

Nehemiah 8:10

Go, eat rich foods and  
drink sweet drinks,  
and allot portions to those  
who have nothing prepared;  
for today is holy to our LORD.

# Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 23, 2022

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**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503  
[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)

## PASTORAL STAFF

Monsignor Michael Becker - mbecker253@aol.com  
Rev. Nelson Javier, TOR - njavier@dioceseaj.org  
Deacon Gene Neral - gene@lifeinfocus.net  
Kristina Hoyne - Parish Council President - inaugh@aol.com  
Jena Bowman - Business Manager - stjohchurch@atlanticbb.net  
Deborah Johnson - Director of Music/Pastoral Associate - dj219@msn.com  
Diane Ryan - Faith Formation Coordinator/Secretary - stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net  
Iris Tatar - Director of Catechesis of the Good Shepherd - iristat38@gmail.com  
Mark Krepich - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - mark.krepich@gmail.com  
Ken Dunmire - Maintenance

## NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS

### LECTORS

Sat. Jan. 29 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham, Maria Spayd  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci,  
Susan Podoletz  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 11:00 AM - James Krug, Bob Olson

### ALTAR SERVERS

Sat. Jan. 29 - 4:00 PM - Ryan Donoughe, NOT FILLED  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 8:00 AM - Nicholas Helsley, Emily Miller  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 11:00 AM - Camille Krug, Aidan Schurr

### EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

Sat. Jan. 29 - 4:00 PM - David Loth, Connie Baker  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 8:00 AM - Lou Ann Clark  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy,  
Donna Moyer

### MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY

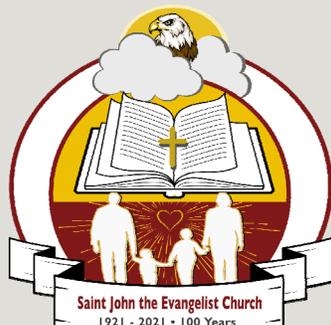
Sat. Jan. 29 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet, Paula VanSickel,  
Betsy Lloyd, Larry VanSickel  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 8:00 AM - Ray Kennedy, Ginny Reeder,  
Daniel Turcovsky, Diane Turcovsky  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Patrick Podoletz,  
Marilyn Bevan, Peg Madden

### SACRISTAN

Sat. Jan. 29 - 4:00 PM - Joyce Cunningham  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 11:00 AM - Dolores Capriotti

### SCRIP

Sat. Jan. 29 - 4:00 PM - Becky Merilli, Chris Palazzi  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 8:00 AM - Heather & Erika Yasolsky  
Sun. Jan. 30 - 11:00 AM - Jane Byrne, Carolyn English



### January Prayer Intention of Pope Francis

*For true human fraternity*

We pray for all those suffering from religious  
discrimination and persecution; may their own rights  
and dignity be recognized, which originate from being  
brothers and sisters in the human family.

## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY SPEAKER** - This weekend we welcome a guest speaker, Mr. Joe Maschue, to share with us its ongoing ministry to the poor and disadvantaged of the greater Altoona area, inviting us to consider how we might become more active, especially in preparing "Care Boxes" for those in need!

**TODAY IS THE SUNDAY OF THE WORD OF GOD** – Two years ago on the feast of St Jerome, Pope Francis proclaimed that the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time be observed annually as the Sunday of the Word of God. He declared it "*a Sunday given over entirely to the Word of God, so as to appreciate the inexhaustible riches contained in that constant dialogue between the Lord and his people.*" He goes on to vividly describe the power of the Word of God: it "makes a pathway within us. We listen to it with our ears and it passes to our hearts; it does not remain in our ears; it must go to the heart. And from the heart, it passes to the hands, to good deeds. *This is the path which the Word of God follows: from our ears to our heart and hands*". How to observe this Special Sunday? Pope Francis wants to stimulate all Christians not just to place the Bible on the shelf as one of many books, perhaps covered with dust, but to see it as an instrument that awakens our faith. Some suggestions for today? Open your bible and turn to the book of Psalms, praying Psalm 1. Reflect especially on the verse: *He is like a tree planted near streams of water, that yields its fruit in season; Its leaves never wither; whatever he does prospers.* Consider how God's word is a stream of living water for you and your family.

**WHAT IS A SYNOD?** The word "synod" comes from the Greek synodos, meaning "an assembly." Synods in the Catholic Church generally feature an assembly of bishops, who come together to assist the Holy Father in addressing the needs of the Church. For the upcoming synod in 2023, Pope Francis would like to have the input not only of bishops, but of all members of the church. As our parishes prepare to participate, we are encouraged to pray daily this prayer which was used at the start of every Session of the Second Vatican Council. As we are called to embrace this synodal path of the Synod 2021-2023, this prayer invites the Holy Spirit to operate within us so that we may be a community and a people of grace.

*We stand before You, Holy Spirit, as we gather together in Your name.  
With You alone to guide us, make Yourself at home in our hearts;  
Teach us the way we must go and how we are to pursue it.  
We are weak and sinful; do not let us promote disorder.  
Do not let ignorance lead us down the wrong path nor partiality influence our actions.  
Let us find in You our unity so that we may journey together to eternal life  
and not stray from the way of truth and what is right.  
All this we ask of You, who are at work in every place and time,  
in the communion of the Father and the Son, forever and ever.  
Amen.*

**SIGN UP NOW FOR THE NEW 100TH ANNIVERSARY DIRECTORY:** We are planning a new pictorial directory of the parish for our 100th anniversary year. *We need every parishioner and their family to participate in order for it to be a success.* A pictorial directory is a powerful tool in our church to help each of us know each other better. Our last directory is now out-dated and it is time for a new one. It is especially helpful for the staff and pastors. The company putting our directory together will be here for several days at the end of February and the beginning of March to take photos in the Parish Center. Unlike last time, there will be only 1 photographer and 1 photo session scheduled at a time. **Photo dates are: Thursday, February 24; Friday, February 25; Monday, February 28 and Tuesday, March 1. Appointments are available from 2:00 PM through 8:25 PM each day.**

At this appointment, you will have a professional photography session, schedule a ZOOM meeting to see your proofs on computer and have the opportunity to purchase extra portraits for family and friends.

**All participating families receive a complimentary 8x10 portrait and directory.**

Below is a link you can use to schedule your photo session online or you may call the office at 814-942-5503 on weekdays from 9 to 3 to schedule. This link is also on our website: [stjohnsaltoona.org](https://stjohnsaltoona.org).

<https://instant-scheduling.com/sch.php?kn=3534502&typld=63966&step=2>

## **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

- January 23: **CLASS/ 11th Grade Spring Session (All Faith Formation and BG students in 11th Grade.)**
- January 23: **11:00 AM - 9th Grade Rite of Blessing at 11:00 Mass for Candidates and Parent/Sponsor**
- January 30: **NO CLASS**
- February 6: **CLASS 9:15 - 10:45 AM**
- February 13: **CLASS 9:15 - 10:45 AM**
- February 13: **10th Grade Spring Session & 10th Grade Rite of Commitment at 11:00 Mass**
- February 20: **NO CLASS**

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** In today's first reading, the ancient Israelites are asked to rejoice in the Lord for his gift of abundant food, and to give a portion to those who had nothing. As Christian stewards, we are called to do the same. Our gifts are our food to share. In St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians, it states "If they were all one part, where would the body be? But as it is there are many parts, yet one Body." St. Paul teaches us as Christian stewards that we all have equal dignity and worth in God's sight and we should view each other in this same light. It teaches us to humbly recognize our own gifts as well as the giftedness of every member of our parish family.

And, while God has designed us to ultimately depend on Him, it seems He has also designed us to need each other! The good news of the beauty and richness of a stewardship way of life is that God does not ask any one person to "do it all" in their family or parish. He simply asks us to share the gifts and talents we do have in the season of life we find ourselves in right now. It might feel uncomfortable to say "No" sometimes. Do your part and let your brothers and sisters in the Body of Christ do theirs. The Spirit of the Lord is upon us all as we live out this stewardship of life. (*Stewardship Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, Inc. 2021/12/27*)

### **January 8/9, 2021**

Envelopes	\$ 3,577.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 421.37
Children's Offerings	\$ 4.00
Parish Development	\$ 43.00
Catholic Education	\$ 25.00
Solemnity of Mary	\$ 5.00
Christmas Offering	\$ 50.00
Tornado Disaster Relief	\$ 10.00
2nd Sunday Collection	\$ 402.00
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$ 4,537.37</b>
Online Giving	\$ 2,428.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 6,965.37</b>

## **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:giny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

**Aiden • Seth Alexander • Joshua Banks**  
**Scott Brenneman • Dan Burley • Cari Ann**  
**Arthur Campbell • Michelle Cooney • Betty Dennis**  
**Mary Lee DeStefano • Michael DeStefano**  
**Debbie Digman • Bernadine Farrell • Kathy Felty**  
**Leann Frazier • Nicole Gervinski • Ray Hess**  
**Don James • Nancy James • Tim Jimenez**  
**Amy Langenbacher • Lisa • Sherri Maffettone**  
**Genevieve Mathias • Angela Mazzei • Susie Miller**  
**Karrie McCall • Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore**  
**Ailani Myers • Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko**  
**Linda Pletcher • Todd Pletcher • Mary Rajnish**  
**Allison Recker • Vicki Riley • Olga Romerowicz**  
**Amy Rossi • Mike Rudolph • Bruce Shank**  
**Anne Showalter • Betsy Slat • Mary Jo Stephenson**  
**Patty Swanson • Tim Temofonte • Marion Tessitore**  
**Mary Truesdale • Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel**

**ROBO CALLS:** If you would like to be added (or removed) from our calling list, please call the office at 814-942-5503.



**Catholic Schools  
Week 2022**  
January 30–February 5

[www.NCEA.org/csw](http://www.NCEA.org/csw)  
#CSW22

**HAITI STUDENT PHOTOS:** Photos of the sponsored students are now available in the Gathering Space. Please understand that several of you have new students because your previous student either graduated or moved. Your sponsorship has been essential to the continuation of the school, which not only educates but feeds the children. Also, your donation contributes to the teachers' salaries and, therefore, the economy. Thank you so very much. Any questions please contact Mary Lee Madigan-Davis, 814-931-2651, [mlmdcreek@aol.com](mailto:mlmdcreek@aol.com).

**2021 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS** will be available upon request beginning on January 30, 2022. Please call the Parish Office at 814-942-5503 to request your giving statement. If you are registered with My Own Church, you can log in and download your statement yourself.

**FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL:** In today's gospel Jesus was "praised by all" except at home in Nazareth where the "eyes of all were intently on him." Acceptance can be hard to find at home due to unreal EXPECTATIONS. Jesus challenges us to "proclaim liberty" to anyone "oppressed" or "captive" by our EXPECTATIONS. *Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.*

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE APP:** Did you know there's an app for your smart phone that will give you access to the ministry schedule through Ministry Scheduler Pro? With this app you can view your schedule and open positions, submit sub and assignment requests and get push notifications for upcoming services. It's available for android and Iphone. Log in using the id teammates.

**SCRIP TIP:** You spend a big portion of your monthly budget on groceries for your family. But did you know there's a way to make all that money work for you? By using scrip to pay for your regular grocery purchases, you can earn funds for our church every time you shop. You pay face value and your gift card is worth face value, but St. John's earns a rebate on every gift card you purchase. Pick up a scrip order form at the scrip table the next time you come to mass and start ordering your grocery gift cards through scrip.

#### Volunteers Needed!

**Pinnacle Palliative Care, a Catholic palliative and hospice care company,** is looking for volunteers for the following:

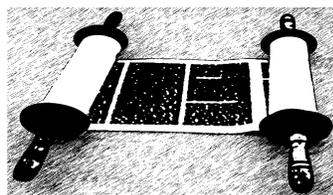
- Patient Sitters**
- Bereavement**
- Clerical Assistance**
- Public Relations**

#### Crafters (sewing, knitting card making, etc.)

Pinnacle volunteers will be oriented in our training program to ensure you have the proper skills for patients and their families. For more information, please contact Sarah Marchi at Pinnacle Palliative Care at 814-201-2532

*"It is to those who have the most need of us that we ought to show our love more especially" -Saint Francis de Sales*

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**Third Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
January 23, 2022**

*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
because he has anointed me  
to bring glad tidings to the poor.*

— Luke 4:18a

### Schedule for the Week

#### Sunday, January 23 - 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00 AM - Mass for *Fred Mazzarella* requested by  
Karen Mazzarella

#### Monday, January 24 - St. Francis de Sales, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM - Mass for *Irene Becker* requested by  
Ed & Susan Ramus

#### Tuesday, January 25 - Conversion of St. Paul, Apostle

8:30 AM - Mass for *Andrew Dancha* requested by  
Helen Sylvia Campbell

#### Wednesday, January 26 - Sts. Timothy & Titus, Bishops

5:30 PM - Confessions  
6:00 PM - Mass for *Robert Cole* requested by  
Anthony & Phyllis Russo

#### Thursday, January 27 - Weekday

8:30 AM - Mass for *Dr. Thomas Cardellino* requested by  
Andrew Bobby

#### Friday, January 28 - St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

8:30 AM - Mass for *Amy Brehm* requested by  
Rich & Joyce Lowe

#### Saturday, January 29 - Vigil of 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

3:00 PM - Confessions  
4:00 PM - Mass for *Deceased Members of the Veronese Family* requested by Mary & Ray King

#### Sunday, January 30 - 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:00 AM - Mass for *Susan Murray* requested by  
Wendy Campbell  
11:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*

#### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Sm 5:1-7, 10; Ps 89:20-22, 25-26; Mk 3:22-30

Tuesday: Acts 22:3-16 or 9:1-22; Ps 117:1bc, 2;  
Mk 16:15-18

Wednesday: 2 Tm 1:1-18 or Ti 1:1-5; Ps 89:4-5, 27-30;  
Mk 4:1-20

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:18-19, 24-29; Ps 132:1-5, 11-14;  
Mk 4:21-25

Friday: 2 Sm 11:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17; Ps 51:3-7, 10-11;  
Mk 4:26-34

Saturday: 2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17; Ps 51:12-17; Mk 4:35-41

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19; Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17; 1 Cor 12:31 —  
13:13 [13:4-13]; Lk 4:21-30



# THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD IS UPON ME,

because he has anointed me to bring glad tidings to the poor.

LUKE 4:18

## COMMUNITY

Community is important. Community is essential. Community is crucial. This message is the foundation of today's readings from Nehemiah, Corinthians, and Luke. Ezra's reading of the scroll is done in front of the community, including—a radical act at the time—women, and children old enough to understand, groups usually not counted among those hearing God's promise proclaimed. Community is important. The mystical Body of Christ, like the human body, functions best and most fully when all members are playing the role for which they were meant. Community is essential. God's word is fulfilled when the community has heard it, and witnessed it. In Luke, the baptism and desert trials of Jesus lead to the synagogue scene, which will then lead Jesus to his public ministry of proclaiming the reign of God. He eventually will journey to Jerusalem and his crucifixion. Community is crucial.

## ONE BODY, ONE JESUS

Our liturgical calendar separates different Gospel scenes, which can sometimes do them a bit of a disservice. The liturgical year, of course, has its own rhythm and purpose, into which the stories of the life of Jesus are placed. However, when Luke was organizing his Gospel (for "Theophilus" the lover of God whom we encounter in today's Gospel introduction), today's scene was part of a three-fold structure: the baptism of Jesus; the temptation in the desert; the announcement of the public mission in the synagogue at Nazareth. Linking these is the Holy Spirit, who descended on the body of Jesus at his baptism, who filled his body as he endured his forty-day trial, and who is upon his body to announce and to bring about God's reign, a mission he fulfills with his body on the cross. The incarnation (the "in-flesh-ing") of Jesus, which we think of in connection with his birth, remains central to his story.

## ONE CHRIST, ONE BODY

Last week's reading from Corinthians concerned the one Spirit who gives many gifts, yet is the source of our unity. Paul continues this theme today using the image of the body, whose different members each have an important and distinct role to play. The Spirit of baptism forms that one mystical Body of Christ. The Spirit of baptism fills the many members, but unites them always as one. The Spirit of baptism is on each member, as it was for Jesus in the synagogue at Nazareth. That Spirit of our baptism anoints each of us as a member of Christ's Body to be glad tidings, proclaim liberty, bring clearer vision, lift the oppressed, to announce God's reign to all. As different members of Christ's Body, we are each called upon to do this in our own way. We may face opposition or rejection, as Jesus did, but we can always turn again in faith to the Spirit of our baptism who is still with us.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Nehemiah 8:2-4a, 5-6, 8-10  
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 15  
1 Corinthians 12:12-30 [12-14, 27]  
Luke 1:1-4; 4:14-21

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

JANUARY 23, 2022

# God's Word for Children

Each one of us is an important part of God's family.  
Every part of our human bodies is important, too!  
Pick one of the numbers that make each sentence true.

2 5 1



We have \_\_\_ nose.

We have \_\_\_ fingers  
on each hand.

We have \_\_\_ mouth.

We have \_\_\_ ears.

We have \_\_\_ toes  
on each foot.

We have \_\_\_ head.

We have \_\_\_ eyes.

We have \_\_\_ arms.

We have \_\_\_ legs.

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## Third Sunday in Ordinary Time

Jesus read words of the prophet Isaiah from a scroll (Luke 4:18).

Isaiah described what God sent Jesus to do.

Solve the math problems to fill in the missing words.

bring glad tidings to the

\_\_\_\_\_ (10 + 10)

proclaim liberty to

\_\_\_\_\_ (16 - 9)

give sight to the

\_\_\_\_\_ (5 + 7)

let the oppressed go

\_\_\_\_\_ (20 - 12)

proclaim a year  
acceptable to the

\_\_\_\_\_ (7 + 3)

7=captives

8=free

10=Lord

12=blind

20=poor

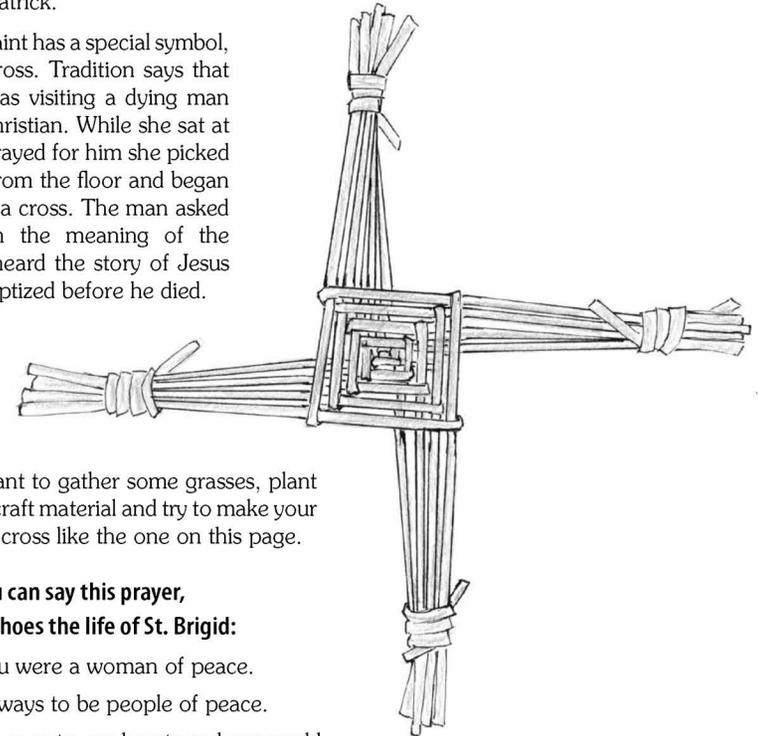
# CATHOLIC CORNER

## A WOMAN OF PEACE

Most people recognize St. Patrick as a patron saint of Ireland. On February 1, we celebrate the feast of another Irish patron, St. Brigid. Brigid was born around the year 450 A.D. near Kildare in Ireland. When she was young, she worked as a dairy maid. When she could, she would give milk, butter, and cheese to the poor. She was loved by those who benefited from her goodness.

Later in her life she founded the first convent for women in Ireland near Kildare and continued her work with the poor. When she died, around 525 A.D., she was buried in Downpatrick near the grave of St. Patrick.

This beloved saint has a special symbol, the St. Brigid's cross. Tradition says that one day Brigid was visiting a dying man who was not a Christian. While she sat at his bedside and prayed for him she picked up some rushes from the floor and began folding them into a cross. The man asked Brigid to explain the meaning of the cross. When he heard the story of Jesus he asked to be baptized before he died.



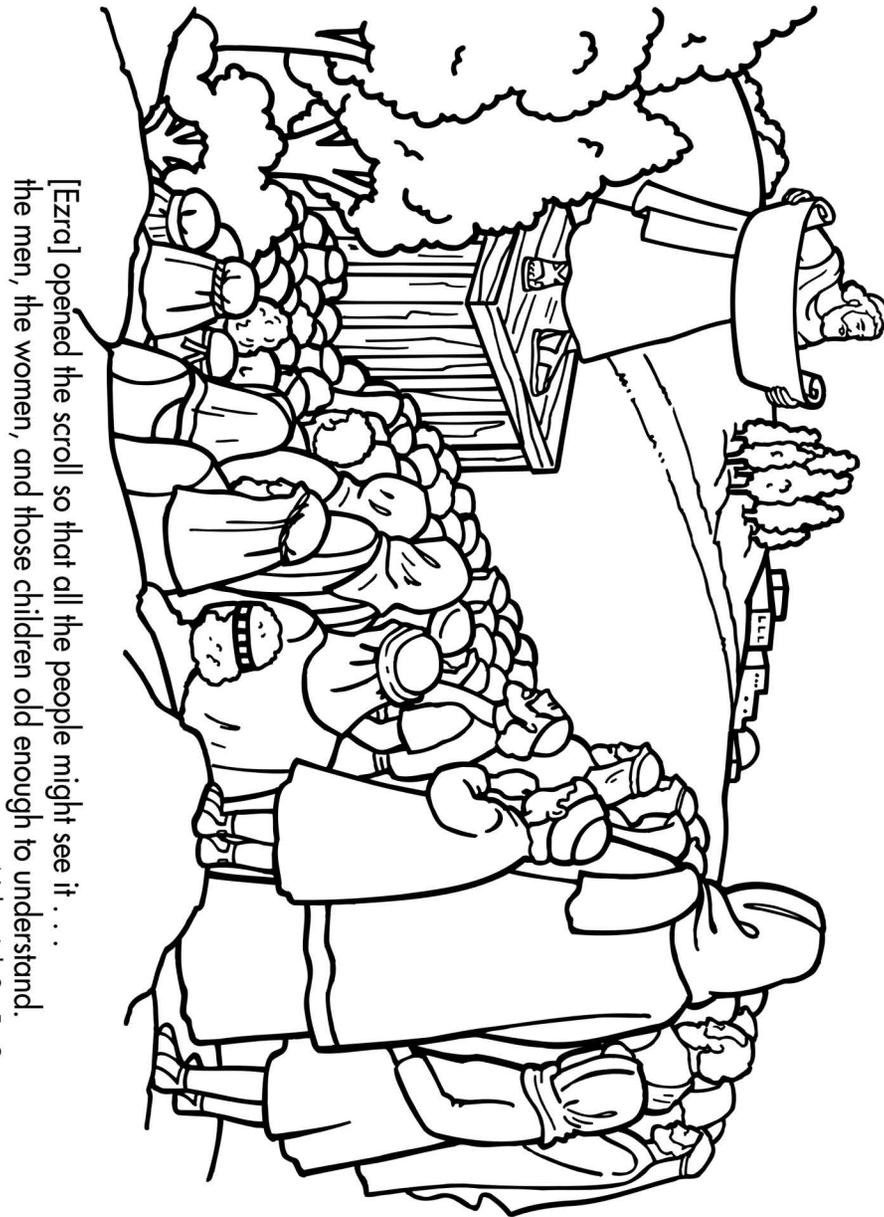
You might want to gather some grasses, plant leaves, or other craft material and try to make your own St. Brigid's cross like the one on this page.

**You can say this prayer,  
which echoes the life of St. Brigid:**

Brigid, you were a woman of peace.

Teach us always to be people of peace.

Help us to bring peace to our hearts and our world.



[Ezra] opened the scroll so that all the people might see it . . .  
the men, the women, and those children old enough to understand.

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