

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 Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked” (CCC 121).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).

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
Weekday	Weekday	St. John Bosco, Priest	Weekday	Presentation of the Lord	Weekday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Sm 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a, 30–19:3	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17	1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12	Mal 3:1–4	1 Kgs 3:4–13	Jb 7:1–4, 6–7
Mk 5:1–20	Mk 5:21–43	Mk 6:1–6	Mk 6:7–13	Heb 2:14–18	Mk 6:30–34	1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23
				Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32		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!”

ANGELUS, ROME, JANUARY 31, 2021

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

Catholic Update explores contemporary issues through the lens of Catholic teaching and traditions. Print and digital subscriptions! For more information, visit Liguori.org or call 800-325-9521.



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VOLODIMIR ZAKHAROV / SHUTTERSTOCK

Our Parish COMMUNITY

January 28, 2024  
Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
Deuteronomy 18:15–20 / 1 Corinthians 7:32–35 / Mark 1:21–28



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.

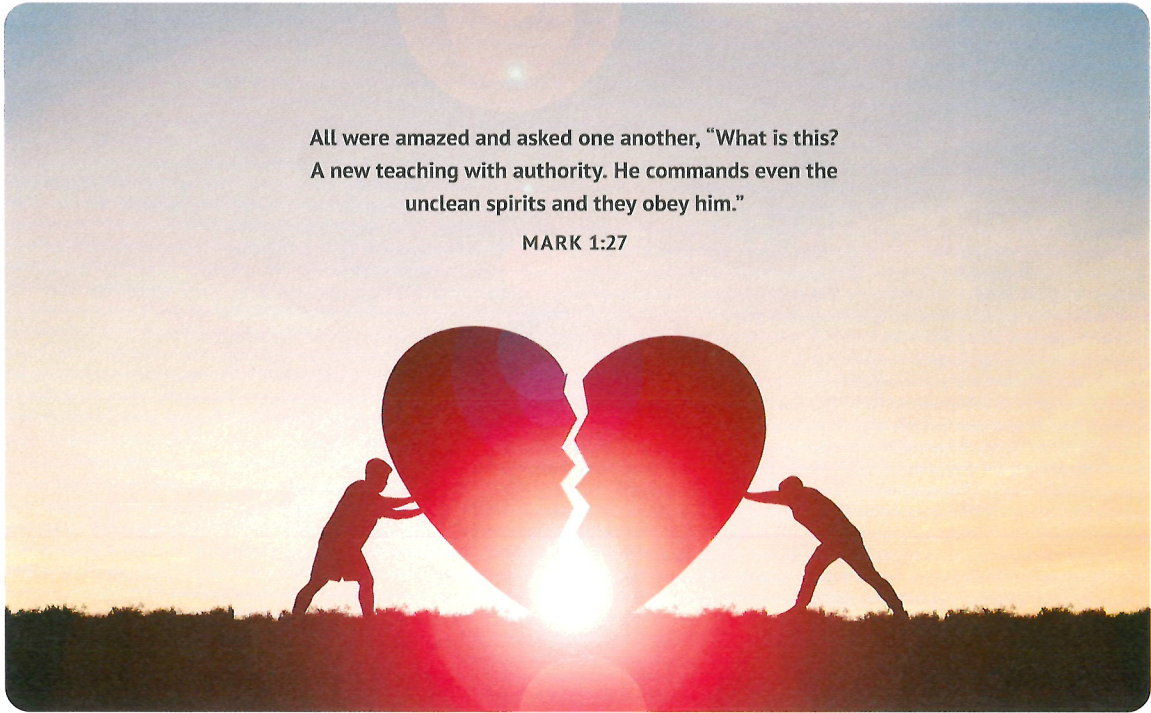
While St. Paul writes to the Corinthians that it is better to be unmarried than married, the purpose of this advice is to keep life simple and focused on what is important. Don’t make any long-term commitments like buying a field, or starting a business, or even getting married. Be ready and prepared 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



Sunday, January 28, 2024 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

**ST. JUDE PARISH BULLETIN**

Sunday Mass at 9:30 a.m.

Confessions by appointment or after Mass on Thursday

Weekly Thursday Mass – 10:30 a.m., Adoration at 9:00 a.m.

Website: [www.stjudeparishgobles.com](http://www.stjudeparishgobles.com) Office: (269) 628-2219

Pastor: Fr. Alan Jorgensen Office: (269) 657-4459

Parochial Vicar: Fr. John Tran  
Email: [tuyen4peace@gmail.com](mailto:tuyen4peace@gmail.com)

Pastoral Administrator: Deacon Jim Bauer Office: (269) 628-2219  
P.O. Box 102, 13809 M-40 Cell: (269) 655-6510  
Gobles, MI 49055  
Email: [deaconjimbauer@gmail.com](mailto:deaconjimbauer@gmail.com)

*For pastoral emergencies, contact Deacon Jim on his cell phone.*

**St. Jude Parish Office Hours:**

Hours: Monday through Thursday 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Office Email: [st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com](mailto:st.judeparishgobles@gmail.com)

Administrative Assistant-Bookkeeper:	Lauren Gilbert	(269) 628-2219
Choir Director:	Laura Woods	(269) 628-4866
Religious Ed Coordinator:	Jennifer Price	(269) 377-6734
Safe Environment Coordinator:	Jennifer Rossell	(269) 744-2582

*Mass Intention for today: Jan 28, 2024: Stanley & Mary Perry by Laine Reisch*

**NEXT SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024**

**READER: CCD Students**

**ALTAR SERVERS:**

**Mass intention for Thurs., Feb. 1, 2024: Lawrence Jorgensen by Family Friends**

**Mass intention for Sun., Feb. 4, 2024: Bob & Alice Moore by Chuck McKenna**

**Weekly Collection Information**

<u>Collections:</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Over-(under)</u>	<u>Attendance</u>
Jan. 21, 2024:	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 1,834.00	\$ 66.00	95
Year to Date:	\$ 54,700.00	\$ 55,978.81	\$ 1,278.81	3125

Jesus Teaches with Authority

The people from Capernaum who are in the Synagogue are astonished by how Jesus speaks and teaches with authority. Jesus' teaching is different from the scribes who currently teach them. But what does it mean to teach with authority? The word *authority* comes from roots implying self-doing or even self-being. One acting with authority acts with his own power.

The rabbis, Pharisees, and scribes would have carefully and consistently explained that their teaching stood on the foundation of the word of God in the prophets. Their teaching had power only to exhort, and only because it pointed beyond themselves back to the very power of God. They had no authority themselves; they were not authors, only teachers pointing back to what God had already said.

But Jesus taught as one having authority – having power of his own. Not only is this teaching different from the teaching of the scribes, but it also differs from the teaching of the prophets themselves. Moses, speaking for God, tells the people in our first reading: *I will raise up for them a prophet ... and will put my words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him.* The prophets speak the words of God, not their own. Even to prophesy in this way was a significant risk. Anyone who dared to speak in the name of the Lord something that God did not command risked death for blasphemy – a penalty imposed by God himself through Moses in today's first reading.

And so, Jesus teaching with authority is astonishing indeed! Everything changes with Jesus' entry into human history. When Jesus speaks, God acts. This is a reversal of the action from the era of the prophets. With the prophets, it was God who spoke first, and the prophet then acted on God's command – often speaking God's words to the people. But, in Jesus, we have God's word present in human flesh. When Jesus teaches, his words themselves have power to act. The command of Jesus to the unclean spirit is no mere exhortation; it is not a request or appeal to some higher authority. The words of Jesus, *Quiet*, come out of him! Actually, causes the spirit to come out.

This is true of all the words of Jesus. In the other Gospel passages, Jesus says, *I will come back again and take you to myself, so that where I am, you also may be (John 14:3)*, and *come to me, all who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest (Mt 11:28)*. These are not empty promises; they have authority. Let us then put our trust in him – in the God who loves us that He sent his only Son to speak and act on our behalf, on behalf of our salvation. We can then be free of all anxieties about the things of this world because when Jesus speaks, God acts! This is astonishing indeed.



**FROM OUR DRE:**

Our next student Mass is on February 4.  
Our Second/Third grade class will be leading us.  
First Communion Prep will begin March 6th at 4:00.

**PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ARE ILL:** Steve Klein, Garry Adams, Joan Rumery, David Vana, Phil Boyer, Margie Burris, Lillian B. Wheeler, Frances Parsons, Sonny and Mary Laughlin, Donna Murphy, Jack Secondi, Mary Heinz, Vicki Clark, Paul & Encarna DeRyke, and all those on our Prayer Chain.

**A NEW WAY TO REMEMBER A LOVED ONE** – Here at St. Jude, you can sign up to have a loved one remembered by having the Sanctuary Candle lit for one week in their name (which will be announced in the bulletin). Donations are \$10.00. If you are interested, please call the office at 269-628-2219.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**

**FISH FRY** – The Knights of Columbus would like to invite everyone to our annual Fish Dinners on Fridays during Lent. The dinners will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall at 32373 Red Arrow Highway from 5-7pm starting Friday, February 16th . You can dine in or take out (269-657-2324). Look for a menu on Paw Paw Now and Then as we get closer to the date. We hope to see you there.

**BECOME A KNIGHT TODAY** – Did you know that the international organization known as the Knights of Columbus is 139 years old? That we were founded by a parish priest, Blessed Fr. Michael J. McGivney? That Pope St. John Paul II called the Knights the strong right arm of the church? Did you know that Knights change lives and save lives through our “Faith in Action Programs”? For more information, follow Michigan Knights of Columbus on Facebook [www.facebook.com/MichiganKofC](https://www.facebook.com/MichiganKofC) for more information.

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS FOR JANUARY** - shampoo, sanitary pads, cleaning supplies, deodorant, toilet paper, and cold/flu products. If someone is 60 years of age and over, and their monthly income is \$1580 a month for one person, they can apply to receive CSFP/Senior Commodities each month. If you have any questions, feel free to call 269-501-0224.

**A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE** – Today’s gospel reminds us “unclean spirits” still haunt our families. These “spirits” thrive inside our grudges, punishing silence, impatience, and abruptness. Today Jesus offers you the “authority” to cast out these spirits from your life and your family.

**FROM THE DIOCESE**

**THE KALAMAZOO DIOCESAN COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC WOMEN** in conjunction with Catholic Charities’ Hispanic Ministry office invites you to a Women’s Lenten Day of Reflection: Encountering Jesus in the Eucharist, Saturday, March 2, 2024, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. St. Augustine Cathedral Parish, 542 W. Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo. Register by emailing KDCCW.REG@GMAIL.COM or call Ann Vrablic at 517-812-3727.

**THE HOME HEATING ASSISTANCE PROGRAM BEGAN JANUARY 4, 2024.** If you know someone in need of emergency heating assistance, please contact 269-381-9800 or [homeheating@ccdok.org](mailto:homeheating@ccdok.org). We have many volunteers throughout the diocese to assist neighbors in need. If you are interested in donating to the assistance fund, please visit <https://ccdok.org/donate-today/>. Thank you!

**THE NATIONAL EUCHARISTIC CONGRESS, THIS JULY 17 – 21, INDIANAPOLIS**, currently has tickets available at a **10 percent discount through January 31st** (use the code EMMANUEL). Tickets are available at: <https://www.eucharisticcongress.org/register>

**CIRCLE OF FRIENDS** - This gathering for adults with cognitive/developmental disabilities is a time of fellowship, activities and reflection on the Sunday readings and a simple dinner. We will gather on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 6:00 – 7:30p.m in the Fellowship Room in the Stanley Centre at St. Catherine of Siena, 1150 W. Centre St., Portage. All are welcome! Upcoming gatherings are Feb. 28, Mar. 27, and Apr. 24. Contact Lisa Irwin, [lisairwin@ccdok.org](mailto:lisairwin@ccdok.org) or 381-9800 x227 to RSVP or for more information.

**THE CATHOLIC BISHOP ABUSE REPORTING SERVICE (CBAR)** has been established to receive reports of sexual abuse and related misconduct by bishops and to relay those reports to proper Church authorities for investigation. To make a report, visit [ReportBishopAbuse.org](https://ReportBishopAbuse.org) or phone (800) 276-1562. When a report includes a crime, such as the sexual abuse of a minor, it will also be reported to civil authorities. Otherwise, reports will be kept confidential.