

## **WEEKLY READINGS AND OBSERVANCES**

Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time;

Is 8:23-9:3/Ps 27:1, 4, 13-14/1 Cor 1:10-13, 17/Mt 4:12-23 or 4:12-17

Monday: Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3, 7- 8a, 10, 21-22, 25-26/Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday St. Angela Merici, Virgin

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/Mk 3:31-35

Wednesday: St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest and Doctor of the Church

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/Mk 4:1- 20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29/Ps 132:1-2, 3-5, 11, 12, 13-14/Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11/Mk 4:26-34

Saturday St. John Bosco, Priest

2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16- 17/Mk 4:35-41

Next Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Zep 2:3; 3:12-13/Ps 146:6c-7, 8-9a, 9b-10/1 Cor 1:26-31/Mt 5:1-12a

Catholic Women's League of Peoria, IL presents:

**Women at the Well.** *"If you want living water, where is your bucket?"*

Lenten Reflection

Thursday, February 19th from 10 am - 12 pm

at St. Philomena Parish Center in Peoria, IL

1000 W. Albany, Peoria, IL 61604

Coffee & Donuts provided

## **MASS INTENTIONS**

**Sun, Jan 25th**

**Confessions** 7:00am — 7:25am

**Mass 7:30am** Shahn Storm offered by Sarina Cofield

**Sun, Feb 1st**

**Confessions** 7:00am — 7:25am

**Mass 7:30am** People of the Parish



## **SAINT JAMES, WILLIAMSFIELD**

Father Deogratias Mpewo, Pastor

Deacon Ray Burton 309-657-0002

2240 E Legion Rd, Williamsfield, IL 61489

**Mailing Address:** PO Box 199 Brimfield, IL 61517

**Emergency Number 309-645-2602**

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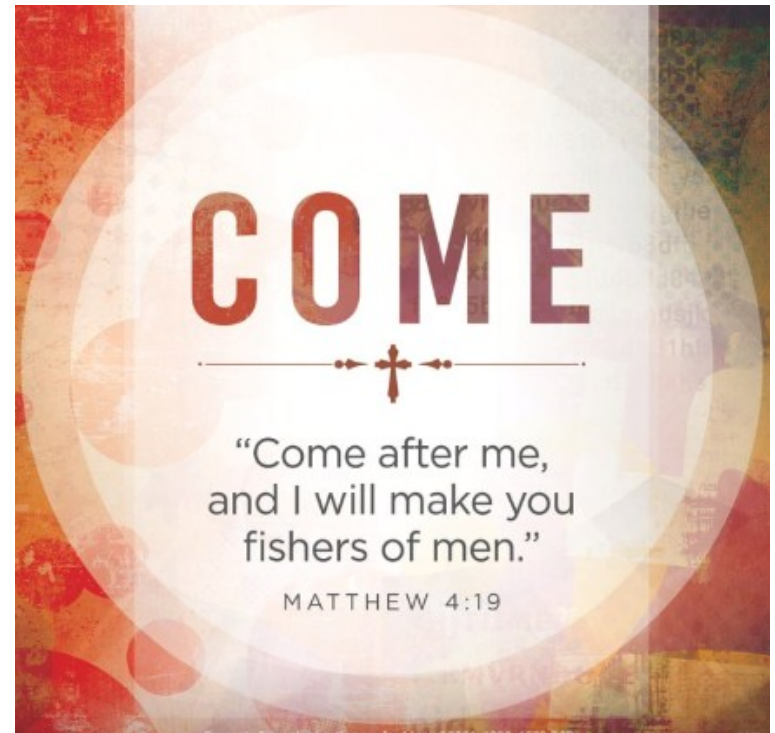
[www.stjameswilliamsfield.org](http://www.stjameswilliamsfield.org)

**January 25th, 2026**

### **3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time**

*"He called them, and immediately they left their boat and their father and followed Him."* MATTHEW 4:22

Just as Jesus called the first apostles, He calls each of us to follow Him, too. Not everyone is called to leave their business or family behind, but we are expected to put God first in everything. In gratitude to God, we should give our first and best of everything to Him: our time in daily prayer, our talent in participating in one of our parish ministries and our treasure to support the financial needs of our parish mission.



Brothers and Sisters, We finally step out of the brightness of Christmas and Epiphany and into what the Church simply calls Ordinary Time. We are now on the 3rd Sunday in ordinary times. But ordinary doesn't mean boring. It means ordered—a season when God quietly builds something extraordinary in our everyday lives.

In today's Gospel, Jesus begins His public ministry just as John the Baptist is arrested. You might think the story pauses after such trouble, but Jesus does the opposite. Where darkness rises, Christ steps forward.

Matthew tells us that Jesus settles in Capernaum—Seashore country. Not Jerusalem, not the Temple, not the center of power. Jesus starts far from the spotlight, among fishermen whose hands were rough and whose dreams were simple. The prophecy echoes: "The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light. This is the way God loves to work: Not among the perfect, but among the ordinary. Not with the qualified, but with the willing. Not in palaces, but on shores where nets are heavy and lives are messy. Then comes the heart of the Gospel: "Follow me."

Two words. No application form. No exam. No résumé review. Peter, Andrew, James, and John drop everything because Someone greater steps into their normal day. We often imagine vocation like thunder and lightning—visions, miracles, burning bushes. But for most of us, God calls us the same way He called the fishermen: in the middle of what we are already doing. In workplaces where we drag ourselves through Mondays. In homes where dishes pile up. In classrooms where we question our purpose. In moments when family life feels less holy and more chaotic.

Christ still speaks: "Follow me." And when we do, something happens. Not immediately perfection, but gradual transformation. Peter didn't turn into a saint overnight. James and John still had tempers. Andrew probably went back home smelling like fish. But day by day, walking with Jesus changed them. The same is true for us. Following Jesus doesn't always mean leaving your job or your family. It means bringing Him into them. Letting His light shine in the way we speak at home, the patience we show at work, the mercy we offer to one another, the love we give even when we are tired or unnoticed. We may feel like our lives are small, but Jesus turns fishermen into Apostles and ordinary moments into salvation history.

So today, as this year begins its rhythm, Jesus stands on the shore of our daily life and says again: "Follow me." May we answer Him—not just once with enthusiasm, but every day with faithfulness. And little by little, like those first disciples, we too will become fishers of souls, carriers of hope, bearers of light to a world still sitting in darkness.

Amen. Fr. Nony, CRM

### **Man of the Shroud Touring Exhibit**

We are excited to announce the Man of the Shroud Exhibit will be coming to Incarnation Parish. The exhibit will be on display in Soseman Hall (Princeville) from February 4th-8th. The Shroud of Turin has long been venerated by the faithful and is believed by many to be the burial cloth of Jesus of Nazareth. The Shroud is one of the most scientifically studied religious icons in history. As science has progressed, so has the speculation on how the image of the crucified man of the Shroud was made. After decades of exhaustive and medical, historical and scientific research, the Center for the Study of the Passion of the Christ and the Holy Shroud has developed a moving and informative mobile exhibit on the Shroud of Turin. The centerpiece is a full-length canvas replica of the Shroud made by the Shroud of Turin Education and Research Association, Inc. In addition, the mobile exhibit contains a large crucified corpus showing the wounds of Christ corresponding to the passion narrative in the Gospel accounts and the wounds shown on the Shroud. The exhibit contains over 31 popup display banners detailing the history and science of the Shroud.

For more information, please visit [kolbeshrine.org/shroud](http://kolbeshrine.org/shroud).

### **Red Cross Blood Drive**

St. Mary's Tuesday, Feb 3rd 1-6pm Soseman Hall

The need for blood is constant and only volunteer donors can fulfill that need for patients in our community. Nationwide, someone needs a unit of blood every 2 to 3 seconds and most of us will need blood in our lifetime - to pour out our blood so that others can live is an especially Christ-like sacrifice. To schedule an appointment please call Diane Ingle 309-385-2342 or 1-800-Red Cross (1-800 733-2767) or visit [RedCrossBlood.org](http://RedCrossBlood.org). Bring a photo ID, blood donor card or two other forms of ID. You can receive a \$20 gift card of your choice from an available merchant.

### **Weekly Collections**

The watchword today is "immediately." Peter and Andrew, James and John all respond immediately to the call of Christ. May I be as open to God's call and as ready to use my talents in His service as those first disciples were!

**Sunday Jan 18th**  
**Envelopes: \$ 200.00**  
**Loose: \$ 136.00**  
**Electronic \$120.00**