

A weekly resource for everyday evangelizers

JULY 22, 2018: 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Scripture Readings for the 16th Sunday of Ordinary Time can be found [here](#)

The theme of God as shepherd pervades today's readings. From Jeremiah, we hear: *Woe to the shepherds who mislead and scatter the flock of my pasture, says the LORD.* God reminds the people of Israel that their leaders/priests are not faithful to the law, but in spite of that, God himself will gather his flock and provide them with good shepherds.

The Psalm for today is one of the best known Psalms. Listen to [Psalm 23](#)

In the Second Reading from Ephesians we hear: *He came and preached peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near, for through him we both have access in one Spirit to the Father,* reminding us that the flock of the Lord is all-inclusive.

All of these prepare us for the Gospel in which Jesus instructs his apostles to *Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while. Even as they seek some me-time, the people follow.* Jesus recognizes that *they were like sheep without a shepherd; and he began to teach them many things.*

- **As followers of Jesus, we are called to imitate him in all ways. Who are the people in your life that you are called to shepherd? Who, in our world, stands out to you as an exceptional shepherd for the Lord?**
- **Even Jesus needed time for rest and restoration. Where do you go for rest? What helps you recharge your desire to be like Jesus?**
- **In the *Joy of the Gospel*, Pope Francis says an evangelizing community gets involved in people's lives, as Jesus did. Evangelization bridges differences, he says, and sometimes we have to smell like the sheep to be effective in sharing the Gospel. Are there times when you have found yourself "smelling like the sheep" as you get involved in helping those in need?**

This week we celebrate **St. James**, brother of the Apostle John and one of the Sons of Thunder, on July 25. He was the first of the apostles to be martyred. Legend says that his friends carried his remains to Spain. On the spot where his remains are buried, the cathedral Santiago de Compostela stands today. The film, **The Way**, tells a story of pilgrims on the famous pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela. Take some time to watch *The Way*. You can read more about it [here](#).

We celebrate the feast of the Blessed Virgin Mary's parents, **Sts. Anne and Joachim** on July 26. You can learn more about them [here](#). You will note that they were made saints "Pre-congregation." This means they were recognized as saints before the Church established a process for sainthood, and that we don't have many details about their lives.

Coming this month at Presentation Diocesan Visioning Meeting

Join us on Thursday, July 26 at 7 pm to share and be heard as Bishop Johnston prepares to form a vision for our diocese. We will meet in the Auditorium.

Childcare will be available.



Questions? Contact Mary Pat at mstorms@olpls.org

