

February leads us into

a hope-filled March...



# **G**OSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

**February 20, 2022**

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Sometimes, Jesus' teachings don't seem to make practical sense. When we hear things like love your enemies and do good to them, turn the other cheek when struck, give to anyone who asks, do to others as you would have them do to you, be merciful, stop judging, forgive, and give to others, we get a bit unsettled. After all, it's okay for God to do all of these things, but does He really want us to do them, too? Many good-hearted Christians really draw the line with some of these ideals and say, "No way!" They even remark that if someone did something hurtful to someone they loved, they would have no reservations seeking severe retribution. There is still this persistent thinking, even among those who consider themselves Christian, that a violent action deserves a violent response. Somehow, we continue to justify this.

Yet, it is most clearly against the very grain of the Gospel. Part of our difficulty has more to do with understanding God's love. We wrongly think that sinful or hurtful actions and evil people somehow are seen as lesser in God's eyes. They are not. God loves the sinner as much as He does the saint. And, both of these inclinations exist in every human being, even those who consider themselves holy. Both the capacity for good and the disposition toward evil exist in every one of us. Viktor Frankl has this to say when reflecting on the Holocaust: "Our generation is a realistic generation because we have learned what a human being really is. When all is said and done, man is that same creature who invented the gas-chambers of Auschwitz; but he is also that being who walked upright into those chambers with the prayer 'Shema Yisrael' on his lips."

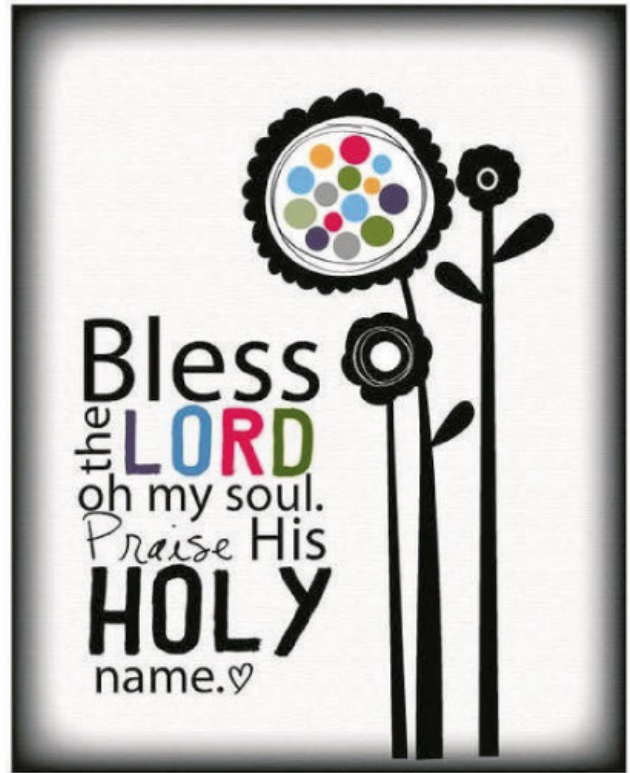
If we believe in God, we have to act like God. Whether we like that idea is another issue. If we don't then perhaps, we need to reconsider our faith and whether we really believe in Jesus Christ. We are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian must, at all costs, leave resentment and the need for retaliation behind, lose defensiveness and bring into the mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world.



# LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

“Love your enemies and do good to them.” We have such a hard time with this teaching! But it doesn’t end there. Jesus continues with turning the other cheek when struck, giving to everyone who asks, doing to others as you would have them do to you, being merciful, stopping our judgment of others, forgiving, and giving. We are okay when God does these things but get a little anxious when we realize that God really wants us to do them too! Secular justice and Gospel justice are definitely not the same. We need to remember that we are made in the image of God, not the image of ourselves. The Christian is called to act like Christ even in those situations where a more assertive or defensive response may seem more justifiable. In order to live up to this call we have to leave our resentment and need for retaliation behind, lose our defensiveness and bring into our mind and heart the realization of who we represent in this world. We are not here to satisfy or promote our own well-being and agenda. We are here for God’s. That’s a hard nut to crack especially when it comes to loving and forgiving people who do hurtful and

**Lord Jesus, in our world shattered by so much distrust rooted in the constant threat of wars, please bring Peace. You are the source of our peace and You are our way to peace. Extend Your hand over the earth and let Your grace be showered upon it. Lord, we need You. Lord, have mercy on us and on the whole world! Queen of peace, pray with us!**



WHY DO WE DO THAT? - CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

**What Is Mammon? (not Manna)**

**Question:**

When Jesus says, “*You cannot serve both God and mammon,*” what does he mean? What is mammon?

**Answer:**

When you hear Scripture proclaimed each Sunday, remember it wasn’t originally written in English. Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek — these ancient tongues were the original language of our Old and New Testaments. Most of the time, all of the words are translated into our native language. Sometimes, a word or two is left in the original language. Such is the case in this Scripture passage.

Mammon is an ancient Aramaic word referring to money, wealth, or profit. Earthly wealth isn’t bad in itself, nor does it automatically exclude us from being a disciple of Jesus. But what dominates our life? To serve money — that is, to seek accumulation of wealth for its own sake and to structure our lives around it — is morally problematic. What good is our wealth if it isn’t at the service of others? What good is our wealth if its pursuit leads us to selfishness, obsession, greed, envy, and comparison? There are many things that can be opposed to our service of God — power, prestige, popularity. Ultimately, something in our lives will be our master. But there is only one God worth serving.

©LPi

# EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP— RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

## Thanking God for Missing Spears

Imagine how Saul must have felt when he awoke from his sleep and saw his spear missing from its resting place. Now imagine how he felt when he realized that the person who had it was the same person seeking his life — and there he sat, safe and sound. Now there's a day you don't forget your morning prayers.

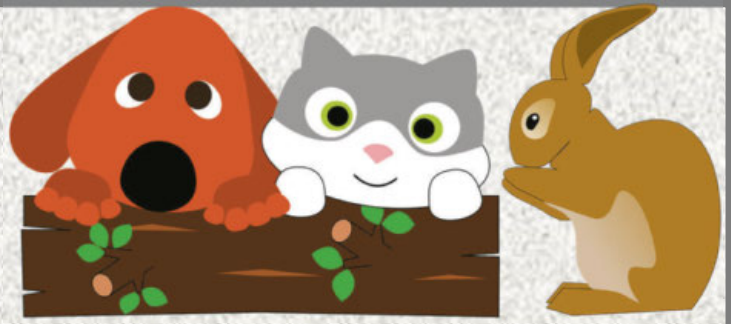
I think if we look, we can all find a “missing spear moment” in our lives, when it hits us right in the gut that God has kept us safe from an impending disaster. This can be physical disaster, sure — but more commonly, I think it is spiritual disaster. Often the salvation comes through the gift of a person, or people, through whom God reveals His mercy.

When I was in high school, I had a circle of friends who were really into their faith. We were all in youth ministry together, and the bond we shared taught me a lesson that changed me as a person: we become those with whom we associate. I can look back now, all these years later, and see that these people are evidence of God's hand in my life.

Take a look at your life. In whose love has God shown you comfort? By whose hand has God brought you closer to Him, or kept you away from harm? Through whose friendship has God shaped you into the person you are?

Let's strive to remember to thank God for these people — and to thank them, too.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



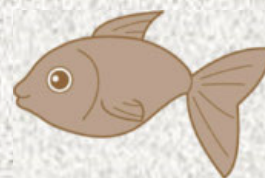
## We're a part of the Family too!

**O**n the bulletin board in the **ATRIUM** you are invited to bring a photo of your **PETs** to display for all in the parish to enjoy! Last week \*Glen and Tracy Stout brought in photos of their three pups. They were enclosed in a card to Annie— dogs to dog. Their cards were the size of holy cards— *which is what I thought they were!* So I got to thinking— pet lovers are just that pet Lovers! Why not proudly display their pictures for all to see. Because of the size of the board we ask photos which would be no larger than 3x4 with a brief description of who they are! Gracie & Annie love the idea! (of course)

\*Glenn & Tracy are the couple who walk Annie all throughout the church before the Saturday, 4pm Mass They are the owners of 'Service Dogs'!

***“The average dog has one request to all humankind. Love me.”***

— Author Helen Exley






**NEXT SUNDAY**—is the final Sunday before Lent. By tradition again we will bury the **Alleluia** until the first Alleluia of Holy Saturday. Ready or not—it's soon Lent! 40 days of opportunity to share in the glory of the cross and the glory of the Resurrection!

Looking ahead our **ASH WEDNESDAY** Mass and **SERVICES** will be as follows:

9am - Liturgical Service & Ashes  
Noon - Mass & Ashes  
7pm - Liturgical Service & Ashes

**A** great big **THANK YOU** to all who participated and helped with the Gracie and Annie Birthday Bash & Donut Sunday! They had a great birthday on Valentine's Day~ and thanks to all of you for being a part of it. I don't know of any parishes that celebrate their dogs' birthdays so let's keep it an in-house 'just between us'! :) Gratitude always! 



Our pleas went out for Volunteers to assist with the Lenten **Fish Fry**. You heard the call & answered. Thank you so much!

There are still a few places that need to be filled—if you haven't considered it, please do. It's great fellowship for you & the entire parish family! 330 273 5500

## Corbie Lunch

We had over 70 people join us for **CORBIE LUNCH**—thank YOU ALL. Corbie Lunch is named after St. Colette of **CORBIE**, France. It is a name that we have been using since we began these free Lunches. Thanks to Sara for bringing this all-together and to the Hahn's for the Macaroons! Thanks to those who served and set –up.

*'Bless the work of our hands!'*



**O**ur Lily Ann Grace Gift Shop is getting ready for the Spring Season. There are some beautiful statues depicting the Passion of the Lord made by Roman. You might want to check them out. St. Patrick's Day items are still available—stop in!

**Lampstand**  
Each week we receive YOUR reflections and stories and we are *more* than grateful. It is so good to know the diverse histories of the people who comprise our parish. Many have commented on how helpful your stories are! Thank YOU! Please continue- we are waiting for YOURS! Let your light shine that we too know the unique presence of the Lord thru your words!



# Lampstand

Being primarily of Polish descent (perhaps some Jewishness mixed in?), and with both parents being of Catholic backgrounds, I was destined to be raised Catholic. I only attended public schools for my first 3 years of schooling before being enrolled in a Catholic grade school. Most of my friends attended the public school down the street. I hated the nuns that were placed in charge of my early education, but in hindsight, they did an amazing job! I recall every one of them and pretty much what they looked like and which years they taught me. I didn't realize at the time how good they were! A crack on the knuckles and a few disciplinary "tasks" ( Write: 'I will not talk in class 100 times) kept me in line and I needed that! From grade school I moved onto a freshly built Catholic high school that wasn't even completed yet! ( NO it was NOT Holy Name!) Again, all my friends in the neighborhood went to the local public high school. So, in essence, I lived two childhoods, secular and Catholic. I had many good friends from both and still see many of them. From high school, I finally broke the chain and went to a state university in order to dodge the draft! It worked for a time. It bought me 4 "draft free" years. Many a day was spent exercising my religious beliefs at the Neuman Center praying to God that I would just "pass" that Chemistry or Calculus exam. He heard my prayers, but by the fall of my spring graduation I was wearing Green with a ticket for an all expense paid tour of southeast Asia! There are very few experiences in life that can compare to having your boarding flight being given its "Last Rights" in case you don't come back! I was shipped over and awaited my assignment papers. Prayers were not uncommon! When I finally received them, I was being shipped to just south of the DMZ! Surely this would be my end, I thought. But it wasn't. I was assigned to a behind the lines support company. The day I got there, they had just come in from the "bush" and a "firebase"! The guy I replaced had just come in and was sent back to Chicago on my arrival. That unit never went out again! Instead, the US turned the base over to the South Vietnamese as part of Nixon's "Vietnamization" program. From there I was primarily on "cleanup" duty, being reassigned to units that had been sent home! I'm not sure if it was a "shamrock" (remember, I'm Polish) over my head or God's watchful eye, but my experience with being sent to a combat zone was nothing like one would expect! My last unit was to an evacuated Navy base that had air-conditioning! in which I lived! Tricky Dick is my hero as he brought me back home safe and sound without even serving my full tour of duty!

I became a civilian again, found a good job, got married, had two kids, 3 grandkids, enjoy my twilight years, and as you can see, I've had a pretty good life. Health is good. I sometimes actually feel so guilty as to why ME, when so many much younger than I are already gone or have things so much worse? There have been bumps and pot holes along the way for sure, but God seems to have always provided some "shock absorbers" to smooth things out. I have nothing to complain about and thank God at the completion of each and every day that he has allowed me to enjoy one more!

When we decided to join the parish of St. Colette several years ago, I recall talking to Fr. Krizner over the phone. Father Krizner was in the process of "interviewing" me, when my dog let out a "bark"! Father stopped in the middle of his sentence and asked. " What kind of dog is that?" Ha! My kind of guy! I, like he, love animals. I had found just the kind of priest and parish that I knew I could fit in! I asked him to send me some envelopes and they have never stopped coming! I love this parish and its wonderful members and pastor! Lead us on, Father! I do not know what the future has in store for me. The grains of sand in the hour glass are down to a few, I'm sure. But if my past life is any indication, I KNOW that God will take care of me! I hope the same for you. Trust in Him!

Anonymous

LAMP STAND is continued on final page of bulletin>



**WEDNESDAY** February 23 - *St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr*  
11:00 AM +Angela Maria Bowman (K)

**FRIDAY** February 25 - Weekday  
11:00 AM +Martin Thomas Farren (A)

**SATURDAY** February 26—Weekday  
4:00 PM +John & +Craig Palcisko (K)

**SUNDAY** February 27  
**EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**  
8:00 AM +Angela Maria Bowman (K)  
10:00 AM Intentions of Nicole & Ryan Wynn (K)  
11:45 AM +Evelyn Commons (K)



**Our friends and  
relatives who are ill.  
May God grant them  
Healing and strength.**

**These are remembered by Perpetual Help Prayer**

Frank Anderko, Mary Annibale, Ken B., Mary Alice Baker, Fr. Larry Bayer, Larry Bender, Carol Biggs, Karen Biggs, Trevor Biggs, Birschl family, Justin Boguki, Carrie Jean Bonacci, Barbara Bonza, Kristen Brell, Bill Briese & family, Patricia Burfield, Jeff Burroughs, David Cinerra, Fr. Ralph Coletta, Terry Connolly, Elaine Coreno, Rosemary Cross, Arlene DeFazio, Barb Deimling, Barb DelVecchio, Gloria & Len Demko, Elizabeth Derov, Chris Dipippa, Robert Dumke, Sr., Mary Dumke, Gene Egnot, Patricia Ferencik, Delores Fiffick, Sharon Fisher, John Gibboney, Celia Giganti, James Gresko, Jeannine Grimm, Carolyn H., Amy, Barb, Marilyn, Sandy Healy, Bill & Tina Healy, Brian & Kim Helle, Nancy Hopkins, Tom Hunt, Rita Jamison, John Kole, John & Elaine Kopniske, Patricia Korbel, Frank Kupetz, Gail Lipinski, Lincoln Lester, Pete Lovejoy, Molly McLaughlin, Mark Magda, Ron Meister, Mary Celine O'Leary, Siobhen O'Leary-Drlik, Paisley Palmer, Sally Panek, Ralph Parente, Kathy Petretti, Beverly Phillippe, Ronald Powell, Jesse Prybis, Ron & Pat Prybis, Elaine Rady, Pat Richie, Kelly Rico, Darlene Riggs, Tanya Ronsko Kasperek, Angela Schurger, Greg Shandor, David Shepley, John Siba, Diane Soboslay, Reynaldo Solis, Carol Spooner, Dolores Stanchina, Gerald Steinbrick, Norma Sutter, Lisa Szymanski, Bill & Carol Thompson, Joseph Tonderski, Fred Townsend, Tom & Marge Trobl, Ariana Trobl-Solis, Paula Ulas, Elijah Velez & family, Becca Vickery, Derek Vitas, Mike W., Carol Weiss, Anthony & Matthew Williams, Donna & James Woodyard, Marion Capra-Wesner, Jr., Debbie Woodyard, Sam Zummo, Fran Zvara & family

## WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES - ENGAGE PARISHIONERS IN DAILY MASS AND PRAYER

### Readings for the week of February 20, 2022

Sunday: 1 Sm 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8, 10, 12-13 [8a]/  
1 Cor 15:45-49/Lk 6:27-38  
Monday: Jas 3:13-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mk 9:14-29  
Tuesday: 1 Pt 5:1-4/Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6/Mt 16:13-19  
Wednesday: Jas 4:13-17/Ps 49:2-3, 6-7, 8-10, 11/Mk 9:38-40  
Thursday: Jas 5:1-6/Ps 49:14-15ab, 15cd-16, 17-18, 19-20/Mk 9:41-50  
Friday: Jas 5:9-12/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 8-9, 11-12/Mk 10:1-12  
Saturday: Jas 5:13-20/Ps 141:1-2, 3 and 8/Mk 10:13-16  
Next Sunday: Sir 27:4-7/Ps 92:2-3, 13-14, 15-16 [cf. 2a]/1 Cor 15:54-58/Lk 6:39-45

### Observances for the week of February 20, 2022

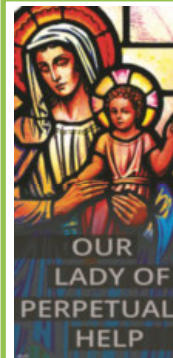
Sunday: 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Monday: Presidents' Day; St. Peter Damian, Bishop and Doctor of the Church  
Tuesday: The Chair of St. Peter the Apostle  
Wednesday: St. Polycarp, Bishop and Martyr  
Thursday:  
Friday:  
Saturday:  
Next Sunday: 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time ©LPi

## Baptism Class

The next Baptism Class will be held Sunday, March 6, 2022 after the 11:45am mass at St. Colette.

Diocesan policy requires attendance at a Baptism class for parents who are planning to present their first child for the Sacrament of Baptism.

To register, call the Parish Office at (330) 273-5500.



Our Lady of Perpetual Help Prayer Ministry comes together for those who are ill in the parish and among our families. Our next gathering is Thursday, February 24th at 7pm

**All ages are welcomed!**

The next Sanctuary Candle will be lit in memory of

**James Ordowski**





...with Angel voices we too proclaim, 'Holy is the Lord!'

**ST. COLETTE'S  
HOLY NAME  
SOCIETY**



**LENTEN BOOKLETS**

Holy Name Members' Lenten Booklets are available for pick up at the Church Office



Be sure to stop in at the Rummage Sale Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 25, 26 & 27

You will find treasures to buy & delicious food to enjoy at the Rummage Roadhouse Grill — carry out also available



*Daughters of St. Colette*

**Sunday, February 20<sup>th</sup>**

is the last day for DOSC Members to pick up **LENTEN BOOKLETS** at the

**Lilly Ann Grace Gift Shop**

Extra booklets \$1.00 each  
Books that have not been picked up will be mailed



*"Come as a stranger, leave as a friend."*



**THURSDAY, March 17<sup>th</sup>,**

**11 am - Church Hall** is our next meeting

with guest speaker

**LISA RADEY**

whose topic will be

**"Reflections for Lent"**

*N-Z please bring St. Patrick's theme snacks*

**Rummage Sale**  
**Drop off Dates**

Monday, February 21st - 10am - 4pm

Tuesday, February 22nd - 2pm - 8pm

Wednesday, February 23rd - 10am - 4pm

**Sale**

Friday, February 25th - 9am - 2pm

Saturday, February 26th - 9am - 6:30pm

Sunday, February 27th - 9am - 2pm

**Fish Fry News**

Our First Fish Fry starts March 4th. Sign-up sheets will be in the atrium. We will have Dine-in and take-out this year!!! Please consider volunteering for 1, 2 or all 6 weeks. Any time you can volunteer is appreciated. Also **Bakers** pull out those wonderful recipes which were definitely missed last year.

**FISH  
FRY**

**Sr. Christian Travelers**

Invites all seniors to come together to celebrate St. Patrick's Day on Wednesday, March 16th at noon in the Parish hall.

Enjoy Food, Entertainment & Friendship  
Reservation forms are available in the Parish office and need to be mailed to the address on the form.

Brothers in Faith  
Meets every Saturday  
In the Atrium 8 am  
Come join us...



"Blessed are the pure of heart, for they shall see God."  
Matthew 5:8

**NOTE:** in celebration of Presidents' Day there is *no* PSCF on February 21 and 22!





# A warm Welcome to our Parish!

Mr. & Mrs. Stephen & Linda Sheppard  
Dr. & Mrs. Robb & Maria Baker & family  
Mr. William Boettler  
Mr. & Mrs. John & Darlene Zifchak

## Happy to have you with us

## Congratulations on Your Baptism

Madeline James Calabrese

You are a child of God who loves you so very much!

# CONGRATULATIONS

St. Ignatius students

Owen Anderson First Honors / 1st Semester  
Benjamin Emerson First Honors / 1st Semester  
St. Edward's student  
Ethan Timar Honor Roll

## Remembering with Love....

Our loving prayers and deepest sympathy are extended to the families of Nancy Campbell (sister-in-law of Shellie Campbell), Theresa Connolly (wife of Presley) and Elaine Johns (wife of Edward)

who was called to their Eternal reward. Please pray for them and all the faithful departed.

## Live in Light & Peace!

St. Colette Parish received a letter from Catholic Works of Mercy recently:

On behalf of the poor and needy of the Brunswick Community, we would like to thank you for your kindness and extremely generous Blanket Sunday donation of \$1,081.00. Your continuous support and generosity enables us to do the work of the Lord and to be witness of His presence among us.



Please pray for those serving in the Military



Joseph Adams	PVT Rylee McIlvain Army
MJR Sylvester Azap	CDR Robin Murphy
SrA Aimee R. Budzinski USAF	S/SGT Daniel Novak
GySgt. John Burrell	1LT Mark Oswald Army
E5/2nd Class Jacob Camper USN	1LT Gwen Oswald Army Nat. Guard
S/A-Dept/State Bradley Carlson	Corp. Daniel Peterra
Foreign Service Officer Cynthia Carlson-Cook	Col. Rick Pierce
S/SGT Stephen Coughlan	S/SGT Brian Ponge
SPC Kristen Coughlan	CWO2 Kevin Porter
MJR Jason Cross	E2 Lawrence Prochko, Jr. USN
CPL Michael C. Dadaian USMC	Chief David Sams
Michael Forlini	Chief George J. Sattelmaier
HA Margaret Gasbarri USN	SGT Scott Sauls
CPL Peter Grasso	M/SGT Ryan Shaw
SPC David Greenfelder Jr.	PV2 Andrew Shephard
LCpl Michael Grzybowski USMC	PFC Taylor Sibits
Major Rick Hanrahan USAF	MJR Eric Wilder, MD USAF
SGT Jeremy Hlavaty	CPL Daniel Williford USMC
1LT Zachary Hollister USMC	S/SGT Robert Zebrowski
M/SGT Melissa Hunt	S/Sgt. Kevin Zisko
CPL Zack Hunter USMC	LTJG Matthew Zweifel
AMN 1st Class Joe Isabella	PO3 Joseph Zweifel
Capt. Julianne Jamison USAF	
AA Bridget Kerr USN	
PVT Nathan Kerr Army	
Lt. Kris Klaiber	
SGT Kevin Lessman	
S/SGT Sam Lupica	
Col. Andrew W. Mack	
Lt. Colonel Jeremy Matyas USAF	

Please email updates to [kplumb@stcoletteparish.com](mailto:kplumb@stcoletteparish.com)



## DO YOU KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN USE THE GIFT OF PRAYER?

Ladies from St. Colette's have made beautiful prayer shawls/blankets for anyone needing some extra prayer. The shawl/blanket is created prayerfully with much love and is a way to wrap yourself the love and mercy of our God.

If you know of someone who could use a little extra prayer please come to the parish office and we will let you select a prayer shawl.

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort 2 Corinthians 1:3

## Ministry for Moms!

“Monday Mornings with Mary,” a prayer ministry for Moms and their family intentions takes place the first Monday of each Month at 10am. Our next prayer session is Monday March 7th. Join us for this informal prayer time. Stay-at-home, working, young, old, mom of one or of many... know that you are supported in prayer by our parish family. **Join us if you can!**

**MASS SCHEDULE:**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00pm  
Sunday: 8:00-10:00- and 11:45  
Wednesday & Friday: 11:00am  
Holy Day Vigil: 7:00pm  
Holy Day: NOON and 7:00pm



**WEEKLY COLLECTION REPORT**  
**THANK YOU!!!**

Sunday, February 6, 2022.....\$18,219.00  
Capital Improvement Fund.....\$3,705.25  
Children's.....\$31.00  
Project Endeavor.....\$2,574.10  
We sincerely & always appreciate your kindness & generosity!

Faith develops across the span of time. My parents made a commitment to raise their children Catholic. I understand now how the pieces (their choices) fit together. They made sure we went to mass on Sundays and Holy Days AND we went as a family for as long as we could. In spite of the business and busyness of life, they found time to pray. I witnessed that every-day. When we would have important conversations, my mom especially would reference the gospels and doctrine to help form our minds which I know she hoped would influence our future choices and decisions. Their faith and practice lasted a lifetime.

Fr. John at St. Vincent de Paul taught the congregation during his homily to sit, close your eyes and imagine Jesus sitting right next to you. Just sit quietly in God's presence.

Fr. Redmond. I didn't know him from St. Colette's but rather at St. Vincent de Paul where he stayed early in his career. During a homily he used the word "insidious." He was saying be careful because things in the world, if you are not guarded, may change you insidiously. It goes along with what Fr. Krizner was saying last week (end of January) about counterculture. What I glean from all of this (then and now) is that we need to be careful about what we let ourselves hear, see, and do. If we allow certain materials, values, ideas, concepts, conversation into our lives, that do not reflect the Spirit of God, Holy Scripture, morals, Catholic Christian values, etc., then eventually we will become lax in our own morals, values, and spiritual life and too accepting of ideas that are not born in God's love. We need to take care not to let counter culture change us, especially insidiously.

Fr. Bacher. St. Colette's. He said during a homily "Jesus died on a cross for you, what more do you want?!?!?" I think that says it all.

Throughout much of my life I could count on the Sunday readings/gospel/homily being some sort of message or direct lesson that spoke to whatever problem or situation that was happening at that time. It was incredible. All I had to do was...listen. It doesn't cost anything to just listen and it truly helped me along the way.

My sister in law and my husband are an inspiration in giving without counting the cost. Truly thinking of others first. They take the time to notice the needs of others. Do you ever see the people, even families sometimes, in the parking lots or streets panhandling? I will admit I do wonder if they are truly in need or is this a scam. My husband however will give them cash and say "Let God sort out the rest." They are examples of people living the beatitudes. Another lesson in how I can live my faith.

Throughout my life God has sent messengers and teachers through ordinary people. Some were Catholic, some were not. These good people I suppose, in God's plan, were sent to make me think and reflect on what it means to me to be Catholic and along the way in adulthood I came to realize that I, I am responsible for my continued Catholic maturity. Me. And since I am a mom, I am responsible for the up-bringing of my children in our faith until the day they mature and realize that the responsibility is also theirs. All I can do is share with them and model for them how to live our faith. Some days I will succeed and some days I will fail miserably but the goal is to keep trying, keep learning, keep practicing, keep vigilant and keep aware of our surroundings, keep praying, keep that relationship with God open and little by little faith grows across the span of time.

Melissa Titterington



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