

FR RUDY'S REFLECTION
The Third Sunday in Ordinary Time
SUNDAY, JANUARY 25, 2026



Fr. Rudy Coaquira-Hijale,
MCCJ, pastor

My Brothers and Sisters in the Risen Lord,

All of us know what it means to experience change. Some changes arrive suddenly, like a clap of thunder that startles the sky. Others unfold quietly and almost unnoticed as we move from one season of life to another. Whether abrupt or gradual, change invites us to grow, to gain new insight, and to deepen our compassion for others. It can push us forward or seem to set us back, yet it always has the potential to shape us in meaningful ways. Life gives us certain turning points, and how we respond to them influences the direction of our future choices. Because we are human, and subject to many circumstances that lie outside our control, we must learn to welcome these moments as opportunities for grace.

On this Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Matthew's Gospel presents three decisive turning points in the life of Jesus as he begins his public ministry. The first occurs when he hears that John the Baptist has been arrested by Herod. This news prompts Jesus to leave Nazareth and settle in Capernaum, a small town on the shores of the Sea of Galilee. This region was known for its mix of Jews and Gentiles and was often described as a place of darkness and confusion. Matthew reminds us that this move fulfills the prophecy of Isaiah that speaks of a great light shining upon people who dwell in shadow. Jesus becomes the living fulfillment of that promise. He brings light, truth, and hope where people once believed that God had forgotten them.



The second turning point is the call of the first disciples. Jesus does not seek the wealthy, the powerful, or the highly educated. He walks along the shoreline and calls out to a few fishermen who are in the midst of their daily work. Peter and Andrew hear his voice and leave their nets. James and John rise from their boat and follow him as well. They do not receive a long explanation about what this path will require. They respond simply because something within them recognizes the presence of God. Their trust invites us to ask ourselves what that moment must have felt like. What would it mean for us to hear the Lord calling us away from our comfortable and familiar routines into a deeper life with him?

The third turning point takes place as Jesus begins his ministry in Galilee. He teaches, preaches, and heals, revealing the nearness of the Kingdom of God. His presence restores broken hearts and broken bodies, but even more importantly, it restores hope. His message is clear: Repent, turn toward the light, and walk in the truth that God offers. Those who once sat in darkness discover that a new day has begun. The same Christ who walked through Galilee continues to enter our own places of fear, confusion, and sorrow. His light remains strong enough to guide us toward peace and to bring harmony to a world that longs for healing.

Yours in Christ,
Fr. Rudy

OUR LADY
OF GUADALUPE
FAMILY OF PARISHES



HOLY FAMILY CHURCH
ST. BONIFACE CHURCH
ST. JOSEPH CHURCH
ST. LEO THE GREAT
CHURCH
ST. THÉRÈSE LITTLE
FLOWER CHURCH