

January 31 - Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**“THE PEOPLE WERE
ASTONISHED
AT HIS TEACHING.”**

**Dear God,
our hope is that you will amaze us;
win us with your words;
spellbind us with your love.**

**And let us, with you,
cast our unclean spirits
from this world:
human trafficking
the pandemic,
the climate crisis,
racial bias,
poverty
greed,
war.**

**Make the unclean spirits
in our small efforts.**

(Anne M. Osdieck, used with permission)

FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

(February 7)

**“RISING VERY EARLY BEFORE DAWN,
JESUS WENT OFF TO A DESERTED PLACE.”**

In today's Gospel, we learn that Simon had a mother-in-law. In other words, we become aware that when Simon left everything behind to follow Jesus, that “everything” included family. Jesus the Healer cured Simon's mother-in-law and many in the town who were sick. Yes, Jesus responds to the universal longing for wholeness and healing. Yet after the many healings, Jesus did not wait for acclamations from the people. Instead, he rose very early before dawn and went to a deserted place to pray to search for his God in prayer. Jesus teaches us by example that it is important to take time to be alone to pray. From prayer we can draw strength to do what each day requires, most especially by showing our family in word and by deed what it means to be a disciple of Jesus, a child of God.

SANCTUARY LIGHT

January 31 – Harry and Loretta Simon
February 7 – Sister Alice Retzner
February 14 – Harriet and Allan Kunz

MASS INTENTIONS

January 30 – George and Jane Bohman
January 31 – Clara Marie Wagner
February 6 – Joy Youngman
February 7 – Laurence Niese
February 13 – Richard Wagner
February 14 – Martha Ann Moorman

1/12/20-1/25/20 PARISH SUPPORT

Sunday & Holy Day Collection	\$4796.00
Church in Latin America Collection	\$ 515.00
Propagation of the Faith Collection	\$ 204.00
Criterion Collection	\$ 382.00
Utilities Collection	\$ 110.00
Tuckpointing Donation	\$5000.00
Capital Improvement Donation	\$ 75.00
Glenna Schuler Memorial Donations	\$ 400.00
Jeanne Schene Memorial Donations	\$ 245.00

Thank You For Your Faithful Giving!

“There is nothing more tragic in all the world than wasted pain. Think of how much suffering there is in hospitals, among the poor and bereaved.

“Think also of how much of that suffering goes to waste.

“How many of those lonesome, suffering, abandoned, crucified souls are saying with our Lord at the moment of Consecration: ‘This is my body, take it’? And yet that is what we should be saying at that second. ‘Here is my body, take it. Here is my soul, my will, my energy, my strength, my poverty, my wealth – all that I have. It is yours. Take it! Consecrate it! Offer it!’

“Offer it to the Heavenly Father with yourself, in order that he, looking down on this great Sacrifice, may see only you, his beloved Son, in whom he is well pleased. Transmute the poor bread of my life into your life; thrill the wine of my wasted life into your divine Spirit; unite my broken heart with your Heart; change my cross into a crucifix.” ~ Venerable Fulton Sheen

THANK YOU – We are grateful for the check of \$400.00 from the Schuler family in memory of Glenna Schuler.

Patty Simon sends words of gratitude for the generous Christmas gift given to her from the parish. She states, “May the new year be more kind and better health to all of you. God bless!”

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL – I am very happy to say that our latest UCA report shows that we have reached 93% of our goal, \$12,733.00 from 67 pledges.

THROAT BLESSING – There will be NO blessing of throats this year because of the pandemic.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Preschool through Grade 5 will have Religious Ed classes on February 3 and 10, beginning at 6:45 PM.

Junior High and High School Religious Ed classes will be held on Sundays, January 31 and February 7 and 14.

CONFIRMATION CLASS – Remember and pray for our 13 young people who are candidates for the Sacrament of Confirmation. They are a wonderful faith-filled class. They participated in the Rite of Entrance today in the parish hall. The Sacrament will be celebrated on April 24.

MASKS – Please continue to wear your masks when you attend Mass in the parish hall.

WORDS OF POPE FRANCIS – Pope Francis, before receiving the first dose of the vaccine, stated, “I believe that ethically everyone should take the vaccine. It is not an option, it is an ethical choice because you are gambling with your health, with your life, but you are also gambling with the lives of others.”

We are still months away from the end of the pandemic. I pray for comfort for those who have lost loved ones; I pray for safety for our first responders and medical professionals; and I pray everyone does their part to bring about the end of the pandemic as quickly as possible.

ST. MARY’S PRESCHOOL – If you are interested in the preschool program at St. Mary’s, Greensburg, see the flyer on the bulletin board in the vestibule.



The Year of St. Joseph

*December 8, 2020 –
December 8, 2021*

As you may have read in your *Criterion*, marking the 150th anniversary of St. Joseph being declared patron of the universal Church, Pope Francis proclaimed a yearlong celebration dedicated to St. Joseph which began on December 8, 2020, and will conclude on December 8, 2021.

Some years back I received a Christmas card which I made into a bookmark. It was a picture of Joseph leading Mary and Jesus into Egypt. The inscription above the picture was, “The hand of the HUMBLE Joseph guides that of the Almighty.” Awesome! St. Joseph was truly a humble man who, as Pope Francis stated, played an incomparable role in the history of salvation.

In the gospel on February 7th, the apostles came to Jesus and said, “Everyone is looking for you!” Jesus simply replied by saying, “Let us go on to the nearby villages.” I wonder if Joseph had anything to do with Jesus’ humble response. He indeed guided the hand of the Almighty!

Humble Joseph, Teach Us Humility!



JOB OPPORTUNITY – Housekeeper for the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg – Day Shift: Part-Time; 29 hours per week: every 9th Saturday; PTO benefits; Vision and Dental Benefits available.

If interested or for more details, contact S. Carolyn Hoff at 812-933-6465 or by email at choff@oldenburgosf.com.

THE LORD’S LAUGHTER – A Sunday school teacher asked her class why Joseph and Mary took Jesus with them to Jerusalem.

“They couldn’t get a baby-sitter,” a small child replied. (via Catherine Hall Pittsburgh, PA, The Joyful Noiseletter)

**Archbishop John Carroll's Prayer
for Government**

*Composed for the Inauguration of George
Washington*

We pray you, O God of might, wisdom, and justice,
through whom authority is rightly administered,
laws are enacted, and judgment decreed,
assist with your Holy Spirit of counsel and fortitude
the President of these United States,
that his administration may be conducted in
righteousness,
and be eminently useful to your people, over whom
he presides;
by encouraging due respect for virtue and religion;
by a faithful execution of the laws in justice and
mercy;
and by restraining vice and immorality.

Let the light of your divine wisdom direct
the deliberations of Congress,
and shine forth in all the proceedings and laws
framed for our rule and government,
so that they may tend to the preservation of peace,
the promotion of national happiness,
the increase of industry, sobriety, and useful
knowledge;
and may perpetuate to us the blessing of equal
liberty.

We pray for the governor of this state,
for the members of the assembly,
for all judges, magistrates, and other officers
who are appointed to guard our political welfare,
that they may be enabled, by your powerful
protection,
to discharge the duties of their respective stations
with honesty and ability.

We recommend likewise, to your unbounded mercy,
all our fellow citizens throughout the United States,
that we may be blessed in the knowledge
and sanctified in the observance of your most holy
law;
that we may be preserved in union,
and in that peace which the world cannot give;
and after enjoying the blessings of this life,
be admitted to those which are eternal.
Grant this, we beseech you, O Lord of mercy,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

Puzzle!

Complete each saying below. Then place the words from those blanks in the correct order to complete Proverbs 23:4.

1. When the going gets tough, the tough _____ going.
2. People who live in glass houses should _____ throw stones.
3. If the shoe fits, _____ it.
4. "It is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for someone who is _____ to enter the kingdom of God."
5. Good things come _____ those who wait.
6. When in Rome, _____ as the Romans do.
7. Don't wear _____ your welcome.
8. If you want something done right, do it _____ .

Write the unscrambled proverb here:

_____ PROVERBS 23:4

Answer: Do not wear yourself out to get rich. Proverbs 23:4

Mother Teresa's Five-Second Prayer to Mary For When You Need Support:

"If you ever feel distressed during your day — call upon our Lady — just say this simple prayer: 'Mary, Mother of Jesus, please be a mother to me now.' I must admit — this prayer has never failed me."