

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 01-25-2026

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.”

Most of us probably know the word Eureka. It implies some kind of discovery. It comes from the Greek word meaning to find – *Heuriskein*. The Greek word *heureka* means, I have found it.

The word is said to have been uttered by Archimedes when he hit upon a method of determining the purity of gold.

Speaking of gold, miners during the gold rush would have been very familiar with this word. Allegedly it was uttered so often when a strike was made during that period that a town in California is named after it – Eureka, California.

Imagine heading into a dark and dangerous cave with nothing more than a little oil lantern to guide you in search of your fortune.

Caves collapsed all the time. I’m sure more than a few miners had discovered gold, gotten trapped in a cave and never escaped to spend even an ounce of it.

All the gold in the world couldn’t buy them another minute of life but I bet they would have traded it all in that moment just to get out of that cave.

For some people life is like being trapped in a cave, groping in darkness just trying to find their way through.

But it doesn't have to be like this. Jesus is the light of the world. That's why we heard similar words in both the first reading and the gospel today, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone."

Truth is light to the intellect...this is why we often say "Oh now I see" when we learn something new. It's like a light suddenly goes on and we are no longer in darkness.

Truth is the gold that all humanity is seeking. Moral truth is the most precious metal of all.

When Jesus called his first apostles in the gospel today they responded with such abandon that one might think them rather reckless.

The fact is Jesus is Truth Incarnate – the Light of the world. When he called them it was more than a eureka moment for them. For the first time in their lives they could truly see and they realized it in an instant.

Jesus is calling each one of us to abandon everything and follow him wherever he may desire to lead us and he hasn't left us in darkness.

A friend of mine reminded me the other day that Jesus left us his Catholic Church. He didn't leave us a Bible, he left us the Church.

Hundreds of years before there was ever a Bible there was the Catholic Church. The Catholic Church gave us the Bible.

We possess the truths of our Catholic Faith and these truths are a light to guide us through this life and into the life to come.

Tradition, Sacred Scripture and consistent Catholic Church teaching make up the light that ensures that we need never walk in darkness.

However, we must beware that the devil is clouded in darkness and is always seeking to divide us from the Truth – ultimately from Jesus and his Holy Catholic Church.

Jesus is Truth incarnate. He suffered, died and rose for us and established his Holy Catholic Church so that we can know him, love him and serve him in this life and be with him for all eternity in the life to come.

Today let's ask for the ultimate eureka moment by all opening our minds and our hearts to the light of Christ so that he can enter in and lead us to sanctity in this life and eternal life with him in heaven in the next.

“The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.”
And his name is Jesus Christ and the way to know him most perfectly is through his Holy Catholic Church!