

Pastor's Letter

January 18, 2026 – 2nd Sunday on Ordinary Time

Dear Church Family,

As we celebrate the great gift of God giving us his Son as our Brother and Savior, born in the flesh so that we might live in the Spirit, it is important for us to remember that the gift we have received will only be the blessing that God intends it to be if we use it for the good of others. In the powerful words of the prophet Isaiah in our first reading we hear how God spoke to Israel through him. We also see how these words foreshadowed how God would speak to the world and change it through Jesus Christ and we also see how we are blessed and called to continue to speak God's word to the world.

Isaiah is challenged by God to see his prophetic ministry as including the whole world, not just Israel. "It is too little, the LORD says, for you to be my servant, to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and restore the survivors of Israel; I will make you a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the ends of the earth." At the same time, Israel itself is called to see beyond the limits of its own national and ethnic borders and recognize that it was chosen and blessed by God so that all peoples could enter into relationship with him.

When we look at this reading through the lens of how it foreshadows the ministry of Christ as the Savior of the world, we see how God has moved to bring his plan to fulfillment by sending his Son to be born of Mary, to become one of us, and as one of us, to open the way for all of us to become sons and daughters of God.

As we receive this gift, the mission of the prophet, of Israel, and of Jesus himself becomes our mission. We can only know the fullness of the gift that we have been given when we share it with the world. It is too little for us to stay where we are, among people and places that we already know and are already part of us. We must go out and invite everyone to come and be part of what God is doing in the world. Each of us is called, like Paul in our second reading to be "an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God." May God help us to take up this great calling so that with the prophet and with Christ we might be made glorious in the sight of the Lord and our God may be our strength.

Blessings,

Fr. Scott



Contribution Statements

If you need a statement of contributions please call the office or email to church@stsbej.org. We are most grateful for your continuing and regular donations to the parish. May the Lord bless you for your generosity and support.



Rest in Peace

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Norman Boone, who died recently. Eternal rest, grant unto him, O Lord.