**FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 20-21, 2024**

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gospel reading**

Mk 1:14-20

After John had been arrested,

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:

“This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen.

Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John.

They too were in a boat mending their nets.

Then he called them.

So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

**Intercession**

That, responding to Christ’s call quickly, we might not hesitate to support the Diocesan Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

“Repent and believe in the Gospel” is one of a few possible phrases the priest says as he places ash on the foreheads of the faithful on Ash Wednesday.

Why does the Church present this message today? Jesus can fill us with grace, the love we need to become saints. But a hundred pounds of earthly attachments make it hard to fly high. We are tied down. To repent is to turn away from sinful attachments. *Giving* helps us turn away. His “yoke is easy” and his “burden is light” (Matthew 11:30). Our Diocesan Ministry Appeal presents an opportunity to give, let go, and ascend. Give as you are able, and Jesus will help you find the same lightness of heart that freed the first Apostles to drop their boats, nets, and expectations to follow him. Help us and join us!

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Love manifests in many ways, including generosity of heart. Let the love you have received from Jesus through our parish overflow so that it may help others experience the same . Please give generously to our Diocesan Ministry Appeal. Thank you for your generous heart!

**Social media post/content**

Photo: A painting of the nets and boats that the first Apostles left behind, on the shore, at Jesus’ call.

Text: *“Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.”* – Mark 1:18

Copy: Christ calls us to be His fishers and through our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, we can put more nets in the water. Help us cast the widest net we can with your support today!