

JANUARY 24, 2016



THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



NEHEMIAH 8:2 – 4A, 5 – 6, 8 – 10

PSALM 19:8, 9, 10, 15

1 CORINTHIANS 12:12 – 30 OR 12:12 – 14, 27

LUKE 1:1 – 4; 4:14 – 21

REFLECTION

We are a part of the whole Body of Christ! How awesome is that? We are not alone. We don't have to do it all. We just have to do our part. When watching a soccer game, I noticed how the coach was trying to teach the team to work together—to pass the ball, to stay in their position in the field. When they did, they did much better. They were stronger together. As disciples of Christ, we are stronger together. That is the beauty of celebrating the Sunday liturgy together. It is a reminder of our oneness as the Body of Christ. We come to hear the Word of God, to rejoice in the law of the Lord, to reflect on how we are living God's call in our lives, and most importantly, to receive the Eucharist so that we are then strengthened to be Christ to the world. As we are nourished by the Word and the Body and Blood of Christ we are connected to and supported by the whole people of God gathered together. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon us!" (Luke 4:18). Together we can lean on each other, learn from one another, and help lift up each other up when we fall. We are not separate from the whole. Our presence makes a difference. Even the person in the next aisle over—even if they annoy you—has a role to play. We have weaknesses and we have strengths—but all are needed. Each one of us is different. Each one of us has gifts that vary and we are all needed to help make the Kingdom of God present in our world.

ACTION

When you go to Mass this Sunday look around with new eyes. The people gathered at Mass aren't like people at a movie theater waiting to be entertained. Each person is part of the Body of Christ and has a gift to share. Each contributes to the Kingdom of God in a way that only they can. Even if you think you know someone, you may be surprised at how many lives they touch in their own way. Let down your judgments and be open to the fact that the Spirit is working in their lives as much as in yours.

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- Who in your community do you tend to judge?
- Think of someone in particular and look at them with new eyes. What gifts do they bring?