

Reflection for January 25, 2026

In today's Gospel, Jesus walks by the Sea of Galilee and issues a command that changes history: "Come after me" (Matthew 4:19). The response of Peter and Andrew is immediate and radical: "At once they left their nets and followed him" (Matthew 4:20).

It is easy to feel a disconnect between their dramatic "yes" and our steady, suburban lives. We rarely have the luxury of dropping everything at once. Yet, the call to follow Christ is just as real for us, daily, though it often sounds less like a shout over the waves and more like a quiet whisper in the heart.

We are reminded of our own family's journey when we moved here from Wisconsin seven years ago. We prayed deeply for that decision, uncertain of how it would impact our lives. It was a leap of faith—a leaving behind of our own "nets" of familiarity and comfort. We did not know then what the future held, but we trusted. Today, looking out at this congregation, I see the reward of that trust: a vibrant community and a parish, St. Patrick's, we proudly call our own.

However, God does not only call us during big moves or life-changing transitions. Most of the time, He meets us exactly where we are: in the boardrooms, the classrooms, and the kitchen tables of Lake Forest. The Church teaches that our daily work is not a distraction from God, but the very place we find Him. When we perform our ordinary duties with love—whether finishing a spreadsheet, driving to practice, or caring for a sick child—we are offering "spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God" (CCC 901).

We do not need to leave our nets to find Jesus; often, we are called to be holy amidst them. By transforming our daily grind into an offering of love, we turn the ordinary into the extraordinary. Listen for His whisper in your daily routine this week. He is calling you, right here, right now.

† The Romans