



3RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me...
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free.
- Lk 4:18*

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chris Bonacci; Shawna Bonacci; Andrea Neff; Eddie Odom; Amy Pollice; Joe Vivacqua; Tony Winterburn

***Carmen Roebke– Compliance Officer
330-792-3829 Ext. 108***

***Dominic Colucy– Victim Assistance
Coordinator***

330-744-8451 Ext. 293

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Which Organ Goes Next?

Had an interesting chat the other day with a friend concerning what a late friend of mine used to call "the organ recital." That's what happens when two elderly folks get together for lunch and inevitably begin discussing which bodily parts they have had repaired or removed since their last visit together.

It's a subject my late friend and I used to have a good laugh over when we shared lunch together years ago. As a former diocesan administrator, he was an invaluable resource for navigating the inside workings of a chancery, which diocesan newspaper editors like myself inevitably had to deal with. Having worked in four dioceses, I encountered every bit as much "turf warfare" and departmental politics as you'd find in any corporate office.

But about those organs. Recalling my friend's comment got me to thinking about the men and women I knew in my work in four cities. There were a few less-than-delightful characters, but the vast majority were faith-filled, good-hearted souls who ended up battling illness or injury. Lately, it occurs to me that most of them are no longer among the living.

Perhaps that is inevitable when you come upon being three-quarters of a century old yourself. Try as you might to adjust to the times and live in the present, more and more you find your thoughts drifting to the friends and acquaintances that filled your younger days.

When you catch yourself looking back over times past, one fact comes vividly into focus: How much more physically active with running, biking, hiking and more everyone you knew was in those days. It's the rare and blessed individual in their 70s, 80s or beyond who is still agile, active, and free from some level of pain on a daily basis. It seems like every day brings news of someone who has fallen or struggles with a serious injury or illness.

Inevitably, one's circle of friends and family grows smaller as God calls home those we have known and loved. That's why I find myself calling friends and family still alive more often for a catch-up chat. I'm praying as well for the souls of those who have left us, in hopes they might share eternity with the Lord. After all, it's nice to think they will be blessedly free forever from any concerns about which organ will have to be removed next.

— Lou Jacquet

Thanks For Your Help

Jerry and Amy Kernan wish to thank all parishioners who helped set up and decorate the church for the Christmas season and helped take down and put away the decorations as well. Your help was greatly appreciated.

Universal Prayers for Jubilee Year

February 2025: "For this year of Jubilee, that we will be inspired to be Pilgrims of Hope to each other, we pray to the Lord."

February 8-9, 2025: "For those serving in the Armed Forces, and for safety forces in our midst, that in this Jubilee Year they will remain safe and away from harm's way, we pray to the Lord."

February 15-16, 2025: "For artists, musicians, painters and performers, through the sharing of their talents may they inspire us to be pilgrims of hope, we pray to the Lord."

February 22-23, 2025: "For those who serve as Deacons of the Church, may this Jubilee Year inspire them in their ministry of service to God's people, we pray to the Lord."

Overseas Collection Today

This weekend the Diocese of Youngstown is holding the Church Overseas Combined Collection for ministries of the Church around the globe. These ministries of the Catholic Relief Services, Holy Father/Peter's Pence, the Church in Central and Eastern Europe, and the Church in Latin America assist the Church in serving people who are hungry, refugees, victims of natural disasters, and development projects. Please give generously to this collection which combines four collections into one. An envelope is available in your packet.

Sunday, January 26

9:00 a.m. Barb Perry by Barb Dunlap

Wednesday, January 29

9:00 a.m. Tom Motosko by a Friend

Sunday, February 2

9:00 a.m. No Name Submitted

Please Pray For Our Sick

Mike Mraz, Mary Pavlak, Beverly Detate, Sr. Marjorie Haidet, Frank Lightner, Michelle Smith, Ken Mains, David Deihl, Barbara Bonninsegna, Mary Beth Celio, Fr. Richard Brobst, Charles Slivkoff, Harold and Debra Brown, Rita Thomas

Pray for the Faithful Departed

Nick Vitullo

Glorifying God in Sports



As the CFP championship is in our rearview mirror, the Super Bowl approaches on February 9 and NASCAR is soon to begin on February 16, I can't help but reflect on all the ways God is spotlighted in sports. It does my heart good to realize that athletes and sports teams credit their Lord and Savior for protection and success on and off the field. Here are a few examples.

The Kansas City Chiefs host a weekly non-denominational church service before every home game right in a tent near Arrowhead Stadium. It includes worship music, a Scripture lesson, and time for prayer. God first, football second!

Every NASCAR race begins with a televised prayer led by an ordained minister where racers gather with their wives and children to ask God's grace for safety. Motorsports is a dangerous activity.

On the campus of Notre Dame University in South Bend Indiana, there are at least 38 locations on campus where one can attend Mass on game day-even in the locker room! Coach Marcus Freeman, a convert to Catholicism, makes it mandatory for the entire team to attend Mass and worship together. Even the Word of Life mural on campus has been nicknamed "Touchdown Jesus"! The Newman Center in Columbus at The Ohio State University has a shrine dedicated to Our Lady of the Buckeyes. Incidentally, Baby Jesus has a buckeye in his hand. Check it out.

Many athletes are members of the FCA (Fellowship of Christian Athletes) established in 1954 to transform the world by Jesus Christ through the influence of coaches and athletes. I just love it when a player raises his eyes to

heaven or makes a Sign of the Cross after he/she accomplishes a touchdown or three pointer! This is an outward sign of praise and worship to a power much higher than sports. Patrick Mahomes (Kansas City Chiefs) walks the field and says a prayer at the goalpost. He thanks God for letting him be on a stage where he can glorify God. Quinn Ewers (Texas Longhorns) quarterback says his relationship with Jesus is the reason he's able to stay "calm within a storm." Did you notice when a player sustains an injury and is down, how the other players gather around in support and bow their heads in prayer? Now that's players using the spotlight to glorify God.

How do you treat worship and sports? Is God and attending Mass first on your list on the weekend? There must be a balance. Avoiding or replacing church is a sin against the Third Commandment: **Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.** Understanding you have tickets to the Browns game or there is an early golf outing on Sunday, what about attending the Saturday evening vigil Mass? God's providence and protection is always upon you. How can you disregard your priority to praise and honor Him? Sports involves weekly pools and betting, especially now through internet apps. Do you give that same amount of your resources to St. Brendan's or some other charity? Tithing is a way to show faith, thankfulness, and support.

"Sports have, in themselves, an important moral and educative significance," said Pope John Paul II. "They are a training ground of virtue, a school of inner balance and outer control, an introduction to more true and lasting conquests." He called sport a gift from God to mankind.

—Rosie Marich

Sunday's Scriptures: The Need to Be 'All In'

Today's readings for the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time are from Nehemiah 8: 2-4, 5-6, 8-20; Corinthians 12: 12-30; Gospel of Luke 1:1-4; 4: 14-21.

In our first reading from the Book of Nehemiah, Ezra, a priest of Israel, stands on a wooden platform so that he is higher than the people. He presents the scroll of The Law to the assembly of Israelites gathered that day. He opens the scroll for all to see and reads aloud from The Law. On hearing this proclamation, the people respond, "all the people, their hands raised high, answered 'Amen! Amen!' Then they bowed down

and prostrated themselves before the Lord, their faces to the ground."

As we read this passage from Nehemiah, we might be tempted to interpret the words "The Law" as simply the Ten Commandments. Why would the people respond to this sacred scroll with the very reverent gesture of a worship posture? What is meant by The Law?

Ezra holds up to the Israelites the Mosaic Law which serves as the foundation of their covenant with God. The Law contains the passages that explain Israel as God's chosen people.

Continued on Page 4

Sunday's Scriptures

Continued From Page 3

It distinguishes them from other nations by emphasizing their unique relationship to God. It reminds them of the promises God made to their ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, contained in the dramatic and life-giving story of their rescue from Egypt and the personal care that is given them by God when they journey to the desert.

The Law also provides them with a detailed set of rules to govern them in their daily life, and help keep their covenant (relationship) with God by naming the religious and liturgical practices to keep their faith pure and pleasing to their Creator.

The observance of The Law forms them as a people and helps define their very identity. They are never meant to be casual about their faith and relationship with God. They are to be "all in" with being a Jew, no half measures. "Hear, O Israel, the Lord is God and you are to love the Lord with all your mind and heart and strength." So they bow low to the Lord they love as observed through the Law.

Am I that dedicated to the Lord God, or does my life reveal that I have been a relaxed and casual Catholic?'

— Geri Jacquet

Ursuline Open House Set

Ursuline High School is promoting the annual Open House on Sunday, February 2.

The annual Open House will be held from 1:00 p.m. until 3:30 p.m. in the Ursuline Cafeteria. For more information and to RSVP, families should visit www.ursuline.com/rsvp.

Applications for admission, financial aid forms, applications for the Saint Angela Merici Scholarship and the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship (Traditional and Expansion) will be available for pick-up at Open House.

Please contact Maggie Damore, Assistant Principal, at mdamore@youngstowndiocese.org with questions.

Prayer to St. Angela Merici

"May the Virgin St. Angela never fail to commend us to your compassion, O Lord, we pray, that, following the lessons of her charity and prudence, we may hold fast to your teaching and express it in what we do. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever."

Feast Day: Jan. 27; died 1540



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*We are called to be
disciples, faithful to Jesus
and empowered by the Spirit.
We are committed to building the kingdom of
God by living the Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments
and loving our neighbor as ourselves.*

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Father John Jerek

Parochial Vicar

Father Stephen Zeigler

Deacons

Ron Layko

Mark Kiraly

Parish Office Manager

Jackie Niznik

Ext.10

Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

Music Director

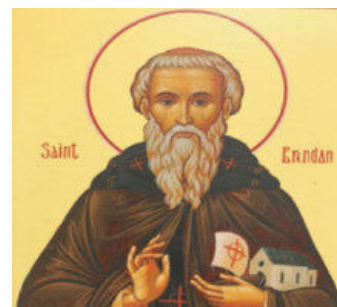
Geri Jacquet

Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

MASS Sunday 9:00am

Wednesday 9:00am



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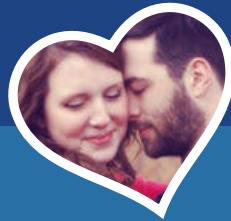
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