

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF FEB 5-6, 2022**

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gospel reading (Lectionary 75)**

Lk 5:1-11

While the crowd was pressing in on Jesus and listening
to the word of God,
he was standing by the Lake of Gennesaret.
He saw two boats there alongside the lake;
the fishermen had disembarked and were washing their nets.
Getting into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon,
he asked him to put out a short distance from the shore.
Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.
After he had finished speaking, he said to Simon,
“Put out into deep water and lower your nets for a catch.”
Simon said in reply,
“Master, we have worked hard all night and have caught nothing,
but at your command I will lower the nets.”
When they had done this, they caught a great number of fish
and their nets were tearing.
They signaled to their partners in the other boat
to come and help them.
They came and filled both boats
so that the boats were in danger of sinking.
When Simon Peter saw this, he fell at the knees of Jesus and said,
“Depart from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man.”
For astonishment at the catch of fish they had made seized him
and all those with him,
and likewise James and John, the sons of Zebedee,
who were partners of Simon.
Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid;
from now on you will be catching men.”
When they brought their boats to the shore,
they left everything and followed him.

**Intercession**

For our parish community, that renewed in our trust in the Lord who loves us, we might boldly and generously respond to our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Have you ever done a “trust fall”? It’s a pretty crazy concept. With your eyes closed and arms folded over your chest, you fall straight backwards. Of course, there’s a very important element that hasn’t yet been mentioned: someone is standing behind you, ready to catch you.

The “trust fall” illustrates such an important truth: we are only willing to take a risk, to “fall,” when someone we trust is with us.

In our Gospel today, Peter commits to his own “trust fall,” casting in his nets after a whole night of fruitless fishing, all because he trusts the Lord and the Lord instructs him to. As a parish, we’re doing a “trust fall” right now, as we strive to respond to our Annual Diocesan Appeal. It can feel like a big risk to ask to be vulnerable and ask our community members to help meet our diocesan needs, but we do it because we trust—both in the Lord, but also in all the people who make up this parish community—including you.

Maybe contributing to the Annual Diocesan Appeal feels like a risk for you. Which is fine! The key, however, is to never forget that we’re not doing this alone. We’re taking part in the Annual Diocesan Appeal as part of a diocesan community we trust, and with the love and support of a Lord who never leaves us. When we change our perspective from “fear” to “trust,” how does our willingness to give change? Take some time today to ground yourself in trust of the Lord, and see how your heart responds.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

As St. Peter shows us, trusting in the Lord changes everything, and allows us to follow him more fully. With the Lord’s love and providence in mind, please consider contributing generously to our Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: Little girl, hands folded

Text: Trust what you cannot see, but feel in your heart

Copy: Jesus asks big things of us—because He knows that He’ll always be there for us. Our diocese needs your help in supporting our Annual Diocesan Appeal. How does your trust in the Lord change your openness to giving?