



St. David's Parish  
Monastery Road, Pantasaph,  
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## **PARISH NEWSLETTER**

**Third Sunday in Ordinary Time  
January 22, 2023**

### **'Death and Eternity'    Pope Benedict XVI**

Eternal life will be like "immersing yourself in the ocean of infinite love where time -- a before and an after -- no longer exists.

Fullness of life and joy: This is what we hope for and expect from our being with Christ."

—Angelus address Nov. 2, 2008

## **READINGS**

**1<sup>st</sup> Reading**                      **IIs 8:23—9:3**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Reading**                      **1 Cor 1:10-13, 17**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Gospel**                         **Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17**

## **SCRIPTURE REFLECTIONS**

**Introduction:** Describing the humble beginning of the public ministry of Jesus, today's Scripture

**Scripture lessons:** The first readings teach us that Christ has brought us from darkness of sin into the Light (4:16), by calling us to repentance (4:17), and the acceptance of God's rule.

reading contains the prophetic reference to Christ as the Light that dispels darkness. Matthew wanted his readers to recognize that the Light Isaiah had spoken of had finally appeared with the coming of Jesus. The second reading advises the Corinthians to live as children of the Light, avoiding divisions and

rivalries, because several factions had arisen among the Corinthian Christians, each claiming allegiance to its first Christian teacher or to a particular Apostle. In today's Gospel passage [Mt. 4:12-23], Matthew explains that what had been prophesied by Isaiah was fulfilled through the preaching and healing ministry of Jesus. By his ministry of inviting people to the kingdom of God by repentance, Jesus brought Light to peoples living in darkness, thus fulfilling God's original promise. In addition, today's Gospel describes the call of the first disciples (4:18-22), and Jesus' own teaching and healing ministry, inviting people to repent of their sins and accept the Good News of God's rule (Kingdom of God), which he was preaching. Ordinary fishermen with no formal training in Mosaic Law were chosen to preach the Good News. They were very effective instruments in the hands of Jesus to continue His mission.

## **Pope Benedict XVI on Marriage**

### **DIGNITY OF MARRIAGE**

“Discover the greatness and beauty of marriage,” Pope Benedict said to young people participating in the March 2010 International Youth Forum in Rocca di Papa south of Rome. In a message to the forum, he wrote: “The relationship between the man and the woman reflects divine love in a quite special way; therefore the conjugal bond acquires an immense dignity.” Because “human beings are made for love,” the pope said, “their lives are completely fulfilled only if they are lived in love.” He explained that “the vocation to love takes different forms according to the state of life,” one being marriage.

Over the years, at different times and speaking from different perspectives, Pope Benedict directed attention both to marriage's “greatness and beauty” and to family life's essential roles. For example, he said: — “Matrimony is a Gospel in itself, a good news for the world of today, especially the de-Christianized world.” (He said that in a homily opening the October 2012 world Synod of Bishops on the new evangelization.) — “Called to live a Christ-like love each day, the Christian family is a privileged expression of the church's presence and mission in the world.”

(This point, reflecting the pope's accent on the family as a “domestic church,” appeared in his 2012 apostolic exhortation on the church in the Middle East.) — “Your vocation is not easy to live, especially today, but the vocation to love is a wonderful thing, it is the only force that can truly transform the cosmos, the

world.” (That comment on married and family life came during the June 2012 World Meeting of Families in Milan.) Pope Benedict realized that couples encounter all-too-real challenges in marriage and family life. “Conjugal love is not a fleeting event, but the patient project of a lifetime,” his apostolic exhortation on the Middle East stated. This is a pope who wanted couples to receive support, including religious educational support, from parishes, their extended families, friends and others.

Moreover, he wanted spouses to seize moments to focus together on their marriage. A July 2012 message sent in his name to the international meeting in Brazil of the Teams of Our Lady invited couples to set time aside each day to talk with each other. “Sincere and constant dialogue between the spouses is essential for avoiding the emergence of misunderstandings that grow and harden,” the papal message said.

### **Families: Schools of Virtue**

When he spoke of the family’s role as a school of virtues, particularly for children, Pope Benedict tended to name rather precisely the virtues he had in mind. In a May 2009 homily in Nazareth, the Holy Family’s hometown, Pope Benedict suggested that children need the benefits of a “human ecology,” need to be raised in “a milieu” where they learn: — “To love and to cherish others. — “To be honest and respectful to all. — “To practice the virtues of mercy and forgiveness.” Women fulfil invaluable roles in creating such environments, he said. Added to his Nazareth list of virtues absorbed at home are virtues of generosity, trust, responsibility, solidarity and cooperation – all mentioned in the pope’s June 2012 homily to the Milan World Meeting of Families.

In his World Day of Peace message Jan. 1, 2013, Pope Benedict shared his conviction that the world depends on families for its future peacemakers. “It is in the family that peacemakers, tomorrow’s promoters of a culture of life and love, are born and nurtured,” he said. How do families grow in love? Specifically, how are families built up? In Milan, Pope Benedict laid out a considerable list of building blocks for families, starting with “a constant relationship with God” and participation in the church’s life, and concluding with efforts by each family to become a “true domestic church.” Families are built up, said the pope, when they cultivate dialogue and respect each member’s point of view. His list of family building blocks also included:

## **JAN 14/15 COLLECTIONS**

Gift Aid collection	150.00
Loose cash	154.93
<b>Total</b>	<b><u>304.93</u></b>

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

<b>Date</b>	<b>By</b>	<b>Intentions</b>
23/01/23	Amanda Gardiner	For Ann Howard (Nolan) & Family
24/01/23	Amanda Gardiner	Angie Howard, Joe Peter and Family
25/01/23	Amanda Gardiner	Billy and Rob Nolan

### **SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION**

**Sacrament of Confession at 11.30 am on Saturday  
ON EMERGENCY ANY TIME 0741-749-4277**

### **Please Pray for our Sick**

Ann Parry, Mary Toumaine, Patrick Nagle,  
Phillip Mc Greavy, Anthony Parry

### **ANNIVERSARIES (Jan22-28)**

William Fitsimons, '91:, Lucia Zak, Ethel Appleton, John Hughes, Katherine Shakespear, 2021, Florence Braybrooks, '71: Evelyn Roberts, '01:, Charlotte Slade, '72:  
Josephine Hall, '74: Margaret Lupton, Colin Milner, '89:

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