

**JANUARY 29, 2012: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary
Time**



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

Illustration from the Lectionary for Mass (©2011, 1993, 1970 CCB)

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, January 29 (Dt 18:15-20/1 Cor 7:32-35/Mk 1:21-28)

8:00 am- Alois & Buck Leopold
10:30 am- John & Frances Valigura
5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Monday, January 30 (2 Sm 15:13-14, 30; 16:5-13/Mk 5:1-20)

7:00 am- Special Intention
10:00 am- Joe Konvicka, Benefactor (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, January 31, St. John Bosco, Priest (2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30--19:3/Mk 5:21-43)

7:00 am- Paul & Milada Netardus

Wednesday, February 1 (2 Sm 24:2, 9-17/Mk 6:1-6)

7:00 am- Hilbert & Agnes Bludau
8:05 am- James Meisner

Thursday, February 2, The Presentation of the Lord (Mal 3:1-4/Heb 2:14-18/Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32)

7:00 am- William & Ilene Pastucha
10:00 am- Mary R. Janak, Benefactor (Stevens)

Friday, February 3, St. Blaise, Bishop & Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop (Sir 47:2-11/Mk 6:14-29)

7:00 am- Anne Haidusek
8:05 am- Leroy Bludau

Saturday, February 4 (1 Kgs 3:4-13/Mk 6:30-34)

5:30 pm- For our Parish Family

Sunday, February 5 (Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39)

8:00 am- Charles R. Holley
10:30 am- Adele Richardson

Bulletin Sponsor: Bob Kubena in memory of John & Frances Valigura.

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Irene Szwarc in memory of Frank & Agnes Polansky.

Vigil Light: Special Intention for employment.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$5,329.50; Initial Envelopes-\$229; Church Endowment-\$75; Manna-\$1,078; Loose-\$1,103; Children's-\$20.

Anniversaries:

| | | |
|---------------------------|----------|---------|
| William & Margaret Bludau | 56 years | Jan. 31 |
| Billy & Frances Moore | 61 years | Feb. 4 |

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Anita Kallus* and *Caroline Polasek* of our parish family; and, *Dr. Michael Moore*, son of Billy & Frances Moore. *May they and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

If you would like a 2011 contribution statement for tax purposes, please **call** the Rectory to request a statement. Please do not come by the Rectory without calling first. Thank you for your consideration.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29

-First Penance in Church at 2:00 p.m. followed by a Reception in the Family Center.
-Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass

MONDAY, JANUARY 30

-Rosary & Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., Church.
-Parish Finance Council Mtg., 6:00 pm, Mary's House.
-Parish Advisory Council Mtg., 6:30 pm, Mary's House.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 31

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
-Adult Education Class, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

-English Second Language Class, 6:00 pm, Family Center.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 2

-First Friday adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 6:00 p.m. in church. This month's intention: *for family harmony & for the terminally ill.*

-Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration, 7:00 p.m. in church.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 3

-First Friday adoration of the Blessed Sacrament ends with Benediction at 6:00 p.m. in church.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4

-Serra Club Mass for vocations, 8:30 a.m., St. John.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 5

-First Communion Workshop, 2:00 p.m., Family Center.

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Doug Blumberg, Dan & Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Anita Bohuslav, Josephine Janak, Paul Najvar, Irene Bordovsky, Betty Hemmi, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, Red Kahane, Emily Dworsky, Theresa (Alvin) Steffek, Liz Woytek, Hank & Marion Morris, Angela Hermes, Chris Layton, Wade Amsden, Vernell Bozka, Denise DeBord, Frank, Patrick & Robben Neme, Geneva Strmiska, Bea Heinzl, Damas Garcia, Brenda (Orsak) Bludau, Lois Dornak, nursing home residents & the home-bound.

Every First Thursday, the Church commemorates Jesus' institution of the Sacrament of His Body and Blood and of the holy Priesthood which is intrinsically tied to the Eucharist. Join us on Thursday for a special Holy Hour of Eucharistic Adoration in the church from 7:00-8:00 p.m. for the intention of the priests and seminarians of our Diocese of Victoria and to pray for more good and holy priests for the service of our diocese.

God's Embrace Renewal Centers & Fr. Robert Guerra invite you to attend a healing Mass on Friday, Feb. 10 at 7:00 p.m., at Parish of the Nativity, Eagle Lake.

The Feast of St. Blaise, associated with the healing of throats, is on Friday, Feb. 3. The blessing of throats will be held at all Masses on Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

From the Desk of Father John

Congratulations to all of the young people of our parish family who participated in the Livestock Show. We congratulate those who placed in the various categories and those who did not place at the top, but tried their best. This is a great way of learning responsibility.

This week we celebrate Catholic Schools Week. We are very fortunate to have a parish Catholic School. We have very fine public schools in our community as well. Having a Catholic School in the community gives Catholics the opportunity to give their children a well-rounded Catholic education.

The main purpose in parents sending their children to a Catholic School is to receive a complete Catholic education in an atmosphere where prayer is allowed and encouraged, where religion can be taught on a regular basis, where children can participate in the Mass and the Sacraments on a regular basis, and where everything taught is Christian-based. The purpose of the Catholic School is not escape from something or someone, but to move toward overall Christian learning with the guidance and support of the Catholic Church.

I want to thank all of our teachers and staff at Sacred Heart School. They do a very fine job of educating the children. They make many sacrifices to teach here. They are truly dedicated.

I want to also thank the benefactors of the past and the present who have made our school what it is today, those who will help maintain it in the future, and the businesses in our community.

Thank you to the whole parish for supporting and maintaining our Catholic School as a viable choice for Catholic parents to educate their children.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School News
Office 798-4251**

Jan 29-Feb 3: Catholic Schools Week. See insert for activities. **Book Fair:** Monday-Thursday, 7:45 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., and on Thursday, will also be open 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. during Open House. And, on Friday, 7:45 a.m. – 12:00 noon.

Feb 7: QSP Magazine Drive begins. Please contact the school if interested in purchasing magazines or renewing subscriptions, or go to the school website to order on line.

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time – In today's Gospel, Jesus is a confident, self-assured teacher. Yes, He works a miracle. But before we get caught up in that, we should look at how Mark portrays Him. Right at the beginning of the Gospel, Jesus enters the synagogue in Capernaum and starts to teach. Unlike the scribes who would appeal to the words of Jewish teachers to support their teaching, Jesus comes across as confident in His own authority. He has no need to reference what others have handed on. Instead, His teaching commands respect because He shows its truth through His deeds. 2011 Liturgical Publications Inc

Religious Education (CCD) -- Office 798-3124

Angela McConnell, Coordinator

Jan. 29: First Penance, 2:00 p.m. in church.

Feb. 1: No Class – Catholic Schools Week.

Feb. 5: 7th Grade youth involvement, 8:00 a.m. Mass.

First Communion Workshop, 2:00 p.m., Family Center.

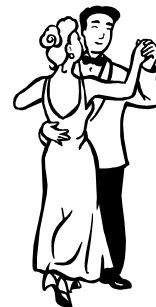
Confirmation Notice: The Confirmation Retreat scheduled for March 3 needs safe environment compliant volunteers. A **planning meeting** is scheduled on **Wed., February 8 @ 7:30 p.m.** in the **Religious Ed. Office.** To have a retreat in compliance with Diocesan guidelines a minimum of 8 adults are required at all times. It would be really nice if many would volunteer, then they could work for a couple of hours each instead of all day like they have in past years. Unfortunately, if we do not have enough volunteers the students will be required to attend the retreat in Victoria with a parent.

Rebecca Kiessling, pro-life speaker & attorney, will be speaking at the Lyceum Lecture Series on Tues., Jan. 31, 12:00 noon, VISD Fine Arts Center, 1002 Sam Houston Dr. Ms. Kiessling was conceived as a result of rape, and her mother, who attempted on two occasions to abort her, gave her up for adoption when she was an infant. She is a pro-life advocate with the perspective of someone who would not be here today if abortion had been legal. Her unique perspective on such a polarizing issue highlights a very different viewpoint on two important & relevant women's issues: rape and abortion.

You are invited to a Celebration of Thanksgiving for Fr. Joe Hybner as he celebrates his retirement. He is presently pastor of Sacred Heart in Flatonina and Sts. Cyril and Methodius in Cistern. RSVP cards are in the entry of the Church.

Hospice volunteer training on Mondays, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m., February 6 – March 26, Hospice of South Texas, 404 N. Texana Avenue, Hallettsville. To register or for information, call Linda Browning, Volunteer Services, 798-2077 or email linda.browning@hospice-vic.org.

St. Philip Catholic Church, El Campo, Sunday, Feb. 12. Rosary 1:30 p.m. followed by Sondra Abrahams speaking of visions she was given during her near death experience of heaven, hell, purgatory & the future. For more information, call 979-543-3770.



**Sacred Heart School Extravaganza
"A Black & White Affair"**

Saturday, February 4, 2012

Knights of Columbus Hall

Social with hors d'oeuvres 6:00-7:30 p.m.

Steak Dinner 7:30-9:00 p.m.

Dance 9:00 p.m.-12:00 a.m.

(Music by Cactus Country of San Antonio)

Tickets - \$125 per couple

Some tickets are still available for purchase at the Sacred Heart School Office and the Rectory.





**Catholic Schools Week Activities
January 29 – February 3**

This year's theme is "Catholic Schools: Faith. Academics. Service". The theme expresses three priorities that make Catholic Schools stand out from other educational institutions. Children learn about faith-not just basic Christianity, but how to have a relationship with God. They concentrate on academics, which in Catholic schools are held to the highest standards, so they can reach their highest potential. They practice service-giving time, talent and effort to help others-as an expression of both faith and good citizenship. This combined focus on faith, academics and service prepares students for full and meaningful lives. Please join our Catholic Schools Week celebration.

Saturday, January 28 and Sunday, January 29

"Celebrating with our Parish:

We want to extend our very heartiest thanks to the Sacred Heart parishioners for everything they have done to support Sacred Heart Catholic School since 1882. Students, faculty, and parents will participate in the various ministries at all weekend Masses.

Monday, January 30

"Celebrating with our Vocation Leaders"

Today we recognize all clergy and religious who serve God, particularly those at Sacred Heart. Clergy and religious will visit classrooms, discuss their religious life, and lead prayers for vocations.

Tuesday, January 31

"Celebrating with our Students"

We believe in the respect for life and the goodness, abilities, and bright future of our students. A special Respect Life Prayer Service and March will be held at 8:05 a.m. beginning in the church. A special Awards Ceremony will be held for grades K-8 at 8:45 a.m. in the gym.

Wednesday, February 1

Today we remember the vital role that Catholic schools have played in American civic life during their 400-year history, especially here in Hallettsville since 1882. A live radio broadcast will be held at 10:00 a.m. on KTXM 99.9 FM to celebrate "National Appreciation Day For Catholic Schools."

Thursday, February 2

"Celebrating with our Community"

We recognize the leaders and servants within our community that support Sacred Heart Catholic School. These special guests will be invited for lunch and special recognition. Our Annual Open House will be from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. and the Home and School Association will be serving soup and sandwiches in the cafeteria during this time. The annual Coronation sponsored by the senior class will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the gym. Entertainment will be provided by our students.

Friday, February 3

"Celebrating with our Faculty and Staff"

We recognize that the dedication, enthusiasm and innovations of our teachers, staff, and volunteers truly make Catholic schools places for learning, celebration and spiritual growth. A special Rededication ceremony of our faculty and staff will be held at the 8:05 a.m. Mass. Classes will dismiss at 12:00 noon.

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

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

MONDAY

Mark 5:1–20

“... tell them how much the Lord has done for you ...”

TUESDAY

Mark 5:21–43

“... your faith has made you well.”

WEDNESDAY

Mark 6:1–6

“Prophets are not without honor ...”

THURSDAY*

Luke 2:22–40

“... the favor of God was upon him.”

FRIDAY

Mark 6:14–29

“Jesus’ name had become known.”

SATURDAY

Mark 6:30–34

“Come away ... and rest ...”

**Feast of the Presentation of the Lord*

Intimacy and Freedom

It is easy to misunderstand Paul in today's second reading. He recommends that the Corinthians remain celibate; therefore, we might conclude that there is something wrong with marriage. This is not Paul's intent. Paul was convinced that Jesus would return during his lifetime. With everything about to change, he felt it was not the time to assume the responsibilities of family life.

Today, we still believe Jesus will come but we do not know when. This allows us to recognize that marriage and celibacy each reveal an important quality of discipleship.

Marriage gives witness to the necessity of intimacy in every person's life. While, celibacy gives witness to freedom. The celibate person is freer to use his or her time and energy for the service of God's people because he or she does not have the responsibility of spouse or children.

Marriage and celibacy complement each other because every person needs a combination of intimacy and freedom in their life. The celibate requires intimacy—not the sexual intimacy of marriage—but deep, honest relationships with family and friends. And married people must be free enough to realize that their personhood is larger than the roles of spouse or parent. They have a call beyond family to build God's Kingdom.

Marriage and celibacy are not in competition. They each witness to an essential truth: the need to connect to another person—the call to serve God's people.



The Faith of the Church

The dignity and holiness of marriage was affirmed by the bishops of the Second Vatican Council. In the Sacrament of Marriage, Christian spouses are consecrated in the duties and dignity of their calling. Their lives are penetrated with the spirit of Christ, which suffuses their whole lives with faith, hope, and charity. They thereby grow in perfection and holiness, giving glory to God (*Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World* 48).



Questions of the Week

Jesus' dramatic healing in the synagogue invites us to recognize the authority and healing power that can come into our lives through the witness of marriage and celibacy.

Adults

Who has shown me the most effective example of married love or the blessings of celibacy? What have I learned from these witnesses?

Children

Can I see ways in which God is present in the love shown between two married people that I know?

Responding to God's Word . . .

Paul clearly believed that every person has a calling from God. The word "vocation" comes from the Latin root "to call." Every person has a vocation to serve God in a particular way. Some do so through the commitment of marriage. Others do so by remaining single.

We can grow in our vocation by recognizing the witness of the vocations that differ from our own. Those who are celibate must claim the importance of intimacy to which marriage witnesses. They must know that unless they build close relationships, their freedom can become empty and sterile. They can

become selfish bachelors and self-absorbed spinsters.

Married people must recognize the value of freedom to which celibacy witnesses. Without the freedom to extend their love beyond spouse and family, their lives can become narrow and stifling, even oppressive.

Since we all have been called by God, we should not only live the vocation we have been given, but also learn from the example of those who live another calling. By doing this, we can see more clearly the fullness of God's plan and become the people and the church that God calls us to be.

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Spend some time with the person to whom you feel the closest in your family. Share with him or her how your closeness helps you to live more deeply.

In the workplace or in school. Identify someone who is dealing with separation or divorce. Find a way to offer your support.

In the community. Thank God for those with whom you share life and ask God to help you find the right balance of freedom and intimacy in your relationships.



Meditation Moment

The movie *The Exorcist* is based on a true story of a boy from Mount Rainier, Maryland. *Newsweek* magazine wrote of the boy: "After he was admitted to Georgetown University Hospital . . . the boy began to mouth fierce curses in ancient languages and at one point, while strapped helplessly in his bed, long scratches appeared on his body."

The boy survived and now lives near Washington, D.C. This true story recalls how Jesus expelled evil spirits—a sign that God's Kingdom was replacing Satan's Kingdom. It also reminds us that we must finish what Jesus began.

For reflection . . .

What is one way I am working to finish the war against evil that Jesus began?

BE FIRM IN YOUR FAITH
AND RESIST [THE DEVIL].

1 PETER 5:9

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

The Prayer of a Witness

Faithful
God, you have made
me a part of the human
community and given me the
power to influence others for good
or ill. Allow me to love those closest
to me in such a way that others can
see the value of intimacy and seek it in
their lives. Allow me to see myself as
an agent of your Kingdom and serve
you so clearly that others may find
the freedom to do your will
with more conviction
and joy. Amen.

Carry this thought in your heart as a
guide for your faith journey this week.

I now am taking this kinswoman
of mine, not because of lust, but
with sincerity. Grant that she
and I may find mercy and that
we may grow old together.

Tobias' Marriage Prayer
Tobit 8:7

Profile in Faith

Tobias and Sarah

The Book of Tobit tells a fascinating story that shows how God works in the ordinary lives of believers. The sacredness of marriage is reflected in a prayer that Tobias prays with his wife, Sarah, on their wedding night.

This prayer can be used by Catholic couples as an option for their wedding liturgy.

NIHIL OBSTAT
Rev. Msgr. Robert M. Coerver, Censor Librorum
IMPRIMATUR

† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
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