

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

Doctor Johnny was well known in the area and famous for always catching large fish. One day, while he was on one of his frequent fishing trips, he got a call that a woman, at a neighboring farm, was giving birth. He rushed to her aid and delivered a healthy baby boy. The farmer had nothing to weigh the baby with so the Doctor used his fishing scales. The baby weighed 21 lbs 13 oz.

In today's Gospel, Jesus calls his first disciples: Peter and Andrew, and then James and John. The stories are brief and unadorned. Jesus says, **"Follow me,"** and they leave their boats, their nets, their families, and follow him.

Because of our familiarity with these stories, we might overlook a very important characteristic within them—the people who Jesus calls are not the best candidates to be His apostles. They were fishermen. Despite Jesus' clever turn of the phrase that **He will make them fishers of people**, there is a big difference between catching fish and catching people. They require two different skill sets. To catch fish, you need to know how to manage boats and nets. To catch people, you have to know how to use words and persuasion.



There is no doubt that Jesus would have been on much surer footing had He chosen people accustomed to public speaking. He could have chosen apostles who had some notoriety, whose name and star power could have attracted others into Jesus' company. It certainly would have been a plus if those chosen had some education, if they had studied the Hebrew Scriptures, not to mention being able to read or write. But Jesus did not choose people with these qualifications. He chose a handful of fishermen.

Now, this choice of Jesus' disciples contributes to a major theme which runs throughout the whole Bible. God seldom chooses the people that we expect. God seems to prefer the younger and inexperienced to the elder and accomplished, the unlikely to the logical. God chooses Jacob over his elder brother Esau. God chooses Joseph and David over their elder brothers. When God needs a prophet, he chooses Amos who is a shepherd and a dresser of sycamore trees or Jeremiah who is a boy.

This theme carries over into the New Testament. God chooses Mary though she is a lowly handmaiden and Paul though he is a persecutor of the Church. It is difficult to predict who God is going to call. This is the Bible's way of telling us that God is in charge. It is not we who choose God, but God who chooses us.

God will call who God will call. And when God calls us, it does us no good to point to others who have better qualifications. Of course, the God who calls us will be with us and will make up for our inadequacies. That is why, with Jesus' help, even unlikely disciples such as us can be successful. But, first, we must stand up and follow him.

A FILIPINO MASS, In Honour of Sto. Nino, will be held this Sunday, Jan. 22nd at 7 pm, in our church. All are welcome.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Jan. 23rd - Heb. 9:15, 24-28; Mark 3:22-30

Tue. Jan. 24th - ST. FRANCIS DE SALES, memorial
Heb. 10:1-10; Mark 3:31-35

Wed. Jan. 25th - THE CONVERSION OF ST. PAUL, feast
Acts 22:3-16; or Acts 9:1-22; Mark 16:15-18

Thurs. Jan. 26th - ST. TIMOTHY & ST. TITUS, memorial
2 Tim 1:1-8; Luke 10:1-9

Fri. Jan. 27th - Heb. 10:32-39; Mark 4:26-34

Sat. Jan. 28th - ST. THOMAS AQUINAS, memorial
Heb. 11:1-2, 8-19; Mark 4:35-41

Sun. Jan. 29th - FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
Zeph. 2:3, 3:12-13; 1 Cor. 1:26-31; Mat. 5:1-12



MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Sun. Jan. 22 nd	9 am Mass for parishioners 11 am Mass for Chiu Uy, R.I.P. 5 pm Mass for L. Alves & J. Aganon, R.I.P.
Mon. Jan. 23 rd	8 am Mass for the int. of Eileen Teo & Fmly.
Tue. Jan. 24 th	8 am Mass for Lucy Chan, R.I.P.
Wed. Jan. 25 th	9 am Mass for all the souls in purgatory 7:30 pm Novena Mass
Thur. Jan. 26 th	8 am Mass for Ester Baldasso, R.I.P.
Fri. Jan. 27 th	8 am Mass for George Dugal, R.I.P.
Sat. Jan. 28 th	9:00 am Mass for the int. of Linette Hoo 5:00 pm Mass for all the souls in purgatory



2017 SUNDAY ENVELOPES

Have you picked up your new set of parish envelopes? If you want a set, call the parish office.



CATHOLIC WOMEN'S LEAGUE NEWS

Please Note: The General Meeting scheduled for this Tuesday, Jan. 24th has been CANCELLED.



ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Jan. 25th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Jan. 28th - 5:00 PM - C.Akol, A.Chavez, F.Hua, R.Simsuangco.

Sun. Jan. 22nd - 9:00 AM - A & G Del Monte, J.Manzano, C.Duong, I. Schilling-Regala. **11:00 AM** - R & S Bottin, E & E Garrovillas, A & J Roque, A & A Ventura, I.Yun. **5:00 PM** - K.Alonzo, H & L Cao, F.V. Dela Cruz, E & I Picariello, R.Suganob.

OPEN CHURCH NEWS

Can you Help??? Are you retired? Or perhaps you are a stay at home parent or grandparent? or maybe you work part-time? Do you have **one hour a week** to spend with the Lord? Our **"Open Church Program"** is in desperate need of volunteers. If you think you can spare 1 hour and would like to volunteer your time please call Ann Ng at 604-438-0868 or sign-up on the sheet provided in the vestibule.

SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** This Wednesday at 9 am. Join us!
- **Early Dismissal:** Thursday, Jan. 26th at 12 noon.
- **Colour Day:** Friday, Jan. 27th come to school dressed in the jersey of your favourite team.
- **Parent Coffee Time:** This Friday, Jan. 27th from 8:45 to 10:30 am in the music room. All parents and grandparents are welcome to join us.
- **Open House:** will be held on Feb. 8th at 1 pm. On this day we begin the registration process for new families. If you know of any family who might be interested in a Catholic education for their child, please let them know about our Open House.



ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

Twice in today's reading we are given the image of people being in darkness having seen a great light! As stewards of the Good News we have an opportunity to bring love and hope into a people's lives where only darkness exists. We do this by freely, and generously sharing our gifts. To cling to our wealth and our time too tightly leaves no space to receive God's blessings. In gratitude to God, good stewards joyfully share their gifts to brighten someone else's life! When gratitude is behind our giving, JOY naturally accompanies the gift.

Copyright © 2017, by Joseph Daniel Potvin, Joppa Stewardship Leaders, Ottawa

Chinese New Year Day 2017

A special Mass for the beginning of the New Year will be held on Saturday, Jan. 28, in Cantonese and Mandarin, at 11 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Church, Delta. All are welcome.

St. Francis of Assisi Preschool is hosting their open house on Wednesday January 25th, 2017 from 10:00-12:00 pm and 2:00-5:00 pm. We offer a nurturing environment to learn, grow and make friends. Please join us. For further info please call 604-255-9839 or email preschool@sfaschool.ca

Second Annual Ordinandi Dinner

Join Archbishop Miller and members of the Catholic faithful as we gather together in support of the men in our Archdiocese who are soon "to be ordained" ("ordinandi") to the priesthood. Wednesday, Feb. 1, at the Italian Cultural Centre, 3075 Slocan St. Vancouver. Doors open at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins at 6 p.m. Cost: \$50.

Pro-life Mass & Vigil

Join us on Saturday, Feb. 4, at 9 a.m. for a peaceful, prayerful vigil for unborn children and their parents. Mass will be at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Vancouver, followed by the Rosary at Burnaby Hospital. For more information, visit: rcav.org/pro-life-mass-and-prayer-vigil

Mass of Anointing in Honour of the World Day of the Sick

Archbishop Miller, CSB, will celebrate a special Mass in honour of the World Day of the Sick. Sacrament of Anointing will be administered after the Homily. All the sick and their caregivers are invited to attend. Join us on Feb. 10, from 10:30-1:30 p.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish, Vancouver. Refreshments to following in the parish hall after Mass. For more info., please contact CHABC at info@CHABC.bc.

Seminary Vocation Live-In

On the weekend of Feb. 17-19, there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or consecrated life at Seminary of Christ the King, Mission. Cost: \$25. For more information, please contact 604-826-8715.

Homeless Count

Help count the homeless in your local community for the B.C. Non-Profit Housing Association on Tuesday, March 7 (evening), and Wednesday, March 8 (daytime). This count allows Catholic ministries such as the Door Is Open, Men's Hostel, Good Shepherds, Agape and many more to plan appropriate programs and allocate resources. This is a rare opportunity that happens only once every 3 years. It's also a chance to learn more about the causes of poverty and some of the solutions that government, public and private agencies, and charities are working on together. If you or someone you know is interested, please sign-up online at:

<http://www.bcnpha.ca/research/metro-vancouver-homeless-count-2017>.

This is also a great opportunity to volunteer with Catholic Charities Shelter Services. For more information please contact Scott Small at ssmall@rcav.org

Bursaries available from CHABC

The Catholic Health Association of BC will be awarding 2 bursaries valued at \$250 each to two 2017 graduating students who are enrolled in Catholic secondary schools, or who are members of BC or Yukon parishes and enrolled in public secondary schools, or who are home-schooled. Students are asked to submit a 500-word essay that demonstrates an awareness and understanding of the significance of **Spirituality in Health Care** on or before March 10, 2017.

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

January 18th - 25th

Theme: **"Reconciliation - The Love of Christ Compels Us"**

