

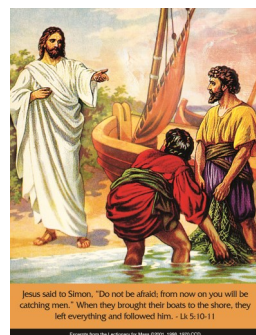
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**Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Do you have enough? Many of us come from a nation of material abundance. We have all the things we could possibly need not only to survive, but to thrive - food, shelter, mental ability, income, access to medical care. Most people in human history lived with far less than we. So why are we so dissatisfied? Some Christians can be drawn to the "prosperity Gospel." This is the idea that following God will bring us material abundance in this life.

**Sunday, February 10th, 2019**



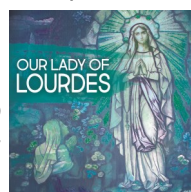
That surely seems to be the story of today's Gospel! Peter and his friends chose - with some faith - to put out their nets a final time at Jesus' command. "They caught a great number of fish and their nets were tearing. They signaled to their partners in the other boat to come to help them. They came and filled both boats so that they were in danger of sinking." What gift! What abundance! What prosperity! Peter and his friends caught more fish than they'd ever seen. Yet what is their response to this material abundance, this gift from God? They leave it behind. "When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him." Praying for God to meet our physical, material needs is not a bad thing! Jesus himself includes "give us this day our daily bread" in the prayer he teaches his disciples. The question is, how do we respond when our prayers are answered? Do we thank God briefly, or perhaps ignore Him completely and move on with our lives? Or do we respond as Peter did? Lord, You showed up in an area that has no bearing on my eternal salvation. You gave me a gift I didn't even really need. You love me! You really do love me." Is our gratitude only surface level? Or do we allow ourselves, like Peter did, to respond with wonder, awe, and deeper discipleship?

Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid, from now on you will be catching men." When they brought their boats to the shore, they left everything and followed him. - Lk 5:1-11



**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK 2019: POPE CALLS FOR A CULTURE OF GENEROSITY**

In his message for the 27th World Day of the Sick, Pope Francis urges believers to promote a culture of generosity, noting that the joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian. Established in 1993 by Pope Saint John Paul II on the Feast Day of Our Lady of Lourdes, a different city is chosen each year to host the World Day of the Sick. This year the choice has fallen on Calcutta in India and Pope Francis highlighted the figure of Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta as a model of charity who made God's love for the poor and sick visible. "In all aspects of her life", he said, "she was a generous dispenser of divine mercy, making herself available for everyone through her welcome and defence of human life, of those unborn and those abandoned and discarded... She bowed down before those who were spent, left to die on the side of the road, seeing in them their God-given dignity".



Pope Francis says that those who care for the sick and give of themselves with generosity and straightforward love - like St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta - are amongst the Church's most credible evangelizers. He focused on Jesus's words to the Apostles: "You received without payment; give without payment" (Mt 10:8). Just as life is a gift from God, he said, and cannot be reduced to a personal possession or private property, he said that, "caring for the sick requires professionalism, tenderness, straightforward and simple gestures freely given, like a caress that makes others feel loved".



**World Day of the Sick:** February 11th is the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, one of the most famous apparitions of the Blessed Virgin Mary that took place in southern France. On this day in 1858 a young, poor girl named Bernadette Soubirous was out collecting firewood with her sister and another friend near a grotto when she saw a vision of a lovely lady. In the words of St. Bernadette,

"I raised my head and looked towards the grotto. I saw a Lady dressed in white, wearing a white dress, a blue girdle and a yellow rose on each foot, the same color as the chain of her Rosary."

Many subsequent apparitions took place. Today a beautiful church has been erected on the grounds near the grotto at Lourdes. After Rome and the Holy Land, Lourdes, France is the most popular place of pilgrimage for Catholic faithful. The water of Lourdes is readily available to all pilgrims, and numerous healings have been medically documented to have occurred there, as well as conversions to the faith because of these miracles. St. Bernadette's feast day is February 18th.

**Recipients of the Anointing of the Sick:**

Those of the faithful whose health is seriously impaired by sickness or old age may receive this sacrament. The sacrament may be repeated if the sick person recovers after being anointed and then again falls ill or if during the same illness the person's condition becomes more serious. A sick person may be anointed before surgery whenever a serious illness is the reason for the surgery. Elderly people may be anointed if they have become notably weakened even though no serious illness is present. Sick children may be anointed if they have sufficient use of reason to be strengthened by this sacrament.

**Let us pray** for those who are sick or suffering and for doctors, nurses, health care workers, and pastoral caregivers who work to restore health to those afflicted with illness and disease.

**ANNUAL DIOCESAN RESPECT FOR LIFE MASS** will be celebrated by **Most Rev. Gerard Paul Bergie**, Bishop of St. Catharines on **The Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord** Monday, March 25, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at **The Cathedral of St. Catherine of Alexandria**, 67 Church Street, St. Catharines. **Let us pray together for the protection of life in all its stages; for greater respect for God's gift of life: for those wounded by abortion. Reception to follow Hosted by the Diocesan CWL. All welcome.**

**SEPARATED AND DIVORCED HEALING MINISTRY.** This month's topics are 'What is Forgiveness' (Feb 11); and 'Healing', Fr. Hugh Gibson, presenter (Feb 25). Meetings are 7 to 9 pm at Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre, 7020 Stanley Ave, Niagara Falls. Pre-registration is not required. For information call 905-356-4113 or 905-684-0154, or email [separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com](mailto:separatedanddivorced@saintcd.com)

**NIAGARA FOUNDATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION—Annual Benefit Gala** with honorary guest Most Reverend Gerard Bergie, Bishop of St. Catharines. Supporting students in need and scholarships. Saturday, March 30th, 2019, Club Roma. After Dinner Speaker, Pat Stapelton, NHL legend and Team Canada 72 member. Tickets \$80. Available at [www.niagaracatholic.ca](http://www.niagaracatholic.ca). For further info, call Sherry Morena 905-735-0240 X. 213 or email: [foundationgala@nfce.com](mailto:foundationgala@nfce.com)

**Parish Calendar**

- February.....**  
**Feb 10th....** Anointing of the sick available following 11am Mass. See info in today's bulletin.  
**Liturgy Committee meeting 6:30pm.**
- Feb 27th.....**  
**March.....**  
**March 1st.....** World Day of Prayer. St. Ann will be the host parish this year. Service begins at 2pm.
- March 1st.....**  
**March 6th.....** **Ash Wednesday. Masses 9:30am & 7pm.**  
**March 10th.....** First Sunday of Lent  
**March 12th.....** Lenten Day of Recollection for Diocesan priests and deacons. **Mass this day will begin at 8:30am.**
- Youth Ministry**—Grades 5-8 and high school students are welcome to attend. Wednesday evenings 6:30-8:30pm.  
**Bingo:** Thursday Evenings 7pm in parish hall. All welcome to attend.

**Catholic Women's League**

The Annual Diocesan Retreat will be held on Wednesday, March 27th, 2019 or Saturday, March 30th at Gethsemane Ministries in Wellandport. The guest speaker will be Fr. Gregory Schmidt. **The deadline for registration is February 18th.** The cost is \$40 but the council will pay half after the retreat when you have attended. If anyone is interested in joining the 'Coldest Night of the Year' walk in St. Catharines on February 23 please contact Donna Larocque. Last year 7 ladies from the League managed to collect \$3000 which was donated to Start Me Up Niagara.

**A Lifeline for Marriage** – Do you feel alone? Are you frustrated or angry with each other? Retrouvaille has helped 10's of 1000's of couples experiencing marital difficulty at all levels. For confidential information about, or to register for the program beginning with a weekend on **March 15, 2019**, at the Mount Carmel Spiritual Centre in Niagara Falls, please call **905-664-5212** or email: [retrouvaille.hamilton@cogeco.ca](mailto:retrouvaille.hamilton@cogeco.ca) or visit the web site at [www.retrouvaille.org](http://www.retrouvaille.org).



**Everyday Stewardship**

Have you ever participated in various trust exercises, where you have to place your faith in others around you? Maybe it was falling backwards with your eyes closed while the person's voice speaking to you seemed to drift further away. Maybe it was jumping from a height into people's arms that didn't seem strong enough to catch you. These activities were supposed to show you the meaning of trust and help grow that trust in you for your comrades. Sometimes it worked. Other times, some prankster would actually let you fall, and then you learned to trust no one. So much for building up our ability to trust.

Trust is important, especially in our relationship with Jesus. He calls us all the time and asks for us to trust. However, because of doubt or a desire to follow our own will, we choose to disregard his request. After objecting to Jesus' request to lower his net into the water, Peter was humbled when he caught so much fish that the net began to tear. Peter was a fisherman by trade. Surely he knew what the catch was probably going to be that day. But Jesus asked him to follow his will. Peter wanted to follow his own. Peter realized that his trust from then on should be in the Lord. Do you sometimes think your generosity will bear little fruit? Do you wonder if your surrender to God in stewardship living really amounts to much at all? Trust in Jesus, the one who calls you to this life. His word is truth, and he would never let you fall.

**Offertory February 2nd & 3rd, 2019**

74 Envelopes	\$2, 114.00
Loose Collection	\$ 69.70
Total Offertory	\$2, 183.70
Maintenance	\$ 360.00

**A reminder- Our website domain name has changed to the following: [www.stannfenwick.com](http://www.stannfenwick.com)**



