones | Home |
| Flora Waddell | Home |
| Delores Bazy | Home |
| Deacon Greene | Home |
| Vera Brown | Home |
| Ovell Thomas | Home |
| Joann James | Home |
| Dorothy Wyatt | Home |
| Terese Spears Chambers | Home |
| Alvin Brooks | Home |
| Cathy Johnson | Home |
| Mary Ann Grayson | Home |
| Herman Lovett | Home |
| Mabel & Donald Parson | Home |
| Marjorie Green | Home |
| Dominique Williams | Home |

FAMILY MEMBERS: *Please inform our Pastor, Fr. Leonard when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized. Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com*



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*Must wear mask at all times
— to attend.*

SUNDAY:

8:00 a.m. (Live)

10:00 a.m. (Live & Recorded)

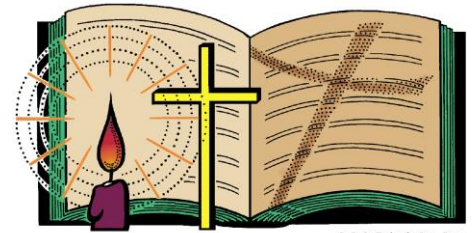
WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. MASS (Live)

6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting

TODAY'S GOSPEL

— Jesus proclaims, "Repent, and believe in the gospel." The new disciples abandon their nets and follow him (*Mark 1:14-20*).



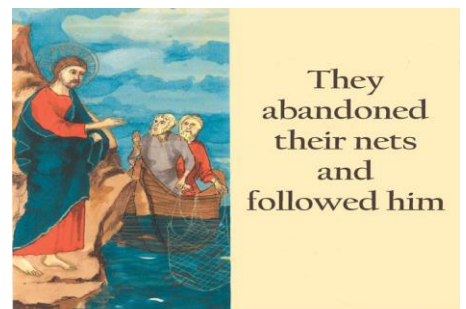
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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

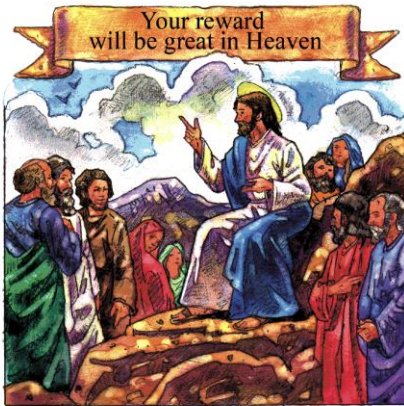
- Monday:** Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22;
Ps 117:1bc, 2; Mk 16:15-18
- Tuesday:** 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10; Mk 3:31-35
- Wednesday:** Heb 10:11-18; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 4:1-20
- Thursday:** Heb 10:19-25; Ps 24:1-6; Mk 4:21-25
- Friday:** Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40; Mk 4:26-34
- Saturday:** Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41
- Sunday:** Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday:** Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
- Tuesday:** Ss. Timothy and Titus
- Wednesday:** St. Angela Merici; Tu B'Shvat (Jewish new year of trees) begins at sunset
- Thursday:** St. Thomas Aquinas



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FEAST OF FAITH

The Penitential Rite

Standing together in the presence of the Lord, we acknowledge our weakness, our sins and faults and failings. But the penitential rite is really less about our sins than it is about God's mercy. It is not a time for individual confession, like a mini-sacrament of reconciliation. It is, rather, a preparatory rite, preparing us to praise the mercy of Christ as we acknowledge our own weakness. When Simon Peter witnesses the miraculous catch of fish—when he realizes who is in the boat with him—he falls at Jesus' feet with the words, "Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man" (Luke 5:8). We are like Peter. The more aware of the Lord's presence we become, the more awareness we also have of our sinfulness, our weakness.

The penitential rite of the Mass takes several forms, from the traditional Confiteor or "I confess" to a litany, spoken or sung by the deacon or cantor with responses by the entire assembly. The penitential rite always includes the words Kyrie, eleison; Christe, eleison—Lord, have mercy; Christ, have mercy. This ancient Greek prayer came to the Roman liturgy from the East, and still echoes in many of the litanies of the Eastern Rite Churches. These words turn our gaze from our own weakness to the gentleness, the kindness, the forgiving love of Christ. —
Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES

This year, our 2021 Offering Envelopes will be mailed **directly to your home**. If you have not received your two month supply of envelopes, please use the Supplemental Envelopes, located on the two small tables behind the back pews of the Sanctuary.

Undeliverable Offering Envelopes will be sent to the Church Office. You will be called to pick up your envelopes if they have been received. Please notify the Church Office **816-471-3696**, if you have made a **change of address**, also include your **current** telephone number. We will update your Family File for the next mailing to your home.

REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

Imagine a large group of travelers, lost in the midst of a dense forest on a starless black night. They cannot see the path; they cannot even see each other. Little by little they wander in different directions, trying desperately to find their way forward through the immense trees, all the while spreading further and further apart. Suddenly a bright white lantern shines from the edge of the forest. Their fear flees with the darkness. As they head toward the light they rejoin one another and rejoice to discover the one way out of the forest.

The imagery of light in the darkness threads its way through the Sundays of Ordinary Time between Christmas and Lent. It reminds us that the Light of the World, whose dawning we celebrated during the Advent/Christmas season, is the same light of Christ whose flame will purify and enlighten us during Lent and enkindle the fire of the Holy Spirit in us during the fifty days of Easter.

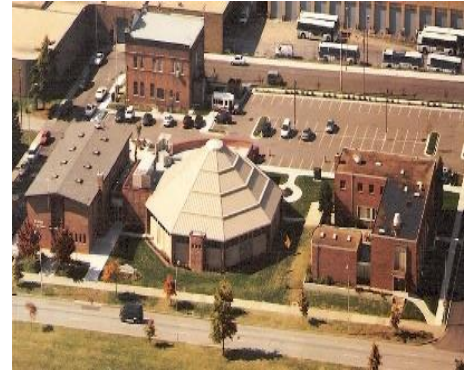
This week our first reading likens the salvation of the "District of the Gentiles" to light dispelling darkness, anguish, and gloom. Matthew's Gospel characterizes Jesus as a light arising in "Galilee of the Gentiles," beckoning the fishermen to join together in following him along the way. Paul exhorts us to

remain united on the one way that follows the light of our one and only Lord, Jesus Christ. —

Virginia Stillwell

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FORWARD IN FAITH



The Stewardship Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to all the St. Monica parishioners for the success of our 110 Anniversary Celebration and Virtual Silent Auction. The Committee worked with precision as a team, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Shirley Thaw, with expert guidance on the auction from Mrs. Angela Curry. Kim Urenda's technical assistance, and Dwight's performance as the announcer contributed to raising a total amount that exceeded our goal! Our success would not have been possible without your support. You donated and bid on many of the 56 available items.

During the process, we added St. Monica Twitter and Instagram accounts to expand our reach on social media. We expect the addition will attract new members as the downtown and 18th and Vine areas expand housing opportunities near the church. Thank you again and look forward to future events to work on together as our parish moves "**Forward in Faith.**"

Our goal is, to raise **\$150,000** by October 2020. So far, we have received **\$47,411.20**, and **\$102,588.50**, still to go.

The goal is huge, but God is faithful.

God bless you all,

Fr. Leonard

Bulletin Deadline Wednesday NOON

