

Readings for the week of January 28, 2024

Sunday:

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

Monday:

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Ps 3:2-3, 4-5,
6-7/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday:

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30—19:3/
Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday:

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday:

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12/1 Chr 29:10, 11ab,
11d-12a, 12bcd/Mk 6:7-13

Friday:

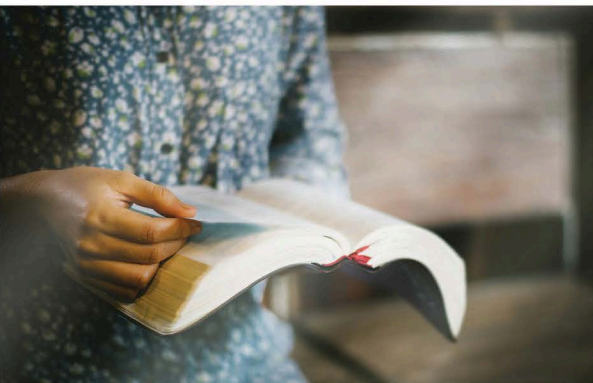
Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Ps 24:7, 8, 9, 10/
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Saturday:

1 Kgs 3:4-13/Ps 119:9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14/
Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday:

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6
(see 3a)/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39



Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.
The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for
Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in
the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.



Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie “Nefarious” features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like *multiple* persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel *fake* sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, **“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”** Notice the plural, *us*. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man’s identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, **“Quiet! Come out of him!”** Jesus’ word has the power to restore the man’s singularity — *him* — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

What Have You to Do with Me, Jesus of Nazareth?

Inevitably, when we read the story of the Garden of Eden, my children try to imagine what life would be like if Adam and Eve had not sinned against God.

“Would we have to go to school?” they ask me.
“Would we get sick? Could we eat whatever we want? Would we get older?”

I tell them the only thing I know for sure about a world without sin is that we would be happier. I can see confusion in their faces — *Why? How?* — but I have none of the concrete answers they want. I don’t know how to describe a happiness untouched by sin.

The moment sin entered the world, a chasm erupted between God and mankind. There is now a space between humanity and the divine, a cavernous and seemingly impassable void into which God calls for us, unendingly. And because we are lost in the dark, and miserable, instead of following his voice when we hear it, instead we reply: “What do you want?”

“What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?”

Did the unclean spirit know, when he cried out all those thousands of years ago in Capernaum, that he was giving voice to a question which defined the human condition? They are the words of a demon, yes, but they are also my words. Far, far more often than I care to admit, when God is reaching for me, I look upon His hand with contempt and confusion. When I am grappling with a problem or a sin which overwhelms me, again and again I forget that I already know the solution.

The tragedy of original sin is not that we live in a world where we cannot eat what we want, where we age, and where we become sick and die. The tragedy of sin is that we have forgotten how to be happy. We look at happiness and we think: “What do you want with me?”

“If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”
— Psalm 95:7

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

I have a friend who receives communion, but who I know for a fact is in a state of mortal sin. Should I tell our priest? Is it my responsibility to say something?

Answer:

While we may always want to do what is best for our friends and family members, we have a responsibility to respect their privacy and their conscience. In its reflections on the Eighth Commandment (“You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor”), the Catechism of the Catholic Church states, “Respect for the reputation of persons forbids every attitude and word likely to cause them unjust injury. [One] becomes guilty: -of rash judgment who, even tacitly, assumes as true, without sufficient foundation, the moral fault of a neighbor; -of detraction who, without objectively valid reason, discloses another’s faults and failings to persons who do not know them; of calumny who, by remarks contrary to the truth, harms the reputation of others and gives occasion for false judgments concerning them” (no. 2477).

We will never truly know what is in a person’s mind, heart, and soul; only God knows those things. We should, of course, take our concerns to God and entrust the person about whom we are concerned to God’s grace and mercy. If we have concerns about the spiritual wellbeing of someone with whom we are close, we should go to the person themselves and talk about our fears and concerns. Unless it is a case of abuse or endangerment (which we have a moral and even legal responsibility to report to the appropriate authorities), we ultimately do not have the freedom to share another’s persons faults or sins, however good we think our intentions might be.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him." (Dt 18:18)

Psalm:

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. (Ps 95)

Second Reading:

An unmarried woman or a virgin is anxious about the things of the Lord, so that she may be holy in both body and spirit. (1 Cor 7:34)

Gospel:

The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes. (Mk 1:22)

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

With one swift command, Jesus freed a man from the possession of evil spirits. He has that same power to banish the shadow of sin from our own lives. Let's invite him into our hearts, asking him to cleanse the darkness he finds there.

Observances for the week of January 28, 2024

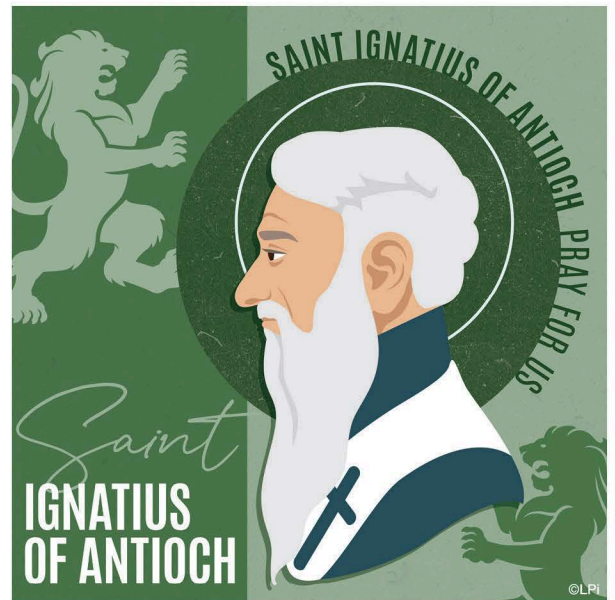
Sunday: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time,
Celebrate Catholic Schools Week

Wednesday: St. John Bosco, Priest

Friday: The Presentation of the Lord,
World Day for Consecrated Life

Saturday: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr;
St. Ansgar, Bishop

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Saint of the week

St. Ignatius of Antioch, a bishop of Antioch in the first century, was a direct disciple of the apostle John. Despite being thrown to the lions and martyred in Rome's Colosseum for his faith, his teachings and hope for Christian unity live on as early examples of Christian theology.

Prayer for the Youth

Dear Lord,

Be with our young people this week and always — keep them in Your care. Help them to form godly friendships, speak the truth, and know You in the personal way that will challenge, shape, and guide them. Amen.

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.” His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee. - Mk 1:27-28

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Moses taught the Israelites that God would raise up a prophet like him to teach them the Lord’s commands. But he also forewarned about false prophets. How can we avoid listening to false prophetic voices?

Second Reading

Paul expresses his desire for the Corinthian believers to be free of anxiety so they can focus their attention and energies on Jesus. What distracts you from the Lord?

Gospel Reading

Mark informs us that early in Jesus’s public ministry his “fame spread” quickly throughout Galilee because of his powerful deeds, such as the healing of the demon-possessed man in today’s reading. Is there something or someone in your life that you pray Jesus would heal?



Support our local advertisers

Please show your support for your parish by also supporting our advertisers. We wouldn’t be able to bring you our bulletin every week without them. Please encourage and remind others to show their support and shop local.

FATHER OF MONASTICISM

“ THE DEVIL RUNS AWAY WHEN WE MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS. ”

-ST. ANTHONY THE GREAT



In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!” Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!” - Mk 1:23-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.