

‘Come follow me...and I will make you fishers of men’ is the call and invitation of Jesus to his first disciples. That call has not changed nor has the invitation to each of us and all generations.

Jesus came to inaugurate the ‘Kingdom of God’ and all of his words and actions initially established that kingdom among us. It really is God’s reign over our hearts and lives...but not in domination but in true freedom and unconditional love.

Jesus came as the ‘one mightier than I’ says John the Baptist. Jesus comes with the power of his word and deeds to free us and all mankind from the ‘prince of this world’ which is the evil one who enslaves us to his lies. Jesus is claiming us as God’s own children and giving us again the freedom of the children of God which was lost by Adam’s sin.

Will we listen to the call of Jesus to repentance and belief in the Gospel? Will we be willing to undergo the necessary change of attitude and change of life as is called for by Jesus’ word and call? We see the first disciples ready and willing as they listened and followed. Can we do the same?

This Sunday we hear of Jesus entering a place of worship and study with the gathered people. He is proclaiming and teaching them of the Kingdom of God and they are amazed at his teaching. There is also a man with an unclean spirit and the demon who possessed him cries out identifying Jesus for who he really is... ‘I know who you are – the Holy One of God’.

The people question and wonder about Jesus and his identity since he teaches with authority...but have not yet come to clear and true faith in him. We are the ones who hear and see all these events and are invited to make a clear and complete commitment to Jesus and an act of humble faith ready to follow him.

Thank you...Thank you...to all who helped make Catholic Schools Week a great success and a lot of fun! Thank you to Mr. Palmer our staff & teachers who give so much to form our students and help them develop their skills and help them to learn. But most importantly they share their faith and help our children to grow in love of Jesus and the Church.

Our parish school is a major mission of the whole parish. We have been forming and educating children for nearly 150 years...(our anniversary will be in 2018). That means many, many families and lives have been impacted and changed through our sacrifices and lovingly sharing our faith. Let us continue with great energy and dedication!

Special celebration...of Candlemas will be on Monday, Feb. 2nd with all of SSPP children attending the Mass that morning. It is the Mass when we bless candles used for the liturgy and for home use. There is a procession into the church recalling the meeting of Jesus and the Holy Family with Simeon & Anna in the temple. We go into the church...moved by the same Holy Spirit...to meet Christ in the Liturgy and the Sacraments. We desire to follow him and share our faith with others that they will know the ‘Joy’ of life in Christ and his Church.

St. Blaise...(Tuesday, Feb. 3rd during Mass) is the traditional day for the blessing of the throats...a blessing for health and wellbeing for our whole person. The tradition is that this Bishop and Martyr healed a young boy who was choking on a fishbone. So the blessing reflects the desire to be healed of diseases of the throat as well as every other illness. That blessing takes place on Feb. 3rd...after the homily of the Mass.

Ash Wednesday...Wednesday, Feb. 18th...Masses at 8:15 AM & 6:30 PM...ashes given during Mass.