

Weekly Update from Father John Allison 1-18-18

Dear members and friends of our parish family,

On this upcoming Third Sunday after the Epiphany our Gospel reading from Mark (1:14-20) begins with a short statement on the arrest of John the Baptist that marks a shift in focus from John's ministry to that of Jesus. Jesus' first words offer a continuation and fulfillment of the message proclaimed by John: "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God has come near; repent and believe in the good news." To repent is to turn, to reorient one's self to a new direction—in the case of the Gospel to reorient one's self to God as revealed in Jesus. The passage illustrates this reorientation in the calling of the first disciples and serves to show the radical nature of Jesus' call. The first disciples, Simon and Andrew, James and John—all fishermen—leave everything behind and break with the values of the world to adopt the values of the Kingdom of God. Like these first disciples, when we receive God's call, we bring to the Lord's service whatever skills and talents we already possess, but we also receive new gifts and empowerment. In our response to God's call to us, how are we empowered to further the in-breaking of the Kingdom? I'll explore this question and others in my sermon and explore how our journey together as disciples embodies the response so fully lived out by those first called.

I'll also take this opportunity to remind you that this Sunday there will be one service at 9am followed by our Annual Meeting. Annual reports were made available last Sunday and will also be available at the meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there to celebrate our ministry together and to do the work that God has given us to do.

Faithfully,

Fr. John