

## **February 5, 2012**

### **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Call to Prayer:** O God, in faith and in love, we ask you to watch over us as we gather here. Help us let you be the center of our lives as we attempt to follow you in the ways of the gospel. Enliven us in faith, hope and love as we celebrate the gift of your life among us. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

#### **A reading from the holy gospel according to Mark 1:29-39**

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The gospel of the Lord.

**Focus:** Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law and many others. He went off to pray quietly. Jesus did not let his disciples identify him as the wonder worker. Jesus came to preach.

#### **Questions for reflection and sharing:**

1. What words or phrases stand out for you in this gospel?
- 2.
3. What is the stewardship message in this gospel?
4. Jesus went off to pray and came back to his disciples ready to preach. He became mission driven. Where do you find strength for your call in life?

**Concluding prayer:** Jesus, our Lord, you became one of us in order to teach us how to live. Help us be mission driven as you were. Nudge us to go off and pray as you did. May we bring your salvation and joy to all the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit. Amen.