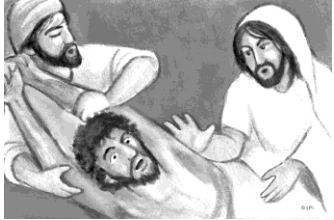


## 176Journey of Faith

**Priest, Prophet, King**

Ann Wolf

What does it mean to be among god's faithful people? Each of today's readings gives us a clue, and when pieced together we have an image that partially reflects what the call to discipleship might include in today's world. The first reading speaks of the role of the prophet: the second reading examines the lifestyle of the married as opposed to the unmarried; and the gospel gives us a glimpse of the person of Jesus as we read the first Markan account of his divine power of healing.



In the reading from Deuteronomy, Moses speaks to Yahweh's people about prophecy, but in the section immediately prior to this reading there is a description

of what it meant to be of the house of Levi, that is the priestly class,. For the Israelites, priesthood and covenant were closely linked. Because the Israelite nation was chosen by God, they were a holy nation and a kingdom of priests. Because the covenant was with all, the designation of an official priestly office did not exclude any from a special relationship with God The priests only represented the whole of the people in public worship; they did not replace the community in offering praise to Yahweh....In a sense, they acted as mediators between Yahweh and the people.

In today's reading, Moses speaks of another mediator; the "prophet". Prophets established a link between the king and the Temple. Prophets represented a link between the king and Yahweh; when the monarch deviated from faithful service to Yahweh, the prophet called him back. In succeeding centuries, the role of prophet shifted from attachment to the Temple and the king to the people themselves. It was their task to call the people to faithfulness. These prophets were "radicals" in the sense that they called for a return to the "spirit" of the law when the people had strayed.

There is little mention of the families of any of the prophets in the Hebrew Scriptures. It seems they followed a lifestyle similar to that of Jesus of Nazareth, that is, they were "itinerant preachers" of a sort - not a style conducive to family life. Paul picks up on the theme of discipleship and family in his second reading. It is difficult, he says, amid the cares of everyday life, to be faithful to God. And yet, it is in the day to day struggles of daily life that we can be the most faithful witnesses to gospel values.

Placing God at the center of our daily lives will not only make us better at our everyday work, but will also proclaim by how we live that Jesus Christ is Lord.

***In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" -***

***Mk 1:23-25***


**Mass Intentions for the Week**

**Saturday January 28**

**4:00 PM Lillian Francavilla, Req. by Ann & Jim Hebberecht**

**Sunday January 29 Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00 AM Mass for the intentions of the Parishioners**

**11:00 AM Brian Egan, Req. by Gil & Anna Richard Edward Dube, Req. by Jeanine Girouard**

**Monday January 30**

**8:00 AM Mass for the intentions of the Parishioners**

**Tuesday January 31**

**8:00 AM David Plamondon, Req. by Mom & Dad**

**Wednesday February 1**

**8:00 AM Mass for the intentions of the Parishioners**

**Saturday.... February 4**

**4:00 PM Evelyn Coughlin, 3<sup>rd</sup> Ann., Req. by family Mass assisted by Mrs. Pitney's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class**

**Sunday....February 5 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**9:00 AM Royal Forssen, 10<sup>th</sup> Ann., Req. by Bob & Deb Hill – Mass assisted by Mr. Telicki's 6<sup>th</sup> grade class**

**11:00 AM Mass for the intentions of the parishioners**

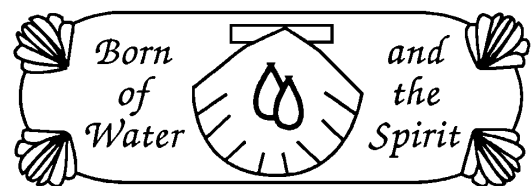
**Mass assisted by Mrs. Gauthier's sixth grade class**

**Church Support**

Giving is an act of the heart....You may give without loving...but you cannot love without giving.

Last Week's Offering 176 Envelopes \$ 3,941.00

*Thank you for your generous support of the Parish. Your weekly financial support enables Saint Edward's to provide for the needs of our Parish.*



*The Baptismal Workshop and instruction for parents wishing to have children Baptized is held on the first Thursday of each month at 7:00 PM. Pre-registration for the session is required. Please call the rectory at 978-874-2362 to register for the session. The next workshop will be held on February 2, 2012.*



My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

Many of you are probably excited about the Patriots' win last weekend and the next weekend's Super Bowl. I bet many of you will be hosting Super Bowl parties next weekend! The Super Bowl is one of those occasions that brings us together and helps us to celebrate the many ways that God has blessed us! Go Patriots!

Have a great week!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Fr. Bill*

**Praying the Roman Missal**

As we continue to pray the revised prayers of the Mass, we seem to be getting more and more comfortable with the new responses. One response that sounds a little weak from my place in the sanctuary is the final one of the Mass. After I bless the assembly, I say, "Go in peace." Your response is actually the same one that we prayed in the old Mass, simply, "Thanks be to God."

**"Food Pantry Bin"**

The food pantry bins are in the foyer of the church and the religious education center. Thank you for your generosity. This is an especially needy time for our food pantry. Please be as generous as possible.



Starting January 3<sup>rd</sup> the book for Mass Intentions will be opened to cover the dates of July thru December of 2012. Please note that we are allowing two Mass intentions for each Mass if necessary. There will still be one Mass a weekend that will be for the intentions of the parishioners of Saint Edward's. All Masses are booked on a first come-first served basis.

Readings for the Week of January 29, 2012	
Sunday:	Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28
Monday:	2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20
Tuesday:	2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3/Mk 5:21-43
Wednesday:	2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6
Thursday:	Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32
Friday:	Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29
Saturday:	1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34
Next Sunday:	Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39



**"Valentine Dinner"**

Saturday, February 4

5:00 to 7:00PM

Baked Boneless Apricot Glazed Chicken

Potatoes with Gravy

Stuffing

Carrots and Peas

Cranberry Sauce

Soup and rolls

Cheesecake

Price \$ 10.00 per adult, \$ 5.00 for children

Under 12 and children under 6 years are free!

For more information please call Louise Rathier

At 978-874-0639.

**"12<sup>th</sup> Annual Diocesan Catholic Men's Conference"**

All parish men, as well as their sons, brothers, fathers and friends are invited to this important annual Conference, scheduled for Worcester's DCU Center on Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>. Hear dynamic talks from outstanding Catholic leaders: author George Weigel, Father Larry Richards, convert Father Dwight Longenecker, New Orleans Saints QB Coach Joe Lombardi, (Vince Lombardi's grandson) and lay evangelist Mark Nehrbas. Bishop McManus will offer the conference Mass. Diocesan priests will hear confessions. Further information or registration, call 508-929-4345. Visit our website – [www.firstmensconf.org](http://www.firstmensconf.org) – for information and ticket purchases."

**"Saint Cecilia's Church"**

"Bible Study Course" will be held at Saint Cecilia's in Leominster. "The Book of Revelation" – Eight week study course beginning February 1, 2012 to March 21 on Wednesday evenings, from 7-8:30pm at Saint Cecilia's Parish Center, Mechanic and Third Streets, Leominster. Monsignor Francis Goguen will teach the course, which is open to all.



**Bread for the World**

**"Westminster Food Pantry"**

Just a reminder that the Westminster Food Pantry is available to families or individuals finding it hard to make ends meet. The pantry, located in the basement of the Congregational Church, is open Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30. All that is required is proof of residency (driver's license, utility bill) in Westminster. Please call 978-874-1793 with any questions.

**END OF BULLETIN  
ANY TEXT OR GRAPHICS ENTERED ON THIS PAGE  
WILL NOT APPEAR IN THE PRINTED BULLETIN**

CHURCH NAME: **St. Edward the Confessor Parish**

CHURCH CITY: **Westminster**

ROUTING CODE: **R**

RUN NUMBER: **2**

FILENAME: **03-0620.10b**

PHONE NUMBER: **978-874-2362**

FAX NUMBER: **978-874-1024**

EDITOR/ CONTACT: **Kathie**

**CURRENT FORMAT: EBSWTN**