



Parish of St. Joseph of the Palisades

6401 Palisade Ave. West New York, NJ 07093

(201) 854-7006 Fax: (201) 861-7799

E-mail: info@saintjosephpalisades.com Website: www.saintjosephpalisades.com

Served by: Rev. Helber Victoria, *Pastor*. Rev. Richard DeBrasi, Rev. José Luis Soto, Rev. Edinson E. Ramírez, Rev. Fernando Diaz; Rev. Msgr. Robert Harahan, Weekend Assistant

Mass Schedule

St. Joseph

Monday to Friday

8:30 am English

Monday to Friday

7:00 pm Spanish

Saturday

9:00 am Spanish

5:00 pm English

6:30 pm Spanish

Sunday

8:30 am Spanish

10:30 am Spanish-Main Church

10:30am Spanish-Lower Church

10:30 am Spanish-Com. Center

12:00 pm English

1:30 pm Spanish

6:00 pm Spanish

Office Hours:

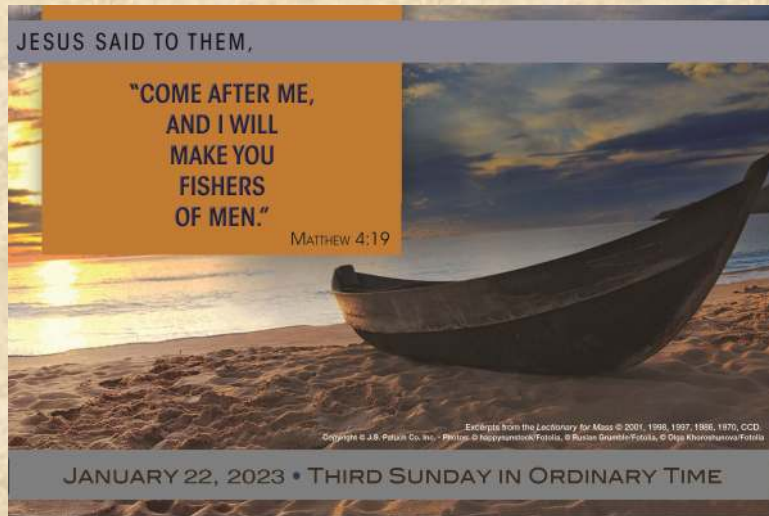
Monday to Friday

9:00 am—5:00 pm

Volunteers: 5:00—8:00 pm

Saturday & Sunday

Volunteers 9:00 am—3:00 pm



Respect for Life Prayer

O God, our eyes behold the beauty of your creation, and our ears catch the sounds of your power.

We hold our lives sacred because they are your gift.

Bring us to greater awareness of the sanctity of human life

and to sorrow for the times we have ignored or offended it.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Oración por el Respeto a la Vida

Oh, Dios, nuestros ojos contemplan la belleza de tu creación, y nuestros oídos captan los sonidos de tu poder.

Consideramos que nuestras vidas son sagradas porque son tu regalo.

Haz que seamos más conscientes de la santidad de la vida humana

y al dolor por las veces que la hemos ignorado u ofendido.

Te lo pedimos por Cristo nuestro Señor

Amén. —Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

IHM Mass Schedule

Saturday

4:00 pm Meditation Hour in the small Chapel

Sunday

10:00 am English

Confession between Masses

12:00 pm Spanish



Scan the adjacent barcode to open the Parish webpage.

Escanee el código de barras adjunto para acceder la página web parroquial.

Immaculate Heart of Mary Chapel

76th Street & Broadway, North Bergen, NJ



Academy of St. Joseph
Principal, Mrs. Lauren Lytle
6408 Palisade Avenue
West New York, NJ 07093
201-861-3227
stjosephpalisadeselem.com

Religious Education Office
Assistant, Mrs. Laysa Mercedes
6408 Palisade Avenue
West New York, NJ 07093
(201) 868-0305
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Music Director: Mr. Ramon Restituyo
Pastoral Assistant: Mr. Marco Guerrero
Parish Administrative Assistant: Nube Parra
Parish Bookkeeper: Mrs. Graciela Giacomello
Parish Secretary: Mrs. Millie Benitez
Parish Trustee: Mrs. Sydia Rodriguez

**MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
INTENCIONES PARA EL TERCER DOMINGO DE TIEMPO ORDINARIO**

January 21-22, 2023

ST. JOSEPH'S - 64TH Street

Saturday, January 21

5:00pm English + Benjamin & Felix Higita/Nubia Correa
+ DeVito Family/Donna Zerbo

6:30pm Spanish En acción de gracias a Ntra. Sra de la Altagracia

Sunday, January 22

8:30am Spanish + Maria Banos/Hija y Nietos
+ Yender Salazar/Luz Cristacho

10:30am UC Spanish + Por la Comunidad de San José

10:30am LC Spanish + Guillermina Iglesias/Ignacia Morelos
+ Julia Barrientos/Hijos

12:00pm + Giuseppe & Maria Barila/Yolanda Barilla
+ Luci Botero Gutiérrez/Mattea Karcic

1:30pm Spanish + José Lorenzo Rodríguez/Elida Pena
+ Blanca Rodiño/Carmen Rea

6:00pm Spanish + Nery Benavides/Hija, Liz López
+ María Félix Amelco/Faustino Calysa

Monday, January 23

8:30am + Anna Dennison/Ruth Pizzo
+ Gianmartino Matesic/Maria Piccinich

7:00pm Spanish + Narcisca y Gabriel Arrijoja/Minerva Gonzalez
Intenciones de la Familia Flores Linares/Santa Flores

Tuesday, January 24

8:30 am + Margaret McCue/Barbara Mantineo
Intentions of Felipe Ramirez/Irene Garcia

7:00pm Spanish + Richard Moranchel/Familia
Por la salud de todos los enfermos/Santa Flores

Wednesday, January 25

8:30am + Ignatius Pizzo/Ruth Pizzo
Cumpleanos de Maia Arguello/Familia Arguello Suarez

7:00pm Spanish + Julio y Saba De la Rosa/Minerva González
+ Guillermo Ros/Laida Ros

Thursday, January 26

8:30am + Lema Cecco/Antonia Segota
+ Zora Nikolic/Antonia Segota

7:00pm Spanish + Antonio Quintana/Mercedes Giraldo
+ Victor H. Gallo/Nelly e hija

Friday, January 27

8:30am + Giacomina Piccinich/Maria Piccinic
+ Fidia Guerrero/Children & Nephews

7:00pm Spanish + Alejandro Paredes/Esposa e hijos
+ Eulafio Higuaita/Nubia Correa

Saturday, January 28

9:00am Spanish Community Mass

IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Sunday, January 22

10:00am + For the People of the Parish

12:00pm Spanish + Familia Angamarca-Izquierdo/Tania Amores
+ Maria Martinez/Isidra Montes

COMMUNITY CENTER

Sunday, January 22

10:30am Spanish + Florencia Lara Flores/Yolanda Lara Flores

Sacrament of Baptism - Sacramento de Bautismo:

Sundays with prior registration. Call the rectory for information.

Domingos con inscripción previa. Para información llame a la rectoría.

Sacrament of Reconciliation - Confesiones:

Saturdays/Sábados: 4:00 p.m. - 4:45 p.m.

Monday to Friday/Lunes a Viernes 6:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Sacrament of Matrimony - Matrimonios:

Registration one year prior to the date of marriage.

Call the Rectory for appointment.

Registrarse un año antes de la boda.

Llamar a la rectoría para una cita.

Pastoral Care of the Sick - Enfermos:

Family member must call the Rectory to notify a priest.

Un familiar debe llamar a la rectoría para informar al sacerdote.

Funerals - Funerales:

All deceased Catholics are to have a funeral Mass before being buried. Arrangements made through the Funeral Home.

Todo difunto católico debe ser llevado a la iglesia para la Misa de Funeral antes de recibir cristiana sepultura. Arreglos a través de la funeraria.

Religious Education - Catequesis:

English: Sunday 10:45 a.m.

Academy of St. Joseph

Español: Domingos, 9:15 a.m.

Academy of St. Joseph

Parish Membership - Miembros de la Parroquia:

Every Catholic family should register in the parish.

Todo católico debe registrarse en la parroquia.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 9:15, 24-28; Ps 98:1-6; Mk 3:22-30,
or any of a number of readings for the Day
of Prayer

Tuesday: Heb 10:1-10; Ps 40:2, 4ab, 7-8a, 10, 11; Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2;
Mk 16:15-18

Thursday: 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 96:1-3, 7-8a, 10;
Mk 4:21-35

Friday: Heb 10:32-39; Ps 37:3-6, 23-24, 39-40;
Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: Heb 11:1-2, 8-19; Lk 1:69-75; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Zep 2:3; 3:12-13; Ps 146:6-10;
1 Cor 1:26-31; Mt 5:1-12a

HEART

In prayer it is better to have a heart without words
than words without a heart. —John Bunyan

EFFORTLESS

The only thing that comes to a person without effort
is old age. —Anonymous

I AM CHRIST'S



We begin with the idea that what unites us as Christians is much greater than what separates us, and we are convinced that the present hour asks us all for a deep sense of belonging to the Church and a firm commitment to the country and, especially, to the people and groups that suffer most seriously the ravages of the crises around our parish communities.

The structural crisis we are suffering is seriously affecting people and institutions. It is a global crisis that affects all circles of life and demands unity of approach in the response. There are no magical solutions, no miraculous recipes, but we are convinced that, inspired by the thought of the Social Doctrine of the Church, we can provide solutions to face the present and future years. As Christians, we feel called to participate in building a more just and fraternal world and to strengthen bonds of fraternity among the members of the People of God, and to seek what unites us to all our fellow citizens.

Hope is the engine of Christian action in the world. It is founded on the trust that we are not alone and that God acts, mysteriously, through people who seek goodness, justice, truth and beauty. We understand that we are not left by the hand of God and that He acts in history opening paths of pacification and reconciliation. Against the morality of defeat and the indolent skepticism so widespread at the present time, we claim a mature hope, which does not faint in the face of difficulties and which seeks, with intelligence, ways to alleviate our sufferings and to improve the world we have received.

We understand that God is the force that pushes us to transform what is unjust into just, what is petty into noble. It is this creative Power that renews everything.

We want to reiterate what unites us above all other differences. Dispersion and fragmentation hurt us as a community of faith and take away our energy to creatively transform the world in the light of the Gospel. We are united by faith in a God who is infinite Love, who watches over every human being, who has made himself present in the history of men and has definitively revealed himself to Jesus Christ.

... And I tell you this because everyone goes around saying: "I am Paul's, I am Apollo's, I am Cephas's, I am Christ's."

Is Christ divided? No. We are a people united by the same faith, a people who have hope that there will be a better future for our family and our Church. Let us fight for the unity of St. Joseph's.

With brotherly affection,
Padre Helber Victoria

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Ordinary Time

Between the end of the Christmas season and the start of Lent, the liturgical year begins a period known as Ordinary Time. That season is interrupted by the seasons of Lent and Easter, and then resumes again after Pentecost. The English translation of the Latin name for this season has received much criticism because of our association of the word "ordinary" with something of lesser value, the opposite of something special. Critics point out that Sunday is the original feast day of the Church, that there is nothing at all "ordinary" about our weekly celebration of the Lord's dying and rising. Translators explain that in this context the English word "ordinary" retains the root meaning of "ordinal," something counted "in order," and that the Sundays throughout the year are in fact named by their numerical order.

It is helpful to understand how all five of the "special" seasons of the liturgical year (Advent, Christmas, Ordinary Time, Lent, Easter) fit together to unfold the single mystery of Christ. As we continue the year now with Ordinary Time, we are mindful that what we celebrate is indeed as "extraordinary" an experience of God's grace as one could ever imagine. -Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

GOD'S LOVING CARE

Two readings today refer to the northeast region of ancient Israel: "the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali." Upon hearing these names, some of us might consult maps and determine exactly where these regions lie. Others might let the unfamiliar names drift by unnoticed. If no maps are handy—but we don't want to ignore the references completely—consider this: we might not know the latitude and longitude of Zebulun and Naphtali, but God does. We praise God for watching over every inch of land and sea, caring perfectly for each creature on the planet. While Isaiah celebrates the depth of God's care with "abundant joy and great rejoicing," Saint Paul begs us to remember how the Lord shows this loving care: through the cross. In today's Gospel, Jesus calls Peter, James, and John to follow him. We follow too, confident that God accompanies us, wherever we are. -Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children; St. Vincent; St. Marianne Cope
Tuesday: St. Francis de Sales
Wednesday: The Conversion of St. Paul; Week of Prayer for Christian Unity ends
Thursday: Ss. Timothy and Titus
Friday: St. Angela Merici
Saturday: St. Thomas Aquinas



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

January 22, 2023

“COME AFTER ME,
AND I WILL MAKE
YOU FISHERS OF MEN.”

Matthew 4:19

GATHERING DISCIPLES

To introduce the beginnings of Jesus’ ministry in Matthew’s Gospel today, the evangelist quotes from Isaiah 9, which is presented to us more fully in our first reading. Isaiah acknowledges the darkness of oppression from the conquest of the Galilee region by Assyria, but reminds his people of the hope God offers them. Matthew, writing in the time of the Roman Empire centuries later, points to Jesus and his proclamation of the kingdom of heaven, to overturn all forms of oppression. Power structures like Assyria or Rome rely on fear, control, and distrust to sustain themselves. But God’s reign is to be saturated with God’s love, freedom, and mutual trust. Jesus began by gathering a group of disciples. When Jesus similarly gathers his community of disciples in our church today, our love of each other, and our care for all others, can make this reign of God visible to all.

CALLED TO COMMUNITY

Today’s Gospel from Matthew sketches the initial movements of Jesus’ public ministry. The arrest of John the Baptist signals that Jesus’ time has come. His first actions include the call of his first disciples, and proclaiming the reign, or kingdom, of heaven. Jesus first gathers a community, which he can gradually form to become living evidence of this coming reign. His preaching, which begins just a few verses later in the Sermon on the Mount, is not just essential guidance for each individual life, but for life within a community of his followers.

It can be very challenging for most of us, who live in a highly individualized society, to hear this story of being summoned into community, committed to learning together and from each other. Our parishes and Christian communities need to be safe places so that we can open our hearts to each other, learning the Way of Jesus, and sharing this Way with others.

UNITED IN CHRIST

In his letter to the Corinthians, Paul addresses many pastoral issues, and begins with questions of division over leadership. We hear of rival camps of loyalty for various leaders and preachers: Paul himself, Apollo, or Cephas. Paul fears that the community has lost the center of the faith, that is, Christ himself. The community is to be united in mind and purpose under Christ.

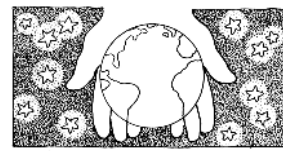
Many today experience in a very similar division. Some Christians will in effect say: “I belong to . . . (fill in the name of your favorite preacher, theologian, or leader), and those who don’t are not to be trusted.” Diversity of thought and background are essential to the vitality of Christian community, but here Paul describes a division that hides the message of Christ. It hides Christ’s call to charity and forbearance toward all. This division hides the truth that we are all at the foot of the cross, a cross that reveals our own brokenness and our need for mercy.

TODAY’S READINGS

- Isaiah 8:23 — 9:3
- Psalms 27:1, 4, 13–14
- 1 Corinthians 1:10–13, 17
- Matthew 4:12–23 [12–17]



Third Sunday in Ordinary



Entrance

Sing Alleluia, Praise the Lord (554)

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing praise on earth, Alleluia. Sing praise in heav'n, declare his pow'r. Sing praise for all his mighty acts.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing alleluia, praise his worth. Sing his achievements, strength supreme. Sing praise for his transcendency.

Sing alleluia, praise the Lord! Sing alleluia, praise with joy. Sing praise with psaltery and harp. Sing praise with trumpets blasting forth.

Liturgy of the Word. Page 80 (Year A)

First Reading: Isaiah 8: 23-9: 3

Responsorial Psalm: **The Lord is my light and my salvation.**

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 1: 1-13, 17

Gospel Acclamation: **Alleluia!**

Gospel: Matthew 4: 12-23 or 4: 12-17

Homily

Offertory

Christ, Be Our Light

Longing for light, we wait in darkness. Longing for truth, we turn to you. Make us your own, your holy people, light for the world to see.

Refrain

Christ, be our light! Shine in our hearts. Shine through the darkness. Christ, be our light! Shine in your church gathered today.

2- Longing for peace, our world is troubled. Longing for hope, many despair. Your word alone has pow'r to save us. Make us your living voice.

Communion

Lord, You Have Come

Lord, you have come to the seashore, neither searching for the rich nor the wise, desiring only that I should follow.

Refrain

O Lord, with your eyes set upon me, gently smiling, you have spoken my name; all I longed for I have found by the water, at your side, I will seek other shores.

Lord, see my goods my possessions; in my boat you find no power, no wealth. Will you accept, then, my nets and labor?

Refrain

Lord, take my hands and direct them. Help me spend myself in seeking the lost, returning love for the love you gave me.

Refrain

Recessional

The Lord Is My Light

The Lord is my light, my help, my salvation. Why should I fear? With God I fear no one. God protects me all my life. With the Lord what should I dread?

Refrain

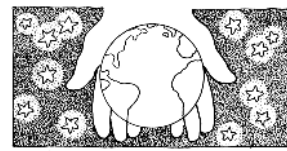
The Lord is my light, the Lord is my help, the Lord is my salvation.

There is one thing I ask of the Lord that I long for: all of my days with God to be dwelling, gazing with awe at the beauty of God, and in wonder look on God's house.

Refrain



III Domingo Tiempo Ordinario



Canción de Entrada

Dios Nos Convoca (564)

Estrillo:

***Dios nos convoca, venid y escuchemos su voz;
la mesa ha preparado, su pan es salvación;
Gracias, Señor, por ser tus invitados!***

Venid, celebrad la palabra, venid, acoged la verdad, y en hermandad cantad la nueva alianza.

Venid, celebrad la esperanza, venid a la cena pascual y en hermandad cantad la nueva alianza.

Liturgia de la Palabra – Pág. 81 (Ciclo A)

Primera Lectura: Isaías 8, 23-9, 3

Salmo Responsorial: **El Señor es mi luz y mi salvación.**

Segunda Lectura: 1 Corintios 1, 10-13. 17

Evangelio: Mateo 4, 12-23 o bien: 4, 12-17

Homilía

Canción de Ofertorio

Brille Tu Luz (723, III Ed)

Estrillo:

Brille tu luz en medio de las tinieblas. Brille tu luz en nuestros corazones. Guíanos con tu luz, que brille en nuestro rostro. Alúmbranos con tu luz.

Tú que duermes, hoy despierta; que el Señor te llame.
Deja que su luz brille sobre ti.

Somos luz en el Señor, somos hijos de la luz,
llenos de bondad, de justicia y verdad.

Cuando escucho el evangelio resplandece su palabra,
palabra del glorioso hijo, que es imagen del Dios vivo.

Canción de Comunión

Pescador de Hombres (709)

1-Tú has venido a la orilla, no has buscado ni a sabios ni a ricos; tan solo quieres que yo te siga.

Estrillo:

Señor, me has mirado a los ojos, sonriendo has dicho mi nombre. En la arena he dejado mi barca, junto a ti buscare otro mar.

2-Tu sabes bien lo que tengo; en mi barca no hay oro ni espadas, tan solo redes y mi trabajo.

3-Tu necesitas mis manos, mi cansancio que a otros descansa, amor que quiera seguir amando.

Canción de Salida

Cristo Te Necesita (697)

Cristo te necesita para amar, para amar,
Cristo te necesita para amar.

Al que sufre y al triste, dale amor, dale amor;
al humilde y al pobre, dale amor.

Estrillo:

No te importen las razas ni el color de la piel, ama a todos como hermanos y haz el bien... (bis)

***Al que vive a tu lado, dale amor, dale amor,
al que viene de lejos, dale amor.***

***Al que habla otra lengua, dale amor, dale amor,
al que piensa distinto, dale amor.***

Soy de Cristo.



Partimos de la idea que lo que nos une como cristianos es mucho mayor que lo que nos separa y estamos convencidos de que la hora presente nos pide en todos un profundo sentido de pertenencia a la Iglesia y un compromiso firme con el país y, especialmente, con las personas y los colectivos que sufren de manera más grave los estragos de las crisis alrededor de nuestras comunidades parroquiales.

La crisis estructural que estamos sufriendo afecta gravemente a las personas y las instituciones. Es una crisis global que afecta a todas las esferas de la vida y que exige unidad de criterio en la respuesta. No hay soluciones mágicas, ni recetas milagrosas, pero estamos convencidos de que, inspirados en el pensamiento de la Doctrina social de la Iglesia, podemos aportar soluciones para afrontar el presente y los futuros años. Como cristianos, nos sentimos llamados a participar en la edificación de un mundo más justo y fraterno y a fortalecer lazos de fraternidad entre los miembros del Pueblo de Dios, y a buscar lo que nos une a todos nuestros conciudadanos.

La esperanza es el motor de la acción cristiana en el mundo. Se funda en la confianza de que no estamos solos y de que Dios actúa, misteriosamente, a través de las personas que buscan el bien, la justicia, la verdad y la belleza. Entendemos que no estamos dejados de la mano de Dios y que Él actúa en la historia abriendo caminos de pacificación y de reconciliación. Contra la moral de derrota y el escepticismo indolente tan extendido en el momento actual, reivindicamos la esperanza madura, la que no desfallece ante las dificultades y que busca, con inteligencia, formas para paliar nuestros sufrimientos y para mejorar el mundo que hemos recibido.

Entendemos que Dios es la fuerza que nos empuja a transformar lo que es injusto en justo, lo que es mezquino en noble, es esta Potencia creadora que todo lo renueva.

Queremos reiterar lo que nos une por encima toda otra diferencia. La dispersión y la fragmentación nos hacen daño como comunidad de fe y nos quitan energías para transformar creativamente el mundo a la luz del Evangelio. Nos une la fe en un Dios que es Amor infinito, que vela por cada ser humano, que se ha hecho presente en la historia de los hombres y se ha revelado definitivamente a Jesucristo.

...Y os digo esto porque cada cual anda diciendo: «Yo soy de Pablo, yo soy de Apolo, yo soy de Cefas, yo soy de Cristo».

¿Está dividido Cristo? No. Somos un pueblo unido por la misma Fe, un pueblo que tiene esperanza de que habrá un futuro mejor para nuestra familia y nuestra Iglesia. Luchemos por la unidad de San Jose.

Con cariño de hermano, Padre Helber Victoria

OUR FASCINATING FAITH

Tiempo Ordinario

Entre el final del tiempo de Navidad y el comienzo de la Cuaresma, el año litúrgico inicia un período conocido como Tiempo Ordinario. Este tiempo se interrumpe con los tiempos de Cuaresma y Pascua, y se reanuda después de Pentecostés. La traducción al español del nombre latino de este tiempo ha recibido muchas críticas debido a que asociamos la palabra “ordinario” con algo de menor valor, lo contrario de algo especial. Los críticos señalan que el domingo es la fiesta original de la Iglesia, que no hay nada de “ordinario” en nuestra celebración semanal de la muerte y resurrección del Señor. Los traductores explican que, en este contexto, la palabra en latín “ordinal” conserva el significado de su raíz, algo que se cuenta “en orden”, y que los domingos de todo el año se denominan, de hecho, por su orden numérico.

Resulta útil comprender cómo los cinco tiempos “especiales” del año litúrgico (Adviento, Navidad, Tiempo Ordinario, Cuaresma, Pascua) encajan para desplegar el único misterio de Cristo. Mientras continuamos el año con el Tiempo Ordinario, somos conscientes de que lo que celebramos es, en efecto, una experiencia tan “extraordinaria” de la gracia de Dios como se pueda imaginar.

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EL CUIDADO AMOROSO DE DIOS

Dos lecturas de hoy se refieren a la región noreste del antiguo Israel: “la tierra de Zabulón y la tierra de Neftalí”. Al escuchar estos nombres, algunos de nosotros podríamos consultar mapas y determinar exactamente dónde se encuentran estas regiones. Otros pueden dejar que los nombres desconocidos pasen desapercibidos. Si no tenemos mapas a mano, pero no queremos ignorar las referencias por completo, consideremos esto: puede que no conozcamos la latitud y la longitud de Zabulón y Neftalí, pero Dios sí. Alabamos a Dios por vigilar cada centímetro de tierra y mar, cuidando perfectamente de cada criatura del planeta. Aunque Isaías celebra la profundidad del cuidado de Dios con “abundante alegría y gran regocijo”, san Pablo nos ruega que recordemos cómo muestra el Señor este cuidado amoroso: a través de la cruz. En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús llama a Pedro, Santiago y Juan para que le sigan. Nosotros también le seguimos, seguros de que Dios nos acompaña, estemos donde estemos.

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Confesiones

Lunes a Viernes
6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.
Capilla San José
Sãobaço
4:00 p.m. – 4:45 p.m.



TERCER DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

22 de enero de 2023

“SÍGANME Y LOS HARÉ
PESCADORES DE HOMBRES”.

Mateo 4:19

REUNIENDO DISCÍPULOS

Para introducir los inicios del ministerio de Jesús en el Evangelio de Mateo de hoy, el evangelista cita el pasaje de Isaías 9, que se nos presenta con más detalle en nuestra primera lectura. Isaías reconoce las tinieblas de la opresión por la conquista de la región de Galilea por parte de Asiria, pero recuerda a su pueblo la esperanza que Dios le ofrece. Mateo, escribiendo en tiempos del Imperio Romano, siglos después, señala a Jesús y su proclamación del reino de los cielos, para derribar toda forma de opresión. Las estructuras de poder como Asiria o Roma se basan en el miedo, el control y la desconfianza para sostenerse. Pero el reino de Dios debe estar saturado del amor de Dios, la libertad y la confianza mutua. Jesús comenzó reuniendo a un grupo de discípulos. Cuando Jesús reúne a su comunidad de discípulos de forma similar en nuestra iglesia de hoy, nuestro amor mutuo y nuestra atención a todos los demás pueden hacer que este reino de Dios sea visible para todos.

LLAMADO A LA COMUNIDAD

El Evangelio de hoy de Mateo esboza los movimientos iniciales del ministerio público de Jesús. La detención de Juan el Bautista indica que ha llegado la hora de Jesús. Sus primeras acciones incluyen la llamada de sus primeros discípulos y la proclamación del reino de los cielos. Jesús reúne primero una comunidad, a la que puede formar gradualmente para que se convierta en una prueba viviente de este reino venidero. Su predicación, que comienza unos versículos más tarde en el Sermón de la Montaña, no es sólo una guía esencial para la vida de cada individuo, sino para la vida dentro de una comunidad de sus seguidores.

Para la mayoría de nosotros, que vivimos en una sociedad altamente individualizada, puede resultar muy desafiante escuchar esta historia de ser convocados en comunidad, comprometidos a aprender juntos y unos de otros. Nuestras parroquias y comunidades cristianas tienen que ser lugares seguros para que podamos abrir nuestros corazones a los demás, aprendiendo el Camino de Jesús, y compartiendo este Camino con los demás.

UNIDOS EN CRISTO

En su carta a los Corintios, Pablo aborda muchos temas pastorales, y comienza con cuestiones de división sobre el liderazgo. Oímos hablar de campos rivales de lealtad para varios líderes y predicadores: Pablo mismo, Apolo o Cefas. Pablo teme que la comunidad haya perdido el centro de la fe, es decir, el propio Cristo. La comunidad debe estar unida en mente y propósito bajo Cristo.

Muchos experimentan hoy en día una división muy similar. Algunos cristianos dicen en efecto: “Yo pertenezco a. . . (ponga el nombre de su predicador, teólogo o líder favorito), y los que no lo hacen no son de fiar”. La diversidad de pensamiento y antecedentes es esencial para la vitalidad de la comunidad cristiana, pero aquí Pablo describe una división que oculta el mensaje de Cristo. Oculta la llamada de Cristo a la caridad y a la tolerancia hacia todos. Esta división oculta la verdad de que todos estamos al pie de la cruz, una cruz que revela nuestro propio quebranto y nuestra necesidad de misericordia.

LECTURAS DE HOY

Isaías 8:23 – 9:3
Salmo 27 (26):1, 4, 13-14
1 Corintios 1:10-13, 17
Mateo 4:12-23 [12-17]

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