

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 21-22nd, 2023

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel reading

Matthew 4:12-23

When he heard that John had been arrested,
he withdrew to Galilee.
He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea,
in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali,
that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled:
“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,
the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan,
Galilee of the Gentiles,
the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light,
on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death
light has arisen.”
From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say,
“Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.”

As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee,
he saw two brothers,
Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew,
casting a net into the sea;
they were fishermen.

He said to them,
“Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”
At once they left their nets and followed him.
He walked along from there and saw two other brothers,
James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.
They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee,
mending their nets.
He called them,
and immediately they left their boat and their father
and followed him.
He went around all of Galilee,
teaching in their synagogues,
proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness among the people.

Intercession

That, as Peter, Andrew, James, and John courageously responded to Jesus' call, we too might find the courage to join our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* as Jesus calls.

Copy for bulletin announcement

What would it have been like for Jesus to hear that his cousin John had been imprisoned? Bravely, John called the Pharisees, Israelites, and Herod alike to repentance. Even before his birth, John showed that he was wholly given to proclaiming Christ's coming—even leaping in the womb.

Such tenacity could not have been lost on Jesus. John's total commitment to preaching repentance must have moved Jesus. Just as Jesus wept at the death of his friend Lazarus, Certainly, he must have been deeply grieved by his cousin John's arrest and eventual murder.

Through such trials, Jesus saw his heavenly Father moving. Today's Gospel implies that Jesus may have viewed John's incarceration as the "hour" to begin preaching the message of repentance himself. Jesus "picked up the baton" in Matthew 4:17. This included both a message of love for the lost and condemnation for the wicked in power. It also began the chain of events that would end in his execution. Yet, he didn't do it alone. He asked many to join him. Today, he invites our parish community into the same mission: to preach the good news and repentance. Please support our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* as one way of helping our parish preach his word. The resistance is mighty, and the audience is hungry for it. Pray for the *Catholic Ministry Appeal* and join in whatever way God asks you!

Copy for pulpit announcement

John the Baptist courageously cried out about the coming of the Messiah. Please help us boldly proclaim Christ by supporting our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. The Annual Appeal gives our parish the ability to readily respond when Christ asks by helping us remove financial obstacles. Please help us reach those in our community who need Jesus!

Social media post/content

Photo: A small fishing sailboat on the sea of Galilee, at sunset, the light winking off the calm waters.

Header: Follow Me

Sub-header: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Copy: In today's Gospel story, Jesus honors John the Baptist by taking up his baton of preaching repentance immediately after John's arrest. John's disciples, reeling from his incarceration, find their way to Jesus. Please help us help others find the way to Jesus by supporting our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. We want them to find him waiting in our tabernacle.