

FOR THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 24-25, 2026a

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading

Mt 4:12-23

When he 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.

Intercession

May we always have grateful hearts that Jesus, the Light of the World, has saved us from darkness. And may we help bring this redeeming light to those in need through our support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

Copy for Bulletin Announcement

When John's ministry ends, Jesus' begins. Just as John had preached in the desert in preparation for Christ's ministry—"Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand!" (Matthew 3:2)—so, too, has Jesus come to prepare the world for everlasting life in his Father's heavenly kingdom. He is the fulfillment of Isaiah's prophecy: "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light, on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death light has arisen."

To repent is more than to regret wrongdoing. To be penitent means to be sorry *and* to make a change. It is replacing sin with virtue and moving away from the darkness that overshadows our living and into the light of Christ. The good news is that Christ is the Light. No matter what our shortcomings or how many or grave our faults, sin no longer has power over us; Christ has come to save us from our sins and offer us an abundant life in him and with him.

Following Jesus carries many blessings, and many responsibilities. As modern-day disciples, we can be bearers of Christ's light to those experiencing darkness. One way is by supporting the life-enhancing programming the Catholic Ministry Appeal makes possible. Please consider, prayerfully, a gift to the Appeal.

Copy for Pulpit Announcement

What trust the first disciples had, to leave everything behind and follow Jesus. Simon Peter and Andrew literally drop their fishing nets to follow Christ. James and John left their father, Zebedee, in their fishing boat to accompany the Lord. They had great courage to leave the comforts of their familiar lives to embark on a new and unknown course. But that is what discipleship means. It involves following Jesus and going where he asks. It calls us to trust that his plan for us will ultimately lead to our Father in heaven and a more abundant life.



Lucky for us, discipleship doesn't mean we must be perfect. Jesus' first disciples fall asleep as he prays in agony the night before his death. One betrays him with a kiss, another denies him three times, and yet another doubts he has risen from the dead. But Jesus is patient, calling his disciples back again and again. He is equally patient with us, repeatedly offering mercy when we fall short of loving him as we should.

Just as Jesus called the early disciples to be "fishers of men," we, too, can bring others closer to Christ. We can invite those who have strayed from the Church to Mass. We can share our faith stories with our children. We can model Jesus' patient love when we meet with resistance. And we can cast the nets of his mercy wide through our support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal. Its programs make real Christ's promises to those who need them most.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Fishing net full of fish

Header: "Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men." – Matthew 4:25

Copy: Do our daily actions bring us closer to Christ? Do they bring others closer to Our Lord? Every day, let us commit to living a life that leads to the light of Christ. We can invite others to join us by supporting the Catholic Ministry Appeal.