

**VOCATION VIEWS – CYCLE B
(2017-2018)**

First Sunday of Advent (12/03/17)

‘Be watchful! Be alert!’ The call towards a vocation can come at an unexpected day and hour, prepare your heart to always say ‘yes’ to God. (Mark 13:33)

Second Sunday of Advent (12/10/17)

John the Baptist stands as a sign of contradiction, calling his contemporaries back to a relationship with the Living God. Perhaps you are being called to follow in John’s footsteps today. (Mark 1:1-8)

Third Sunday of Advent (12/17/17)

Rejoice always! Our Savior is near! The call to priesthood and/or religious life is a source of great joy to those who embrace their call with their whole heart, mind and soul. (1 Thes 5:16)

Fourth Sunday of Advent (12/24/17)

Mary was called to be open to the extraordinary. What do you need to say “let it be” in response to God’s call to you? Trust that the Lord is with you and will guide you always. (Luke 1:26-38)

Christmas (12/25/17)

God speaks to us through His Son, the Heir of all things. To be a priest or religious is to be drawn into a deeper relationship with the Son, so that we might also draw others closer to Christ. (Heb 1:1-6)

Holy Family (12/31/17)

The voice of God is first heard in the voice of a mother and father. (Sir 3:2) Make a commitment to make your home a domestic church where the Lord’s call can be heard and nourished. (Col 3:16)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God (1/1/18)

The shepherds go in haste to visit the new-born King of the Jews. When God calls, respond at once with joy that you, too, might praise and glorify God in all things. (Luke 2:16)

Epiphany (1/7/18)

God is not made manifest in magnificence, but in the small and the ordinary. Use your talents to manifest God’s ever faithful love for His people. (Is. 60:1-6)

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (1/14/18)

“We have found the Messiah!” After his encounter with Jesus, St. Andrew goes first to find his brother Peter to also bring him to Christ. Do not be afraid to bring others to Christ as well! (John 1:41)

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (1/21/18)

Just as the first apostles were called by the Lord to become fishers of men, during this Catholic Schools Week we remember that the role of our schools is to challenge young men and women to follow Christ. (Mk 1:17)

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (1/28/18)

Jesus speaks as one having authority, so that even the demons must obey. As we celebrate Catholic Schools Week, we see in this same authority passed down to the Church that she might guide us closer to Christ. (Mark 1:21-28)

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time: (2/4/18) WORLD DAY OF CONSECRATED LIFE

Christ raises up, from among our midst, those called to the Consecrated Life so that they might be unique signs of the Kingdom and “to be all things to all people. (1 Cor 9:22)” We pray for those who have left everything to follow Him.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: (2/11/18) WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR MARRIAGE

The Psalmist calls to be glad, rejoice and exult in the Lord. (Psalm 32:11) For many, the day of their marriage is the happiest day of their life; rather, live the challenge to continue to grow deeper in love with your spouse each day of your married life.

First Sunday of Lent (2/18/18)

In order to hear a call from the Lord, our hearts must be opened to receive His Word. Lent begins with a call to repent so that all which clouds our ears might be stripped away to hear His voice clearly. (Mark 1:12-15)

Second Sunday of Lent (2/25/18)

God calls Abraham to be willing to sacrifice all that is dear to him, even his own son, Isaac. In order to respond to a priestly or religious vocation, the same call to sacrifice is heard. Are you willing? (Gen. 22:1-2)

Third Sunday of Lent (3/4/18)

“We proclaim Christ, Crucified!” (1 Cor 1:23) In the Crucifixion, we find strength. In the Cross is our triumph. Rest in His mercy that you might proclaim Him in all that you say and do.

Fourth Sunday of Lent (3/11/18)

To be cut off from the treasures of the Church is to be cast away from life itself. As the Israelites longed to rebuild the Temple of Jerusalem, so must we long to continue to build up the Church today. (Psalm 137)

Fifth Sunday of Lent (3/18/18)

Strangers come to Philip with the simple request: “Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” In your actions and words, are you able to show the love of Christ to the stranger in your midst? (John 12:21)

Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion (3/25/18)

We are presented with two options in today’s Mass: do we welcome Christ into Jerusalem or scream out to crucify Him? Our willingness to give testimony to Christ helps determine where we are.

Easter Sunday (4/1/18)

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad!” This day changes everything. The power of sin and death are broken, live in the freedom that comes solely in Christ. (Psalm 118)

Second Sunday of Easter; Divine Mercy Sunday (4/8/18)

Despite our lack of faith, Christ still calls and gives the strength to respond. Bring your questions to Him, that He might answer your doubts with His gentle, but persistent love. (John 20:19-31)

Third Sunday of Easter (4/15/18)

Peter, who once denied even knowing Jesus, now boldly preaches in His Name. Do not let past weaknesses hold you back from being willing to share the power of His Message. (Acts 3:13-15,17-19)

Fourth Sunday of Easter; Good Shepherd Sunday; World Day of Prayer for Vocations (4/22/18)

The priest is called, in imitation of Christ, to lay down his life for his people. Pray that our priests and seminarians might be courageous in following the example of Christ. (John 10:11-18)

Fifth Sunday of Easter (4/29/18)

St. John Vianney spoke of the priesthood as the ‘love of the heart of Jesus.’ To be called to the priesthood and/or religious life is to love the people of God in a unique and dynamic way. (1 John 3)

Sixth Sunday of Easter (5/6/18)

“God shows no partiality.” He does not call those who are equipped for the work; He equips those whom He has called. (Acts 10:34)

Seventh Sunday of Easter – Feast of the Assumption (5/13/18)

We are called to live in accord with the calling we have received, whether as priest, religious, married or single; encouraging one another by the example of our lives. (Eph. 4:1)

Pentecost Sunday (5/20/18)

Peter and the Apostles preach with a power and conviction that can only be attributed to the Spirit dwelling among them. Is God calling you to speak for Him in our day and age? (Acts 2:1-11)

Trinity Sunday (5/27/18)

We are sent to proclaim the Gospel to the very ends of the Earth, so that we might draw others into union with the Triune God. Be courageous in showing your faith that others may know the reason for your joy.

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (6/3/18)

Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant, established in His Precious Blood, so that we might make a return to Him. As we gather Sunday after Sunday, may we become more and more like whom we receive from the altar of the Lord. (Hebrews 9:11-15)

Tenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (6/10/18)

God bestows abundant grace upon us with the expectation that we will share this grace with others in thanksgiving, so they too can rejoice in God’s love. (2 Corinthians 4:15)

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (6/17/18)

“Lord, it is good to give thanks to You.” Our life is one of gratitude for the many gifts that God has given. What are the gifts God has given to you, uniquely; and how is He asking you to share those gifts with the Church and the world? (Psalm 92)

The Nativity of John the Baptist (6/24/18)

John was sent to prepare the world for the coming of the Messiah. At the end of every Mass, we, too, are sent to prepare His way. May our lives follow the example of John that we may always point to Jesus.

Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (7/1/18)

“Little girl, I say to you, arise!” Jesus reaches out to those in need and gives life to those who seek Him. Turn to Him in times of difficulty that you might have that same spark of divine life. (Mark 5:41)

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (7/8/18)

God works through the prophets to make known His message of salvation. Has He called you to be a prophet in our day and age? (Ez. 2:2-5)

Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (7/15/18)

Even before we were formed in the womb, God has chosen and called each of us to be a disciple. To find true happiness, find that pathway that God has uniquely created you to fulfill. (Eph 1:3-14)

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (7/22/18)

“I will appoint shepherds for my people.” The call to priestly and religious life is to be a shepherd after the heart of Christ, to give of yourself so that others may live. (Jeremiah 23 and Mark 6)

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (7/29/18)

There is a unity in the faith, for we are made one in Christ Jesus. No matter our call, we are urged to foster a deep unity in the Church so that we might boldly proclaim the Gospel of Christ. (Eph. 4:1-6)

Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (8/5/18)

“Our hearts are restless until they rest in You, O Lord.” With these words, St. Augustine recognizes that only in Christ can we find that deep fulfillment; and while we try to find this in the world, that will only lead to emptiness. (John 6:24-35)

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (8/12/18)

Jesus, the Bread of Life, has come so that we might have life to its fullness. Fervent reception of the Holy Eucharist helps to discover the path God has created you to follow. (John 6:41-51)

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (8/19/18)

Because we have been called, formed and nourished by Christ, our actions must be in accord with the great gifts we have received. To strive for holiness every day of our lives is to live in accord with the promises made at Baptism. (Eph. 5:15)

Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (8/26/18)

“As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” These words form the last words that Joshua leaves the people of Israel; let us also embrace these words that we, too, may live in freedom. (Joshua 24:15)

Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (9/2/18)

“Be doers of the word and not hearers only.” The reception of the Word of God demands a living response, for the Word is active and alive, spurring us on to action. (James 1:22)

Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (9/9/18)

The encounter with Jesus never leaves one unaffected, but our ears must be opened to receive His word. (Mark 7:31-37)

Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (9/16/18)

“The Lord GOD is my help.” When Christ calls one to follow as a priest or religious, He also gives the strength to overcome the obstacles that are sometimes in the way, but we must ask to receive this strength! (Isaiah 50:5-9)

Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (9/23/18)

For those who are called, Jesus promises only one thing: the Cross. If one seeks power and prestige in this world, there will be no reward in the Kingdom of Heaven. (Mark 9:30-37)

Twenty-Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (9/30/18)

The Law of the Lord exists to guide and direct our steps here on earth so that we might arrive safely at the palaces of heaven. Embrace the Law with your whole heart, mind and soul that you might also grow in love with the Law-giver. (Psalm 19)

Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/7/18)

Vocations to the priesthood and religious life spring from holy families, who strive to truly be united in Christ. Each vocation lived out in holiness strengthens and enriches the other vocations in the Church. (Mark 10:2-16)

Twenty-Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/14/18)

“The word of God is living and effective.” To know the Scriptures, is to know Christ. Maintain a pattern of reading the Scriptures daily to help hear the call you have been given by God. (Hebrews 4:12)

Twenty-Ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/21/18)

Greatness in the Kingdom is found not in ruling and lordship, but in service. Daily, we must put the needs of the other before our own. (Mark 10:35-45)

Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (10/28/18)

“You are a priest forever, according to the order of Melchizedek.” The priesthood of Jesus Christ is not bestowed by ancestry, as the Temple priesthood was, but by selection by Christ in imitation of Melchizedek. (Hebrews 5:6)

Thirty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/4/18)

Love of God and love of neighbor are not mutually exclusive, but rather are mutually enriching. Demonstrate the love you have for God by acting in service to your neighbor in Christ. (Mark 12:28-34)

Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/11/18)

Jesus upholds the example of the widow who puts two small coins into the Temple treasury as the greatest treasure given. We are to give not out of our surplus, but from our very selves. (Mark 12:38-44)

Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (11/18/18)

As Christians, our sole inheritance is Christ; everything else is temporal and fleeting. Let us rejoice in His calling, that we might have His strength in order to respond to the invitation to “Come! Follow me.” (Psalm 16)

Our Lord Christ the King (11/25/18)

To testify to the truth; this is why Christ came, this is the mission of the priest and religious. Has your life testified to the truth that Christ is King?