

PASTOR'S NOTES

Dear Friends,

The Feasts of Epiphany and the Baptism of the Lord close the Christmas Season and begin a return to what we call Ordinary Time. In English, ordinary means normal, commonplace, average.

As we move away from the festive music, twinkling lights, and beloved scriptural readings of the announcement and birth of Jesus, we may think our discipleship with the Lord is back to normal, common, average; in a word, ordinary.

But here is a case of something being lost in translation. The Church's use of the word Ordinary originates from the Latin word Ordinalis, meaning numbers in a series. It's simply the way the Church counts her weeks when we are not Christmas feasting or Lenten fasting.

It remains a time of preparation for and expectation of Christ's return.

Appropriately, then, the Gospel on our first Sunday of celebrating Ordinary Time tells of John the Baptist pointing out Jesus as the Lamb of God with Andrew and other disciples choosing to follow Him.

In the season of Ordinary Time, we join them. We choose to be a disciple with the disciples and follow Jesus as he walks among humanity restoring freedom, lifting burdens, and revealing the divine hospitality of His Father.

So prepare yourselves for this coming journey with the Lord.

It promises to be anything but ordinary!

With Joy and Gratitude for the days ahead!
Fr. Seth

A NOTE TO OUR NON-CATHOLIC PARISHIONERS: Although there is no formal program now in place to bring non-Catholics into the Church, I would be happy to begin one if you feel the desire to explore becoming a Catholic. As a convert myself, I'd be thrilled to explore this possibility with you and to discuss any difficulties, questions, or apprehensions you may have.

OUR GIFTS TO GOD

THE WEEK OF 1/7/18

St. Mary's \$3,558	Budget (\$1,900) +\$1,658
Sacred Heart \$1,288	Budget (\$900) +\$388
Visitation \$532	Budget (\$400) +\$132
St. Sebastian \$330	Budget (\$400) -\$70

\$414.00 was mailed to our Sister Parish, St. Anthony of Padua, on January 9, 2018.

2017 Contribution Statements have been mailed to those who previously requested one. If you did not receive one and would like one, please call the Parish Office.

LONGITUDE

2018 Jan 14 Sun:

Second Collection: Catholic Times

2018 Jan 17 Wed:

5:30pm, First Reconciliation, St. Mary's Church. Potluck Dinner at 5:30pm in the Parish Center, Reconciliation at 6:30pm.

2018 Jan 22-28:

Fr. Seth will be away. Fr. Hoeffler will celebrate Mass the weekend of January 27 & 28.

2018 Jan 28 Sun:

Second Collection: Church in Latin America

2018 Feb 14 Wed: Ash Wednesday NOT a Holy day of Obligation.

Second Collection: Church in Central & Eastern Europe

5:30pm, Mass at Sacred Heart, Franklin

7:00pm, Mass at St. Mary's, New Berlin

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Jack Glisson, David Hermes, Charles & Alice Walk, Nancy Flach, Cecelia Peters, Roseanne Hartley, Calyssa Richie, Dale Fitzpatrick, Julie Bergschneider, Mary McCray, Carl Bertolotti, Heather Boudreau, Don & Margaret Laughery, Jane Ryan, Jean Knight, Tina Green, Sy & Judy Haber, Donna Reichart, Presley Kerber, Joyce Henn, Olivia Loving, George Eck, Opal Sutera, Theresa Yates.

DEATHS

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Mary Crawford, parishioner of Sacred Heart, who passed away on Sunday, January 7, 2018, in Texas. A service will be held at a later date.

May the angels lead her to paradise.