

Good First.

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time



January 25, 2026

Opening Prayer

Lord Jesus, open our hearts to hear Your call today, give us the courage to put You first, and help us respond with trust and urgency in the ordinary moments of our lives.

Amen.

Pray with Scripture

- **First Reading**
 - Isaiah 8:23 - 9:3
- **Second Reading**
 - 1 Corinthians 1: 10-13, 17

Pray through Song



MATTHEW 4: 12-23

When Jesus heard that John had been arrested, he withdrew to Galilee. He left Nazareth and went to live in Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, that what had been said through Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled: Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali, the way to the sea, beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles, the people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen. From that time on, Jesus began to preach and say, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." As he was walking by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew, casting a net into the sea; they were fishermen. He said to them, "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." At once they left their nets and followed him. He walked along from there and saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat, with their father Zebedee, mending their nets. He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed him. He went around all of Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, proclaiming the gospel of the kingdom, and curing every disease and illness among the people.

REFLECTION

Over the past two weeks, we have been reminded of who we are before anything else: God's beloved children. At Jesus' baptism, the Father's voice names Him as Son before His ministry begins. Last week, John the Baptist pointed beyond himself to the Lamb of God. Identity comes first; mission follows. This week, the urgency of that mission comes fully into view.

Isaiah's promise is stark and hopeful at once: "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light." Light and joy, truth for the mind and delight for the heart, are what every human being longs for. In Christ, these promises are not abstract ideas; they are fulfilled. Jesus is not simply a teacher of truth or a giver of happiness. He is the Light, and He is our Joy. To know Him is to truly live.

Matthew's Gospel shows what happens when that light breaks into ordinary life. Jesus does not call scholars in Jerusalem but fishermen at work in Galilee. Simon, Andrew, James, and John are found right where they are and called forward with urgency: "Come after me." No delay. No backup plan. They leave nets, boats, even family ties, because the kingdom of heaven is not something to be added later. It demands a response now.

This call is never meant to be lived alone. Jesus forms a community, and through that community habits are shaped, courage is strengthened, and mission is sustained. Paul's plea to the Corinthians reminds us that division dims the light. Unity in Christ makes the Gospel visible. Together, as Church, we are meant to carry hope into places marked by illness, sin, despair, and suffering—the same darkness Christ Himself entered.

With the gift of Baptism comes responsibility. We cannot live as people of the world, nor can we retreat from it. We are sent into it. To follow Jesus is to follow Him into self-giving love, into sacrifice, even into the cross; trusting that joy and glory lie beyond it. There is urgency here, not because of fear, but because love does not wait.

Jesus still says to us, "I can use your gifts. I can use you." The question is not whether we are ready, but whether we will respond. Today. Now. Together.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- What did you hear in this week's homily, readings, or reflection that stayed with you or challenged you most? Why do you think it spoke to you at this moment?
- In the Gospel, Jesus calls the first apostles with no warning and no delay. What does their immediate response reveal about the cost of discipleship, and where do you resist that kind of urgency in your own life?
- The fishermen leave behind not sin, but stability and control. What sense of security—routine, role, or self-reliance—might Jesus be asking you to loosen in order to follow Him more freely?
- St. Paul reminds us that when we are united, people can better see Christ. How might the way you speak, act, or live either help others see Jesus more clearly—or make it harder for them to see Him?
- Jesus forms a community before sending it on mission. How can shared commitment, accountability, or prayer within your parish or small group help you take a concrete next step in responding to His call this week?