

January 25, 2009

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Sunday



God does not reject
the world.
God created it.



SHUTTERSTOCK

Today's readings are about decisions. What in the world can you depend on? What in the world is *real*?

The Ninevites were famous sinners and enemies of the chosen people. Yet when the half-hearted prophet Jonah warned them their world was about to be destroyed, they immediately turned to God. What did they see in Jonah's message? What did they see in the world that helped them *understand* Jonah's message? They knew when to change, to repent.

Saint Paul warned the first-century Corinthians that time was short for them, that "the present form of this world" was ending. What would the end mean? *Did* the world end for Corinth and the Church planted there? What would it look like for those Corinthians to turn to God? Did they hear a message like Jonah's? Did they sense the same urgency?

The people of Nineveh, those reading about Jonah, those in Corinth—were they

all reading a letter from the apostle Paul, being asked to reject the world? It doesn't seem like it. They're being asked to see what the world *is*.

God does not reject the world. God created it. Jesus does not reject the goodness of creation. He comes to redeem it. How in the world do we forget the Creator?

Was the world of Jesus' audience different from ours? In Mark's Gospel, things happen quickly. John the Baptist is arrested. Jesus moves onto center stage. He says the time is now—the reign of God is now. He calls followers; they drop what they are doing. Was the world of the disciples different from ours? Did *they* live in the last days?

How are we to read such old, odd stories that speak so urgently? Can we apply them to our own world?

We seem to have more time. Or are our times *urgent*?

Today's Readings

Jon 3:1–5, 10

1 Cor 7:29–31

Mk 1:14–20



Liguori

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DAN FINUCANE

sundaybulletins@liguori.org

St. Stephen Catholic Church

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Office Hours – Monday through Friday
9:00 AM to 3:00 PM

Rectory – 1904 Bethel Road
817-596-9586

Web Page – www.ss-cc.org

Gift Shop – Saturday 5:30 to 6 PM
Sunday 9:45 to 11:00 AM
Noon to 12:30 PM

Club House—817-599-8423
Pro Shop—817-599-8431

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817-596-9587
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MASS SCHEDULE

All Masses are held at the Church on Bethel Road unless otherwise noted

Saturday 6:00 PM ♦ Confessions Saturday 5:00 PM
Sunday 8:00 AM & 10:45 AM (English) ♦ 12:30 PM (Spanish)
Holy Days 7:00 AM & 7:00 PM
Daily Mass 8:45 AM

WELCOME NEW FAMILIES AND VISITORS

Please complete a registration card at the Welcome Table in the church foyer and return it at your earliest convenience. Thank You!

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday	January 24	6:00 PM	Special Intentions	<i>Memorial of St. Francis de Sales, bishop and doctor of the church</i>
Sunday	January 25	8:00 AM	Peace	<i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	In Thanksgiving	<i>3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	La Comunidad	<i>3° Domingo Ordinario</i>
Monday	January 26	8:45 AM	Timothy Halfmann, RIP	<i>Memorial of Ss. Timothy and Titus, bishops</i>
Tuesday	January 27	8:45 AM	Communion Service	<i>Memorial of St. Angela Merici, virgin</i>
Wednesday	January 28	11:00 AM	Marlene Fronk	<i>Memorial of St. Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church</i>
Thursday	January 29	8:45 AM	Margaret Forrest, RIP	<i>Weekday</i>
Friday	January 30	8:45 AM	Mary Smith	<i>Weekday</i>
Saturday	January 31	6:00 PM	Louann & Bill Maley, RIP	<i>Memorial of St. John Bosco, priest</i>
Sunday	February 1	8:00 AM	Our Community	<i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		10:45 AM	Our Youth	<i>4th Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
		12:30 PM	Nicholas Antonio, RIP	<i>4° Domingo Ordinario</i>

Marriage – six months notice required – please see Fr. Casey. **Aviso para el Matrimonio** – seis meses es necesaria
Baptism Instruction—English (1st Thursday of each month); Spanish (1st Monday of each month)
Quinceañera – three month notice required – girl must be attending CCD and Mass *regularly* – please see Fr. Casey
Prayer Chain Coordinators—Ann Allen (817-594-8637) Bette Binzer (817-599-0454) LaVerne Cardwell (817-594-3805)
Weekly Visitation of the Sick & Shut-Ins. Contact the church office to be on the schedule.
Census Information—Please notify the church office if you are new to our Parish, have a change of address or phone number, or move to another Parish.
Bulletin Notices are to be written or typed and in the office at least one week prior to event – notices may be e-mailed – deadline for bulletin is Noon on Tuesday – your cooperation is greatly appreciated – Thank You!

REGULAR COLLECTIONS
January 17-18
\$10,764.44
SECOND COLLECTION
Catholic Charities
\$1,837.00

*Flowers for the Altar this Weekend
 Are in Appreciation for the Loving Parish Family
 of St. Stephen where Newcomers can find a
 Home and Useful Work for God.*

3rd Sunday of the Year
 The reign of God is now. Are you willing to drop what you are doing to follow Jesus' call? Believe that God will give you what you need.
 (Mark 1:14-20)

SECOND COLLECTION FOR JANUARY
January 24-25—Church in Latin America

3° Domingo Ordinario
Siganme. Jesús llamó a Andrés y Pedro, a Santiago y Juan. Su llamada continúa hasta hoy. ¿Está dispuesto/a, a dejar tus redes y seguirlo?
 (Marcos 1:14-20)

PROPERTY PURCHASE INFORMATION
 Cost of New Property—\$1,631,842.00
 Monthly Interest Payment—\$9,700.00
 Total Contributions to Date—76,372.59
 Interest Paid to Date—\$72,333.21
SHARING IN MINISTRY UPDATE
 Parish Goal: \$43,000
 Pledges: \$31,738 (74%)

WELCOME TO ALL, INCLUDING VISITORS AND NEW PARISHIONERS.
 Please join us this Sunday between Masses for breakfast in the parish hall, provided by the Catholic Daughters.

TAX STATEMENTS. If you need a **2008 Tax Statement**, please call the church office at 817-596-9585.

2009 COLLECTION ENVELOPES. Please pick up your envelopes in the Church Foyer. If you do not have envelopes and would like a box for 2009, please contact the church office at 817-596-9585.

60+ GROUP. Please join us on **Wednesday, January 28** at 11 AM for Mass followed by a covered dish luncheon in the Parish Hall.

BLOOD DRIVE. The next blood drive is **Monday, January 26**, in the Holy Spirit Center from **3:30-7:30**. In the past parishioners were very generous. Donors need to bring photo ID and a list of medications. **Please note the drive starts 30 minutes earlier than last time. The sign-up sheet is in the Church Foyer behind the grocery basket. Thank you for your generosity.**

DONACION DE SANGRE - Habra una coleccion de sangre el Lunes, 26 de Enero de 2009, en el Holy Spirit Center desde las 3:30 p.m. hasta las 7:30 p.m. En el pasado, nuestra congregacion ha sido muy generosa y esperamos que nuevamente recuerden a aquellos menos afortunados. Por favor traiga un documento con su foto y la lista de medicamentos que toma. Los donantes deben ser mayores de 17 anos. Gracias nuevamente por su gran generosidad.

CENTER OF HOPE—Happy New Year! It is our turn again! St. Stephen will be serving at the **Center of Hope February 2-5**. Please do your part to help. Donating food, serving food or both! Whatever you can do is always very helpful and very much appreciated. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Church Foyer at all Masses this weekend. **Thank you!** For questions, call Norma Gonzales at 817-596-4876.

CONFIRMATION PARENT MEETING: Sunday, February 1, during **RE classes**. We will discuss the Confirmation Retreat, fundraising efforts, and much more. Questions, please contact Jeanette Houle 817-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

REUNION PARA PADRES DE NINOS QUE SERAN CONFIRMADOS: DOMINGO, FEBRERO 1, durante las **Clases de Educacion Religiosa**. Trataremos el Retiro de Confirmation, modos de recaudar fondos, y mucho mas. Si tiene alguna pregunta, por favor comuniquese con Jeanette Houle al 817-613-8008 o doschicas@att.net.

YOUNG ADULT RETREAT (ages 18 – 35) - Quo Vadis? Where are you going? Are you stuck at a crossroads in your life? Do you know where you are going? And, more importantly, do you know where God is leading you? Come join the Young Adults of Fort Worth for a weekend of prayer, fellowship, and fun! Find out what helped others to discern their Vocations and get the road map that may help you discern your own Vocation! Let God be your GPS on **Friday, February 27 - March 1, 2009, at the Catholic Renewal Center (4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth)**. Contact Jeanette Houle 87-613-8008 or doschicas@att.net.

RETIRO DE JOVENES (Edades 18-35) - Quo Vadis? A Donde Vas? Esta detenido en un cruce de caminos en su vida? Sabe a donde va? Y mas importante que todo, sabe a donde Dios lo esta conduciendo? Unase a los Jovenes de Fort Worth para un fin de semana de oracion, companerismo, y diversion! Descubra que fue lo que ayudo a otros a discernir sus Vocaciones y aprenda cual es el camino que podra guiarlo a discernir su propia Vocacion! Deje que Dios sea su GPS. Viernes, Febrero 27 - Marzo 1, 2009 en el Catholic Renewal Center (4503 Bridge Street, Fort Worth). Para mas informacion comuniquese con Jeanette Houle 817 613-8008 o doschicas@att.net.

“Freedom of Choice Act”. “As you know, at our November general meeting the bishops affirmed a statement by Cardinal George that welcomed the historic election of President Obama and offered our commitment to work with him and the members of the new congress for the common good of all....The conference has already begun to engage with the transition teams on a variety of issues. Cardinal George also urged the new Administration and Congress not to divide the nation with aggressively pro-abortion policies, legislation and executive orders.”

“Como saben, en nuestra reunion general de Noviembre los Obispos apoyaron un escrito del Cardenal George que dio la bienvenida a la historica eleccion del Presidente Obama y ofreció nuestros compromisos para trabajar con él y los miembros del nuevo Congreso por el bien común. El Cardenal George también urgió a la nueva Administración y al Congreso a no dividir el país agresivamente con políticas pro-aborto, legalización y órdenes ejecutivas.

Holy Family Catholic School will host their annual Open House on **Sunday, January 25, from 11 AM to 2 PM**. Please come tour our campus, meet our teachers and learn what Catholic education is all about. For more information, please call 817-737-4201.

“HELP WANTED”

Couples on Friday afternoon, 1-4 PM
for Parker County Jail Ministry.

Wages: Countless Blessings
and a good deposit in your Heavenly account.
Contact: Paul or Barb Claffey at 817-220-2681.

TEEN CORNER

PURE REALITY YOUTH RALLY: For those attending, **Sunday, February 8**, please meet in the upper church parking lot at **2:00 PM**. If you have questions, please call Susan Ourada at 817-596-3872 or Jeanette Houle at 817-613-8008.

WEEKLY CALENDAR OF EVENTS (All activities held at Bethel Road)

Sunday, January 25

9:15 AM Religious Education Classes (English)
9:15 AM Adult Catechism (Room 19)
9:15 AM Adult Bible Study (Room 3)
11:15 AM Religious Education Classes (Spanish)

Monday, January 26

3:30 PM Blood Drive (Parish Hall)
6:30 PM Young Adult Bible Study
7:00 PM Boy Scout Troop #72
7:00 PM RCIA
7:00 PM Grupo de Oracion

Tuesday, January 27

9:30 AM Ladies Bible Study (Rm. 1 & 2)
7:00 PM Knights of Columbus

Wednesday, January 28

11:00 AM Mass followed by 60+ Covered Dish Luncheon
6:00 PM Youth Group
6:30 PM Choir Practice
6:45 PM Divine Mercy Chaplet

Thursday, January 29

10:00 AM Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
10:00 AM Quilting Group (Pro Shop)

Saturday, January 31

7:00 PM Cursillistas Ultreya—Spanish

Is it a sin not to keep New Year's resolutions?

Q Every year I make New Year's resolutions, and every year I break all of them by the end of January. Is that a sin?

Beverly

Dear Beverly,

Deciding what changes you need to make, setting goals, and working to achieve those goals is a necessary part of your Christian life.

The saints teach us that for spiritual growth to occur, we have to make resolutions and keep them. The end of the year is a time when we instinctively take stock of our lives. But it's very difficult to establish new habits during the holidays, so the first of the year becomes our target date. It doesn't have to be—you can make resolutions any time you see the need.

One of the keys to success is to set realistic goals. Often we drop our resolutions because what we chose to practice is beyond our reach. Start with a goal that takes you one step beyond where you are now rather than five steps. Once you've accomplished that, make the next step your next goal. If you fail, try again.

If not keeping your resolution will lead you to an act of sin, go to reconciliation and talk over your struggle



SHUTTERSTOCK

with your priest. He will give you the tools you need to keep your resolution.

Remember, even the saints weren't perfect all the time. The important thing is to keep trying, because the true sin lies in giving up.

Rick Potts, C.Ss.R.

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
<input type="checkbox"/> January 26 <i>Saint Timothy and Saint Titus, bishops</i> 2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5 Mk 3:22-30	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> January 27 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 10:1-10 Mk 3:31-35	<input type="checkbox"/> January 28 <i>Saint Thomas Aquinas, priest and doctor of the Church</i> Heb 10:11-18 Mk 4:1-20	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January 29 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 10:19-25 Mk 4:21-25	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> January 30 <i>Weekday</i> Heb 10:32-39 Mk 4:26-34	<input type="checkbox"/> January 31 <i>Saint John Bosco, priest</i> Heb 11:1-2, 8-19 Mk 4:35-41	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> February 1 <i>Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Dt 18:15-20 1 Cor 7:32-35 Mk 1:21-28