**FOR THE WEEKEND OF JAN. 25-26, 2025**

Third Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Gospel Reading**

Lk 1:1-4; 4:14-21

Since many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the

events that have been fulfilled among us,

just as those who were eyewitnesses from the beginning and

ministers of the word have handed them down to us,

I too have decided, after investigating everything accurately

anew, to write it down in an orderly sequence for you, most

excellent Theophilus,

so that you may realize the certainty of the teachings you have

received.

Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Spirit, and news

of him spread throughout the whole region.

He taught in their synagogues and was praised by all.

He came to Nazareth, where he had grown up, and went

according to his custom into the synagogue on the sabbath

day. He stood up to read

and was handed a scroll of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the

scroll and found the passage where it was written:

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,

because he has anointed me

to bring glad tidings to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim liberty to captives

and recovery of sight to the blind,

to let the oppressed go free,

and to proclaim a year acceptable to the Lord.”

Rolling up the scroll, he handed it back to the attendant and sat

down, and the eyes of all in the synagogue looked intently at

him.

He said to them, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in

your hearing.”

**Intercession**

May we continue to seek a deep and personal relationship with God the Son, Jesus, by following his example of loving service and supporting such life-affirming initiatives as our Catholic Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for Bulletin Announcement**

We are a culture of doers. We demonstrate love for our families through service – taking aging parents to doctor appointments, hosting holiday gatherings, carting kids to school activities. We climb the ladder of success through long hours of work. So burdened by activities, we often need another rest after returning home from a family vacation. Even in our faith lives, we follow Christ by doing. We evangelize, serve the marginalized, attend Mass, etc. Service is good.

Jesus’ ministry was an active one based on service, and as his followers, were called to continue these good works in his name. But we need to *be* with Jesus, too. We need to contemplate him, this God-made-man who brings good news to those who suffer. Jesus says, “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me.” If we let the Holy Spirit rest in us as it did in him, we will enjoy a deep and abiding friendship with Christ. He desires intimacy with us, and intimacy requires that we slow down and feel the presence of our Lord in our lives.

In Jesus’ first sermon, we see that the Spirit dwells in him, empowering him to establish a kingdom of peace and justice that will never end. Please pray for the success of the Catholic Ministry Appeal as a way of building the Kingdom of God, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your participation in it.

**Copy for Pulpit Announcement**

Jesus could have been the hometown hero in today’s Gospel reading. He offers the first sermon of his public ministry in his village synagogue. In it, Jesus fittingly reads from Isaiah, saying that the Spirit of the Lord has anointed him, enabling him to speak the good news to the poor, the blind, the oppressed, the imprisoned. Then, after rolling up the scroll and handing it back to the attendant, Jesus sat down and said to his fellow Jews, “Today this scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing.”

Do they truly hear Jesus, the son of Joseph, the local carpenter, the son of Mary? Do they accept the life-line – the Good News – he is offering? No. They “drove him out of town” and “he passed through the midst of them and went away” (Luke 4: 29-30).

May the Spirit give us the strength to always believe in Jesus as God’s anointed one, even when it is difficult to do so. And may we continue his mission to “bring glad tidings to the poor… proclaim liberty to captives and… let the oppressed go free” through prayerfully considering support of the Catholic Ministry Appeal.

**Social Media Post/Content**

Photo: Scroll of parchment bathed in light

Header: “He has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor” – Luke 4:18

Copy: Let us bring Jesus’ love and comfort by serving those who need his grace. Through our Catholic Ministry Appeal, we can be Christ for others. Please consider supporting this life-affirming initiative today.