

Dear Padre,

Why is the Old Testament part of Christian worship? Parts of the Old Testament seem to be opposed to the teachings of Christ.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church says it best: "The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked" (CCC 121).

The Old Testament, also referred to as the Hebrew Scriptures, is the only Bible Jesus ever knew. That is an important reason to try to understand these Scriptures. The Pentateuch (first five books), the prophets, the Book of Psalms, and the wisdom writings all had a profound impact on Jesus. His image of God as Father, his preaching, his parables, and his proclamation of the reign of God were all influenced by the Hebrew Scriptures.

It is true that Jesus' preaching also goes beyond the Old Testament. At times he substitutes what the law has to say with an even more demanding requirement (see, for example, the Sermon on the Mount). In general, however, the Old Testament forms a context for understanding what Jesus was doing. His passion and death made no sense to his first followers except in light of the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament (Isaiah 52:13–53:12). There are many more examples like this one. Thus, the Catechism says "the Old Testament bears witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God's saving love" (CCC 122). ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 29 Weekday	January 30 Weekday	January 31 St. John Bosco, Priest	February 1 Weekday	February 2 Presentation of the Lord	February 3 Weekday	February 4 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Sm 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13 Mk 5:1–20	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a, 30–19:3 Mk 5:21–43	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17 Mk 6:1–6	1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12 Mk 6:7–13	Mal 3:1–4 Heb 2:14–18 Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32	1 Kgs 3:4–13 Mk 6:30–34	Jb 7:1–4, 6–7 1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23 Mk 1:29–39



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Do we listen to Jesus' words, which are authoritative? Always...carry a small copy of the Gospel...to read throughout the day, to listen to that authoritative word of Jesus. And then...let us ask Jesus: "Jesus, you are the prophet, the Son of God, the one who was promised to us to heal us. Heal me!"

ANGELUS, ROME,
JANUARY 31, 2021

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



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Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 28, 2024
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Deuteronomy 18:15–20 / 1 Corinthians 7:32–35 / Mark 1:21–28



Love Takes Work

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

If you believed your own natural death was imminent, would that affect the decisions you make? When St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, that was his expectation—that the Lord's return was going to take place quickly, that the Second Coming was just about to occur and could happen at any time.

While St. Paul writes to the Corinthians that it is better to be unmarried than married, the purpose of this advice is to keep life simple and focused on what is important. Don't make any long-term commitments like buying a field, or starting a business, or even getting married. Be ready and prepared because the end of the world could literally be tomorrow. "I should like

you to be free of anxieties," he wrote. Much later, St. Paul realized the end was not going to happen as soon as originally expected.

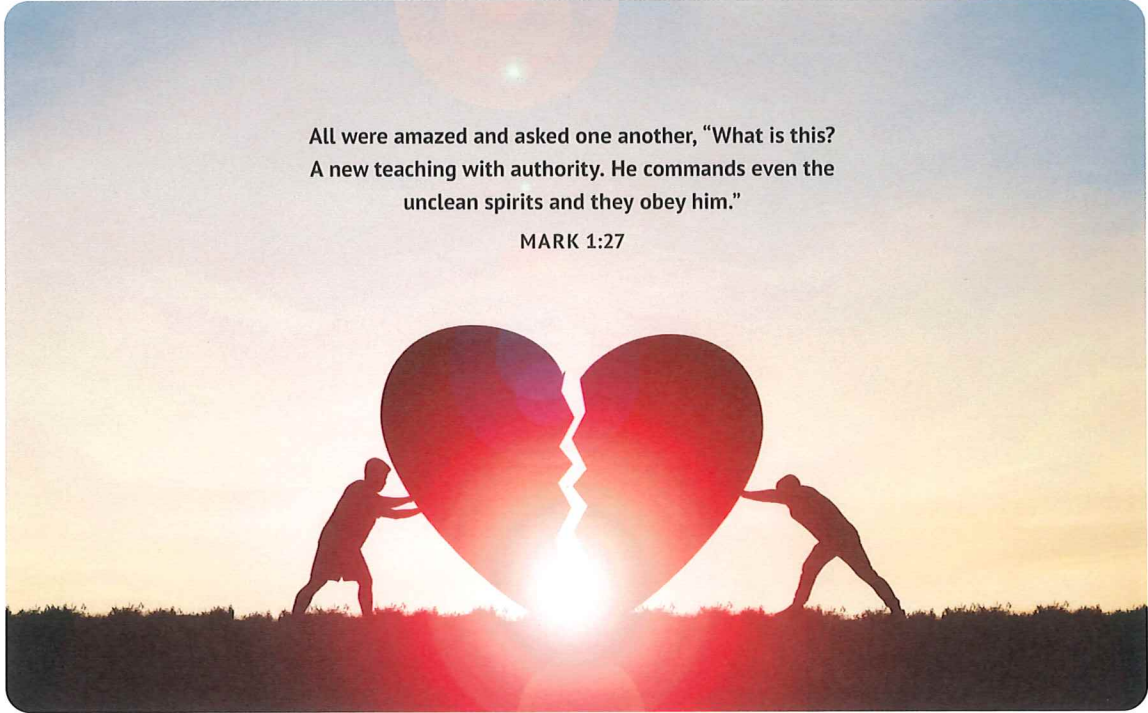
Saint Paul was not against marriage. He would be the first to say that, ideally, marriage can and often does reveal the depths of human love, but he would also say that it takes work; it doesn't happen all by itself. Just as readily, St. Paul would also note that, ideally, celibacy can and often does reveal the breadth of love given in service to others, whether the celibate

person is lay, a priest, or a religious. It can seem, however, that the unclean spirit that Jesus cast out continues to roam human lives. All of us struggle to live out love as best we can, wherever we find ourselves in life. ●

Reflect
What in your life gets in the way of loving as well as you would wish?

All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."

MARK 1:27





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Lisa Gannett, DRE 355-6611
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.

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1/27/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Ryann & Brecken Bamberger, Rowen Simon

Reader: Gwen Waechter

EO.HC: Debbie Frederick, Gwen Waechter

1/28/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Cade Berning, Jace Berning, Haley Berning

Reader: Kyle Berning

E.O. HC: Mike & Cindy Broeckelman

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

2/3/2024 - Saturday, 4: 00 p.m.

Servers: Jason Velasco, Jonathan Gannett, Nathan Gannett

Reader: Karen Burden or Volunteer

E.O.HC: Tino Rosales Jr., Volunteer

2/4/2024 – Sunday, 9:00 a.m.

Servers: Haley Berning, Jace Berning, Luke Woodrow

Reader: Mike Broeckelman

E.O. HC: Robert Longoria, Kyle Berning

JANUARY 28, 2024

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.” (PS 95)

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Saturday, Jan. 27 4:00 p.m. People of our parishes

Sunday, Jan. 28 9:00 a.m. Sp. Int. Powers Family

Monday, Jan. 29 5:30 p.m. Sp. Int. Burden Family

Tuesday, Jan. 30 9: 30 a.m. David Hoang

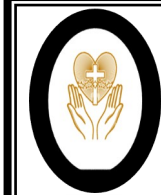
(Tuesday Mass at the High Plains Retirement Village)

Thursday, Feb. 1 12:10 p.m. Gary Sack

Friday, Feb. 2 7:30 a.m. Liz Lang Baier

Saturday, Feb. 3 4:00 p.m. Barbara Wolf

Sunday, Feb. 4 9:00 a.m. Duane Bergkamp



My friends, how often do we hear people being “astonished” in a good way by what they heard someone say? Sadly, in our daily conversations and in social media, we hear a lot of complaining, but not a lot of complimenting. We hear a lot of anger, but not a lot of compassion.

We hear a lot of mocking, but not a lot of understanding. We hear a lot of resentment and bitterness, but not a lot of forgiveness. And We hear a lot of nonsense, but not nearly as much love and kindness.

Do we truly believe there is power in what we say for good or bad?

If so --- then we sure need to watch what we say! Fr. Peter

COLLECTION for January 21, 2024

Envelopes: \$635; Loose: \$324; Online Giving:\$ 317.64

Total \$1,276.64; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,761.17. Income over/under—484.53

CHURCH PROJECT GOAL

\$52000—Building Fund To Date: \$50,568.96. *Thank you so much for your love for our parish church and your faithful stewards*

UNDERSTANDING THE READINGS OF THIS WEEK

- **It is interesting that Mark** chooses not to write anything about what Jesus taught in the synagogue, but only about how he taught. Twice he says that Jesus taught with authority. Teaching with authority can mean two different things. The obvious meaning is reflected in the way Jesus confronts the unclean spirit: he orders it to come out of the man and the unclean spirit obeys. But teachers also speak with authority when they know the subject inside and out. Clearly, no one knows the subject of God or faith better than Jesus. This is the authority the unclean spirit recognizes. Jesus is able to interpret the law beyond measure because he himself has come to fulfill it.
- **Mark also contrasts Jesus' teaching** with the scribes, much maligned in the Gospels. It is not their fault; no matter how much the scribes studied the law, they could not truly understand it as Jesus could. Therefore, when we attempt to discern what Jesus would teach us today about our current issues and problems, we look to his authority in both senses: inspiring obedience and knowing God's will.
- **"Have you come to destroy us?"** asks the unclean spirit in the Gospel, knowing that without a person to reside in, it was doomed (Mark 1:24). Indeed, Jesus only expels the unclean spirit from the poor man; he does not slay it. In a way it is destroyed, however, because it no longer has a host. The unclean spirit is made powerless and the man is freed of his torment. But the man would be wise to avoid the vulnerability that could lead to this demon returning to him, for it is only defeated for now, not destroyed forever. We too depend upon a higher power to exorcise our demons, but forever taking care to resist their reappearance later.
- **Resulta interesante que Marcos** haya optado por no escribir acerca de qué enseñó Jesús, sino solamente de cómo enseñó. Un par de veces él dice que Jesús enseñó con autoridad. Enseñar con autoridad puede significar dos cosas diferentes. El significado obvio se refleja en la manera en que Jesús confronta los espíritus inmundos: les ordenó salir del hombre y los espíritus obedecen. Pero los maestros también hablan con autoridad cuando conocen bien el tema de punta a cabo. Obviamente nadie conoce el tema acerca de Dios y de la fe mejor que Jesús. Ésa es la autoridad que el espíritu inmundo reconoce. Jesús puede interpretar la ley sin medida, porque la ley se ha cumplido en él.
- **Marcos también hace un contraste entre las enseñanzas de Jesús** y las de los escribas, las cuales se ven bien maliciosas en los Evangelios. No es culpa de ellos; no importa cuánto los escribas estudiaban la ley, nunca podrían entenderla de veras como la entendía Jesús. Por lo tanto, cuando intentemos discernir lo que Jesús nos enseñaría hoy acerca de los asuntos y problemas actuales, consideremos su autoridad desde dos perspectivas: la obediencia inspiradora y el conocimiento de la voluntad de Dios.
- **"¿Has venido a acabar con nosotros?" (Marcos 1, 24).** Así pregunta el espíritu inmundo en el Evangelio, con pleno conocimiento de que sin una persona donde habitar está perdido. En efecto, lo que hace Jesús es expulsar el espíritu inmundo del pobre hombre; no lo mata. En cierto sentido, sin embargo, queda destruido, porque ya no tiene huésped. El espíritu inmundo queda sin poder y el hombre queda libre de su tormento. Pero bien podría el hombre actuar con sabiduría y evitar una vulnerabilidad que pudiera provocar que el espíritu inmundo volviera a habitarlo, dado que por lo pronto fue vencido, pero no destruido para siempre. También nosotros dependemos de una autoridad mayor para librarnos de nuestros espíritus inmundos, pero hemos de hacer nuestra parte a fin de evitar su reaparición más tarde.

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 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.

LENTEN MINI -RETREAT—MARCH 10, 2024 We are excited to announce that Sister Rose Mary Stein will help us prepare ourselves for the coming Easter - right after that Sunday Mass . Please save that date . More information will be given.

KNIGHT OF COLUMBUS MONTHLY COUNCIL MEETING Our February meeting will be on Wednesday 7th at 7:30 p.m.- Parish Hall. Notice: Monthly meetings are typically on the first Wednesday of each month

STEWARDSHIP REFLECTION JANUARY 28

"Brothers and sisters: I should like you to be free of anxieties."- 1 Corinthians 7:32

How much anxiety do we bring upon ourselves by constantly worrying about not having enough or attaining more things? God won't necessarily give you everything you want, but He will provide everything you need. Try this – use the word “pray” instead of the word “worry” in the future. Then spend your time praying instead of worrying.

"Hermanos:Lo que deseo es que estén libres de preocupaciones". -1 Corintios 7:32

¿Qué tanta ansiedad traemos sobre nosotros mismos al preocuparnos constantemente acerca de no tener lo suficiente o de obtener más cosas?Dios no necesariamente te dará todo lo que desees, pero sí te proporcionará todo lo que necesitas.Intenté hacer esto - utilice la palabra “rezar” en lugar de la palabra “preocupar”. Entonces pasará su tiempo rezando en lugar de preocupándose.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK Can I identify an unclean spirit in me that seeks to destroy me? Can I find the courage to ask God to free me from this demon?

PRAYER OF THE WEEK (adapted from OCIA's Prayer of exorcism) God of power, who promised us the Holy Spirit through Jesus your Son, we pray for ourselves and all who present themselves before you. Protect us from the spirit of evil and guard us against error and sin so that we may become the temple of your Holy Spirit. Confirm what we profess in faith so that our words may not be empty but full of the grace and power by which your Son has freed the world. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

ONLINE CLASSES FROM DIOCESE LEARN ABOUT JESUS AND THE EUCHARIST

The spring 2024 schedule of Pastoral Ministry Formation courses offered by the diocese has been announced. Father Terry Klein, pastor of St. Joseph Parish in Ellinwood, will be offering a course on Christology, or the theology of Jesus Christ. The course aims to investigate the answers given in Scripture and Church Tradition to Jesus' question, “Who do you say that I am” (Matt 16:15). It will be offered on Saturday mornings beginning Jan. 20. Father Robert Schremmer, a diocesan priest in retirement, will teach a course on the Eucharist entitled “Roots and Wings-Source and Summit.” It will be offered Tuesday evenings beginning Jan. 16. Both classes will be taught via Zoom. To learn more or to register, please contact Colleen Stein, Director of Adult Formation, at the Chancery at 620-227-1538 or at cstein@dcdiocese.org

DIOCESAN MISSIONARIES NEEDED A SUMMER OF PRAYER & ACTION Any college-age Catholics are encouraged to apply to be missionaries for the diocesan summer programs Prayer & Action and Totus Tuus/Camp Cristo Rey. The diocese needs approximately 12-14 young adults for these jobs. For more information please contact either diocesan Director of Youth Ministry Emma Webs at dcyouth@dcdiocese.org or Director of Young Adult Ministry Gentry Heimerman at gheimerman@dcdiocese.org.

NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

DO THIS IN REMEMBRANCE OF ME, PART 14: Listening to God’s

The Mass

As St. Jerome said, “Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ.” Without a doubt, St. Jerome understood that the Bible truly is God speaking to his people. That is why it is so important to have readings from the Bible during Mass. Listening to God’s Word helps us to learn about and understand who

God is and how much He loves us. Also, we learn about ourselves and just how much we need God in our lives. As we continue some reflections on the Liturgy of the Word, we focus this week on the more spiritual aspects of listening to God’s Word and receiving it into our hearts.

Start with Silence

The *General Instruction of the Roman Missal* reminds us that silence is a very important part of the Mass. Not only are we silent while the readings are read, but there should also be a brief silence after each of the readings. As the Diocese of Peoria’s *A Study of the Mass* teaches, “Even these brief moments allow us to meditate on the marvels and mysteries we just heard... In our world of ‘noise,’ this silence may seem uncomfortable to us. Yet, this is all the more reason for us to pay close attention to this detail of the sacred Liturgy” (p. 7). Silence is an important means for the faithful to actively participate in the Mass, since it allows the opportunity to really listen with our hearts and take in God’s Word.

What if the readings don’t make sense to you? Fr. Guy Oury reminds us that “The Word of God is not a document. It is not something of the past that happens to narrate a stage of revelation” (*The Mass*, p. 62). The Word of God continues to be alive and active (Hebrews 4:12), seeking us out and helping to draw us nearer to God. That is why it is important for us to do our part during the readings of the Mass by really listening and thinking about the words of Scripture. If God is speaking to his people through the Scriptures, and we are part of God’s family, then God is saying something to us through each reading. A great question to ask ourselves is: What is God teaching me here? About himself? About us as his people? About how he asks us to live? These reflections will help us concentrate more on the words and help us understand their meaning, even from a reading about a most unusual topic!

Allow His Word to Grow Roots

Another way to help us better understand the readings is to recognize that the entire Old Testament is a preparation of God’s people (that includes us!) for receiving Jesus. The New Testament is a fulfillment of the Old—all the prophecies, all the expectations—all perfectly fulfilled in the person of Jesus Christ. One of my favorite meditations is to think about something from the Old Testament and see how it leads to Jesus. In the same way, then, look at something in the New Testament and remember back to its beginnings in the Old Testament. For example, we read in Isaiah 7:14, “Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son and shall call his name Emmanuel.” For many of us, our mind probably jumps to Mary and Jesus. Some of the connections are very clear, and some are subtler. Spending time reflecting on the readings can not only help us better understand what we hear, but it also helps the Word of God to be truly rooted in our hearts, our thoughts, and our actions.

As Charles Belmonte reminds us, Sacred Scripture reveals to us the “truth, both about God and about our own salvation... What we hear during the Liturgy of the Word is truth about God and the narrative of the marvels God performed... Its culmination is the Paschal Mystery of the Death and Resurrection of Christ, which is perpetuated in the Eucharist. Therefore, the central theme of the readings is always Christ... By carefully listening to the Word of God and reflecting on it, we will realize who ... Christ is, what he says and does, what he expects of us, and how we are to go about accomplishing the task he entrusted to us. Gradually, we will enter into the intimacy of God and discover the meaning of our own existence. And, as a consequence, we will get to know how to do—always and in everything—the will of God” (*Understanding the Mass*, p. 75-76). Now that’s a reason to “listen up!”

For Reflection:

1. Recognizing the unique presence of Jesus in the Scriptures, reflect on the Risen Lord’s appearance to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-35). Pay particular attention to what Jesus says about his presence in “all the scriptures,” including “Moses and all the prophets” (Lk. 24:27). Next time you are at Mass, listen to hear how Jesus is present in each part of the Liturgy of the Word.
2. For a brief sample of Old Testament references to Jesus, consider praying with Deuteronomy 18:15, Psalms 22:1–18, or Isaiah 53. Ask the Lord to awaken your awareness of his presence throughout Scripture. (Fr. Luke Spannagel)

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Strengthen the partnership

The relationship between parishes and schools is long and intimate—important to note at the start of Catholic Schools Week. After the first Catholic diocese was established in the United States in Baltimore, pastors lobbied at once for schools and religious to staff them. Frontier pastors vowed to build the school first and the church later. They understood that without proper religious education, the parish venture would certainly fail. Today, celebrate this essential partnership with a holy hour, candlelight prayer vigil, or special project in the parish for young people and their supporters.

CUARTO DOMINGO DEL TIEMPO ORDINARIO

Fortalecer la alianza

La relación entre las parroquias y las escuelas es larga e íntima—algo que es importante notar al comienzo de la Semana de las Escuelas Católicas. Después de que se estableciera la primera diócesis católica en los Estados Unidos en Baltimore, los párrocos abogaron de inmediato por escuelas y por religiosos para dotarlas de personal. Los pastores de frontera se comprometieron a construir escuelas primero e iglesias después. Comprendieron que, sin una educación religiosa adecuada, la misión de la parroquia fracasaría. Hoy, celebremos esta alianza esencial con una hora santa, una vigilia de oración con velas, o un proyecto especial en la parroquia para los jóvenes y sus acompañantes. (Preparetheword)