

January 22nd and 23rd, 2022 Bulletin Insert

Reflection Column by Fr. Thomas M. Kommers Third Sunday 01 23 22

My friends,

As Christians, we are people of the Word. (capital “W”).

We are people who believe in the sacred and divine inspiration of the written word as it is recorded in both the Old and New Testaments, now more commonly referred to as the Hebrew Scriptures and the Christian Scriptures.

The readings for this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time give us some insights into the importance of the written Word of God in the lives of the ancient Israelites and in the life of Jesus.

In today’s First Reading from Nehemiah, we hear of the reaction of the Jewish people as Ezra read to them from the scrolls of the Torah. (The first 5 books of the Bible) The tearful reaction of the people stems from a community who was deprived of the Word of God while they were in exile in Babylon.

The opening words of the Gospel of Luke are from his Introduction. Luke is the only Gospel author to write an Introduction and the only one to give us some insights into his motivation for writing his Gospel. Luke writes to a fictional person named Theophilus (which, in Greek, means: “friend of God”) so that Theophilus may know (as Luke says) “the certainty of the teachings you have received.”

Like Ezra, (in the First Reading), Luke realized the importance of the written word for shaping and instructing people in the faith. Luke tells us that he was careful in “investigating everything accurately anew and to write it down in an orderly sequence.”

In time, Jesus would come to know that this written word was being fulfilled in him and in his public ministry. As we are told by Luke, (it was while publically reading from the Prophet Isaiah) that Jesus announced this realization to his own hometown people of Nazareth when he said, “Today, this passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

In his Gospel, Luke also tells us that when Jesus came to appreciate that the Spirit of God was upon him he, also understood that God had given him a Mission in the world.

As Fr. Steve mentioned two weeks ago, you, too, need to appreciate that by your Baptism and Confirmation, the Spirit of God came upon each of you as well! This means that God expects you (as individuals, as households, and as the Parish Community of St Matthew) to carry out the very same Mission as did Jesus!

Fr. Thomas

Rosary Society News

Due to the rise in COVID-19 cases and the very contagious Omicron variant, the February 8th meeting of the Rosary Society has been cancelled. We hope to be able to meet again on March 8th.

Gifted And Belonging

(GAB) was recently established to provide Catholics of all abilities a safe place in the Church to experience acceptance and freedom to be all God has created us to be. Because all are gifted and all belong, anyone 18 and older with special needs, both seen and unseen, or those willing to mentor or give themselves in friendship, are invited to join us for fellowship events once a month—to serve and be served. You belong here! Contact: Megan Dunsmore at giftedandbelonging@gmail.com