

FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 4-5, 2023

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel reading

Matthew 5:13-16

"You are the salt of the earth.
But if salt loses its taste, with what can it be seasoned?
It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot.
You are the light of the world.
A city set on a mountain cannot be hidden.
Nor do they light a lamp and then put it under a bushel basket;
it is set on a lampstand, where it gives light to all in the house.
Just so, your light must shine before others,
that they may see your good deeds and glorify your heavenly Father.

Intercession

That our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* may succeed in brightening the world with Christ's light.

Copy for bulletin announcement

The world can get inside us, often affecting how we feel. Living in the 21st century involves wading through a spiritual slog. The world is filled with as many opportunities for vice as virtue. We swim in a sea of ads, agendas, and social pressures. It subtly wears on us.

Jesus says that we, his followers, are the world's way out. "You are the light of the world" is a weighty metaphor to describe us (Matthew 5:14). Jesus' description of his followers might energize us, sober us, or make us want to run away, like Jonah the prophet.

Jesus believes that when we work through him we are the world's best hope. Our parish takes him seriously. We trust that his words in today's Gospel carry *power*. We're going to draw from it. We know from experience that we can shine the light of Christ through good deeds. We need your help to be able to continue doing that for our local community. Our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* is a significant opportunity for you to help us advance our mission to bring the light of hope to our little corner of the world. Maybe, with your help, our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* will be a link that will get at least one soul to the light of Christ. We hope for more than one. Give without counting the cost, and watch how God outdoes you. May he bless us!

Copy for pulpit announcement

Please support our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. The *Catholic Ministry Appeal* seeks to advance Jesus' light throughout our local community. *We* are the light of the world, Jesus said in the Gospel today. Our parish takes him seriously!

It's a tall order. Without your help, we can't do it. With your help, we can reach many souls blinded by the world's darkness. Please give generously to our *Catholic Ministry Appeal*. The need is real, and the task is mighty. With Jesus and with you, we can do it!

Social media post/content

Photo: An image showing a bright light contrasting against a dark forest background.

Header: "*You are the light of the world.*" - Matthew 5:14

Sub-header: Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Copy: The God who created the sun tells us in today's Gospel, "You are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14).

Just as you are a light, our *Catholic Ministry Appeal* is a light for all who rely on the ministries of our Church. Without your support, we can't reach those who need Christ's light to see. With your help, we can increase our impact, draw our neighbors into God's house, and help your local church burn brightly. You'll shine brightly yourself when you give alms... he promised you would (Matthew 6:22-23). Thank you, on behalf of our neighbors!