

SAINT ANNE OF THE SUNSET

Religious Education Weekly Newsletter
For the Week of January 21, 2024 (Sunday)

FROM CARMEN PERLAS COORDINATOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Dear Religious Education Family and friends,

Since taking on a role of Religious Education Coordinator at Saint Anne's Catholic Church, I have not really given our Catechists much public recognition and appreciation and gratitude for their unyielding and untiring support of our Religious Education Program. They truly are the real unsung heroes of our program. Thus, to you all – **Sister Mary Francis, Alma Zamora, Berta Zamora, Gerri Jose, Matt Louie, Jen and John Eis, Siobhan and Maggie Clare, Carmen Ng (Parent Catechesis Coordinator)**, I sincerely thank you for all the work and dedication you offer lovingly to bring our children ever closer to Christ. I believe sincerely that in the eyes of Our Lord Jesus Christ, our Catechists and volunteers, just like His Twelve Apostles, were in a mysterious way, handpicked by Christ Himself.

This brings us to the theme of this Sunday's Gospel reading – APOLSTLESHIP. What would you have done if our Lord Jesus Christ comes by your place of work, or at the comfort of your homes and asked you – drop everything (your job, your family and all your dreams) and come follow me. "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." This biblical phrase is worth our meditation and reflection. Yes, what if you hear your name called?

MONTHLY CATECHIST'S MEETING – I also would like to bring to everyone's attention that after classes this Sunday, we will have our monthly Catechist meeting.

Why? This is how we take our ministry seriously, not only are lessons completed but all challenging issues are addressed and communication lines are kept open and free flowing between the Catechists, parents, guardians, our pastor, Fr. Dan and myself.

An important objective of our religious education program is fostering teamwork and a partnership with you, our dear parents. So please, if you have any concerns, ideas or would like to take a more active role (perhaps, to assist in class), please let me know. We welcome you.

REFLECTIONS ON THE READINGS ON THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Who is the Prophet Jonah? The first reading in the Third Sunday of Ordinary Time introduces us to a peculiar and reluctant prophet of God, Jonah. He is the central character of the Book of Jonah in which he defies God's command to go to the city of Nineveh to prophesy against its people for their wickedness towards Him. Thus, Jonah tries to 'escape' from God by going westward instead to a city called Tarshish in which he sets sail. While in the sea, a major storm arises. The sailors blamed Jonah as the cause of the storm and that he was to be blamed for it. So, he allowed himself to be thrown overboard. But instead of imminent death for him, God had other plans. He saved Jonah by being swallowed by a large fish, a whale and remained there for three days and nights where he prays to God and finally commits to do what God wanted Him to do in the first place – prophesy to the Ninevites and command them to repent for their sins. "Forty days more and Nineveh

shall be destroyed.” The people heeded to this and declared a fast as atonement for all their transgressions and all their evil ways. They were spared because of God’s mercy and love.

The 12 Disciples of Christ “Fishers of Men”



The Gospel of Mark (1: 14-20), begins where the first and the second reading ends – repentance from sin. Here, was seen and heard saying: “This is the time of fulfillment. The Kingdom of God is at hand.” Then, Mark continues to what I thought was a disconnected event – our Lord walking by the Sea of Galilee calling upon some ordinary people, fishermen (Andrew and Simon) and asked them to be among his first followers. After much reflection, I realized that God’s Kingdom can only be fulfilled, first through Jesus Christ’s redeeming act of sacrifice on the cross and through his disciples and through all Christians in spreading the Gospel message, evangelization. And so, while only twelve were directly chosen by Our Lord, rest assured that all who serve Him, for His glory, and in whatever capacity that might be, is indeed among the few of His followers. May our Lord continue to bless all who serve.

Rules of Fasting and Abstinence

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms

concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards. (From the USCCB).

UPCOMING EVENTS

FAMILY MASS AND CATECHISTS’ MEETING

*January 21. Sunday at 10:00 am
(Church)*

*Celebrating Santo Niño Celebration
Catechists Meeting at 12:20 pm*

CONFIRMATION PARENTS MEETING

*January 28, Sunday at 11:15 a.m.
(Parish Rectory Conference Room)*

Please note there will be no religious education classes this day

ASH WEDNESDAY – FEBRUARY 14

A Day of Fast and Abstinence

*February 18, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
(Church)*

PARISH LENTEN RETREAT WITH DR. SCOTT FRENCH

*February 17, Saturday at 10:00 a.m.
(Church)*

RITE OF ENROLLMENT CEREMONY FOR FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CANDIDATES AND FAMILY MASS

*February 18, Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
(Church)*

FIRST RECONCILIATION

*February 24 (Saturday) at 10:00 am
(Church)*
