



Today's Gospel introduces us to the first Johannine disciples. Unlike the Synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, and Luke), in which Jesus finds the first disciples, in John's Gospel (with one exception) they find Jesus. This coming to Jesus is an important example of what, according to John, it takes to be a Christian.

John writes today about the first three disciples: Andrew, an unnamed disciple, and Peter, the brother of Andrew. Having heard John the Baptist's witness to Jesus, Andrew and the unnamed disciple take the initiative and seek him out. They ask Jesus where he is staying, and upon being invited by him to "Come, and you will see," they themselves stay "with him that day" (1:39). On the next day Andrew finds his brother, Simon Peter, tells him about Jesus, and brings Simon to him (1:40-42).

The first disciples set an example for the Johannine community and for those who would be part of it. The Fourth Gospel is the only one with three references to those who confess Jesus being threatened with or actually experiencing expulsion from the synagogue. The community of Johannine Christians is often said to be sectarian in nature, meaning that they existed on the fringes of their larger socio-cultural milieu. To be a Johannine Christian meant having the courage to step out of the dominant culture and enter into an estranged one. It also meant having the resolve to persist in this religious subculture that was scorned and isolated. This is never easy for such social beings as we are. The difficulty of being marginalized for the sake of Jesus is evident in John's story of the parents of a man born blind who will not speak up for their son, who has been healed by Jesus, for fear of being "expelled from the synagogue" (9:22).

The earliest disciples point the way for future disciples by themselves stepping out to find Jesus, by remaining with him, and by drawing others to Jesus through their witness.

*Scripture Reflections and Commentaries by
Msgr. Ralph Kuehner and Rev. Joseph J. Juknialis*

Readings for the Week of January 18, 2009

Sunday	Second Sunday in Ordinary Time 1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19; Ps 40; 1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20; Jn 1:35-42
Monday	Heb 5:1-10; Ps 110; Mk 2:18-22
Tuesday	Saints Fabian, pope, martyr; Sebastian, martyr Heb 6:10-20; Ps 111; Mk 2:23-28
Wednesday	Saint Agnes, virgin, martyr Heb 7:1-3, 15-17; Ps 110; Mk 3:1-6
Thursday	Saint Vincent, deacon, martyr Heb 7:25—8:6; Ps 40; Mk 3:7-12
Friday	Heb 8:6-13; Ps 85; Mk 3:13-19
Saturday	Saint Francis de Sales, bishop, doctor Heb 9:2-3, 11-14; Ps 47; Mk 3:20-21
Sunday	Third Sunday in Ordinary Time Jon 3:1-5, 10; Ps 25; 1 Cor 7:29-31; Mk 1:14-20



**CELEBRATION of CATHOLIC
SCHOOLS WEEK
BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY**

Beginning next Sunday, we join more than 8,000 Catholic Schools nationwide to observe Catholic Schools Week using the Theme, "Catholic Schools Celebrate Service." Throughout the week we will focus on different parts of our community.

St. Ann Catholic School Open House

Wednesday, January 28, 2009 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.

Friday, January 30, 2009 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Come and Experience a Catholic Education!

School Bus transportation for St. Ann School is available from Hamilton, Fairfield, Lakota, Ross and New Miami.

Thanks to all the parish members who came to help decorate the church for the Christmas Season. The students of St Ann School were a great help. The seventh graders and the other students made it an easy task for the adults because they carried all the decorations up and later down to the basement of the church. It was wonderful to see so many volunteers. If you have any ideas to make improvements for next year, please let the Rosary Society know. One suggestion is that we need a star for the manger and a little brighter light. We also appreciate the Jacquemin Family setting up the Nativity Scene outside. Thanks again.

PRAYER BEFORE the BLESSED SACRAMENT

Jesus chose the desert as a place to pray in solitude. He fought temptation, the temptations of the devil himself. He taught us how to be victorious over temptation. We must desire victory over it. Call upon the Lord to help you fight temptation, any temptation, every temptation.

Often we crowd out the opportunity to be victorious for Christ. We allow "My schedule", "My time", "My life" to come before the voice of Christ which says, "Come to Me". When we permit this, temptation wins. Think about it! Try to pray as St. Augustine prayed, "God, give me the grace to triumph over my enemy, temptation." Desire victory. Go for it! To reserve your hour for adoration, CALL the Parish office at 863-4963.

Grow in faith, develop new skills and learn the history and authentic teaching of our Church from an outstanding theological faculty. Come and see what the Athenaeum has to offer you! The Lay Pastoral Ministry Program is accepting applications for fall 2009 Master of Arts in Pastoral Ministry and non-degreed Certificate programs. MAPM and first year Certificate classes will meet on the main campus in Mount Washington. Second year certificate classes will meet at St. Dominic in Delhi. Completion of either option fulfills the pre-requisite for application to the Permanent Diaconate. For further information, please call (513) 231-1200.

SECOND SUNDAY of ORDINARY TIME



This Week in our Parish

Sunday, January 18th
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass
Monday, January 19th
 7 – 8:00 p.m. Pack 907
Wednesday, January 21st
 7:00 p.m. Cub Scouts
 7:00 p.m. R.C.I.A.
 8:00 p.m. St. Vincent de Paul
Thursday, January 22nd
 6-8:00 p.m. Pack 907
Saturday, January 24th
 3:30 – 4:30 p.m. Confessions
 4:40 p.m. Rosary before Mass
Sunday, January 25th
 7:40 a.m. Rosary before Mass
 9-10 a.m. CCD classes
 10:10 a.m. Rosary before Mass

Prayer March for Life" - Thursday, January 22, 2009

Right to Life of Butler County is extending an invitation to the Christian community in Butler County and the surrounding area to participate in the 21st Annual "**Prayer March for Life**". This event will take place on Thursday, January 22, 2009, from 7:00-8:00 p.m. at the Butler County Courthouse (Hamilton, OH), and marks the 36th anniversary of the infamous Roe v. Wade Supreme Court decision which legalized abortion in the United States. Prayerfully, reverently, and united in Spirit, this solemn assembly of believers will march around the courthouse seven times and humbly ask God to bring an end to abortion, infanticide, and euthanasia in our country. We will plead for His forgiveness and ask Him to heal our land (according to 2 Chronicles 7:14).

The Freedom of Choice Act (FOCA) would “outlaw any ‘interference’ in providing abortion at will. It would deprive American people in all fifty states of the freedom they now have to enact modest restraints and regulations on the abortion industry. FOCA would coerce all Americans into subsidizing and promoting abortion with their tax dollars. It would counteract any and all sincere efforts by government and others of good will to reduce the number of abortions in our country.”

Statements by USCCB President Cardinal Francis George on behalf of the USCCB, November 12, 2008.

OUR PRAYER IS:

God to whom we belong, we know that each person is of infinite worth to you, that you delight in all our colors, shapes and sizes, and that you dwell in the love that holds us together as your One Body. It is time we stand together as a community to overcome abortion in our nation.

You do and can make a difference: Living and moving in your Spirit strengthen us to be active participants in the fulfillment of your promise. We pray through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



Saturday, January 17th Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
 5:00 p.m. Dorothy Hunley (Joan Jost)
Sunday, January 18th Second Sunday of Ordinary Time
 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People
 10:30 a.m. Janice Ruhl -3rd Anniversary (Family)
Monday, January 19th Weekday
 7:15 a.m. Joseph Peters (Shirley Lehmann)
Tuesday, January 20th Weekday
 7:15 a.m. Florence Saurber (Betty)
Wednesday, January 21st Agnes
 7:15 a.m. Elaine Eichhold (Geneva Molinsky)
Thursday, January 22nd USA Day of Penance Anniversary of Roe v. Wade
 7:15 a.m. Communion Service
 8:00 a.m. Mass at St. Joseph Church in Hamilton
Friday, January 23rd Weekday
 8:00 a.m. Ruth Huentelman (St. Ann Rosary Society)
Saturday, January 24th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 7:30 a.m. Intentions of the Celebrant
 5:00 p.m. Sheila Crehan
Sunday, January 25th Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
 8:00 a.m. For the Intentions of St. Ann People
 10:30 a.m. Elaine Eichhold (The Sullivan Family)

Budgeted Weekly Offering	\$ 12,072.00
01/11/2009	\$ 8,508.79
Shortfall	\$ (3,563.21)
Year to Date Budgeted Offering	\$ 338,016.00
Year to Date Actual Offering	\$ 269,490.26
Shortfall	\$ (68,525.74)

YEAR END STATEMENTS This year our plan is to send every parishioner who has donated regularly through envelopes a year end statement. Our goal is to have these in your hands before the end of January. The Catholic Ministries Appeal is unable to send donation statements. You may call the Parish office and we can send a separate statement for your gifts to the CMA Appeal.

The P.A.C. is looking for someone to run this year's Fish Fry. You will not be doing this alone, you will have assistance. This is a good fund raiser for the kids, and a good time is had by all. If no one steps up, this event may be cancelled. Please consider. A response is needed soon. Contact Jim Kreke at 910-0857.

HAMILTON CYO FUND RAISER January 24, 2009 at Badin High School in Mulcahey Gym. \$25.00 per person – Beer and appetizers included. Music by “The Rusty Griswolds” from 8 -12 p.m. Doors open at 7 p.m. Tickets are available at basketball venues Queen of Peace and Pfirman Center. You can also mail your check to : Hamilton CYO, 114 Millville Avenue, Hamilton, OH 45013 and your tickets will be held at the door. You may also contact Jim Kreke.

FREE JAZZ TRIO CONCERT The Midday Music in Oxford series presents the Dan Faehnle Trio in a free concert at 12 p.m., Wednesday January 21 at the Oxford Presbyterian Church, 101 N. Main Street in Oxford. Jazz Times has said, "Dan Faehnle is simply one of the best guitarists working today". He was Grammy-winning Diana Krall's world tour guitarist, and appeared in Carnegie Hall and the Hollywood Bowl. Information: 523-6969.