

Pastor's Letter

January 25, 2026 – 3rd Sunday on Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

With the arrest of John the Baptist, which we read about in today's Gospel, a chapter in the story of God's relationship with and revelation of himself to his people comes to an end. John is the last in the long line of Old Testament prophets. Many men and women through the centuries had spoken God's word to his people. The prophets called Israel to holiness and justice, challenged them to repent of their sins, and strengthened them with words of hope when times were hard. With the arrest and death of John, the voice of the prophets was silenced.

But that doesn't mean that God was done speaking. The mission of John the Baptist was to prepare a new way for the Word that was coming into the world. God would no longer use the prophets as mediators of his message to the world. John proclaimed that Jesus was himself the living Word of God, God in the flesh and as one of us he would draw us to himself.

We see the drawing power of Jesus in our Gospel reading for today. In the way that Peter, Andrew, James, and John leave everything behind when Jesus invites them to follow him. It's like a light goes on in their hearts and the course of their lives are changed. The author of the letter to the Hebrews begins his letter by writing, "In times past, God spoke in partial and various ways to our ancestors through the prophets; in these last days, he spoke to us through a son, whom he made heir of all things and through whom he created the universe, who is the refulgence of his glory, the very imprint of his being, and who sustains all things by his mighty word." (Heb. 1:1-3) Over and over again we hear how the people were amazed at how Jesus spoke, "as one with authority." Jesus' words touched people's hearts in a unique way because he wasn't just a messenger, he was the message itself. John proclaimed that the kingdom was coming. Jesus proclaimed that the kingdom was here, because wherever Jesus is, there is the kingdom of God. Jesus is the living Word of God which became flesh and dwelt among us.

The Word continues to dwell in us and speaks to us in the pages of Sacred Scripture. Any time we would like, we can hear God's voice. Today is the Sunday of the Word of God. We remember that the words of the Bible are the written record of the living Word and with the help of the Holy Spirit those words convey God's message of hope and peace for our time. May God's Word be our guide and our strength.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott

"Healing" Rosary

Please join us in praying a "Healing" Rosary for all parishioners, family members and friends combating any illnesses at this time. It will be held Tuesday, Feb 3, 2026 at 6:30 p.m. at St. Joseph's Church. Bring family members and friends. All are welcome!

Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Helen Frese, who died recently. Eternal rest, grant unto her, O Lord.

Bulletin Deadline

All information must be submitted by noon on Tuesday. Submit to: church@stsbej.org