

JANUARY 28, 2024

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL

Deacon: Dcn. Joe Jacobs

Administrative Assistant: Becky Griffith

Custodian: Lisa Scalf

**137 Bryan Street
Pikeville, Kentucky 41501
Phone: 606-437-6117**

**Website: www.stfrancispikeville.org
Email: stfrancischurch@cdlex.org
App: St Francis Pikeville**

MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.



4th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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." Mk 1:27



From the Pastor's Desk....

Sunday Offertory

01/21-2023.....\$2,478
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/Deficit.....\$222
 YTD Offertory.....\$90,893
 Budget.....\$81,000
Surplus/Deficit.....\$9,893



Deuteronomy 18:15-20
1 Corinthians 7:32-35
Mark 1:21-28

As Moses challenged the Israelites to listen to God's voice, so we are called to hear the voice of Jesus and live out his teachings by what we say and do, whatever our vocation in life may be.

**Readings may be found
 in the Saint Augustine
 Hymnal Number 989**

Happy Sunday everyone!

I want to take a look at our first reading from the Book of Deuteronomy. Moses tells the people that "the Lord will raise up a prophet after me". It is easy to read that line in the light of all the prophets of the Old Testament. Obviously, there were many prophets that came after Moses, but not one of them had quite the same importance as Moses. In fact, the Jews saw this prophecy as a promise that God would bring them a new leader, a new lawgiver, and a new guide to a new Exodus. This is big stuff, and the Jews rightly saw this as a promise of the Messiah.

The Gospel this weekend tries to cast Jesus in the light of this promise. Jesus is much more than a prophet. His words have power to drive out demons and cure the sick. He is the Messiah that God's people have been waiting for.

Fr. Rob

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, January 27	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	Poor Souls
Sunday, January 28	10:30 am Mass	For the People
Monday, January 29	No Mass	
Tuesday, January 30	Noon Mass	+Drew and Lexi Dreggors
Wednesday, January 31	Noon Mass	+Tederick Evangelista
Thursday, February 1	Noon Mass	+Drew and Lexi Dreggors
Friday, February 2	Noon Mass	+Tederick Evangelista
Saturday, February 3	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Covie Joseph Schmdit
Sunday, February 4	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

2023 YEAR END DONATION

STATEMENT - If you would like a donation statement, you can call the office at 606-437-6117, email rgriffith@cdlex.org or stop by the office. I am here Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday until 3:00 pm.

LECTOR ROTATION - Below are the name and dates of the lector rotation.

01/28 Lauren Vanderpool
 02/04 David Hicks
 02/11 Russ Cassidy
 02/18 Doyle May
 02/25 Steve Misczenski
 03/03 Sidney Cline

"If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118".

ROSARY - We will be meeting at **noon** the first Saturday of each month to say the Rosary.

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
 ©LPi

COMMUNION & MORTAL SIN

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. ©LPi



- Ransom McCoy, Lindsay May's dad
- Terry A. Williams, Becky Griffith's brother in law (lung cancer)
- Jimmie Goss
- Tim Deskins
- Christine Misczenski, Steve Misczenski's mother
- Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt's mother
- Ryan Altman, Helen Altman's grandson
- Steve Misczenski, Sr. (cancer)
- Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf's friend (kidney failure)
- Deacon Dirck Curry
- Frank Shortridge, Becky Griffith's brother (ALS)
- John Fliehman, stroke
- Chona Curry
- Wanda Baker
- Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa's son
- Sandy Lowe, cancer
- Ron Saros
- Kenny Blackburn
- Helen Altman
- Margarita Gomez
- Fran Sykes

VOTIVE CANDLES:

Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50



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.

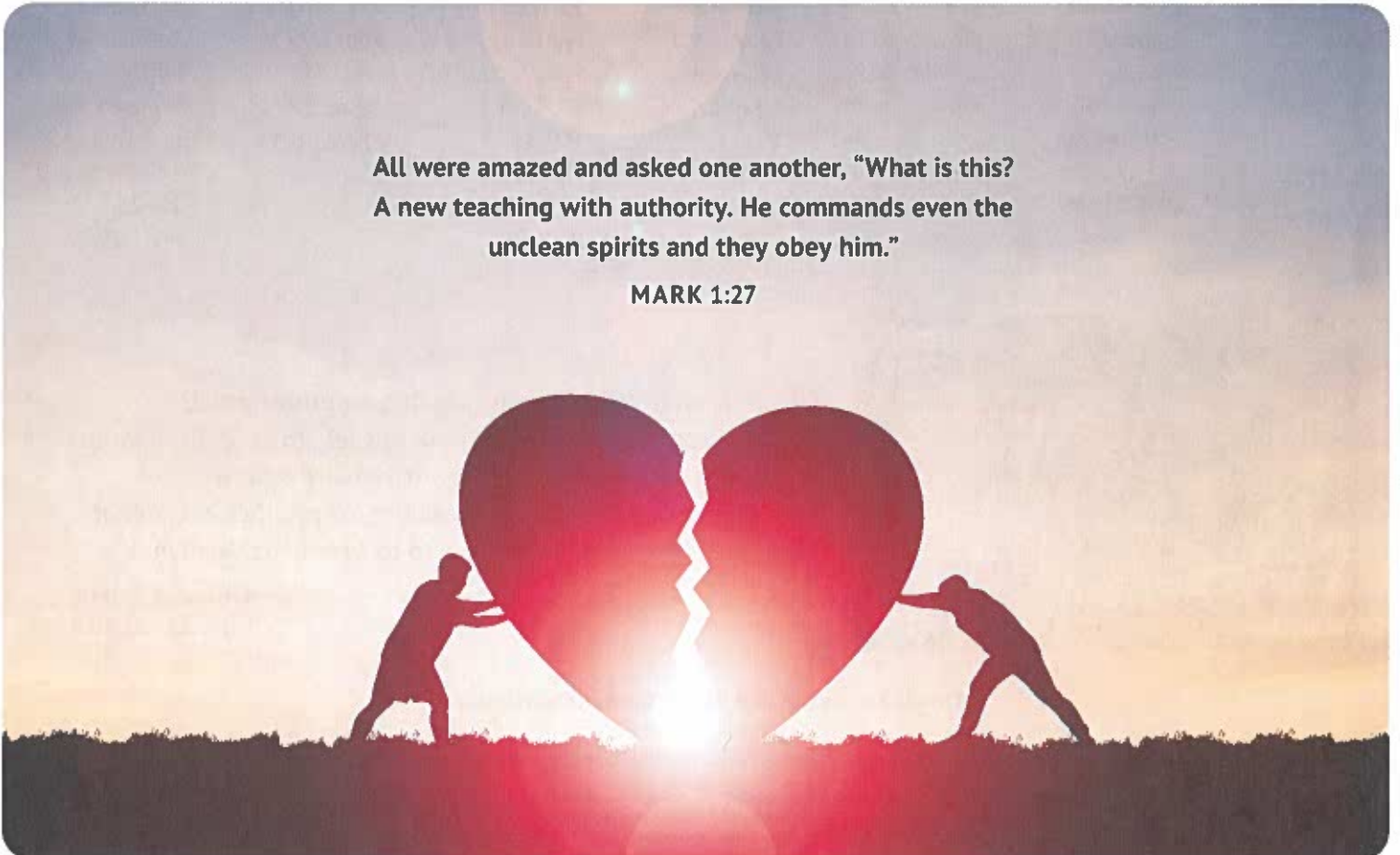
Saint Paul was not against marriage. He would be the first to say that, ideally, marriage can and often does reveal the depths of human love, but he would also say that it takes work; it doesn’t happen all by itself. Just as readily, St. Paul would also note that, ideally, celibacy can and often does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



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). ●



VOLODYMYR ZAKHAROV / SHUTTERSTOCK

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>St. John Bosco, Priest</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Presentation of the Lord</i>	<i>Weekday</i>	<i>Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i>
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

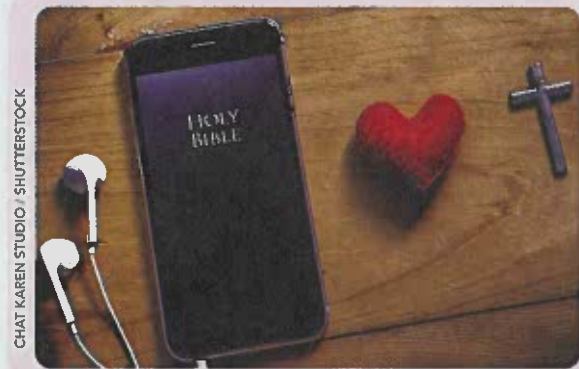
Do we listen to Jesus’ words, which are authoritative? Always...carry a small copy of the Gospel...to read throughout the day, to listen to that authoritative word of Jesus. And then...let us ask Jesus: “Jesus, you are the prophet, the Son of God, the one who was promised to us to heal us. Heal me!”

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CHAT KAREN STUDIO / SHUTTERSTOCK