

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 23-24, 2021**

First Disciples/Follow Me/Fishers of Men

**Gospel reading**

Mark 1:14-20

After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.”

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.” Then they abandoned their nets and followed him.

He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him.

**Homily helper / connection to stewardship / giving / charity / almsgiving**

* We are called to follow Jesus.
* Would you drop everything like the first disciples did and follow Jesus if he called you?
* That takes a LOT of trust.
* So does being or becoming a regular giver to our Sunday Offertory and Annual Diocesan Appeal.
* Stewardship teaches us that we take care of the gifts God gives us, and we give back to God in thanksgiving for providing everything we need.
* We need to trust God, then, that He will continue to provide everything we need as we make a financial commitment to our parish and Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Intercession**

For the people who work in the ministries supported by the Annual Diocesan Appeal, who are fishers of men, that they may be strengthened to follow Jesus' example of loving service to others.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

The idea behind fishing is to know the fish you are looking for and attract it so you can make the catch. To catch a fish we must know what equipment to use, where to find it and depth of the water we are fishing in, as well as the kind of bait the fish will go after. Once we understand everything we need for real fishing, then how do we relate that to being fishers of men? One sure way is to support the upcoming Annual Diocesan Appeal. Your financial gift will help provide the equipment needed for those “fishing for men”, but also those serving the fishermen. Thank you, in advance for your support.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Our Annual Diocesan Appeal is right around the corner. Will you abandon your net this year and become a disciple of Jesus and support the Annual Diocesan Appeal? Please pray about how you and your family can help this year, and please check the bulletin for more information.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Gathering fish photo | “Trust that God will provide”

Copy: “God always provides. Thank you for sharing your gifts with others!”