

Dear Padre,

If St. Matthew was an apostle, why do we have Gospels from other writers who were not apostles of Jesus? Since he knew Jesus personally, wouldn't his Gospel be the definitive one?

There are two assumptions that need to be addressed. One is that the Apostle Matthew is the same as the evangelist Matthew. The book's title, the Gospel According to Matthew, was added to the text in the second century. Whether it was written by the same Matthew or someone else, it still traces back to the experience of the apostles. The Scriptures are the inspired word of God, and Christians can rely on the truth of the Gospel message through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The other assumption is that one Gospel is somehow more "definitive." All four Gospels are the inspired word of God. A Gospel is not a history of the life of Christ. It is a collection of stories that each evangelist arranged in a specific way so that they would make sense to a particular audience. For the Gospel of Matthew, the audience was predominantly Jewish, but these Jewish Christians were being excluded from mainstream Judaism and perhaps were wondering among themselves if Jesus was really the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Matthew's Gospel asserts repeatedly that Jesus is a true Israelite who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, while also reinterpreting the Law of Moses in a new direction that includes all nations. ●



FRESCO OF APOSTLE ST. MATTHEW THE EVANGELIST BY PIETRO GAGLIARDI / RENATA SEDMAKOVA

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS



GODONGPHOTO / SHUTTERSTOCK

May the Virgin Mary help us make of our lives a hymn of praise to God in response to his call and in the humble and joyful fulfillment of his will. But let us remember this: there was a moment in each of our lives in which God made himself present more strongly, with a call.

ANGELUS, ROME,
JANUARY 17, 2021

DAYbreaks

Leading Catholic voices inspire the faithful with daily reflections and prayers for Advent and Lent. Including: Fr. Ron Rolheiser, Dr. Mary Katharine Deeley, Sr. Dianne Bergant, Fr. Paul Turner, and more. Available from Liguori Publications.



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 / 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 / John 1:35-42



A Haunting Question

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

“What are you looking for?” asks Jesus of the two disciples who come to see who he is and what he is about. They are Jesus' first words in John's Gospel, and that's what the entire Gospel of John is about, an answer to that piercing question.

I spent the week living with that question, never really finding an answer that seemed to fit, or perhaps I got too many answers, all of them somehow falling short. Why do I spend an hour early each morning sitting in the silence? I read some Scripture, but then mostly I sit with the silence. Many are the times when my mind drifts to other times and places and daydreams. Sometimes the silence is scattered with boredom; at other times it stumbles with prayerful words; and sometimes in the silence I look for answers to the plaguing whys of life. Mostly, though, I sit in the silence. I'd like to call it prayer, but then I wonder if I'm simply floundering in wishful thinking. So I return to that haunting question—"What are you looking for?"

I think perhaps the answer is similar to what I look for when I gather with friends. Sometimes the get-together is engaging, but not always. Sometimes it is memorable, but not always. Sometimes we just hang out, and that can be enough. Ultimately relationships keep me grounded. That also is why I spend time in the silence. It's what I'm looking for when I pray—to be in relationship with God, to be grounded lest I drift away and grow lost. ●

[Eli] said to Samuel,
"Go to sleep, and if you are called, reply, 'Speak, LORD, for your servant is listening.'"

1 SAMUEL 3:9

Reflect

When you pray,
what are you looking for?





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Tuesday—Friday 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
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Karen Burden, Rel.Edu. Committee 355-6388
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Gwen Waechter, Parish C. Chair 272-1030
Tressa Powers, Finance C. Chair 355-6206
Altar S. President, Nanette Rice 355-7676
Tom Bachman, Grand Knight 640-8259
Prayer Line Starters, Allison Bushek 355-1696
& Nanette Rice 355-7676

Reconciliation: Confessions will be heard every Saturday at 3:00 p.m. and every Sunday at 8:00 a.m. or by appointment.

Baptism: Parents who have children to be baptized must be registered. Godparents must be 16 years of age or older and have received Confirmation and Eucharist. Please call the parish office for an appointment.

Marriage: Please contact parish priest at least four to six months before the wedding.

Anointing of the Sick: Celebrated anytime by calling a priest.

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1/13/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Ryann & Brecken Bamberger, Rowen Simon

Reader: Tom Bachman

E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Karen Burden

1/14/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Haley Berning, Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Bob Woodrow

E.O. HC: Teresa Beltran, Karen Burden

THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME 1/20/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Jason Velasco, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Debbie Frederick

E.O.HC: Rosemary & Tom Bachman

1/21/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Kirbe & Kipton Koons, Joleigh Lohman– Fuller

Reader: Julie Kaps

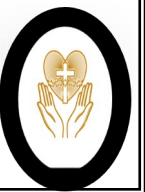
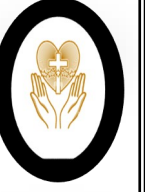
E.O. HC: Alvin Bergkamp, bob Woodrow

JANUARY 14, 2024 SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will.” (PS 40)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Jan. 13	4:00 p.m.	People of our parishes
Sunday, Jan. 14	9:00 a.m.	Emily Hughes
Monday, Jan. 15	5:30 p.m.	Smith Family Intentions
Tuesday, Jan. 16	9: 30 a.m.	David Hoang
(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village)		
Thursday, Jan. 18	12:10 p.m.	Gary Sack
Friday, Jan. 19	7:30 a.m.	Bryan Coulter
Saturday, Jan. 20	4:00 p.m.	People of our parishes
Sunday, Jan. 21	9:00 a.m.	Priestly Vocation



My friends, God wants to tell us all sorts of things. But it will never happen if we never stop babbling on about all sorts of things, if we never stop simply giving God a laundry list of our wants and desires (as if he's some kind of Santa Claus) --- will never happen if we never pause and take a deep breath so our incredible God can speak to us in the quiet of our hearts, in the deepest recesses of our being.

My friends, prayer is not a monologue we force upon God. Rather, it is a holy conversation --- one between Creator and creature, between Savior and sinner, between lover and his beloved, between Goodness itself and broken people who are hopefully striving to be a little more than they are today.

So, let's make sure our voices don't get in the way of the most important voice there is. Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for January 7, 2024

Envelopes: \$1540; Loose: \$309; Online Giving: \$ 1,119.67

Total \$2,968.67; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under +1,207.50

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL

\$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$50475.96. *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards*

Most Reverend John Balthasar Brungardt
Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

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Dodge City, KS 67801

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Dear Brothers and Sisters:

On January 20-21, I have asked our parish priests to participate in the *Called by Name Sunday*. From all eternity, God has known each one of us by name and has a particular calling for us to follow. As the Lord says, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name: you are mine" (Isaiah 43:1). *Called by Name Sunday* is about listening and responding to God's call.

Next Sunday's readings center on the theme of vocation, and I have asked our priests to share their own vocation story during the homily. As you listen to the Word of God proclaimed at Mass and reflect upon the vocation story shared by your priest, please consider the following:

1. For those of you discerning your life's vocation, be open to God's call to the priesthood or religious life. God's calling is a beautiful gift—be courageous and open to his call! Jesus came that we might have life and have it to the full—do not be afraid. If God is calling you to the priesthood or religious life, then nothing less will satisfy.
2. Please think of the high school guys and gals or single men and women you may know and believe might have a calling to the priesthood or religious life. While God is the one who calls, he often uses our voices. Please help us reach out to these individuals and come prepared next weekend to share their name(s) and contact information so that a letter of encouragement can be sent to them.

Brothers and sisters, with God's blessing and your help, we can make *Called by Name Sunday* a great success. May all of us listen to God's call and follow where he leads. Be assured of my prayers for you as we continue to build a culture of vocations in our diocese.

In the name of Jesus Christ our Savior,

Most Rev. John B. Brungardt
Bishop
Catholic Diocese of Dodge City

PARISH BREAKFAST— SUNDAY JANUARY 28—RIGHT AFTER MASS You are invited to join us for food & fellowship on This Sunday, January 28th served by our K of C Council.

BUDGET SHOP We will be working at the Budget Shop on Saturday, January 27 and Tuesday, January 30. Please keep these dates on your busy calendars and try to save a few hours to help us. We are open on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Any help will be greatly appreciated.

VOCATION CORNER DIOCESE SCHEDULE VOCATIONS DINNERS God calls each man to live out his own vocation. Your own vocation maybe to the priesthood. One way to discern what that may be is by attending an Andrew Dinner with Bishop Brungardt and priests of the diocese. If interested in attending any of the following events, please let Fr. Peter know. **Jan.14 Post—College Age** 6-8pm @ St. Andrew Church, Wright; **Jan. 28 High-School Age** 6-8pm @ St. Joseph Church, Scott City.

PRO-LIFE PILGRIMAGE The Pilgrimage for Life will be held on January 27th. We will begin at the Dodge City Middle School auditorium at 10 am. It is approximately a two-mile walk to the Cathedral. You are welcome to do the entire walk, or to join part way through. Holy Mass will be celebrated at 11:30 am, and a lunch of soup and sandwiches provided by the Knights of Columbus, the Daughters of Isabella, and Dodge City Community College will be provided. Free will donation is encouraged. Please register online at <https://www.dcdiocese.org/offices/respect-life>.

MEN'S ACTS RETREAT Discover the Men's ACTS Retreat January 18-21 at the Heartland Center for Spirituality in Great Bend. An ACTS Retreat is a three-day/three-night Catholic lay retreat presented by fellow parishioners. This powerful experience will strengthen your faith, renew your spirit, deepen your prayer life, and connect you with others from the Diocese. Check out www.actsdcd.org to register or for more information. You may also contact retreat organizer Curtis Wolf at 785-623-3189 or via email at cjwolf@fhsu.edu.

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION JANUARY 14

"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38

When we recognize who we are, it's easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves, and others, as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how He wants you to live the life He intended for you.

"Jesús se volvió, y al ver que lo seguían les preguntó: —¿Qué están buscando?" -Juan 1:38

Cuando reconocemos quienes somos, es más fácil encontrar lo que estamos buscando. Una vez que nos vemos a nosotros mismos, y a los demás, como hijos de Dios, pasaremos menos tiempo buscando las comodidades materiales del mundo. En cambio, nuestros corazones anhelaran algo más profundo que solamente puede ser satisfecho por Dios. Pregúntele a Dios diariamente como quiere que viva su vida, la vida que él tiene dispuesta para usted.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK What will I do during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity to be one with other Christians?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (by St. Anselm of Canterbury) O Lord, my God, teach my heart this day where and how to see you, where and how to find you. You have made me and remade me, and you have bestowed on me all the good things I possess, and still I do not know you. I have not yet done that for which I was made. Teach me to seek you, for I cannot seek you unless you teach me, or find you unless you show yourself to me. Let me seek you in my desire; let me desire you in my seeking. Let me find you by loving you; let me love you when I find you. Amen.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PART 12: COLLECT



A Prayer in Four Parts

“Let us pray...” After the *Gloria*, the priest sings or says this invitation to pray. As the *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* describes, “Next the Priest calls upon the people to pray and everybody, together with the Priest, observes a brief silence so that they may become aware of being in God’s

presence and may call to mind their intentions. Then the priest pronounces the prayer usually called the ‘Collect’ and through which the character of the celebration finds expression” (*GIRM*, no. 54). Charles Belmonte notes it is “called the Collect because it sums up and gathers together all the intentions of the day’s sacrifice” (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 65).

According to Belmonte, the Collect has a standard structure of four parts: an invocation to God, the grounds on which we base our confidence (or a reference to the feast of the day), a petition, and a conclusion (see p. 66). For example, we see these four parts in this Collect from the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time: “O God [invocation], who teach us that you abide in hearts that are just and true [grounds for confidence], grant that we may be so fashioned by your grace as to become a dwelling pleasing to you [petition]. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever [conclusion].”

Praying Together

During the Collect and other prayers in the Mass, the priest extends his hands and arms outward in what is called the “*orans*” position, which means a position of prayer. This position was used by our Jewish ancestors and adapted for Christian prayer. With a historical note from the early Christian writer Tertullian, Belmonte observes that Christians adjusted how the hands are held “so as to resemble those of the Lord on the cross” (p. 65). During the Mass, the priest uses this gesture to indicate that we are all praying together; he is collecting all our prayers and offering them up to the Father.

At the end of this prayer, the people respond by saying, “Amen.” As Fr. Guy Oury teaches us, this Hebrew word means “so be it, without question.” He continues, “The Amen is the people’s stamp of approval on what has just been said in their name. It is a Yes to the priest as having spoken the prayer” (*The Mass*, p. 57). The meaning and function of this simple response invite the congregation to respond boldly with a confident “Amen” in affirmation of this prayer in their name.

Preparing for Prayer

How should we pray during the Collect? Does the Collect seem to happen so quickly that you miss the words? That brief moment of silence before the prayer is an important one when each person can offer personal intentions to be joined with what the priest is about to pray. Here is a great moment to share interiorly any specific prayers you would like to offer along with the spoken prayers of the Mass. It is also an opportunity to prepare ourselves to listen attentively to the words of the Collect as an overview or summary of the main emphases of the prayers for that particular Mass. Perhaps we could see it as an invitation for how Jesus might teach us in the

Mass. We might benefit greatly from reading over the words of the Collect before the Mass. If you have never done it, I would invite you to read through the words a couple of times and ask the Lord to prepare your mind and heart for what is to come. This mentality also prepares us to listen to the Liturgy of the Word, God’s word spoken to His people.

For Reflection

1. As Father Luke suggests, take time before Mass, either at home or in church, to pray with the Collect prayer for that liturgy. You can find Collects in Missals, missalettes, or online.
2. Reflect on Psalm 33, which tells us that God “surveys all who dwell on earth” (v. 14). Consider God receiving all the prayers we lift up during the moment of silence that belongs to the Collect. The Psalm further claims, “The One who fashioned together their hearts / is the One who knows all their works” (Ps. 33:15). Allow the Collect to “fashion” and shape your heart by listening attentively to the words the presider proclaims. (Fr. Luke Spannagel)

SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Lifestyles of the brave and mobile

Media coverage is thick concerning the lifestyles of the rich and famous. The lives of the truly heroic, on the other hand—faithful spouses, conscientious parents, the working poor, folks who turn their lives around after addiction or costly misdirection—are mostly hidden from view. Faithful discipleship requires effort, quiet persistence, and most of all, movement in the spirit. Followers don’t stand still, unchangeable in opinions or behaviors. Growth is required. The terms of the deal are as follows: “Come—and see.”

SEGUNDO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Estilos de vida de los valientes y ascendentes

La cobertura mediática es muy amplia en lo que respecta al estilo de vida de los ricos y famosos. Las vidas de los verdaderamente heroicos, por otro lado —cónyuges fieles, padres con conciencia, los trabajadores pobres, gente que cambia sus vidas después de una adicción o un costoso extravío— están en su mayoría ocultas a la vista. El discipulado fiel requiere esfuerzo, calma persistencia y, sobre todo, impulso del espíritu. Los creyentes no se quedan quietos, inmutables en sus opiniones o comportamientos. Es necesario el crecimiento. Los términos del acuerdo son los siguientes: "Vengan—y verán." (Preparetheword)