

## PARISH CALENDER

Fourth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time

January 28, 2024

Save us,  
O Lord our God!

Saturday, January 27	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Sunday, January 28	..... 7:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:00 a.m.	Mass ( <b>Live Stream</b> )
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass
Monday, January 29	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Tuesday, January 30	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Wednesday, January 31	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 9:30-11:00 a.m.	Food Pantry Open
Thursday, February 1	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Friday, February 2	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
Saturday, February 3	..... 7:30 a.m.	Liturgy of Hours/Rosary
	..... 8:00 a.m.	Mass
	..... 3:15-4:00 p.m.	<b>Confession - Church</b>
	..... 5:00 p.m.	Mass



### NEXT SUNDAY READINGS:

**Jb:7:1-4, 6-7:** Job lamented his “months of misery, and troubled nights. “Could human life on earth be no more than drudgery?  
**1 Cor:9:16-19, 22-23:** By preaching the good news, Paul said, he willingly made himself a slave to all in order to win them over.

**Mk:1:29-39:** Jesus healed ill people and exorcised possessed people. So many sought him that he had to seek our deserted places for prayer and rest.

### GOSPEL REFLECTION

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!” The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. Mark 1:23–26

It’s interesting to note that this unclean spirit immediately knows Who Jesus is. This is because each of two opposites emphasizes the other very clearly. For example, the color black is most clearly seen when it is placed in front of something white. Or something hot is most noticeable after experiencing something very cold. And a loud noise is most jarring when someone is sitting in silence. And so it is with Jesus and evil. Jesus, the Holy One of God, is most clearly seen when He comes in contact with an unclean spirit.

This fact gives us some wonderful insights into our journey toward the heights of holiness. Oftentimes, when one experiences a profound and transforming conversion, it is because they were first living a life of sin. When one who is living in sin encounters the saving grace of God, it is quite noticeable. And that is good.

But there is also another spiritual insight we can take from this. To further the analogy, it is also true that when the color black is put next to something dark blue, or something hot is touched after holding something quite warm, there is less notice taken. So it is with the spiritual life. When we are striving to obtain true holiness of life, and when we are already living the many virtues to which we are called, the next step closer to God might not be nearly as noticeable. Instead, growth in perfection for one who is already striving for perfection will be very subtle. And that is also good.

This is important to understand because sometimes, when a person has gone through a powerful conversion earlier in life, they want to return to the experience they had when they initially converted. But that should not be our goal. Instead, we should continually strive to experience these more subtle changes that take us from a life of holiness to one of even greater holiness. In this case, if you do not sense a powerful contrast of spiritual experiences within you, that may be simply because there are no serious sins you are trying to overcome. Thus, the ideal for every Christian is to eventually experience less contrasting spiritual experiences and more that are gentle and subtle as our Lord continues to gently perfect you in many ways.

**Reflect, today, upon your own spiritual journey toward holiness. If you do see serious sin in your life, know that God wants to profoundly free you and draw you through a major conversion. If you do not see serious sin in your life and if you already strive daily to become holy, then rejoice if your spiritual consolations and communications from God are much more subtle and, at times, undetectable. Keep working at perfection and rejoice that you are on the correct path.**

Lord of all holiness, please continue to draw me into the life of perfection. Help me to grow in every virtue and to continually be aware of every gift of grace I am given. Please help me, especially, to be attentive to every small and subtle grace and to respond to those graces with a truly open and grateful heart. Jesus, I trust in You!

..(My Catholic Life)



# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## SHARE YOUR FAITH: SUPPORT THE COLLECTION

**FOR THE CHURCH IN LATIN AMERICA:** This weekend we will take up the Collection for the Church in Latin America and the Caribbean, a rising secular culture, difficult rural terrain, and a shortage of ministers all present obstacles to practicing the faith. Your support for the collection provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, and other programs to share our Catholic faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ. To learn more about how your gifts make a difference, visit [www.usccb.org/latin-america](http://www.usccb.org/latin-america).

**BLACK AND INDIAN MISSION COLLECTION:** This weekend we will take up the Collection for the Black and Indian Missions: This Collection has for the last 131 years, changed the landscape of evangelization and education efforts for Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans throughout the United States. Our financial support of the Collection is the mechanism that affects the Church's evangelization efforts. We all agree that never have the needs for the Native Americans, Alaskan Americans and African Americans communities been so great. Envelopes are in you envelop packets and at the back of church.

**WORD OF LIFE:** "Many people are unaware that someone they know personally is silently suffering from participation in abortion. If a friend confided in you tomorrow that she had an abortion, would you be able to respond in a way that brings her closer to healing? Learn how in "How to Talk to a Friend Who's Had an Abortion": <http://bit.ly/friend-had-abortion> USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life-Activities

## WEEKLY READINGS

**Jan 28 Sun: Fourth Sunday In Ordinary Time**

Dt:18:15-20; Ps:95; 1 Cor:7:32-35; Mk:1:21-28

**Jan 29 Mon: Ordinary Weekday**

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

**Jan 30 Tue: Ordinary Weekday**

2 Sm:18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Ps:86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6;

Mk:5:21-43

**Jan 31 Wed: Saint John Bosco, Priest**

2 Sam:24:2, 917; Ps:32:1-2, 5, 6, 7; Mk:6:1-6

**Feb 1 Thur: Ordinary Weekday**

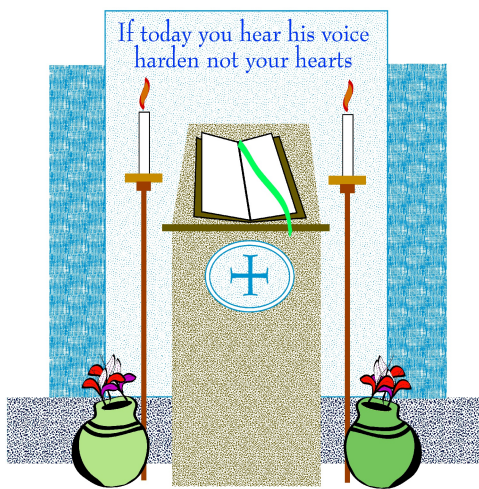
1 Kgs:2:1-4, 10-12; 1 Chr:29:10, 11ab, 11d-12a, 12bcd; Mk:6:7-13

**Feb 2 Fri: The Presentations of the Lord**

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

**Feb 3 Sat: Ordinary Weekday**

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



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## NOTE ON STEWARDSHIP

A central theme in today's Gospel reading is the nature and extent of Jesus' authority. The people were astonished, "for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." Jesus' authority brought blessings to people including healing and comfort. His authority possessed an irresistible power that drew people not through manipulation, but simply by the person that he was and the gifts that he gave. Good stewards reveal the power and authority of Christ through the words they use and deeds they perform every day. At times their stewardship leaves them open to ridicule and scorn. But having the courage to imitate Jesus invites others to imagine a different world. What can we do this week to reveal Christ's authoritative presence in the world? **International Catholic Stewardship Council**

## GOD'S INTERPRETER

God speaks to us in different ways because we do not always listen the same. We experience God in our communion at church, in the simplicity of nature, in the Sacred Scriptures, and in the counsel of the wise. But God often uses another person to bring a message to us, because we cannot hear it on our own. During their exodus from Egypt, the chosen people heard the words of God through Moses. They liked it that way. They thought if they heard God's Word directly they would die. They needed an intermediary to shield them from the awesome power of God's presence.

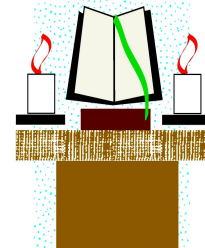
God loved them and wanted them to hear the sacred words of the covenant. So God used Moses, and they listened to him.

God did even more for these people. God promised to give them another prophet from among their kin. God knew that in later generations we would have the same problem. We do not always listen to God the same. We need someone to help us interpret.

In the fullness of time, God raised up a prophet like Moses. Jesus sits at God's right hand and intercedes for us. Human and divine, Jesus helps us hear God's Word.

**Lectionary Bulletin Inserts: Reflections on the First and Second Readings, Year B © 2019 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner. Lectionary for Mass © 2001, CCD.**

The Lord  
is with us



in  
sacrament  
and word

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