

Bulletin Shorts for Year B – 2021

Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief

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Winter Ordinary Time

This Bulletin Shorts Series began in 2016 during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Now, in this sixth year, it still aims to help the faithful and catechumens delve into the Sunday Scriptures and wrestle with Christian life. The hope is to rest more and more in God's grace and act in more merciful ways. The style is mystagogical.

Use these shorts with your diocese, parish, ministry, and friends. Put in the mail, post on the website, print in bulletin or newsletter, and share in other helpful ways. They are a gift. They are also posted on some diocesan worship office web pages. Here are two direct links:

- ◇ Diocese of Springfield in Illinois: <http://www.dio.org/worship/liturgical-year.html>
- ◇ Diocese of Belleville: <https://dps.diobelle.org/offices/worship/seasonal-recources>
- ◇ Eliot Kapitan, Springfield, Illinois USA – ekapitan89@gmail.com

CORPORAL WORKS OF MERCY ◇ Feed the hungry ◇ Give drink to the thirsty ◇ Shelter the homeless ◇ Clothe the naked ◇ Visit the sick ◇ Visit the prisoners ◇ Bury the dead ◇ Give alms to the poor ◇ Care of our Common Home ◇ **SPIRITUAL WORKS OF MERCY** ◇ Counseling the doubtful ◇ Instructing the ignorant ◇ Admonishing the sinner ◇ Comforting the sorrowful ◇ Forgiving injuries ◇ Bearing wrongs patiently ◇ Praying for the living and the dead ◇ Caring for our Common Home ◇

Bulletin Shorts for Winter Ordinary Time in Year B – 2021

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – 17 January 2021

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19. Psalm 40:2, 4, 7-8, 8-9, 10. 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20. John 1:35-42.

Listening, Discerning and Watching, Coming, Seeing, Finding. These words ending in *-ing* (technically “gerunds”) in the first and gospel readings indicate some continuing action. They point out good Christian behaviors as we start this winter time between the seasons of Christmas and Lent. Like Samuel, we want to be always listening for God's voice, even while needing the help of another for discerning it. Like the Baptist, we want to be watching for Jesus moving among us, looking for his activity in surprising ways in our midst and, perhaps, the surprising people around us.

- ◇ How am I coming closer to Jesus day by day, week by week?
- ◇ How am I seeing Jesus active in our world?
- ◇ How am I finding myself following Jesus without question?

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time – 24 January 2021

- ◇ **We devote this day to the celebration, study, and spread of the Word of God.**

Jonah 3:1-5, 10. Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9. 1 Corinthians 7:29-31. Mark 1:14-20.

Proclaiming the Gospel of God. Jesus is very busy in the beginning of Mark's gospel – proclaiming, teaching, healing. And calling others to come and follow. The responses of Simon and Andrew, of

James and John were immediate: stopping what they were doing, leaving it all behind without hesitation – they followed him. Stay tuned to this whole liturgical year to see where that leads.

- ◆ What of the good news of God is Jesus proclaiming to me today?
- ◆ How am I hesitating in giving Jesus Christ my immediate attention and response?
- ◆ What am I leaving behind, stopping doing in order to follow Jesus in more faithful ways?

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 31 January 2021

Deuteronomy 18:15-20. Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9. 1 Corinthians 7:32-35. Mark 1:21-28.

Teaching with Authority. Jesus begins his ministry with us this liturgical year doing two things. He is teaching with authority – like no other. And his teaching spills into action for the benefit of another – mercy at work.

- ◆ How is Jesus astonishing me by what he teaches?
- ◆ How am I listening for his words, his call, his teaching?
- ◆ How is my listening spilling out into mercy thoughts, mercy action, mercy works?

The Presentation of the Lord, Feast – Monday, 02 February 2021

Malachi 3:1-4. Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10. Hebrews 2:14-18. Luke 2:22-40.

Waiting for That Day. In the simple act of bringing the eight-day old Jesus to the temple, Mary and Joseph (now, patron of the whole Church) follow the law. Both Simeon and Anna were long waiting for that day, the day of Christ the Lord coming in person. Simeon says: I can go now; my waiting is done. Anna gives thanks that redemption has come in Jesus. In blessing and lighting candles this day, we announce that God's light, the Light of Christ, shines on us and in us.

- ◆ How am I seeing God's salvation at work today?

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 07 February 2021

Job 7:1-4, 6-7. Psalm 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6. 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23. Mark 1:29-39.

Pursuing Jesus. After curing Simon's mother-in-law, Jesus, standing at the door, is teaching, healing, and casting out demons. Then, leaving at dawn, he goes off alone. Simon and the boys, pursuing him, find him praying and plead: "Everyone is looking for you."

- ◆ Since I am looking, where will I find Jesus this week?
- ◆ What teaching of his do I need to hear? What healing?
- ◆ Where and when will I make time for praying?

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time – 14 February 2021

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46. Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11. 1 Corinthians 10:31–11:1. Mark 1:40-45.

Making Clean. Jesus was not afraid to touch the untouchable leper today. Jesus was unafraid to be cleaning and healing and teaching – right and good behaviors. Saint Paul makes a clear implication for all of us. Our task: imitating Christ. Our task: doing all things for the glory of God.

- ◆ What mercy works of cleaning and healing can I do this week?
- ◆ What will I do, seeking not my own benefit but that of another?
- ◆ How will I be like Christ today? Tomorrow? Next Week?