

Dear Padre,

Mark 1:15 quotes Jesus as saying, “Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Since the Gospels hadn’t been written yet, what was he referring to?

These days when we say the word *gospel*, we tend to be talking about one of the four written Gospels of the New Testament: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. But the word *gospel* wasn’t originally tied to any particular written form of communication. In fact, the Greek word we translate to *gospel*—*evangelion*—simply means “good news.”

When Jesus says, “Repent and believe in the gospel,” he is basically saying, “Repent and believe in the good news.” For Jesus, the nature of that good news is clear: Jesus is announcing the coming of God’s kingdom, the initiation of the fullness of God’s reign on earth. Jesus preaches this good news in word and action and makes it real through his life, death, and resurrection.

After Jesus’ resurrection and ascension, many of his followers were inspired by the Holy Spirit to go into the world and continue Christ’s gospel proclamation. The apostles and disciples did this by word of mouth at first, but within a few decades they decided to commit the message of Christ’s good news to writing, giving us the Gospel books we know today.

Fr. Matthew Allman, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



SCHEFFER ON THE MOUNT BY CARL BLOCH/WIKIMEDIA

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

In these, our troubled times, rent by the tragedies of war and menaced by the baneful tendency to accentuate differences and to incite conflict, may the Good News that in Jesus forgiveness triumphs over sin, life defeats death, and love conquers fear, be proclaimed to the world with renewed fervor.

LETTER RECOGNIZING MISSIONARY WORK, OCTOBER 22, 2017



Calendar

Monday
JANUARY 25
Conversion of
St. Paul the Apostle
Acts 22:3–16 or
Acts 9:1–22
Mk 16:15–18

Tuesday
JANUARY 26
Sts. Timothy and Titus,
Bishops
2 Tm 1:1–8 or Ti 1:1–5
Mk 3:31–35

Wednesday
JANUARY 27
Weekday
Heb 10:11–18
Mk 4:1–20

Thursday
JANUARY 28
St. Thomas Aquinas,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Heb 10:19–25
Mk 4:21–25

Friday
JANUARY 29
Weekday
Heb 10:32–39
Mk 4:26–34

Saturday
JANUARY 30
Weekday
Heb 11:1–2, 8–19
Mk 4:35–41

Sunday
JANUARY 31
Fourth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Dt 18:15–20
1 Cor 7:32–35
Mk 1:21–28

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 24, 2021

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Jon 3:1–5, 10

1 Cor 7:29–31

Mk 1:14–20

The Fish That Didn’t Get Away

We have all heard stories about the extraordinary fish that got away. We might even have such a story of our own. Two of today’s readings are fish stories, but with a slight twist. They are also “call narratives.” Last week we reflected on the call to listen and to follow; this week it is a call to go out to bring God’s mercy to others. This is a call to “catch” others, as one might catch fish—a metaphor that would have delighted fisher people.

In the beginning of the Jonah story, the prophet did not catch fish; one caught him. Later, the word he preached was very successful, his own spitefulness notwithstanding. The Ninevites were the sworn enemies of the Israelites, and Jonah did not want them to repent, but to be punished by God. Nevertheless, God’s mercy was stronger than Jonah’s spite. In the Gospel, Jesus calls his followers to set down their fishing nets and to launch into a life of catching people

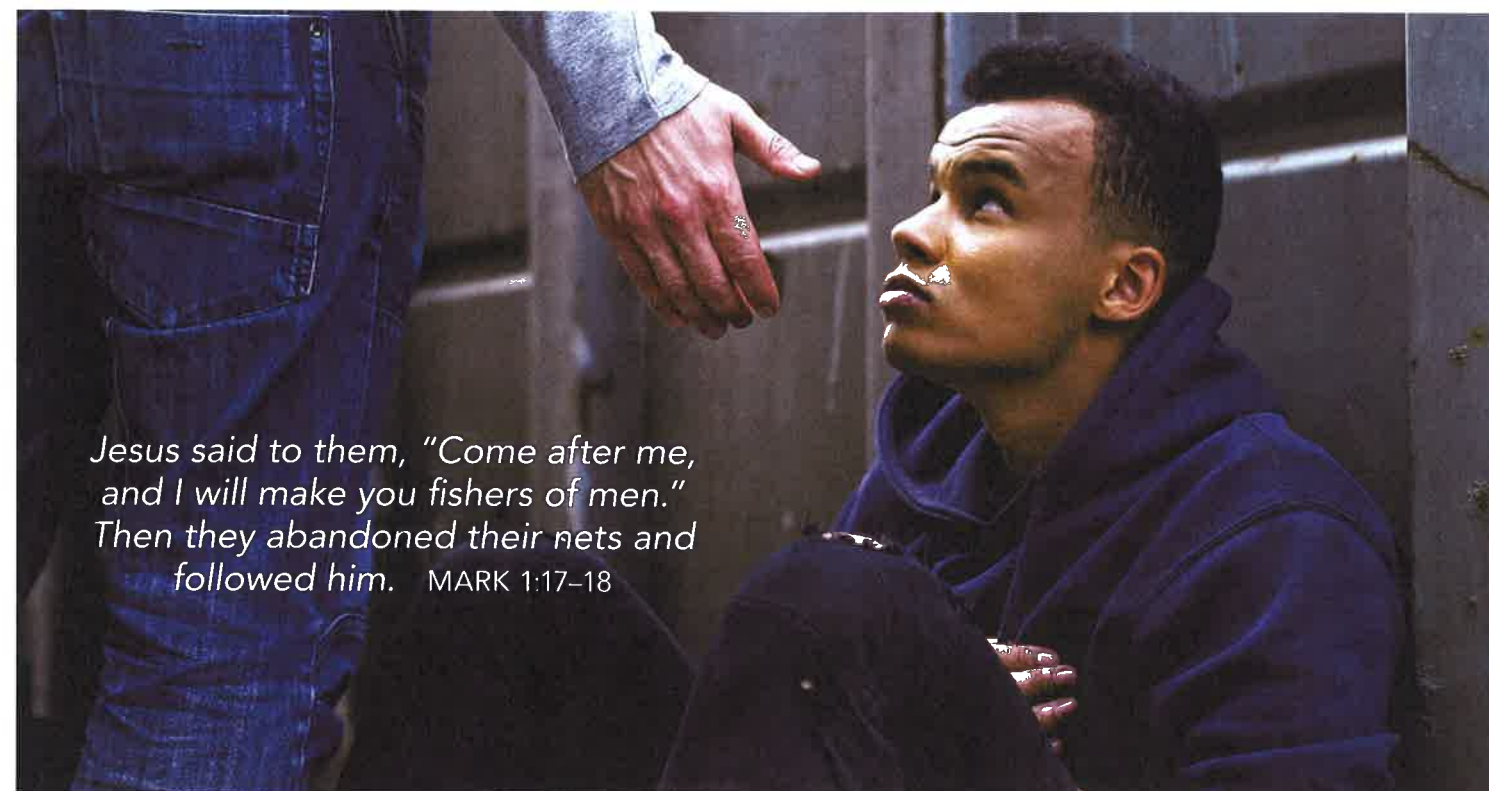
with the word of God. There is an eagerness here that is absent in the Jonah story. Furthermore, the disciples left their primary commitment—their patriarchal family—to accept Jesus’ invitation.

As Pope Francis declared, we are all missionary disciples. Are we eager to respond, as were Jesus’ disciples? Or do we think we should attend only to those whom we judge to be deserving? If so, have we forgotten that no one deserves God’s mercy? It is a free gift to all.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR *Reflection*

- ★ In what ways does your manner of living proclaim the mercy of God?
- ★ Pray that you might realize these ways if you do not already.

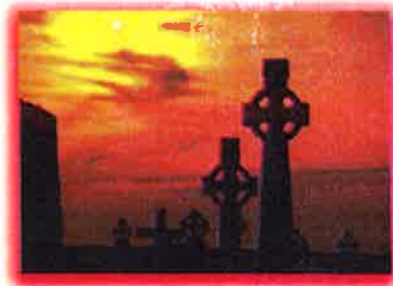


Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him. MARK 1:17–18

MOTIONFILMS/SHUTTERSTOCK



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese

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Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The three readings today underline our absolute need of repentance and our immediate need for a prompt response to God's call. The first reading tells us how God had to deal with the disobedient, fleeing prophet Jonah to turn him around (convert him), so that, repenting, he would go to Nineveh to preach repentance there. The wicked people of Nineveh, however, accepted Jonah as God's prophet at once, and promptly responded to God's call for repentance as Jonah preached it. In the second reading, Paul urges the Christian community in Corinth to lose no time in accepting the message of the Gospel and in renewing their lives with repentance because Jesus' *second coming* may occur at any moment. Today's Gospel describes how Jesus came to Galilee and began preaching, challenging people to "*repent and believe in the Gospel.*" Just as John did, Jesus also called for *repentance*, meaning a change in one's mind or in the direction of one's life and setting new priorities. Repentance also means hating sin itself, not just being sorry for the consequences of one's sins. *Believing* in the Gospel demands from the hearers a resolution to take Jesus' words seriously, to translate them into action, and to put trust in Jesus' authority. Jesus preached the *Gospel*, or Good News, that God is a loving, forgiving, caring and merciful Father who wants to liberate us and save us from our sins through His son Jesus. By describing the call of Jesus' first disciples, Andrew, Peter, James, and John, today's Gospel also emphasizes how we, sinners, are to respond to God's call with total commitment by abandoning our accustomed style of sinful life.

We need to appreciate our call to become Christ's disciples: Every one of us is called by God, both individually, and collectively as a parish community, to continue Jesus' mission of preaching the Good News of God's Kingdom and healing the sick. We are called individually to a way of life or vocation: – a religious commitment (priest, deacon, missionary, religious Sister or Brother, marriage partner, or single person), plus a particular occupation rising from our talents (medicine, law, teaching, healing, writing, art, music, building and carpentry, farming, homemaking, child-rearing ...). Our own unique vocation should enable us to become what God wants us to be. As St. Francis De Sales (*today's saint*) puts it, 'we are expected to bloom where we are planted'.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
01/25	Monday	No Mass Today		
01/26	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp
01/27	Wednesday	In - person CCD Classes		
01/28	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	People of the USA & President Trump
01/29	Friday	12.00 PM	Bayard	Bernard Rodriguez
01/30	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Margerie Enriquez
01/31	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Bernard Rodriguez
01/31	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	George Penick

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

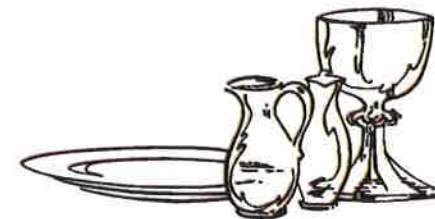
MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 26, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$460.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$345.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 805.00
MASS STIPEND	\$100.00
TOTAL	\$ 905.00
BUILDING FUND	\$310.00
HEAT/AC	\$600.00
DONATIONS	\$3,375.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
BALANCE	(\$2,671.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 26, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$345.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$278.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 623.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 623.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$2,915.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
BALANCE	(\$1,992.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM

Online Evening Prayer:
January 26, Tuesday
at 8.00 PM

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$1110.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$1.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,111.00
MASS STIPEND	\$10.00
SOLEMNITY/MARY	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$1,146.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$3,511.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
BALANCE	(\$2,625.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

