

Church of the Divine Love
THIRD SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

JANUARY 22, 2023 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

THE WORD OF GOD

Prayer for the New Year – on insert

Processional Hymn **#304 – I come with joy to meet my Lord**

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria page 356

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Isaiah 9:1-4**

Psalm 27:1, 5-13

Second Lesson: **1 Corinthians 1:10-18**

Gradual Hymn **#321 – My God, thy table now is spread**

Gospel: **Matthew 4:12-23**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze

Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form VI page 392

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn **#525 – The Church's one foundation**

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:	
Eucharistic Prayer D	page 372
Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal)	page 373
The Lord's Prayer	page 364
The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer	page 337
The Communion of the People	
Communion Hymn – One Bread One Body (on insert)	
Post Communion Prayer	page 365
Prayer for Peace – on insert	
Prayer of St. Francis	page 833
Dismissal Hymn #599 – Lift every voice and sing	
Dismissal	

Sunday sermon January 22, 2023

Isaiah 9:1-4; Psalm 27:1,5-13; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18; Matthew 4:12-23.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I remember one day a group of young people in my parish in Haiti asked me: tell us how you found Christ and became a priest. Well, I began. And then there was silence. I thought hard about the question. I started again. Well, More silence. Then I said, you know it's just sort of always been there, a sense of connection, relationship, longing. I can't remember a time when it wasn't. One of them asked, "There wasn't a particular day or event? I shook my head. So did he. They were clearly disappointed and maybe even a bit doubtful about me.

I think that conversation highlights one of the difficulties with today's gospel. It sounds as if one day Jesus shows up and immediately, we walk away from our old life and leave everything behind. That's how St. Matthew describes it for Peter and Andrew, James and John in today's gospel. I don't doubt that's true. I know that's how it happened for some of you. That is a legitimate and valid experience. But it's not the only way. Some of you would describe a story similar to mine; a continuous and steady experience of Jesus. Others would tell a story of struggle and wrestling, give and take, back and forth. Think about Jacob or Jonah. In truth our lives are probably a mixture of all three of those plus others. How does any relationship begin, continue, grow? There is no one way or even a right way. There are probably as many ways of being called, finding Jesus, being found by Jesus, whatever you want to call it, as there are people. It is unique and personal to each one of us.

Follow me, the point, however, isn't how it happened but that it did happen and it continues to happen. It's never a once and for all, finally and forever, kind of thing. Our entire life is a conversion. We are always being converted, shaped and formed, into the likeness of Jesus. Over and over again Jesus comes to us saying, "Follow me." Following Jesus does not happen in the abstract but in the context, circumstances, and relationships of our lives. Our relationship with Jesus is grounded and experienced in the people and events of our lives and world. So it was for Peter, Andrew, James, and John. We see that throughout the remainder of Matthew's account of the gospel. He not only describes the life and ministry of Jesus but the ongoing shaping and forming of Peter's, Andrew's, James' and John's lives. That shaping and forming happened in Jesus' teaching of the beatitudes, in his healing of the sick, in his telling parables, in his feeding the 5000, in Peter complaining that they had left everything behind, in James and John arguing with the others and hoping to sit at Jesus' right and left, in Jesus' crucifixion, in his resurrection and ascension, and in the coming of the Holy Spirit.

Every one of those moments echo with Jesus' words, "Follow me." Every one of those is as much a turning point in the lives of Peter, Andrew, James, and John as was the day Jesus first saw them by the Sea of Galilee. Turning points always resound with the invitation to follow Jesus. They are the intersection of our lives and his life. Isn't that what's happening in today's gospel? We hear it in Jesus' words. He only says two things: "Repent," and "Follow me. At some level they are two sides of the same coin. So often we hear the word "repentance" and think, uh oh, someone's been bad. Someone better change their evil ways." It can mean that and sometimes that needs to be the focus but it also means more than that. Repentance is more than just a moral change. It is a life change, a turning point. We look in a different direction. We see with new eyes. We establish new priorities. We travel a new road. The turning points of our lives bring us face to face with Jesus and they come in lots of ways. Sometimes they come as we planned, worked, and hoped for. Other times they are completely unexpected and take us by surprise. Sometimes they bring us joy and gladness. Other times we are filled with sorrow and loss. Sometimes they affirm everything we thought and believed. Other times they leave us confused and not knowing what we believe. You've probably experienced all of those and more in the turning points of your own life.

Think about your turning points, times when, for better or worse, your life was turned around: Moving out and beginning life on our own, Falling in love and getting married, The birth of your child, The death of a loved one, Words or actions that hurt another and forever changed the relationship, Graduation from school and beginning your first job, The failure of your business or the loss of your job, Your divorce, A success or accomplishment that was really significant or meaningful, Discovering the passion that excites, inflames, and drives your life, An anniversary grounded in commitment and deep satisfaction, Going to your first AA meeting, Your new role as caretaker of your spouse or parent, A longtime dream that finally came true. The list could go on and on. We could all tell stories of our life's turning points. It seems as if our lives are a series of turning points, some big and others small. Regardless, with each turning point we see ourselves, others, and the world differently, we think differently, we focus on different concerns, we ask different questions, and we move in different direction. What they all have in common, however, is Jesus' invitation, his command, to follow him.

Each turning point comes with the opportunity for and the promise of Christ to refashion our lives. That's what Jesus did for Peter, Andrew, James, and John. "I will make you...", he says. That's what he does for us as well. He makes us more who we truly are to be. In him we begin to recognize ourselves. This does not happen in spite of our life's circumstances but in and through our life's circumstances.

That's where and how it happened for Peter, Andrew, James, and John. Their turning point came in sailing the same boats, on the same lake, using the same nets, doing the same work they had done the day before, and the day before that, and the month before that, and the year before that. Look at your lakes, boats, and nets, the circumstances of your life. What is the turning point you face today? What's happening? What do you see? Somewhere in your life today is a turning point, a place of repentance. Maybe you know exactly what it is. Maybe you've not yet recognized it. Maybe you've closed your eyes to it. Regardless, it is there and so is Jesus, beckoning, calling, longing, desiring. He stands there saying, Follow me. I've picked you. Repent. Look for the signs around us. And follow Jesus. For God's grace did invite us, and God's love shall unite us to work for the kingdom and answer our call. **Amen!**

3 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

MONDAY	8:00 PM	AA MEETING
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WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
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THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:00 PM	AA MEETING

SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
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4 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II	(also on zoom)
		COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS	

PARISH ANNUAL MEETING – SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5TH

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP OFF IN THE KITCHEN

	Today	Next Week
Eucharistic Minister	Deb Giordano	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour	Judy Golden	Giordanos

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Give to all who suffer the refreshing waters of your compassion and healing. Make them dwell in the safety of your care even in the midst of all that troubles them. Especially we remember before you:

Grace Schinella	Harriet Capers	Bob Curley
John Mulligan	Arlene Goodenough	Celeste
Chris Dickson	Kate Jones	Deb P.
Michael Echevarria	John Rocco	Gabriel
Barbara Stinson	Michael & Family	Warren
Charlotte H.	Bernie Walther	Anthony
Mo (Rachael)	Bill Conklin Sr.	Carolyn
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Ciara	Robert Sweat	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Carol K.
People of Haiti	Christopher & Family	Julia
Mary & Family	People of Ukraine	Tim
Nathan Treadwell	Vincent	Art
Margaret	Lourdes S.	Elodie

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.
Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen

Prayer for the New Year

God our Father, thank you for being the God who walks besides those who love
Him in the Valley of the Shadow of

Death. I rejoice in the continued presence of the Holy Spirit

with me, so that I am never alone. Lord, I lift up a sincere request for happiness
during this year of difficulty. Help me

find joy, that I may be strengthened spiritually, and happiness that I may continue
to engage with those around

me with Christian love. Sometimes it can be hard to see Your hand moving when
everything around me seems dark.

Help me find happiness so that I can see Your work, even if

I do not understand it fully right now. I know that You use all things for Your
glory, and for my good. I ask that You keep my focus on You during this New
Year. In the name of

Jesus Christ, I pray. Amen

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,

Lay my life before you,

How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
and third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and for ever. Amen