

## Readings for the week of January 21, 2024

### Sunday:

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

### Monday:

2 Sm 5:1-7, 10/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 25-26/  
Mk 3:22-30

### Tuesday:

2 Sm 6:12b-15, 17-19/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/  
Mk 3:31-35

### Wednesday:

2 Sm 7:4-17/Ps 89:4-5, 27-28, 29-30/  
Mk 4:1-20

### Thursday:

Acts 22:3-16 or Acts 9:1-22/Ps 117:1bc,  
2/Mk 16:15-18

### Friday:

2 Tm 1:1-8 or Ti 1:1-5/Ps 96:1-2a, 2b-3,  
7-8a, 10/Mk 4:26-34

### Saturday:

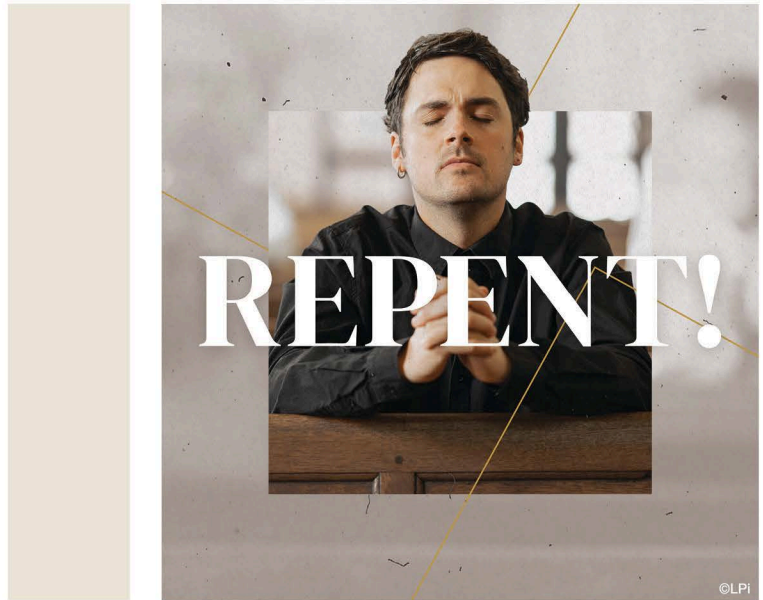
2 Sm 12:1-7a, 10-17/Ps 51:12-13, 14-15, 16-17/  
Mk 4:35-41

### Next Sunday:

Dt 18:15-20/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 7-9 (8)/  
1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28



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## Gospel Meditation

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

We start telling lies around the age of three, the experts tell us. It's understandable. Lying is a god-like power. Whatever I want, I need only say it, and the world rearranges itself accordingly. It's amazing at first. But soon reality snaps back and I'm faced with a dilemma. If I remain committed to my lie I start to fracture into pieces. My words and reality drift apart, and I find myself lost in a lonely world of further falsehoods and fear of being found out.

How marvelous, then, that Jesus begins his ministry by proclaiming: **"Repent!"** We tend to think it means "stop doing bad things" but it doesn't. It literally means "go beyond the mind you have." Think in a new way. It's painful to admit, but some portion of my mind is addicted to lie-telling, usually to protect my ego or make life easier. To repent means to admit this tendency, to say, "I'm done lying," and to move beyond my split mind into a complete commitment to the truth. Perhaps that's why at Mass we together proclaim, "I have sinned in my *thoughts*, and in my *words*..." Repentance and truth-telling work together.

Those who know the twelve-step process of addiction recovery know this process well. The fourth step requires radical truth-telling: listing our moral defects. This isn't being scrupulous. Rather it is freedom from falsehood, and entrance into the real world. This week, I invite you to join me in this practice. Get your phone or piece of paper. Answer the question: what are your true moral defects? Write them down. Remember, the Lord knows them already and loves you. We have a sacrament where this truth-telling is celebrated: Confession. Perhaps it is finally time to go beyond our childish lies.

— *Father John Muir*

## ( PRACTICING ) CATHOLIC

### A Good Time for Fulfillment

There are some things that always come at the worst time. I've never gotten a telemarketing call and thought, "This is a really convenient moment for me to listen to a sales pitch." I've never seen the compulsory software update notice flash on my computer screen when I *didn't* have a deadline I was struggling to meet. My kids never come down with the flu unless it's the weekend and the line at Urgent Care is stretching out the door.

And I never, ever feel the calm, persistent shoulder-tap of the Holy Spirit without thinking, "Now? Now is not a good time. Can you try again when I'm..."

But then I stop and think: when I am what? When I am stronger? When I am happier? When I am smarter? When I am a different person?

When God calls us, He calls the person He sees in front of Him. "Come on," He says, and He doesn't mean "When you're finished" or "When it's convenient" or "Think about it." He means now. This moment.

This is what Paul is saying when he writes that "the world in its present form is passing away." He is saying that your plans mean nothing, the kingdom of God is at hand. Abandon your nets, let your catch escape into the sea. You're not who you thought you were, and you don't need what you thought you needed.

Your sins do not define you. Your fears are not fate. Your inclinations do not govern you. Your life can be changed. We live in the time of fulfillment, and fulfillment is coming for you — ready or not.

*"Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: 'This is the time of fulfillment.'" — Mark 1:14*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

## Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

### Question:

Can a person (the mother, father, or provider) ever be forgiven for an abortion?

### Answer:

For people of faith, any conversation of human sinfulness should always lead us to reflect on God's loving mercy. Because God's mercy is greater than any sin, the Church is clear that even those involved in the sin of abortion can be reconciled with God and the Church. To help make this grace more available through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Pope Francis extended the permission to absolve someone of the sin of abortion to all priests in 2016.

Even with the grace and blessings of the Sacrament of Reconciliation, the tragedy of abortion and the aftermath of abortion takes a toll on everyone involved. Ministries of outreach and support, such as Project Rachel, offer pastoral counseling, support groups, retreats, and other forms of care. As Christians, we are also called to help promote this healing and reconciliation in all its forms.

To learn more, visit [www.hopeafterabortion.com](http://www.hopeafterabortion.com).

# Weekly Prayer

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil that he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out. (Jon 3:10)

### Psalm:

Teach me your ways, O Lord. (Ps 25)

### Second Reading:

For the world in its present form is passing away. (1 Cor 7:31)

### Gospel:

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mk 1:14-15)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

The disciples were fishing when Christ found them, hard at work to support their families, casting their nets into the sea. Sometimes when God calls us, we are in the middle of something else. Don't be afraid to change your plans to follow Him.

## Observances for the week of January 21, 2024

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday:** Day of Prayer for the Legal Protection of Unborn Children
- Tuesday:** St. Vincent, Deacon and Martyr; St. Marianne Cope, Virgin
- Wednesday:** St. Francis de Sales, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Thursday:** The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle
- Friday:** Sts. Timothy and Titus, Bishops
- Saturday:** St. Angela Merici, Virgin
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Celebrate Catholic Schools Week



## Saint of the week

St. Juliana of Cornillon, also known as St. Juliana of Liège, is remembered for her steadfast devotion to the Eucharist and her instrumental role in establishing the Feast of Corpus Christi.

## Prayer of Discipleship

Dear Jesus,  
When you call to me, help me to listen. Give me the courage to respond bravely and boldly to your invitation for my life. Amen.

As he passed by the Sea of Galilee, he saw Simon and his brother Andrew casting their nets into the sea; they were fishermen. Jesus said to them, “Come after me, and I will make you fishers of men.”

- Mk 1:16-17

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## Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

### First Reading

The people of Nineveh (the capital city of the Assyrian Empire and historic enemy of Israel) repented of their sins when they heard Jonah’s warning of God’s impending destruction of their city. What motivates you to repent?

### Second Reading

Paul encouraged the believers in Corinth to live with a sense of urgency and in a radically different way than before coming to faith in Jesus. In what way are you living counter-culturally as a person of faith?

### Gospel Reading

This Sunday we hear the first words of Jesus in Mark’s account of the call of the first disciples: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel.” Jesus taught that the time had come for God to come and reclaim His world. What excites you about this message?



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“GOD CERTAINLY KNOWS WHAT IS BEST FOR MY SANCTIFICATION AND I GLADLY REPEAT: ‘THY WILL BE DONE.’”

MARTYR OF CHARITY

—ST. DAMIEN OF MOLOKAI



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He walked along a little farther and saw James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They too were in a boat mending their nets. Then he called them. So they left their father Zebedee in the boat along with the hired men and followed him. - Mk 1:19-20

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