



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 26

January 24, 2021

Dates to Remember

- January 23: 4:00 PM Mass
- January 24: 9:00 AM Mass
- Please see our parish website for reservation information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

Let Us Pray

Grant me, O Lord my God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you.

—St. Thomas Aquinas

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225-1274), was born into a wealthy family near Naples, Italy. Expecting him to become a Benedictine monk, Thomas greatly disappointed his parents when he chose to join the Dominicans. He studied in Paris, a favorite student of St. Albert the Great, and was ordained a Dominican priest. A brilliant philosopher and theologian, Thomas spent his final years producing his most influential work, the *Summa Theologica*, where he laid out his five proofs for the existence of God. He was canonized in 1323, and declared a doctor of the Church in 1567. His feast day is January 28.

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 1: 14-20

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

After John had been arrested,
Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:
“This is the time of fulfillment.
The kingdom of God is at hand.
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw Simon and his brother Andrew
casting their nets into the sea;
they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them,
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.
He walked along a little farther
and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They too were in a boat mending their nets.
Then he called them.
So they left their father Zebedee in the boat
along with the hired men and followed him.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Jesus is the Good News

Today’s Gospel presents the beginning of Jesus’ preaching ministry in Galilee. Mark stresses that Jesus began to preach “after John [the Baptist] was arrested” (1:14). When the prophetic voice of the Baptist, who proclaimed the coming of God’s kingdom, was silenced by Herod, Jesus begins to bring all, especially the poor, “the Gospel of God.” But Jesus no longer points to another who must come: he himself is the fulfillment of those promises. He himself is the “good news” to believe in, to receive and communicate to all men and women of every time that they too may entrust their life to him. Jesus Christ in his person is the Word living and working in history. Whoever hears and follows him may enter the kingdom of God.

—Pope Francis

Sunday Gospel Connection: January 24, 2021

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Mark 1: 14-20

Gospel Background: Today we begin a continuous reading of Mark's Gospel that will carry us through this segment of the liturgical season of Ordinary Time. Remember that in Cycle B of the Lectionary, most of the Gospel readings are taken from the Gospel according to Mark.

The Gospel of Mark does not begin with a narrative about Jesus' birth. Instead Mark begins by reporting on the preaching of John the Baptist. John is described as the voice in the wilderness sent to prepare the way of the Lord. Immediately after describing the work of John the Baptist, Mark reports on Jesus' baptism and his temptation in the desert. Jesus' public ministry begins after the arrest of John the Baptist. Mark wants his readers to understand the important connection between the end of the ministry of John the Baptist and the beginning of Jesus' own ministry.



As we learn at the beginning of today's Gospel reading, Jesus preaches the Kingdom of God in continuity with the preaching of John the Baptist. Like John the Baptist, Jesus' pronouncement of the kingdom is a call to repentance. Yet Jesus' preaching is greater than John's. Jesus begins the time of fulfillment; the Kingdom of God is already here. This will be demonstrated again and again, both in Jesus' words and in the actions that follow. Jesus' healings and forgiveness of sins are signs of the Kingdom of God that he announces in his teaching.

In contrast to last week's Gospel, in Mark's Gospel Jesus takes the initiative in calling his first disciples. As mentioned last week, it was more typical of first-century rabbinical schools for students to seek out rabbis, asking to be their disciples. In Mark's Gospel, Jesus breaks with this tradition and invites his disciples to learn from him. Jesus is said to have first called four fishermen—Simon, Andrew, James, and John. Simon and Andrew are brothers. Jesus promises that he will make them “fishers of men.” James and John are also brothers. Mark does not report Jesus' words of invitation to them, but he does report that they left their fishing immediately; their father, Zebedee, was left behind in the boat.

Mark's Gospel is told with a great sense of urgency and immediacy. Jesus is a person of action, and events occur in rapid succession. We see this in today's Gospel. Time is of the essence; the fishermen immediately put aside their livelihood to become Jesus' disciples. The Kingdom of God is here and now. The time of fulfillment is at hand. How might our lives be different if we more fully shared this sense of the immediacy of God's kingdom?

Family Connection: Today's Gospel describes how Jesus called his first disciples and the immediacy with which these men dropped everything to follow him. We can only begin to imagine what Jesus' presence must have been like to invoke such a response in these first disciples. While a few of us might relate to such a radical conversion, many of us would find such a sudden change in ourselves or in another person unsettling. There are few things for which we would willingly drop everything. And yet this is the immediacy with which these first disciples responded to Jesus. These first disciples were willing to drop everything in order to make Jesus and the Kingdom of God the most important things in their lives.

Gather as a family and talk about circumstances in which you have had to “drop everything.” (the call to pick up a sick child from school, the cry of a hurt or angry child) How did you feel about having to change your plans in each of these situations? How do we feel when someone asks us to drop everything to help him or her? For many of us, it is not easy to drop everything to respond to the needs of another.

Read today's Gospel, Mark 1:14–20. Invite your family to imagine what Jesus' presence and invitation to these first followers must have been like that they responded by leaving their livelihood to become his disciples. How might our life change if we understood the Kingdom of God to be as important and immediate in our lives? Ask God to help you experience the Kingdom of God with such immediacy. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

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