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Third Sunday
in Ordinary Time

January 23, 2022

Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing. – Luke 1:21

Rev. Lawrence D. Ryan, Pastor

Rev. Charles Keeney, In Residence
Rev. Emmanuel Conduah, In Residence

Deacon Michael Saez
Deacon Gerry Devine

Louise Oconnor, Office Manager

Kathryn Sisto, Director of Religious Education

Ivonne Rojas, Director of Music

Mass Schedule

Monday - Friday: 9 am*
Saturday: 9 am, 5:30 pm (Vigil)
Sunday: 7:30 am, 9 am* (Spanish), 10:30 am* & Noon.

(* *Masses are also live streamed on our Facebook page.*)

Private Prayer

Monday - Saturday, 10 a.m. to Noon

Confessions

Saturdays: 5 -5:20 p.m., or by appointment.

Weddings and Baptisms

Please call the Rectory.

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Stephanie Germann, Principal

COLLECTION RESULTS

JANUARY 16, 2022

First Collection Total to Parish.....$3,663

Second Collection Total To Parish from Building Repair Envelopes:.....$1,202

Second Collection Total to Diocese for Home Missions $1,175

Catchup Collection $1,255

This weekend, January 22/23, our 2nd Collection will be the **Annual National Collection for Churches in Need**. The revenue from this national collection will be used to support pastoral programs for the Churches in the poorer areas of Latin America and the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe, and Africa. Projects funded include evangelization; formation of seminarians, lay leaders, and catechists; church renovations; and social programs.

Thank you for your generosity!

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

Plant Your Works in the Word

One of the things about Scripture is that even the smallest word and shortest phrase can be critical to the overall message. When you take a quiet moment to rest with the Word, you find how quickly the most mundane sentence can reach out and grab you, pulling you into a deeper contemplation of some truth you hadn't even considered until then.

But we often fail to act as the Israelites in the Book of Nehemiah, standing before the Water Gate "listening attentively." Whether it's at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word or at home poring over the Bible, time after time we find ourselves less mindful than we could be. Our ears accept the sounds of the words and our eyes glance over the shape of the letters.

But are we mindful — truly?

The best answer is hopefully at least sometimes. There are always tasks to be completed, problems weighing on our minds that we can't quite give over to God. We lose ourselves in these things instead of in Scripture. We "clock in" with Bible reading instead of "diving in."

We can never forget that the words of the Lord are spirit and life. They are the soil that quickens the seed of all stewardship. There is no mindfulness, no prayer, no graciousness, no gratitude or accountability or sense of commitment unless there is the Word.

So let us pray today for mindfulness, that our every action will be grounded in the law of God — giving it true spirit and life.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS; © LPi

SUNDAY ROSARY AT HNJ

SUNDAY, JANUARY 30

Members of the Holy Name Council of the Knights of Columbus and the Holy Name Society will lead the recitation of the Rosary in the Church immediately after the 12 Noon Mass (approx. 1 p.m.) next Sunday, January 30, 2022.

If you can, please join them for this great way to start your week!

THIS WEEK'S REFLECTIONS

MEMORIAL OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

January 24 — God, our shield and our strength: We live in tumultuous times for sure. But the world has been topsy-turvy before. Saint Francis de Sales lived during the religious, political, and social upheaval of the Protestant Reformation. And he became known for his gentleness and patience in the face of it. Leave it to him, the patron saint of writers, to pen a prayer that is timeless balm for troubled souls: "Do not look forward to what may happen tomorrow; the same everlasting Father who cares for you today will take care of you tomorrow and every day. Either he will shield you from suffering, or he will give you unfailing strength to bear it. Be at peace, then, put aside all anxious thoughts and imaginations . . ." A balm for these troubled times.

MEMORIAL OF ANGELA MERICI

January 27 — Wise counsel for the overwhelmed: On this memorial of Saint Angela Merici, 16th-century founder of the Ursuline Sisters, it makes sense to recall one of her many insights into faith-filled living. She advised the overwhelmed thus: "Do not lose heart, even if you should discover that you lack qualities necessary for the work to which you are called. He who called you will not desert you, but the moment you are in need he will stretch out his saving hand." May you find that saving hand when you reach the end of your rope.

MEMORIAL OF THOMAS AQUINAS

January 28 — Root yourself in honesty: G.K. Chesterton once said of philosopher and theologian Thomas Aquinas, "Being himself resolved to argue, to argue honestly, to answer everybody, to deal with everything, he produced books enough to sink a ship or stock a library." We could use a little more Thomas in our media, especially social media, because today we're not always sure if things are actually true or merely "internet true." For Thomas, honesty was key to communication. He considered it beautiful, honorable, and a reflection of moral goodness itself. May we take to heart his commitment to honesty in all of our communication.

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A NOTE FROM FR LARRY

Last Saturday, January 15, I had the privilege of baptizing Noah Alexander Villaruel. We welcome him as our newest parishioner and congratulate his parents, godparents, and other loved ones.

On Sunday, January 16, our aligned St. Joseph the Worker Catholic Academy (SJWCA) hosted a robotics competition involving teams from several different schools. It was held as part of an international program of similar competitions known as the "FLL" (for FIRST LEGO LEAGUE) Challenge. This was something new to me and I learned that it involved much, much more than those small interlocking plastic Lego blocks my nieces and nephews played with decades ago. The Lego Corporation has partnered with an international youth organization known as FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) to organize and run the world-wide Challenge each year. Lego and FIRST describe the Challenge as teams of 9-to-16-year-old students engaging in research, problem-solving, coding, and engineering. This year's overall theme, "Cargo Connect", had to do with the movement of packages and cargo. The theme was announced in late August, and the teams spent the fall and early winter months identifying, researching, and proposing a solution to a cargo-related problem. They also built and coded a robot that could complete a set of timed, cargo-movement tasks untouched by human hands. The exciting final competition was in Shepherds Hall on Sunday afternoon. SJWCA's Seventh and Eighth Grade Teams both won prizes and the Eighth Grade Team advanced to the New York City Wide Competition to be held in March. Congratulations to all involved Academy students and staff!

From 3 to 4 p.m. this Sunday afternoon, January 23, we will have a Holy Hour for Life here in HNJ Church. The Holy Hour, which will also be livestreamed on our Parish Facebook page, concludes Holy Name's observance of the 49th Anniversary of the U.S. Supreme Court's pro-abortion decision in the case of Roe v. Wade. There is additional information on the flyer in this bulletin. Please join us, if you can, either in Church or via livestream to pray for the unborn and the dignity of all human life.

In his 2020 Apostolic Letter *Aperuit Illis*, Pope Francis declared that each year, the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time would also be the "Sunday of the Word of God". In that Letter, the Pope explained that "devoting a specific Sunday of the liturgical year to the word of God can enable the Church to experience anew how the risen Lord opens up for us the treasury of His word and enables us to proclaim its unfathomable riches before the world." In his Letter the Pope drew from the Old Testament Book of the Prophet Nehemiah, which is also our First Reading for this Sunday's "Third Sunday of Ordinary Time", January 23. In this reading, the Book of the Law is being read out loud to the Jewish people who had recently returned from exile in Babylon. Pope Francis comments upon this scene as follows:

> *"The people lent "attentive ears" (Neh 8:3) to the reading of the sacred book, realizing that in its words they would discover the meaning of their lived experience. The reaction to the proclamation was one of great emotion and tears … ; and Nehemiah, who was the governor, and Ezra the priest and scribe, and the Levites who taught the people said to all the people, 'This day is holy to the Lord your God; do not mourn or weep'." (Neh 8:8-10).*
>
> *These words contain a great teaching. The Bible cannot be just the heritage of some, much less a collection of books for the benefit of a privileged few. …. The Bible is the book of the Lord's people, who, in listening to it, move from dispersion and division towards unity. The word of God unites believers and makes them one people."*

Please make greater attentiveness to the "Word of God", to Scripture (beginning with the Sunday Readings), a goal for 2022.

Looking More Closely at the Word

The Spin Cycle

by Fr. Mark Suslenko

Jesus came into this world to show us God's kind, beautiful, suffering face. God, who cares deeply about the poor, the captives, the blind, and oppressed is truly a servant-God. God, majestic in His transcendence is also tender in His immanence. God is the God of the journey who never leaves His people. God simply waits. Generation after generation has wandered and fumbled to find their way. As we continue to stumble over the "gods" we create and often prefer, God simply reminds us that He is here.

What was the reaction when Jesus stood in front of those assembled in the synagogue when he said, "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing?" Some may have thought he was presumptuous, arrogant, or even insane. Others who listened more with their hearts than their heads may have thought differently. They could have experienced the genuine, perfect, and unconditional love that resonated in his flesh and knew, without a doubt, that they were in the presence of someone wonderful and remarkable.

Jesus is the ultimate and perfect testament to God's love. His actions and words give witness to this truth. St. Augustine tells us what this love looks like, "It has the hands to help others. It has the feet to hasten to the poor and needy. It has eyes to see misery and want. It has ears to hear the sighs and sorrows of men." Love finds its pinnacle in Jesus' complete and humble offering of himself on the cross. This is where Love's sacrifice and transformation meet. This wedding of death and life reveals the mystery of God's unconditional love and mercy. These are the signs for which human beings are constantly looking. Only God, through the gift of eternal life, can give life meaning.

God always finds us. He does not want us to stay lost. He sends messengers, servants, prophets, teachers, signs, promptings, and witnesses to get our attention so that His message can be delivered. Yet repeatedly, pride and arrogance convince us that we can do anything and everything without Him. Perhaps by setting pride and arrogance aside, we might recognize something deeper about ourselves and see just how lost we really are. We will see what binds us and our sinfulness. God wants to release us from all of that baggage! Not only that, but God wants to release us from what centuries of human baggage has caused: world organizational systems and accepted standards of operating that continue to keep people poor, oppressed, captive, and blind to truth. We need to be freed not only from what we are doing to ourselves but from what we are doing to others!

We do not have to look far to see the devastation. Anger, frustration, starvation, and violence are widespread in our nation and worldwide. Places once known to be safe are now places of anxiety and fear. Division, corruption, and exploitation exist within all institutions. People are confused over who they are and what true happiness means. Wars are waged, and more violence continues to be threatened. God's creation is hurting. It's looking more like what we created than what God has entrusted to our care. Human life as a sacred gift from God has become an increasingly unpopular truth. Corruption and exploitation exist at the highest levels and "sins of the flesh" run rampant. We fail to accurately calculate the devastating cost to humans across the world and throughout all generations.

SUNDAY'S READINGS

First:

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10

Second:

1 Corinthians 12:12-30

Gospel:

Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Are we ready to let go of the control? Of the need to be right? Of the need to be ruggedly independent? We cannot live without God's Mercy, His unconditional, eternal, and ever-present love. We do not always get it right; the world does not get it right. The world is like a washing machine stuck on the spin cycle, relentlessly rotating, never quite getting where it needs to be. It forgets what it is supposed to do. It doesn't work. It is broken.

God, as Emmanuel, came into the brokenness of our world to help us fix it. The followers of Jesus, baptized in Christ and made in God's image and likeness, have yet to learn that to be a servant, one must share. Here's a true story: A woman visiting friends went to the local parish for early Sunday Mass. She proceeded to sit in a pew and in short order received a tap on her shoulder. "Excuse me, you are in my seat. Can you please move?" She got up and went to

Continued on next page...

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, January 23
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Word of God Sunday

7:30 a.m. Parish Purgatorial Society
9 a.m. The People of the Parish
10:30 a.m. Mary, Anthony, Rosemarie, & Peter Camastro
12 p.m. Eileen Murray

Monday, January 24
St. Francis de Sales

9 a.m. John McHugh

Tuesday, January 25
Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle

9 a.m. Billy Purdy

Wednesday, January 26
St. Timothy & Titus

9 a.m. The McInerney Family

Thursday, January 27
St. Angela Merici

9 a.m. Daniel McNulty

Friday, January 28
St. Thomas Aquinas

9 a.m. Dominick Byrne

Saturday, January 29

9 a.m. Vito Barone
5:30 p.m.. James & Margaret Galligan
Eva & Nestor Mendez

Sunday, January 30
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. William P. McNally
(1st Anniversary)
Parish Purgatorial Society
9 a.m. The People of the Parish
10:30 a.m. Joey Claps
12 p.m. James P. & Libera Farran

HOLY NAME FOOD PANTRY

SERVING THE COMMUNITY SINCE 1987

We will distribute food from the Rectory basement from
2-3 p.m. on Saturdays:
February 5 & 19.

Thank you to everyone who has helped support Holy Name's Food Pantry for the past 35 years

PLEASE PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:

Please pray for the health and wholeness of all the sick and those who give them care, especially: Dolores Hickey; Dora Sisto; Ted Shea; Edna Maitin; A. M. S.; Carmen Soriano Rojas; Patrick Cregg; Andrew Mazzella; Josephine Barrucco; Catherine Donovan; Adana; Judy Heegan; Mary Brunton; Allison Mary Heart; Liam Budgell; Miriam Rodriguez; Richard and Frances Day; Jason, Ann and Mary Q.; Christina DeRosa; Tracy Pye; Nicoletta Cordero; John Passaro; Joseph Cox; Vincent Camastro; Cheryl Jablow; and all those afflicted with the Coronavirus.

... AND FOR OUR DEPARTED LOVED ONES:

We ask for your prayers for those of our community who have gone before us into the fullness of life, especially **Christine Amitrano, Richard Keenan, Frederick Shanks, and Jean Thomas.**

Please remember those enrolled in our Purgatorial Society as well.

...cont'd from previous page

Looking More Closely at the Word

another pew. Beginning to pray and prepare for Mass, she receives another tap on the shoulder with the same request. "Excuse me, you are in my seat. Can you please move?" What is this, she thought to herself? She got up and moved again. Feeling a bit perturbed at this point, she was astonished when the exact same scenario happened a third time!

What happened to the woman in this story is a microcosm of exactly what is wrong with our world. These "people of God" who asked this woman to move believed they were doing nothing wrong. This stranger encroached on space believed to be rightfully theirs. After all, they are the regular, faithful contributors to this parish and are, thus, entitled to reserved seating, right?

Wrong. Entitlement has become one of our most significant problems and sins. We have become entitled to entitlement! In God's kingdom, nobody is entitled to a seat, yet all are seated. Isn't that wonderful? Maybe that is what the first hearers of Jesus' proclamation in the synagogue understood: that everyone has a place. No one is without a seat and what we do in the small matters of our lives affects how the big ones play out. While we may not have directly exacerbated the plight of someone suffering in another part of the world, we can easily be responsible for making someone in our community feel unwelcome, unappreciated, and unloved. All actions and attitudes are connected to the whole, resulting in a ripple effect on life beyond our comprehension. Until we understand the meaning of love and grasp our reluctance at times to receive it, we will remain tethered and aimlessly spinning. We stay broken and lost. Jesus, Son of the living God, have mercy on me a sinner! © LPi

Your words, LORD,
are Spirit and Life.

~ Psalm 19

Holy Hour for Life

3 p.m., Sunday, January 23, 2022

Holy Name of Jesus Church
245 Prospect Park West, Brooklyn, NY 11215
Livestream: facebook.com/holynamebrooklyn

The Holy Hour will include Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament, recitation of the Rosary, a brief Reflection, Silent Prayer for the protection of all human life from conception to natural death, and Benediction. Please join us.

Alexandra Como Saghir & Tyson Lewis

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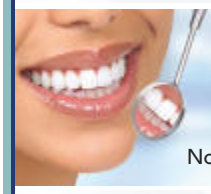

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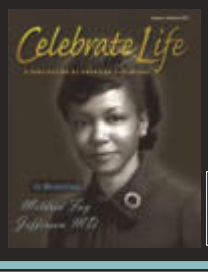

I became a physician in order to help save lives. I am at once a physician, a citizen, and a woman, and I am not willing to stand aside and allow the concept of expendable human lives to turn this great land of ours into just another exclusive reservation where only the perfect, the privileged, and the planned have the right to live.

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