

FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEBRUARY 3-4th, 2024

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gospel reading

Mk 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

Intercession

That, responding to Christ's love in our lives, we are moved to act courageously in support of our Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Copy for bulletin announcement

Today's Gospel theme is the opposite of "hesitation": The disciples did not hesitate to ask the Healer for help. Jesus did not hesitate to respond. And even Simon's mother-in-law, after returning from fever, rises to *serve* him immediately.

If Jesus were to walk in the door of our parish right now, he would be on a mission to love someone. If he were to enter your home, as he entered Simon's, he would be on a mission to love you.

Our parish is on Jesus' same mission of love, and we need your help to spread the love Christ entrusted to us. Love acts! When Jesus showed Simon's mother-in-law love, her heart wished to respond with more love. She chose to serve herself. Today, evaluate your ability to give, listen to the prompting of love, and then, do not hesitate... act by giving to our diocesan Catholic Ministry Appeal!

Copy for pulpit announcement

After recovering from her fever, Simon's mother-in-law did not hesitate to rise and serve. We cannot rise to support all those entrusted to our service without your help! Please act courageously today by supporting our Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Social media post/content

Photo: Stock photo of a woman smiling and serving elderly people at a nursing home or some other scene depicting healthy people helping other people.

Text: *"For this purpose have I come."* – Mark 1:38

Copy: In the Gospel of Mark, we hear the story of Simon's mother-in-law demonstrating heroic love in response to Jesus. Immediately after coming back from a fever, she responds in love and serves. Please prayerfully consider supporting our Catholic Ministry Appeal, so that we may not hesitate to give from what we have received to those who need it most!