



Catholic Schools  
United in Faith and Community

## Sunday Reflection With Fr. Rafal

Dear Brothers and Sisters of St. Joseph Parish,

God's word comes to us in various ways. The Bible tells us that this word is very powerful and effective in our life and will bear fruit in plenty. On this **4th Sunday in Ordinary Time 2024** the first reading presents to us Moses, the prophet, who is giving his farewell to the people of Israel. He tells them they will always have God's word to guide them as they enter into the Promised Land. God will give them a prophet like himself to take care of them. In the second reading Paul gives advice to both married and the unmarried. He wants them to be free of all their anxieties and offer their single hearted service to God.

In the Gospel we have the typical day in the life of Jesus. He was a preacher, teacher, healer and a man of prayer. Today's passage demonstrates the power and authority of Jesus as he expels an unclean spirit from a man and heals him. People look at him with admiration for he spoke with authority and power. Jesus taught people the love of God from his heart as he was close to his Father. He taught with absolute conviction and authority in his message because he was aware that his message was in accordance with the mind of God.

Let me share with you a brief story: in the life of St. Francis of Assisi it is said that he called one day a brother and said let us go to teach the good news in the town. Both of them set out and just walked round the town without uttering a word of preaching. Instead they greeted all on the way, had a kind words for the onlookers. When the brother asked Francis when they would stop to preach, he replied that their entire walk they had was his teaching to people. Jesus is presented to us today as a preacher. He preached the word of God and he did it delicately. He preached about God and his saving work among the people chosen by him. He would have explained the presence of God among them and his own role as God's chosen one. There was something attractive in his teaching and they longed to listen to him.

As we reflect this week upon this spiritual knowledge and understanding of the Word of God, let us remember the calling that each one of us has received as children of God through the Sacrament of Baptism. Let us answer that calling by living our vocations without anxieties, placing our faith, hope and trust in Jesus who has all authority as the only begotten Son of God. So, let us all pray today that Jesus, with his authority will be a real source of liberation for us. May he free us from all those spirits which make us deaf, blind and lame in life.

May **National Catholic Schools Week (January 28 – February 3, 2024)** bring you Faith, Hope and Trust in God. Let us all pray and support our St. Joseph Catholic School and our Students – the future of our Church!

God bless!

*Fr. Rafal Ligenza.*

Pastor — St. Joseph Catholic Church

