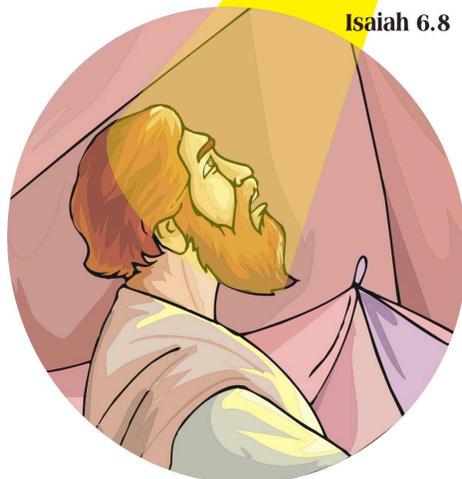


St. Edward the Confessor

February 10, 2019
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Then I heard the voice of
the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send, and
who will go for us?”
And I said,
“Here am I; send me.”

Isaiah 6.8



Thank You

Thank you very much for your support and generosity.



Last Sunday's collection amounted to \$1117.00!

Parish Council Meeting Take Two

Last Wednesday's severe weather persuaded us to postpone the Parish Council meeting. We will try again this Wednesday, February 13, at 7:00 at the church. Anyone who is interested in the life of our parish is encouraged to attend.

Rummage Sale

St John's will be holding its monthly sale of gently used children's and women's clothing and books on Wednesday, February 13 from 10:00 to noon in the balcony. Free coffee!

Valentine's Sweetheart Brunch

This Sunday, February 10 we will be holding our annual joint brunch with St John's immediately after Sunday Mass. Stay a while to chat with our friends from St John's and enjoy fruit salad, bagels, muffins and coffee.

Suggested donation is \$5 per person or \$15 per family.

Passion Play



Passion Play practice this week will be held at 2:00 on Sunday in the church. We are still welcoming new players who want to be a part of this annual event, but time is running out to join. Any youth in high school are welcome to come at 2:00 or contact Craig Buchanan at 514-886-8746.

News from St John's

At the January 21st meeting of St John's Council of Ministries, the Joint Needs Assessment Committee recommended that St John's United Church change their minister to a half-time ministry position beginning July 1, 2019. The Council approved this proposal and will present it to the whole congregation for their approval at their annual Congregational Meeting on March 3rd.

First Communion & Confirmation

We are still looking for someone to lead the formation of our children in the sacraments of First Communion and Confirmation. Ann Marie Di Michele has faithfully carried on this ministry for many years, but can no longer continue. There are resources available to assist in teaching our young people these important elements of our faith and Ann Marie is available to give advice. Without one or more volunteers we will not have classes this year.

Thank You Neil

We want to take a moment to acknowledge the amazing behind the scenes work of Neil MacPherson. Neil orchestrates the slide presentations at the front of the church for EVERY Mass. He searches out the graphic used on the front of the bulletin and in the slide presentations each week. Neil also plays a big part in distributing offering envelopes at the start of the year and getting tax receipts to all of us for income tax. Thank you Neil for all the faithful service you give to our parish.

REFLECTION

The disciples in the gospel story today have spent the whole night “toiling and had caught nothing.” As professional fishermen, they must have been disappointed. Fishing in the right places at the right time, they should have seen big results from their labors; but no! Still, now they had a tale to tell afterwards, but the story had much deeper implications for them and for others.

Jesus had been preaching to the crowd and, because of their great number, they crowded him further towards the waters of the Sea of Galilee. To alleviate the situation, Jesus stepped into Simon’s boat and asked him to go out a bit from the shore. There he preached to the people from the boat in the shallow waters. Afterwards, he turned to Simon, “go out into the deep water and lower the nets for a catch”.

Simon the pro fisherman, must have resisted the request because he had just done battle with the sea and had caught nothing. But this “fish story” had a much fuller meaning soon to be discovered: they caught a great number of fishes so that their nets were bursting.

In astonishment they call to their companions in another boat to come and help them contain their enormous catch. Simon falls to his knees before Jesus and announces, “depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.” To this proclamation Jesus reply promises, “do not be afraid from now on you will be catching people.”

What stands out in the story is a two-fold blessing Jesus invites the fishermen to notice, captured by the words out into the deep and do not be afraid. Going out into the “deep” implies not simply the deeper waters of the Lake, but so much more. For the disciples, and us the “deep” is a metaphor for things greater than the depth of the sea; it’s an invitation to throw one’s whole self into the call Jesus sends out to the fishermen. That call is extended as a blessing to all faithful Christians from the disciples’ time to our present day.

The “do not be afraid” message is much more than simply a consoling word Jesus says to his special new set of friends. Afraid of what? It doesn’t matter! The point is that Jesus is with us (along with Simon and his pals). Ultimately, we need not be afraid since Jesus’ promise will make all the difference in the world.

Our call into service is a call to trust in Jesus’ promise, that despite my status paralleling Simon Peter’s “I am a sinful man,” I too am invited to give in to following him more closely. What a joy! We are fishers “of people” like the disciples. Might this be the ultimate “fish story?”

Thank you, Lord for your care and love of us as you call us to service like yours. We are abundantly blessed by your invitation. We count on your promise and our desire to receive your call. That promise is your way of loving and serving us –be with us as we serve others in imitating you.

Tom Shanahan, S.J