January 22, 2017 - Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Shouting with joy, breaking into song and singing praise to the Lord sounds like a great plan until I start listening to the news. That’s when I begin to falter. Reluctance sets in. I waver in the midst of my joyful song. How does one pour joy into a world that seems intent on spreading violence and hate?

The world needs our joy and hope. To pour our fear and anger into a world already enslaved in fear and anger is not helpful. Starting today, let’s watch intently for good news. It, too, is all around us. It doesn’t ordinarily receive the coverage it deserves. The good that is being poured out into the world is often overshadowed by the evil. Evil spelled backward tells us to live. Let’s find a way to live in joy and hope.

Sr. Macrina Wiederkehr, O.S. B.
Living Faith, January, February, March 2017
Used with Permission

January 22, 2017
Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Sing joyfully to the Lord, all you lands; break into song, sing praise.”

(Psalm 98:4)
**Saturday 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday 8:00 a.m.**

**Sunday 10:30 a.m.**

**Sunday 4:30 p.m.**

**PRESIDER**
Fr. Hamm, S.J.
Fr. Amidon, S.J.
Fr. O’Meara, S.J.
Fr. Simonds, S.J.

**LITURGICAL ASSISTANT**
Laraine Conway
Dick Cleary
Ann Cole

**ALTAR SERVER**
Julie Nubel

**LECTORS**
Cathy Pedersen
Bob Carlson
John O’Keefe
TBD

Jim Howard
Mary Lou Carlson
Kathy O’Keefe

**PRAYERS**
Jane O’Brien
Mary Lou Carlson
Anna Nubel

**EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**
G. Selk
J. Howard
D. Cleary
C. Nigrelli
P. Martin
M.A. Howick
B. Carlson
K. Tupper
R. Wright
E. Wirth
M.L. Carlson
B. Schmidt
S. Hansen
A. Haddad
M. A. McDonald
J. Chiacchere
S. & B. Selde
J. Tilleman

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**Readings for the week**

**1/22**

**Sunday**

The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Is</th>
<th>8:23—9:3</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cor</td>
<td>1:10-13, 17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt</td>
<td>4:12-23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**1/23**

**Monday**

Heb

| 9:15, 24-28 |
| 3:22-30 |

**1/24**

**Tuesday**

Heb

| 10:1-10 |
| 3:31-35 |

**1/25**

**Wednesday**

Acts

| 22:3-16 |
| 16:15-18 |

**1/26**

**Thursday**

2 Tm

| 1:1-8 |
| 4:21-25 |

**1/27**

**Friday**

Heb

| 10:32-39 |
| 4:26-34 |

**1/28**

**Saturday**

Heb

| 11:1-2, 8-19 |
| 4:35-41 |

**1/29**

**Sunday**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Zep</th>
<th>2:3, 3:12-13</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Cor</td>
<td>1:26-31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mt</td>
<td>5:1-12a</td>
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</tbody>
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**Prayer Requests**

Dick Miller
Julie L. & Connor L. & Family
Deb P.
M. & J.
S. & S.
J. & S.
Barb M.
Lisa M.
Peggy J.

Chris
Jim
Connie
Veronica
Barb Durant
Renee Kalkowski
Jack Walsh
Colleen Davis & Family
Richard Grimit

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**Mass Intentions January 23–28, 2017**

**7:00 AM (Main Church)**

Monday  Mr. & Mrs. Steve Gzehoviak—intentions
Tuesday Mr. & Mrs. Robert Engelmeyer—intentions
Wednesday Mr. & Mrs. Bernard Wilson—intentions
Thursday Mr. & Mrs. Joe Pensick—intentions
Friday Frank Hoing—intention

**12:00 Noon (Main Church)**

Monday  Patty & Ed Leslie—in intentions
Tuesday Mr. & Mrs. Leo Diekemper—in intentions
Wednesday Michael Sullivan—deceased

**5:00 PM (Fr. Halley Chapel, LSJ’s)**

Monday Clarice Kaup—in intention
Tuesday Keith Kucera—in intention
Wednesday Deceased Members of Ignatian Associates
Thursday Colleen Davis & Family—in prayers
Friday Mr. and Mrs. Dan Throener—in intentions

**Weekly Offering Report**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Weekly Budget Goal</th>
<th>7,067.31</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fiscal Year Goal</td>
<td>367,500.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above (below) weekly goal</td>
<td>(1,947.74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above (Below) YTD Goal</td>
<td>222,581.13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Second Collection this week is for: St. John's Building Fund</td>
<td>St. John's Building Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Please be as generous as you are able.</td>
<td>Please be as generous as you are able.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**UPDATE: Meeting Rescheduled**

**Volunteers Needed—Sick and Homebound**

Our parish is in need of volunteers to accompany the sick and homebound. Training for this ministry will be **January 29, 2017 at 11:45 a.m.** Some of the topics that will be covered will include the distribution of communion, how to interact with people who may be unable to communicate, have disabilities or who are in hospice. Or, if you are simply interested in learning more, please stop by to ask questions or gather information. Thank you!

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**St. Johns at Creighton University Consolation Faith Sharing Group:**

A Faith based support group for those living with Mental Health illness and those who care for them. The first monthly meeting for those living with mental health concerns will be held on Sunday January 22nd at 3:00PM in the St. Johns resource room upstairs to the right of the main altar. Individuals with mental health illnesses and family members are welcome to participate in this faith based support group. Questions or for more information please contact the Parish Office at 402 280 3031.

**From St. John’s Social Justice Committee**

Join OTOC on Wednesday, January 25th at 7pm at the Weitz Community Engagement Center, Room 230 (6400 South, University Drive Road North, Omaha, NE 68182) for a panel discussion about how to protect water quality in proposed light of upstream large-scale livestock processing and production plants. Panelists include the head of the Des Moines Water Works, Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality and other water quality experts. For more information go to www.OTOC.org.

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**February Celebrations!**

Welcome new parishioners:
Robin Springs, John Brown

Wedding Anniversary:
Jane & John Doe
25 years

Welcome Aidan! Born to Jill and John Doe on January 4

Birthdays
Adele Simpson—80 Years young
All Are Welcome …

The prophet, Isaiah writes: “…he (Yahweh) has glorified the District of the Gentiles.” Isaiah repeats this message: “…he (the messiah) will make glorious the land (Gentiles) beyond the sea…. The people (gentiles, foreigners) who have walked in darkness have seen a great light…. You (gentiles, foreigners) have multiplied the nation (Israel), you have increased its joy.”

Words spoken long before Jesus’ time.

In Matthew’s gospel Jesus quotes Isaiah verbatim. At this time Jesus was in the land of the gentiles, a people rejected. Jesus’ message of inclusion is repeated throughout the Bible – people once rejected, degraded and denied are now welcome. Not only welcomed, but they increase our “joy”. They make us richer. Repeatedly the Bible encourages us to welcome the stranger, the one who is different, the countless who are forgotten, discounted or ignored. Paul’s letter speaks of “rivalries among you…each of you is saying “I belong to Paul or….I belong to Christ.” In other words, I belong and you don’t.

I am acceptable and you aren’t. I am favored and you aren’t. Paul asks, “Is Christ divided?”

To be a stranger in a strange land can be challenging, terrifying depending on circumstances. I spent a month on a South Pacific island with our daughter, a Peace Corps volunteer. I wanted to share in her experience. Not to say I was without anxieties heading to a place where cannibalism had been practiced in the near past. There was Christian missionary influence and conversions of sorts. Of the many beautiful, challenging and endearing experiences I will always remember how welcome I was. The Nevi people were extremely curious, but always in joyful, child-like ways. However, I recall the interior disturbance I felt when the village “minister” said to me, “We believe in freedom of religion… you are always welcome in our church as we are always welcome in yours. I hope one day visit your church”. Secretly I hoped that would not happen too soon. I was embarrassed. I dreaded the possible rejection this beautiful man could easily encounter in my church. He looked different, spoke differently, ate foods unavailable here. Different in so many ways. Because he was so different he would be difficult to miss, but easy to dismissed. He would expect to be fully welcomed – no restrictions. As I was welcomed- no restrictions. The Nevi people I encountered had a pureness of heart, an acceptance of things they could not influence – nature, which could be very damaging. They seemed to trust in the best of everyone. We might call them naive, not so. As a community they were gracious, hardworking and caring of the less fortunate among them – the disabled, sick, dying, orphaned or widowed. All were fed, none homeless and those in need seemingly lovingly cared for. None visibly rejected. Not to paint a totally unbelievable picture – they are human. We share the same faults and foibles.

Merciful forgiveness and generosity shine brightly in us, we are church. Yet, we continue stubbing our toes on our own humanity. We can be our own worst enemies. Still, we have a faithful, loving, mercifully forgiving God. Christ is not divided among us. All of us belong to Christ!

Good News: Inclusion – a truth ever present, ever new. We profess it, believe it and we even know the words to the song: “All are welcome, all are welcome, all are welcome in this place.”

Amen

Joan Blandin Howard