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MARY KAY HENNESSY, PRINCIPAL
SCHOOL.STNORBERT.ORG

January 31, 2021

MASS & WORSHIP SCHEDULE

SATURDAY VIGIL: 5:00PM

SUNDAY MASSES: 9:00AM; 11:00AM

Spanish @ 1:30PM; Youth Mass @ 6:00PM

MONDAY-FRIDAY: 7:30AM; **SATURDAY** 7:30AM

RECONCILIATION: **SUNDAYS** 9:45AM–10:30AM;

or by **APPOINTMENT**, call 610.644.1655

ADORATION: **THURSDAYS** 7:00PM–8:00PM

CLERGY

REV. STEVEN J. ALBERO, O.PRAEM., PASTOR

REV. JAMES C. RODIA, O.PRAEM., PAROCHIAL VICAR

DEACON HANK FILA

DEACON JOHN P. LOZANO

DEACON STEVE MARTINO

DEACON WILLIAM M. MASAPOLLO (RETIREDE)

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Who speaks for God? How can we determine which are authentic, authoritative expressions of God's intentions, and which are false? Today's readings explore the question of authority in distinct ways. In Deuteronomy, Moses prepares the people of Israel for his coming death, indicating that God will raise up a new prophet to guide them. Mark describes Jesus as God's authentic voice, by the authority of his teaching and the authority he commands over an unclean spirit. In both, authority comes directly from God. Authority comes from an intimate relationship with God and with God's people. God's spokesperson is one who teaches, protects, and heals the people loved by God. As always, there is great need today for leaders in our communities who radically trust God to work through them. Let us pray that each person who performs in a role of leadership may speak for God with an authentic voice.

RESCUE FROM BONDAGE

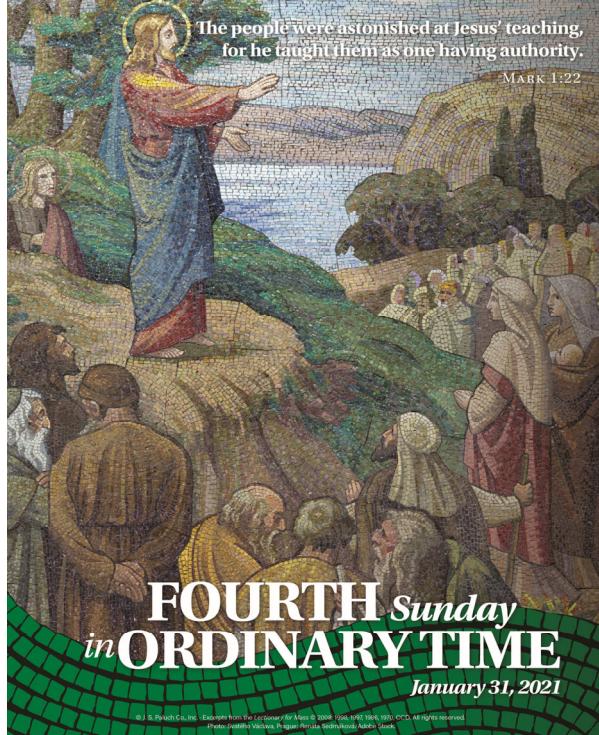
Uniquely in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' public ministry begins with a direct confrontation with an unclean spirit. Today's Gospel passage reflects a recurring theme in Mark, that Jesus' coming is part of a cosmic battle between God and evil forces. It was commonly believed that many spirits were present in the world, and some sought to control human beings. Mark asserts that in Jesus, God has come to rescue humanity, to free us from every form of bondage.

In today's passage, the unclean spirit does not surrender power quietly. After complaints, convulsions, and screams, the spirit finally departs. As we may witness in own experience, that which binds us—fear, injustice, resentment—often departs only after a mighty struggle. Confronting anything "unclean" in our hearts, our institutions, or our society often involves a long journey toward freedom. May we sustain our efforts and our trust in God, during these long struggles.

PROPHETS IN DAILY LIFE

Moses assures Israel of God's continued presence by promising a new prophet. Like Moses, the prophet will be raised up directly by God. But how to distinguish a true prophet from a false one? Many claim to speak for God. The task is complicated by the fact that often, true prophets make waves, cause trouble, and disturb how things are normally done. Many simply don't want to hear what God is saying, because it threatens their privilege, comfort, or sense of identity.

Like the Israelites in today's reading, it can be hard for us to bear the voice of God. For God calls us out of all the ways we avoid opening our hearts to God and to others. And so, God raises up surprise prophets in daily life. These are all the people and events who summon us to fuller maturity in love and in faith. We are called upon to always be ready for the prophetic word that may emerge from God's surprises.



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time
January 31, 2021
 Come, let us bow down in worship; let us
 kneel before the LORD who made us.
 — Psalm 95:6

Sunday, January 31

- 5PM VIGIL † **Eleuteria Clata Aqui**
- 9:00AM † **Ross, Clark,
MacWilliams &
Stanziola Family**
- 11:00AM † **Edward J. Carney,
III**
- 1:30PM † **Pastor's Intentions**
- 6:00PM † **Sal Scaramuzzino**

Monday, February 1

- 7:30 AM † **Ralph, Sr., Mary
Elsie & Frances
DiFronzo**

Tuesday, February 2

- 7:30 AM † **Blessings upon
Forrest Fisher &
Family**

Wednesday, February 3 ~ Feast of Saint Blaise ~

- 7:30 AM † **Paula Ciesinki**

Thursday, February 4

- 7:30 AM † **Frances Ojeda**

Friday, February 5

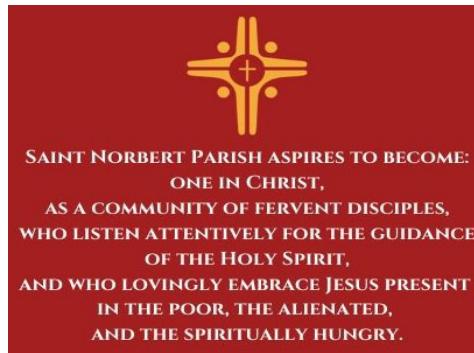
- 7:30 AM † **Blessings upon
Frank Merenda &
family**

Saturday, February 6

- 7:30 AM † **Charles Swartz**
- 5PM VIGIL † **Living and Deceased of
the Shea Family**

Sunday, February 7

- 9:00AM † **Bruce Gagne**
- 11:00AM † **Peter Rausch**
- 1:30PM † **Pastor's Intentions**
- 4:00PM** † **Jeanne Regan**



PRAYERS

PRAY FOR HEALING:

Maria Morales, Ed Rofi, Peter Lim, Mary Ann Gallagher, J. D. Sobota, Patricia Uberti, Pat Masaputto, Irene West, Sr., Sarah Frack, Henry Reutter, Carlos and Valentina Estevez, Kevin Horan, Jennifer Mueller, Robert Gerhardt, Patricia Boyce, Juan Guerra, Carmen Sotorrio, Naomi Grace Rouse, Bob Cook, Anthony Coppa, Louanne Armstrong, Bartolome Reotita Aqui Sr., Epiphany Pantaleo Collins

Rest in Peace: Quy Maria Vu

FOR OUR TROOPS:

Pvt. Matthew Cress, USA; Pvt. Jessica Flowers USA; Pvt. Michael Flowers, USA; Capt. Rob Kersey, USN; Lt. Col. James Merenda, USAF; Lt. Nicholas Prestipino, USA; Sgt. R. J. Paski, USA; Sgt. Matthew Paski, USAF; Maj. Brian Wallin, DO, USA; 2nd Lt. Robert Farber, USA; 2nd Lt. Robert Dietrich III, USA; 2nd Lt. Joseph R. Ellis, USMC

Our Faith

I Confess

One form of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass is the traditional Confiteor, or “I confess,” a prayer that was formerly prayed by the priest alone at the foot of the altar, but which is now prayed by the entire assembly. The Confiteor is at once personal—“I confess”—and communal, prayed aloud, together. We recognize that sin does not just separate us from God; sin comes between us and others, isolating us. We acknowledge that sin has many dimensions, individual and communal: sins of thought, sins of speech, sins of action, sins of omission. Sin is not something that happens to us; sin is something we do. In the Confiteor, we take responsibility for our own actions. The repeated insistence on our “fault,” with the ritual gesture of striking the breast, an ancient sign of penitence, is not meant to lower our self-esteem. Rather, it acknowledges our human instinct to transfer the blame whenever we can (“The devil made me do it!”). This prayer stops us short. We take responsibility for ourselves, our actions, our failure to act. Then we cry out to God in those ancient words, Kyrie, eleison—Lord, have mercy. For the sinner who repents, there is mercy. This truth is at the heart of our faith, and it is where the Mass, our feast of faith, begins.

—Corinna Laughlin,
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ASH WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 17, 2021

7:30am Daily Mass
 (in English)

12:00pm
 Liturgy of the Word
 Service with ashes
 (in English)

6:00pm English Mass

7:30pm Spanish Mass

From the Pastor...

Friends,

God speaks to us in many ways. How well are we listening? How noisy is your day? God continually invites us to take his word to heart so that we might be strengthened and healed. Not every noise is bad for the soul! A baby's laugh, a favorite song on the radio—these can all be touches of blessing and joy. Likewise, hurtful words raised voices, and the constant sounds of city traffic can exhaust us and wear us down.

In the Psalm today, we respond: "If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts." But how can we hear his voice in the midst of all of the noise? "To hear God's voice, you must turn down the volume." After long hours of meetings and busyness, try the following:

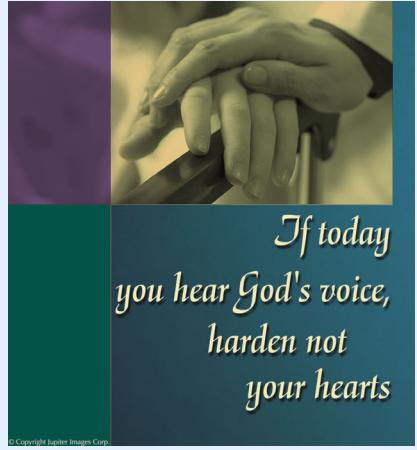
1. Take a few minutes to sit in your favorite chair.
2. Sit in the quiet and let all the noise of the day settle down to stillness. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what is needed to say, or do, or pray about from that day.

In the Gospel, people listened to Jesus because he spoke with authority. Jesus speaks to us with the same authority each time we gather to hear the Gospel proclaimed in our midst. The Gospels reveal to us who Jesus is: Savior, Lord, teacher, healer, miracle worker, friend. And also reveal his mission on Earth, which is also our mission: love one another, feed the hungry, care for the widow and the orphan, pray for the sick, wash each other's feet, do this in remembrance of me.

As Christians, we are called to be that voice in our families, at school, work, on the team, in our neighborhoods, and our community—wherever we go. We want others to know and love Jesus the way we do. Week after week, when we leave Mass, what do we do with what we have just heard? Do we talk about it with our family members and friends? Do we let it impact our actions, our words, and our choices in the coming week? Let's make the time to be quiet and listen and engage others in the truth of Christ Jesus.

***Special note:** Catholic Schools week begins today. I want to take a moment to acknowledge the extraordinary work done at our school. Learning and praying through masks, from home or in person. First Friday Masses divided between the Church and the Burke Center. Principal Mary Kay Hennessy, her staff, as well as the parents are doing excellent work to make St. Norbert School a remarkable place to learn and grow. May God's peace strengthen them!*

Fr. Steve



Join a Lenten Small Group today...

Do you miss sharing your faith with others? Do you want to get to know Jesus?
It is far easier to get to know Jesus when we are with others.

**ONE WAY TO DO THIS IS TO
 JOIN A SMALL GROUP
 DURING LENT.**

We are offering several opportunities for you to be with others, virtually, and to strengthen our dedication to Jesus during Lent.

- 1. Small Group Discussion on Gospel Reading**
- 2. Small Group Discussion on our Christmas Book, *I HEARD GOD LAUGH* by Matthew Kelly**
- 3. Small Group Discussion on The SEARCH series on Formed.org**

- 4. Informal Small Group:**
 - Getting together in person, via zoom or on the phone with a family member or members, a friend, or a neighbor.
 - Read the gospel before the weekend's readings and talk about what the readings says to you.

VISIT PARISH.STNORBERT.ORG TO REGISTER AND GET MORE INFORMATION

News & Events...



ST. NORBERT SCHOOL CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2021

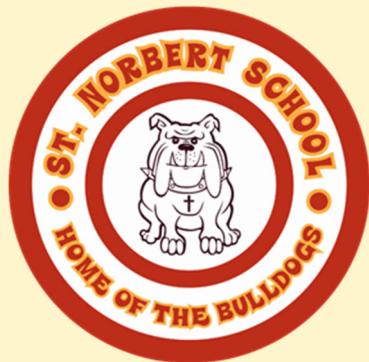
Thank You Message from St. Norbert School

The students, faculty and staff of St. Norbert School would like to thank all of the St. Norbert parishioners for the support given to our school this year. This year has been a year like no other. Despite wearing masks and working in class cohorts, faith, academic excellence and service continue to be the cornerstones of the school. The students pray daily as a school community, learn about their faith in religion class, and participate in First Friday Masses. This year, more than any other year, the students have learned and lived the values of optimism, gentleness and being the light for others, just as Jesus is.

There is a true commitment to being of service to others at St. Norbert School. Raising money for local charities, collecting food, participating in the school's first Turkey Trot at Thanksgiving, and cooking healthy meals for nearby food pantries are just a few of the projects our students have been involved in this year.

Whether learning in-person or virtually, St. Norbert School continues to provide a strong academic focus to our students with a comprehensive curriculum that includes Spanish, Latin, technology, art, music, fitness and library. St. Norbert School is the proud recipient of the 2015 National Blue Ribbon Award, the result of being ranked in the top 10% of elementary schools nationally. Our eighth graders have all been accepted to the high schools of their choice and, so far this year, have earned over \$315,000 in academic and merit scholarships.

Again, the students, faculty and staff are extremely grateful for the support received by the parishioners to continue the mission of educating the next generation of Catholic leaders. Thank you and be assured you will be remembered in our daily prayer petitions.



A New Program from Villanova: "Reach Out"



St. Norbert's has been invited to participate in a new program initiated by the Gerontology Interest Group at **Villanova's College of Nursing**. The **Reach Out Program** connects Villanova students with older adults who are homebound or not able to socialize because of the pandemic or other medical or mobility concerns. Volunteers from Villanova are extensively trained and supervised by members of the faculty. The volunteers are matched with an older adult partner and will make weekly telephone calls to that same adult partner for a time frame suitable to the caller and the partner. Volunteer callers will not be providing any health care or advice. The calls are meant to engage both the student and the older adult partner in meaningful conversations—friends talking to friends.

If you or someone you know might be interested in participating in the Reach Out Program please contact the Parish Office: 610-644-1655.

Next Weekend—Feb. 6 & 7

PLEASE NOTE—The 6pm Youth Mass will be at 4:00pm on 2/7/2021, Super Bowl Sunday

Outreach Weekend

Donations of clothing and small household items accepted after Saturday mass and Sunday before 11am at the PAC Center

Second Collection on 2/7 will be for Catholic Charities Appeal.



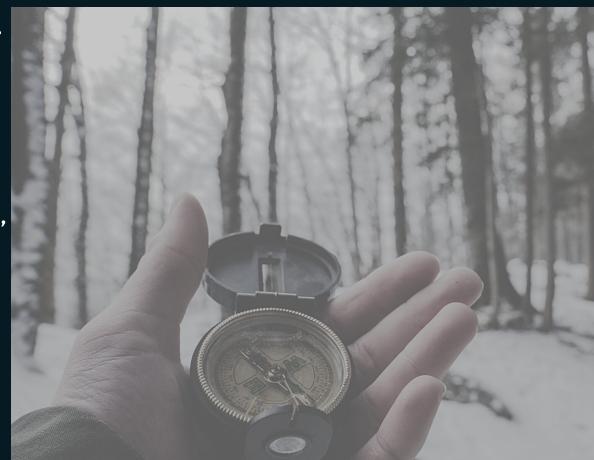
FOLLOWING IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS

ENGAGE SMALL GROUP EDITION

We are inviting all parishioners to encounter Christ this Lent through small groups. Of course small groups are not "one size fits all", so we want to share the different variations to make sure you can pick the one that fits your life and needs best!

THE SEARCH What is this journey between life and death? Is the journey taking you somewhere, or are you leading yourself to some kind of destination – a destination that could extend beyond your last breath? What do you want from your life during the in-between? The questions are there. And, the answers are too.

The Search is for anyone looking to answer the question of "why?" It's a video-based small group that will have the option for a weekly discussion over zoom led by Ed Grady, our Director of Adult Formation. Ed is an experienced small group leader, but more importantly, he makes everyone feel comfortable and welcome. If you're unsure about joining a small group or want something simple, **The Search** might be for you! You can sign up on our website or join whenever by keeping an eye out for the email that will be sent out with the videos and link to the discussion. Also, if you miss a discussion, that's ok. This small group variation is more low key, but will still be worth every moment you spend there!



STRUCTURED SMALL GROUP



These small groups meet at a scheduled time and have a particular focus. Some will discuss the Gospel reading from the week before, another is focused on a book called "*I Heard God Laugh*." These groups are lead by experienced members of the ENGAGE team. Sometimes it can be intimidating to commit to something new and each leader understands that! They are welcoming and invite, not pressure, everyone to share.

Typically these small groups take place in person, but this year they will be hosted over Zoom. But that doesn't mean you can't still grab a cup of coffee or a glass of wine and enjoy the small group community from the comfort of your own home!

If you have any questions or interest in a small group but don't know which one is for you, please don't hesitate to contact us! We're happy to help however you need. You can email Ed Grady at egrady@parish.stnorbert.org. Or just call the parish office: 610-644-1655. We're looking forward to hearing from you!

INFORMAL GROUP



Finally, we have informal small groups - don't let the name fool you, they are just as transformative as any other group!

An informal group can be made up of as few or as many people as you like. And can meet as often or infrequently as you please. That's why they're informal! Here are some examples of what these groups can look like:

.....
Once a week, after the kids are asleep (or quiet anyway!) you and your spouse watch ***The Search*** video of the week and talk about it.

You and your friend both want to read "***I Heard God Laugh***". So each week you read a certain number of pages then on Thursday at 7pm you FaceTime each other to talk about what you ready



These are just two of the many different ways to create an informal small group! And if you have any questions, are looking for resources, or want some support, we want to help you! Just give us a call or shoot an email!

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