John the Baptist saw Jesus coming toward him and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world.” JOHN 1:29

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 15, 2023

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Liturgic Schedule and Mass Intentions for the week

Mon., January 16, Weekday
7:00am † Gerry Schoene  
Presider: Fr. Benz
8:00am † Communion Service  
Presider: Deacon Mark

Tues., January 17, Saint Anthony
7:00am † Justin LaVictoire  
Presider: Fr. Whitman
8:00am † Diane Echele  
Presider: Fr. Benz

Wed., January 18, Weekday
7:00am † Janet Simon  
Presider: Fr. Benz
8:00am † Sue Wehde (school mass)  
Presider: Fr. Whitman

Thur., January 19, Weekday
7:00am † Ruth Carneal  
Presider: Fr. Whitman
8:00am † Mary Rose Peters  
Presider: Fr. Benz

Fri., January 20, Weekday
7:00am † Vocations to the Priesthood and Religious Life  
Presider: Benz
8:00am † John "Carlos" Galvin (school mass)  
Presider: Fr. Whitman

Sat., January 21, Saint Agnes
8:00am † Sue Wehde  
Presider: Fr. Benz

Sat., January 21, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
5:00pm † Our Parish Family  
Presider: Fr. Whitman  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: M. Martin and V. Martin

Sun., January 22, Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
7:30am † Violet Hodur  
Presider: Fr. Whitman  
Deacon: Frank Olmsted  
Servers: Adult Servers (J. Groene & S. Groene)
9:30am † Raymond Shackelford  
Presider: Fr. Benz  
Deacon: Mark McCarthy  
Servers: L. Conway and L. Conway
11:30am † Robert Berger  
Presider: Fr. Benz  
Deacon: Mark McCarthy  
Servers: I. Hamer and M. Hamer

Please pray for the repose of the souls of:
† Mike Sepe, husband of Karen and father of Alex
† Daniel E. Ohlms, brother of Mike Ohlms and Mary Gregory and uncle of Michelle Camac and Kelley Holterman

May their souls rest in our Lord’s eternal embrace
In the Gospel after Jesus was baptized, John testified saying, “I saw the Spirit come down like a dove...and remain upon him.” As you place your gift in the Society of St. Vincent de Paul Poor Box (located at the rear of the church in the main aisle), know that you are a sign of God’s Spirit of love to those who are suffering.
AS WE PUT OUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AWAY, A FEW PARTING THOUGHTS:

1) Many thanks to those who have been so instrumental in our celebration of Advent and Christmas this year. First, to those involved with our parish’s Giving Tree, both those who organized it and those who contributed items so generously. Second, to those who planned and participated in our “Christmas with Comet”—lots of fun for all! Third, to those who decorated the Church in preparation for our celebrations—hard work but happy work. Fourth, to our Music Director Marc Strathman, our musicians, choir members, and all those who served, read, ushered, etc.—angels from on high! Finally, I want to thank you all for your Christmas greetings and goodies shared with me and the other members of our Pastoral Team. Yummm!!

2) A reflection from St. Bernard of Clairvaux (1090-1153):

“The kindness and love of God our Saviour for mankind were revealed. Thanks be to God, through whom we receive such abundant consolation in this pilgrimage, this exile, this distress.

“Before his humanity appeared, his kindness lay concealed. Of course it was already in existence, because the mercy of the Lord is from eternity, but how could men know it was so great? It was promised but not yet experienced: hence many did not believe in it. At various times and in various different ways, God spoke through the prophets, saying I know the plans I have in mind for you: plans for peace, not disaster.

“What reply did man make, man who felt the affliction, and knew nothing of peace? ‘How long will you keep saying “Peace, peace” when there is no peace?’ And so the angels of peace weep bitterly saying, Lord, who has believed our report?

“But now at last let men believe their own eyes, because all God’s promises are to be trusted. So that it cannot escape the notice of even troubled eyes, He has set up his tabernacle in the sun. Behold, peace is no longer promised, but conferred; no longer delayed, but given; no longer predicted, but bestowed. Behold, God has sent down to earth a bag bulging with his mercy, a bag that, at the passion, is torn open so that our ransom pours out of it onto us. A small bag, perhaps, but a full one: for it was a small child that was given to us, but in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead.

“After the fullness of time had come, there came too the fullness of the Godhead. He came in the flesh, so that at least he might make himself manifest to our earthly minds, so that when this humanity of his appeared, his kindness might also be acknowledged. Where the humanity of God appears, his kindness can no longer be hidden. In what way, indeed, could he have better commended his kindness than by assuming my flesh? My flesh, that is, not Adam’s, as it was before the fall.

“What greater proof could he have given of his mercy than by taking upon himself that very thing which needed mercy? Where is there such perfect loving-kindness as in the fact that for our sake the Word of God became perishable like the grass? Lord, what is man, that you make much of him or pay him any heed?

“Let man infer from this how much God cares for him. Let him know from this what God thinks of him, what he feels about him. Man, do not ask about your own sufferings; but about what God suffered. Learn from what he was made for you, how much he makes of you, so that his kindness may show itself to you from his humanity.

“The lesser he has made himself in his humanity, the greater has he shown himself in kindness. The more he humbles himself on my account, the more powerfully he engages my love. The kindness and humanity of God our Saviour appeared says St Paul. The humanity of God shows the greatness of his kindness, and he who added humanity to the name of God gave great proof of this kindness.”

3) “Christmas isn’t just a day, it’s a frame of mind,” as says Kris Kringle in “Miracle on 34th Street.” Let us not put away the Christmas spirit as we put away the Christmas decorations, for Christmas is every day!
God wants you to experience the JOY he created you for. So do we. Here’s how. It all starts by following 9 simple rules.

Every success in life is meaningless without joy. Joy is God’s dream for you. Heaven is called a “wedding banquet.” And Jesus’ whole mission was to share that joy with you. He said it himself. “I’ve told you these things so my joy may be in you.” Think about that. The joy of GOD in YOU. The experience of that joy eternal starts now. And it doesn’t start with a change in your circumstances but a change in you.

Chris Stefanik’s book “Living Joy” is intended to help us find the joy for which God has created us.

His nine rules are:
#1 Give Thanks
#2 Practice Silence
#3 Love Yourself
#4 Have Fun
#5 Engage Your Body in the Battle for Joy
#6 Make Friends
#7 Rest
#8 Serve
#9 Frame Your Mind with Faith

Plus Chris has created two short accompanying videos for each rule.

You can hear Chris describe this book and its process learning more about them by going to: https://coaching.reallifecatholic.com/living-joy

While this book and its accompanying videos will be beneficial to anyone who reads it and uses the videos, our parish’s Adult Faith Formation Committee would like to invite you to consider using this book and its videos in a more impactful way by doing so in small groups.

You can form your own small group comprised of your friends and/or family members (we will provide you with a small group guide which you can use). However, we would also invite you to become a member of one of our parish’s small groups. Our parish small groups are intended to be a part of our observance of the Season of Lent (the first four rules) as well as our observance of the Season of Easter (the last five rules). Our parish’s small groups will either be in-person or by a Zoom meeting. If you wish to be a member of one of our parish’s small groups, we ask you to complete the following form and return it to our office by Feb. 1:

Name(s): ________________________________

Phone number: ________________________________

E-mail address if you have one: ________________________________

I would like to participate in an in-person small group: ___

I would like to participate in a Zoom small group: ___

I am willing to be a small group leader via Zoom: ____ in-person: ____
On This MLK Weekend, Martin Luther King on Nonviolence: A Lesson for Discourse Today

Violence seems to be an endemic part of America and of our lives today, whether we experience it directly or not. While we condemn and avoid physical violence, many of us may at times participate in another form of violence we believe is somehow more respectable. Verbal and emotional violence is widespread today yet neglected and not thought of as problematic. Why is this the case?

There is more to violence than physical acts. Violence also involves both actions and words. Violence does two things. First, it disregards the basic dignity all persons deserve. Second, this disregard results in actions that invade mental, emotional, physical, and social boundaries. These actions can be physical and verbal. Not only can we use force physically, but also in verbal ways to inflict harm emotionally and psychologically on others…families, friends, fellow churchgoers. This basic aspect of violence has been ignored for too long.

An appropriate place to begin devising a remedy is by revisiting one of America’s great theologians and prophets, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Though he is often quoted, most Americans do not understand the substance of his thought. One of the most misunderstood aspects of Dr. King’s philosophy of nonviolence was that he encouraged passivity. Nothing could be further from the truth. King was not passive at all; he believed in resisting oppression and challenging injustice. He stood up for righteousness, truth, and justice. King modeled what it means to be centered in love. He was committed to eschewing hate and violence as a choice in responding to injustice.

In a speech “The Most Durable Power” given at Dexter Ave Baptist Church, in November 1956 Dr. King said… “Always be sure that you struggle with Christian methods and Christian weapons. Never succumb to the temptation of becoming bitter. As you press on for justice, be sure to move with dignity and discipline, using only the weapon of love. Let no man pull you so low as to hate him. Always avoid violence. If you succumb to the temptation of using violence in your struggle, unborn generations will be the recipients of a long and desolate night of bitterness, and your chief legacy to the future will be an endless reign of meaningless chaos.”

His words are clear; however, there are three statements Dr. King also made that apply to the issue of verbal violence. First, he challenges us to not allow anyone to pull us into hatred and violent speech. His sober reminder not to succumb to the temptation to become what you hate is vital today. In debates about issues, we must resist the temptation to give into lesser impulses and passions – name calling, shouting matches, trading insults, belittling others, and dog whistling. These are all manifestations of a culture of violence that has seized our political discourse today.

Second, he draws attention to the violence of the spirit, that is violence within oneself. Dr. King’s words challenge us to identify the hate or ill-feelings within us that fuels these violent responses and not draw on them in our dealings with others. This will require discipline and strength that must be nurtured in prayer, meditation, mindfulness, confession, and other spiritual practices that free the soul from the shackles of violence.

Finally, he warns, if we succumb to the temptation of using verbal violence, it will produce an endless reign of meaningless chaos. Shouting others down, questioning the intelligence of others, and demonizing others is not making your point and advancing your cause. We ought to worry about the chaos future generations will reap as we nurture a generation of young people on this way of communicating. Our children are watching us and listening to us and what they are seeing is disturbing.

Above all, what Rev. King stood for requires more than “playing nice”. It challenges our character and depth as people of God. We must have the character to find constructive ways to have difficult conversations and disagreements without resorting to verbal and emotional violence.

Excerpted from “The Black Pulpit and the Public Square” by Dr. Lewis Brogdon
The Giving Tree Ministry members want to express how overwhelmed we are each year by the extreme generosity of our wonderful parishioners!! You all go above and beyond our hopes for the organizations and their needs. Comments were as follows: “Thank you so very much for your kindness and all of the many surprises for our children.” (Our Lady of Guadalupe School). FAST said, “Your generosity amazes us!” plus they did a FB post thanking us as well. Birthright said, “This is incredible!! These donations last us most of the year!!” Your items and monetary donations are heartwarming to all!!

In all the Dioceses of the United States of America, January 22 (or January 23, when January 22 falls on a Sunday) shall be observed as a particular day of prayer for the full restoration of the legal guarantee of the right to life and of penance for violations to the dignity of the human person committed through acts of abortion. As individuals, we are called to observe this day through the penitential practices of prayer, fasting and/or almsgiving.

The USCCB also sponsors an annual, nationwide novena called 9 Days for Life, January 19-27, which encompasses the liturgical observance of the Day of Prayer. Each day for nine days, a different intention is featured, accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related information as we pray for the respect and protection of every human life. Visit respectlife.org/9-days-for-life for more information on the annual campaign.

Join thousands of Catholics nationwide in the annual Respect Life novena, 9 Days for Life, January 19-27. Get daily intentions, brief reflections, and more. Sign up at www.9daysforlife.com

There will also be a few hard copies of the novena in the Gathering Space.

This Thursday, January 19 at 7:00 pm, Deacon Mark McCarthy will present "The Holy Eucharist." Come and join the RCIA group and other interested Catholics in the Duchesne Room for this opportunity to reflect on this sacrament which is the "source and summit" of our faith.
St. Gletus Trivia Night

DATE- January 28, 2023
TIME- Doors open at 6PM
       Trivia Starts 6:30 PM
PRICE- $200 for a table of 8
WANT MULLIGANS? 12 for $12
FREE BEER & SODA
       50/50, RAFFLE & WINE BINGO

TO REGISTER
Complete online form (scan QR code):

DONATIONS NEEDED
Wine bottles & gift cards, and round sponsors
Drop off in the school office
email: saintcletustrivia@gmail.com with questions
World Marriage Day

On **Sunday, February 12, 2023, at 2:30 pm.**, Auxiliary Bishop Mark S. Rivituso will celebrate a Mass for World Marriage Day at the Cathedral Basilica of St. Louis, 4431 Lindell Blvd. St. Louis, MO. A reception will follow in Boland Hall. All married couples are invited to attend and celebrate the gift of marriage. World Marriage Day honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It emphasizes the faithfulness, sacrifice and joy of daily married life. World Marriage Day started in Baton Rouge, LA in 1981 and was later adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter who now is sponsoring this event on February 12.
READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday: Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111:1-2, 4-5, 9, 10c; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday: Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110:1-4; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday: Heb 7:25 — 8:6; Ps 40:7-10, 17; Mk 3:7-12
Friday: Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85:8, 10-14; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday: Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47:2-3, 6-9; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday: Is 8:23 — 9:3; Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14; 1 Cor 1:10-13, 17; Mt 4:12-23 [12-17]
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. CLETUS CHURCH # 020010
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Mary Reich

Microsoft Publisher 2010
Adobe Acrobat X Standard
Windows 10

Pages sent: 1 through 11

January 15, 2023, bulletin

Sent: Monday, January 9, at 1:00pm

NOTE:

Please print 625 copies

Thank You!