

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

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

Gospel Reading

Mt 4:12-17

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.”

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

In his ministry, Jesus preached well beyond his home in Nazareth. We learn in today's Gospel that he went to Capernaum by the sea, in the region of Zebulun and Naphtali, and beyond the Jordan. His ministry that started in Galilee extended to distant areas where non-Jews (the Gentiles) dwelled as well. Jesus's mission was universal, much like the Church today. The Good News of our Lord has reached every country in the world. The faithful come from different races and cultures and a multitude of socio-economic and education levels.

Jesus commanded his early followers to make disciples of all the nations. Our vibrant, world-wide Church is the result of this commandment. We can carry on the work of the first disciples and continue "to make disciples of all the nations." We can support the efforts of Catholic missionary orders whose members bring the Word of God to remote villages and crowded cities across the globe. Closer to home, we can support faith formation and evangelization in our own diocese. And when we make a gift to our Catholic Ministry Appeal, we are continuing Jesus' ministry in a very real way for those who need its consolation.

Social Media Post/Content

Photo: Candle illuminating the darkness

Header: "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light." – Matthew 4:13

Copy: Jesus is our source of light and truth. Darkness has lost its power. Let us leave the darkness of sins and move to light of Christ. And let us pave the path to Our Lord for others by supporting the Catholic Ministry Appeal.