



## FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

February 8, 2026

Isaiah 58:7-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 Matthew 5:13-16

Welcome to Super Bowl Weekend. If following the Super Bowl news, you know that the general managers of the Seahawks and the Patriots grew up in our area.

John Schneider of the Seattle Seahawks and Eliot Wolf of the New England Patriots went to Abbot Pennings and Notre Dame respectively and both worked for the Green Bay Packers for several years. The Packer way is part of their process in running their respective teams. It should be a great game.

This weekend kicks off the Bishop's Appeal in our diocese, an opportunity for all of us to assist the work of the Church in N.E. Wisconsin.

The theme is Be the Light.

Jesus says in the Gospel today, "You are the light of the world." Light is only valuable when it is dark. So, as believers we are called to be guiding lights in a dark world. There are plenty of needs in our local area, that the appeal can assist.

To Be the Light, we need to remember who sends us, Jesus Christ. Not Bishop Ricken or myself. The Lord says, "Come Follow Me."

What's our mission?

We heard in the first reading from the Prophet Isaiah, "Thus says the Lord: Share your bread with the hungry, shelter the oppressed and the homeless, clothe the naked when you see them, and do not turn your back on your own."

Who is "our own"? Everyone!

Jesus closes with a directive to let our light shine before others so they may see our good works and glorify our Father who is in heaven. Our good works are meant to glorify God, and not

ourselves. We should act in a way that reflects our faith, shows compassion, humility, and generosity towards others.

Using football analogy, it takes a lot of people in the Seahawks organization and the Patriots organization to be at the Super Bowl. Schneider and Wolf are just part of the big family.

For our parishes it takes a lot of light to allow Christ's light to assist the people of N. E. Wisconsin.

For St. Matthew Parish we have 600 lights – households. We will list in the bulletin through Easter how many lights are shining to help our diocese. Any size gift is appreciated.

Thanks for your generosity.

Thanks for being part of Christ's light.

Holy Spirit Prayer