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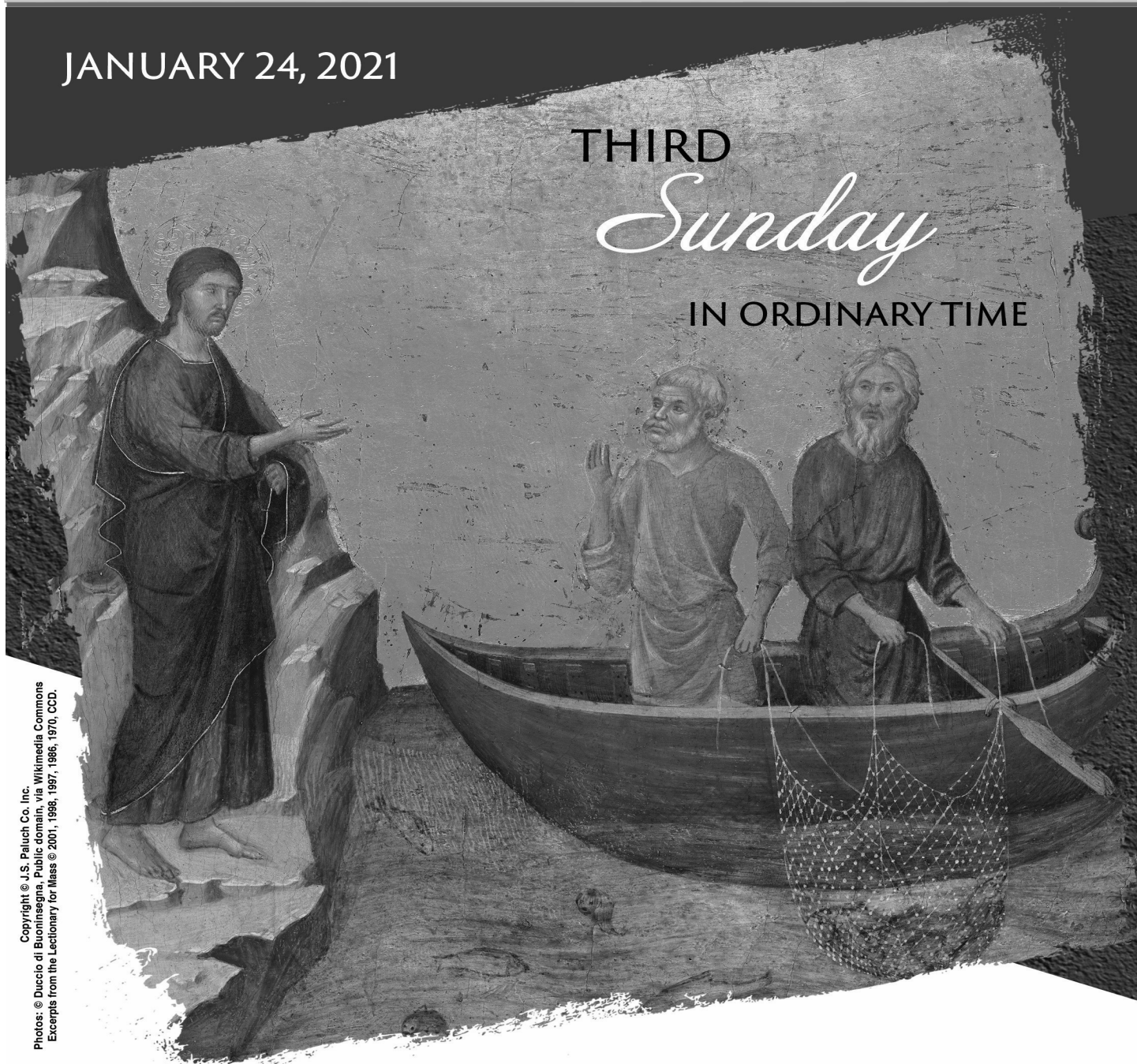


JANUARY 24, 2021

THIRD

Sunday

IN ORDINARY TIME



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THEY ABANDONED THEIR NETS
AND FOLLOWED

Jesus.

MARK 1:18

This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel, Mk.1:15.

This year the Gospel of Mark is proclaimed at the Sunday Mass. It is the shortest of the four gospels. It moves briskly along beginning with the baptism of Jesus by John the Baptist. After John is arrested Jesus begins his public ministry proclaiming that the kingdom of God was at hand. This good news, that is what gospel means, inspires us to repent and believe. I say “inspire” because it is exciting, uplifting and motivating to hear that the kingdom of God is at hand. This good news should fill us with joy.

Anybody with any sense realizes that we live in a world of woe. We do not like to dwell on this fact because it is too depressing. We do our best to live decent lives and find some happiness in the here and now. We look for love. Some people seem to do better than others. In the comic strip “Little Orphan Annie,” Daddy Warbucks says, “I’ve been rich, and I’ve been poor, and a poor man sure has a lot less to worry about.” To which Orphan Annie replies, “Yeah-and a lot less to eat. I’d rather worry ‘bout a few million I had than ‘bout how to get two bucks.” Life is so exceedingly difficult for many people. Besides poverty there is war and civil strife. Even in our own country we are experiencing a lack of peace because of deep political and cultural divisions. Then there is the worldwide pandemic. The list goes on and on. As I said, we could get depressed dwelling on the disorders and injustices which permeate every human community. Now imagine yourself in the time of Jesus. Do you think things were better back then?

Jesus does bring good news. In fact, Jesus is the Good News. He is Emmanuel, God with us. Do you believe? “Yes, I believe.” Then turn away from sin and believe in the gospel. Those are the first words of Jesus when he begins his ministry. These words are familiar to us because we hear them on Ash Wednesday when the priest or minister puts ashes on our forehead.

Certainly, we can experience happiness if we happen to live in a nice place with no conflicts, plenty of food and good weather, no disease, friendly and helpful neighbors, uncorrupted leaders, well-mannered and obedient children and a perfect marriage, a secure job and lots of money. We probably would have to live in a gated community with security guards to keep out all the bad things that can make us unhappy. But as the saying goes, you cannot take any of these nice things with you when you die, and we are all going to die, even if we never want to think about it.

So, what does the nearness of the kingdom of God mean to you? Is it good news? Does your heart swell with hope and confidence when you pray the Our Father and say, “Thy kingdom come”? Do you welcome Emmanuel who is God in our midst? Is there a deep-down desire to celebrate because Jesus has announced the Good News? We are YES people. Yes, God, I believe you love me and want to give Yourself to me as much as you can so that I may know what it really means to be happy. I repent of my sins because they turn me away from You whom I love with all my heart. Amen.

~ Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.

Every Wednesday you should try to do something to honor St. Joseph in observance of this Year of St. Joseph. I will help you by sending Flocknotes (see bulletin on how to sign up) and posting little messages on my Facebook. We hope to celebrate a special Mass for the Solemnity of St. Joseph on March 19 in the school field.

FROM THE APOSTOLIC LETTER
PATRIS CORDE
OF THE HOLY FATHER

FRANCIS WITH A FATHER'S HEART: that is how Joseph loved Jesus, whom all four Gospels refer to as "the son of Joseph".[1]

Matthew and Luke, the two Evangelists who speak most of Joseph, tell us very little, yet enough for us to appreciate what sort of father he was, and the mission entrusted to him by God's providence.

We know that Joseph was a lowly carpenter (cf. Mt 13:55), betrothed to Mary (cf. Mt 1:18; Lk 1:27). He was a "just man" (Mt 1:19), ever ready to carry out God's will as revealed to him in the Law (cf. Lk 2:22.27.39) and through four dreams (cf. Mt 1:20; 2:13.19.22). After a long and tiring journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, he beheld the birth of the Messiah in a stable, since "there was no place for them" elsewhere (cf. Lk 2:7). He witnessed the adoration of the shepherds (cf. Lk 2:8-20) and the Magi (cf. Mt 2:1-12), who represented respectively the people of Israel and the pagan peoples.

We need only ask Saint Joseph for the grace of graces: our conversion.

Let us now make our prayer to him:

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
To you God entrusted his only Son;
in you Mary placed her trust;
with you Christ became man.
Blessed Joseph, to us too,
show yourself a father
and guide us in the path of life.
Obtain for us grace, mercy and courage,
and defend us from every evil. Amen.

Please check our Website
santacruzchurchtucson.com

&

Facebook: **Stephen Watson**
for the latest updates.

Want to receive direct messages from Fr. Stephen?

Sign up for Flock Notes:
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~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email avemariasc@hotmail.com ~

Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Closed for lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
In Residence: Rev. Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D.
In Residence: Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

Mass Intentions

Tom Jones/R.I.P.

In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/Int.
Nieves Ortiz & Family

Santa Cruz Parishioners

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe
Fr. Sancho/R.I.P.

Hector Carlos Valenzuela/R.I.P.

Special Int./Adam & Kendra Cabrera

Andrew Cabrera/R.I.P.

In Honor of Saint Dymphna

Joe, Marina & Lucy Cabrera/R.I.P.

Fr. Kevin McArdle, O.C.D. &

Olga Patino/R.I.P.

Simona Cabrera/R.I.P.

Benjamin Reyes/R.I.P.

Rosemarie Yrigolla/Happy Birthday

Margaret Estavillo/Happy Birthday

Special Int./Adam & Kendra Cabrera

Lily Contreras/R.I.P.

Parish Collection January 17th, 2021

Collection: **\$ 2,609.58**

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~ Masses ~ Note these are suspended during COVID-19

Sun. 6:30 am, 8 am (Spanish), 10 am, 12 noon, & 6 pm

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am & 8:00 am Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confession: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: 2nd Sunday of the Month (English) / 4° Domingo del Mes (Español)

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: Angelina Schmidt, Director

(520) 624-2093

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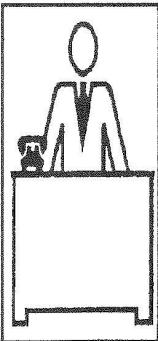
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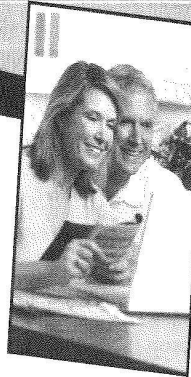
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