

Readings for the week of January 14, 2024

Sunday:

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10
(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

Monday:

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and
23/Mk 2:18-22

Tuesday:

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/
Mk 2:23-28

Wednesday:

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,
9-10/Mk 3:1-6

Thursday:

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a,
10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

Friday:

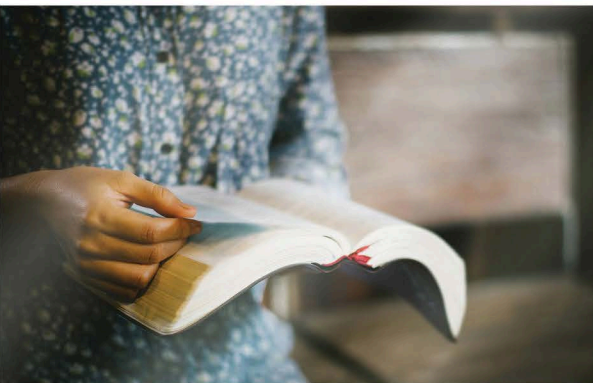
1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/
Mk 3:13-19

Saturday:

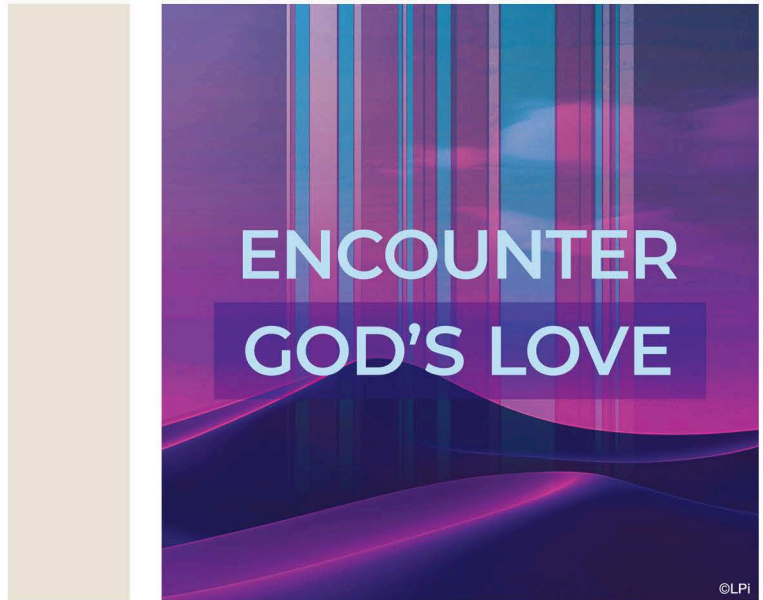
2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/
Mk 3:20-21

Next Sunday:

Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/
1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

As a priest, I'm amazed how happily married couples remember the tiniest details of their earliest encounters. They effortlessly report things like: "he wore a blue shirt," "we ordered brussels sprouts," "her hair was up in a bun," and "he spilled shrimp cocktail sauce at my family's open front door when it was ten degrees below zero," (that one's courtesy of my mom). We delight in remembering and speaking of when our new life of love began. The little details are glorious reminders that it's all real.

It's similar for John the Apostle. He tells us of the two disciples who followed Jesus into his house, "**...they stayed with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon.**" Why does that tiny detail matter? Because *that's the time of day when they encountered the love of Jesus the Messiah in their lives*. Our religion is not primarily about abstract truths about God, no matter how true or sublime. It is about God meeting and saving us in our human nature. It's about a *human* relationship.

What was the time of day when you first recall encountering Christ and his Church? Who was there? What did you feel? How did things look and smell? What happened? Take some time to recall it in detail. For me, it was inside an old, rickety church on a hillside in Jerome, Arizona. It was about 9 p. m. on a Saturday evening. I was with my friends Jenny, Brad, and Laura. We were praying, singing, and laughing. When was it for you? Remembering the details isn't empty nostalgia. It reminds us now that God's love for us in our humanity is real.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Those Who Seek the Truth

In my work as a freelance writer, I have a regular column in the archdiocesan paper writing profiles of ordinary people in the local church. Laity, religious, and clergy alike — I hound them all to give me an interview, and when I do, the answer is almost always this: “You don’t want to talk to me. There’s nothing special about me.”

I always try to convince them that there is something remarkable about everyone who is searching for the truth. It is easy to think we are not made for holiness because we are ordinary people with ordinary habits, ordinary abilities, and ordinary sins. It is easy (and very convenient) to designate holiness as something belonging to Better People. People like the saints. People like the Disciples.

The Bible gives us next to no personal information about the disciples. There is no archdiocesan newspaper profile on Andrew and Simon that can give us insight into who they were before they became St. Andrew, Inaugural Disciple and Announcer of the Messiah, and St. Peter, First Pope and the Rock-Upon-Which-Christ-Built-His-Church.

Yet I find myself insatiably curious about it. What was their childhood like? What games did they play with each other as the sun set, before their mother called them into bed? What did they think of as they fell asleep at night? What secret jokes did they share to make each other laugh? What were they afraid of? What did they hope for? Who did they want to be?

Before they were towering figures of salvation history, Simon and Andrew were just two men searching for the truth. When they looked at Christ, there was something that made it click. Perhaps they themselves could not identify what it was, but their hearts whispered it nonetheless: *There it is. We finally found it.*

Isn’t that the best we can all hope for?

“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’” — John 1:38

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

Why do we make changes in the Mass? Some seem so small and unimportant. Are they really necessary?

Answer:

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our identity as Catholics. Our purpose as a Church community revolves around the Eucharist. Everything we are and everything we do is measured not only by how well we celebrate, but also by how well we live the sacrament. If that is so, then we as a community will always strive to celebrate the Mass as best we can. The reasons for some changes might seem more obvious than others, but there is a reason behind each one.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is the introduction to the Missal that contains all the prayers for the celebration of the Mass. The Order of Mass we use now was issued in 1975 and, as often happens over the course of years, some questions have come up about the proper way of doing some things and whether or not other practices are acceptable. These changes clarify some things and make the celebration of the Mass more meaningful for everyone.

The opportunity is presented to us to better learn and understand each part of the Mass, which in turn should help us deepen our appreciation for its beauty and meaning. We will be a better Church if we have a clearer understanding and knowledge of Who and what we celebrate.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

The LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:10)

Psalm:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

Second Reading:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)

Gospel:

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Come and see," Jesus said to the disciples who were curious to know about him. Today, he whispers this invitation into the deepest place of our heart. Have courage — go, and see what Christ has to show you.

Observances for the week of January 14, 2024

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: Martin Luther King Day
Wednesday: St. Anthony, Abbot
Thursday: January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
Saturday: St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr
Next Sunday: 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Clare of Assisi, a devoted follower and friend of St. Francis, centered her life around poverty, prayer, and the Eucharist. As the founder of the Poor Clares, she promoted a ministry of simplicity, adoration, and service to the poor.

Prayer of Discernment

Dear Lord,
Here I am! Help me to know the path You would have me walk, to speak the words You would have me speak, to love and serve those You put in my path. Amen.

John was standing with two of his disciples, and as he watched Jesus walk by, he said, “Behold, the Lamb of God.” The two disciples heard what he said and followed Jesus.

- Jn 1:35-37

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

In the Lord’s call to Samuel, Eli teaches Samuel the importance of “listening” to God’s voice. Can you name something you have heard from the Lord?

Second Reading

Paul saw our physical bodies as a temple of the Holy Spirit, destined to be raised after death just as Jesus was raised from the dead. What are some ways to treat your body with reverence and respect?

Gospel Reading

In John’s account of the call of the first disciples, we hear the first words Jesus speaks in the Gospel of John: “What are you looking for?” How can you convince family or friends that Jesus is what we all should be looking for?



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“ UNFURL THE SAILS, AND LET GOD STEER US WHERE HE WILL. ”

- ST. BEDE THE VENERABLE



Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, “What are you looking for?” They said to him, “Rabbi”—which translated means Teacher—“where are you staying?” He said to them, “Come, and you will see.” - Jn 1:38-39a

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