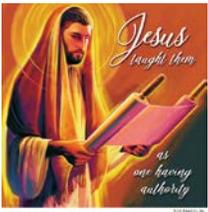


All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."

Mark 1:27 (NAB)



Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Times

†MASS INTENTIONS †

SATURDAY, January 27
 4:00pm – Month’s Mind – Margaret M. Kingsbury.
 Joyce Caron,
SUNDAY, January 28
 8:00am – Jose Moitoso
 10:30am – David and Anna Dorsey - Memorial
MONDAY, January 29
 8:00am – Rita Reney
TUESDAY, January 30
 8:00am – Jane Griffin
WEDNESDAY, January 31
 8:00am – Intentions of Susan Orton
THURSDAY, February 1
 8:00am – James Browne
FRIDAY, February 2
 8:00am – Maria Medeiros
SATURDAY, February 3
 4:00pm – Margaret “Peggy” Davis – Memorial Mass
SUNDAY, February 4
 8:00am – Bertha and Val Winter
 10:30am – Lawrence “Red” Bradshaw

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Edward A. Murphy, Pastor
 508-824-5577 ext. #1
Joseph Teixeira, Sexton
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 774-328-2721
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Nancy Roberts, Administrative Assistant
 508-824-5577 ext. #2. 508-822-1401 fax
 standrewtaunton@comcast.net
St. Vincent DePaul
 508-880-1583

BAPTISM

Parents who are registered and practicing members of the parish should call the rectory to make arrangements.

RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:00pm to 3:30pm or by appointment

WEDDINGS

Couples who are registered and practicing members of the parish may call the rectory eight months in advance to make arrangements.

NEW PARISHIONERS

We welcome you to our parish! Registration forms are available at the entrances of the church. Please complete the form and return as soon as possible.

WOMEN OF FAITH

For more information, please contact President, Kathy Duarte at 508-822-5455.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #11914

For more information, please contact Grand Knight, Bob Crossman, at 508-823-7920.

PRAYER and ADORATION

MONDAY NOVENA

Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Novena is held on Monday evenings at 7:00pm with Rosary and Benediction.

TUESDAY PRAYER GROUP

Meets every Tuesday at 6:30pm in the Church. Rosary adoration and prayer.

WEDNESDAY HOLY HOUR

Wednesday evenings from 6:00pm to 7:00pm includes the Divine Mercy Chaplet for The Sick and The Dying

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of the month after 8:00am Mass until 6:00pm.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time;
 Catholic Schools Week
 Wednesday: St. John Bosco
 Friday: The Presentation of the Lord;
 Groundhog Day; First Friday
 Saturday: **St. Blaise**; St. Ansgar; First Saturday;
 Blessing of Throats; Blessed Virgin Mary

St Andrew the Apostle. 19 Kilmer Ave. Taunton, MA
 Office: 508-824-5577. Fax: 508-822-1401
 www.standrewtaunton.org



From Father Murphy

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

First Reading

Deuteronomy 18:15-20

In this reading, Moses tells the people that when he dies, God will appoint another prophet for them, someone who will speak the truth and lead them to the truth. Moses is the only leader they have known and, beginning to feel insecure at his impending death, they wonder how they can distinguish between a true prophet and a false prophet. As has been his way, Moses encourages his people to live in keeping with God's teaching.

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Today we get a glimpse into how Paul sees his mission. Sensing the approach of a time of struggle and feeling that time is running out, Paul urges the people of Corinth not to let anything get in the way of the urgent task of teaching Christ's message, thus furthering the kingdom of God. This they would do by fully dedicating their lives to the Lord and living as he did.

Gospel Reading

Mark 1:21-28

Today's gospel story tells of Jesus' first miracle, which occurs in the sacred place of the synagogue and on the sacred day of the Sabbath. Jesus' teaching is contrasted with the teaching of the scribes. Jesus teaches with the authority of one who is free while the teaching of the scribes is constrained by tradition. The scribes know God's law but Jesus knows God's heart. His listeners are amazed! No one has ever spoken like this before.

Reflection:

Like the Israelites in the first reading, wondering how they will know when a real prophet is among them, the people of Jesus' time constantly question who he is. This is a key theme running through Mark's gospel. People frequently wonder who is this Jesus of Nazareth. To them, Jesus is an enigma.

When asked to explain the scriptures, he speaks with authority and gives fresh interpretations. Not only does he teach with authority, but he acts with authority. He cures a sick man and, in doing so, illustrates that he has a power which they believed was assigned to God alone.

In today's gospel, Jesus crosses boundaries and shows his great power. The unclean spirit, with a desire to show its power, recognizes Jesus as the Holy One of God. Its hope is that Jesus will retreat. But, silencing the unclean spirit, Jesus with power and authority, tells it to get out of the man. In doing this, Jesus proclaims a new teaching and the kingdom of God is introduced. The people look on in amazement – amazed at Jesus' teaching and even more amazed at his power to exorcise.

While the people are attracted to Jesus' teaching and way of thinking, they have not come to trust it fully. It is interesting to note that the unclean spirit recognized Jesus immediately and called him by name whereas the people are slower to come to this realization!

What would Jesus' message be for us today? Perhaps it would be to trust in our own inner goodness and to let it shine in the world?

Fr. Edward A. Murphy





FAITH FORMATION

This Sunday, *January 28th*, will be **CLASS MASS for Grade 4 at 10:30 Mass.**

Faith Formation for Grades 1-8 and Confirmation II (Grade 10) today.

Next Sunday, *February 4th*, will be **CLASS MASS for Grade 3 at 10:30 Mass.** All family members are encouraged to attend!

Confirmation retreat will be on *Saturday, March 24th* 11am to 4pm. Concluding with the Vigil Mass at 4:00pm.

CONFIRMATION will be on *Friday, April 13th*.

All Confirmation candidates are required to attend Mass on Saturday/Sunday each weekend. There are sign-in sheets available at all entrances

FEAST OF ST BLAISE

Saturday, *February 3rd* is the *Feast of St Blaise*, Bishop and Martyr. There will be blessing of the throats at the 4:00pm Vigil Mass on Saturday February 3rd.



Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.



1st HOLY COMMUNION PARENTS AND GUARDIANS

On *Sunday February 11th* at the *10:30am Mass*, Fr Murphy will be speaking to all parents of the 1st Holy Communion classes. There will be reserved seating for all parents and guardians at this Mass. Any personal questions that parents may have, Father Murphy will be available after the Mass.

COLD & FLU SEASON

With the Cold and Flu season upon us, it is best to exchange a verbal *Sign of Peace* rather than shaking hands.

2018 WOMEN AND MEN'S CONFERENCE

The 2018 Second Annual Diocese of Fall River Women & Men's Conference "**BE ON FIRE – SET THE WORLD ON FIRE**". It will take place on *Saturday March 10th* at Stonehill College. To register or obtain more information, visit www.fallriverdiocese.org.

BAKED STUFFED CHICKEN DINNER!



Sponsored by The Knights of Columbus

Date, Time & Location

Saturday, February 3, 2018
@ 5:30PM St. Andrew the
Apostle Parish Hall

Tickets

Adults \$12.00, Children 10 and under \$5.00.
Tickets will be available after all weekend
Masses through January 28th.

KNIGHT'S CHICKEN DINNER

The Knights of Columbus will be hosting a Baked Chicken Dinner on *February 3rd at 5:30pm* in the Parish Hall. They will be selling tickets after all the Masses. Tickets are \$12 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.

RESTORATION OF THE ORGAN

In an ongoing effort to raise funds to restore the Organ, the choir members will be having a fundraising dinner, *February 24th* after the 4:00pm Mass.



At the dinner will be a drawing for a homemade quilt, raffle tickets will be going on sale at all Masses.



Women of Faith will be having their meeting on the **Third Thursday, February 15th**. The meeting will begin at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. We would like to invite all the women of the Parish to attend and join our active group.



Tax contribution summaries for 2017 will be available upon request. You can contact the rectory Monday through Thursday or email the parish office at standrewtaunton@comcast.net.



EUCHARISTIC ADORATION
Friday February 2nd
 After 8:00am Mass.
 At 5:00pm Prayer & Benediction, concludes at 6:00pm

Hymns ~ Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Opening- All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name #729
 Offertory — Christ, Be Our Light #596
 Communion – Here, I Am Lord #379
 Recessional – I Sing the Mighty Power of God #423

WEEKLY PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you for your gifts to our faith family. The Offertory for the weekend of **January 21:**

Weekend Masses	\$ 3248.00
Catholic Communications	923.00
Fuel & Maintenance	1738.00
Annual Collection	100.00
Candles	20.00

Saint Andrew the Apostle Parish
 A PARISH OF THE ROMAN CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF FALL RIVER

Healing Mass

Date: Thursday **February 8th**

Holy Rosary: 6:00 p.m.
 At this time the Sacrament of Confession will be available.

Holy Mass: 6:30 p.m.
 Followed by healing prayers and concludes with benediction.

At Sunset, all who had people sick with various diseases brought them to him, he laid his hands on each of them and cured them. Luke 4:40

19 Kilmer Avenue, Taunton 508-824-5577
standrewtaunton@comcast.net | www.standrewtaunton.org

Upcoming Second Collections

January 28 – Music Maintenance Fund
 February 4 – Church Utilities

Society of St. Vincent de Paul
 St. Andrew Conference

WE HELP PEOPLE...

with food, clothing, utility bills, emergency shelter, and other needs. Your generous donations of supermarket gift cards, nonperishable foods and monetary contributions are always appreciated. For details or assistance, call **508-880-1503**

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
 IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

St. Andrew the Apostle
 Knights of Columbus Council #11914
 19 Kilmer Avenue
 Taunton, MA. 02780
508-824-5577

ASH WEDNESDAY RETREAT

The Journey Inward led by Peggy Patenaude of *Taking Time Out* will be held on Wednesday, **February 14th** at Sacred Hearts Retreat Center in Wareham. Mass with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 9:00 AM. Following Mass, the retreat program will run from 10:00 AM to 3:30 PM.

PILGRIMAGE TO MEDJUGORJE

Please join Fr Murphy on his annual pilgrimage to Medjugorje on **May 7-16, 2018**. \$2,575.00 from Boston. Over 2 million people have visited Medjugorje in 2015, and over 40,000 priests. For more information visit 206 Tours website. www.pilgrimage.com/frmurphy
 Flyers are available for those interested.

IS CONFESSION IN SCRIPTURE

The Lord declares in *Isaiah 43:25*:

I, I am He who blots out your transgressions for my own sake, and I will not remember your sins.

Psalms 103:2-3 adds:

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits, who forgives all your iniquity, who heals all your diseases...

Many will use these verses against the idea of confession to a priest. God forgiving sins, they will claim, precludes the possibility of there being a priest who forgives sins. Further, Hebrews 3:1 and 7:22-27 tell us Jesus is, “the... high priest of our confession” and that there are not “many priests,” but one in the New Testament—Jesus Christ. Moreover, if Jesus is the “one mediator between God and men” (I Tim. 2:5), how can Catholics reasonably claim priests act in the role of mediator in the Sacrament of Confession?

BEGINNING WITH THE OLD

The Catholic Church acknowledges what Scripture unequivocally declares: it is God who forgives our sins. But that is not the end of the story. *Leviticus 19:20-22* is equally unequivocal:

If a man lies carnally with a woman... they shall not be put to death... But he shall bring a guilt offering for himself to the Lord... And the priest shall make atonement for him with the ram of the guilt offering before the Lord for his sin which he has committed; and the sin which he has committed shall be forgiven him.

Apparently, a priest being used as God’s instrument of forgiveness did not somehow take away from the fact that it was God who did the forgiving. God was the first cause of the forgiveness; the priest was the secondary, or instrumental cause. Thus, God being the forgiver of sins in *Isaiah 43:25* and *Psalms 103:3* in no way eliminates the possibility of there being a ministerial priesthood established by God to communicate his forgiveness.

OUT WITH THE OLD

Many Protestants will concede the point of priests acting as mediators of forgiveness in the Old Testament. “However,” they will claim, “The people of God had priests in the Old Testament. Jesus is our only priest in the New Testament.” The question is: could it be that “our great God and Savior Jesus Christ” (*Titus 2:13*) did something similar to that which he did, as God, in the Old Testament? Could he have established a priesthood to mediate his forgiveness in the New Testament?

IN WITH THE NEW

Just as God empowered his priests to be instruments of forgiveness in the Old Testament, the God/man Jesus Christ delegated authority to his New Testament ministers to act as mediators of reconciliation as well. Jesus made this remarkably clear in *John 20:21-23*:

Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained.”

Having been raised from the dead, our Lord was here commissioning his apostles to carry on with his work just before he was to ascend to heaven. “As the Father has sent me, even so I send you.” What did the Father send Jesus to do? All Christians agree he sent Christ to be the one true mediator between God and men. As such, Christ was to infallibly proclaim the Gospel (cf. Luke 4:16-21), reign supreme as King of kings and Lord of lords (cf. Rev. 19:16); and especially, he was to redeem the world through the forgiveness of sins (cf. I Peter 2:21-25, Mark 2:5-10).

The New Testament makes very clear that Christ sent the apostles and their successors to carry on this same mission. To proclaim the gospel with the authority of Christ (cf. Matthew 28:18-20), to govern the Church in His stead (cf. Luke 22:29-30), and to sanctify her through the sacraments, especially the Eucharist (cf. John 6:54, I Cor. 11:24-29) and for our purpose here, Confession.

John 20:22-23 is nothing more than Jesus emphasizing one essential aspect of the priestly ministry of the apostles: To Forgive men’s sins in the person of Christ— “Whose sins you forgive, they are forgiven, whose

sins you retain are retained.” Moreover, auricular confession is strongly implied here. The only way the apostles could either forgive or retain sins is by first hearing those sins confessed, and then making a judgment whether or not the penitent should be absolved.

FREQUENT CONFESSION

The next question for many upon seeing the plain words of St. John is, “Why don’t we hear any more about Confession to a priest in the rest of the New Testament?” The fact is: we don’t need to. How many times does God have to tell us something before we’ll believe it? He only gave us the proper form for baptism once (Matt. 28:19), and yet all Christians accept this teaching.

ONE PRIEST OR MANY?

A major obstacle to Confession for many Protestants (me included when I was Protestant) is that it presupposes a priesthood. As I said above, Jesus is referred to in Scripture as “the apostle and high priest of our confession.” The former priests were many in number, as Hebrews 7:23 says, now we have one priest—Jesus Christ. The question is: how does the idea of priests and confession fit in here? Is there one priest or are there many?

I Peter 2:5-9 gives us some insight:

... and like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ... But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people...

If Jesus is the one and only priest in the New Testament in a strict sense, then we have a contradiction in Sacred Scripture. This, of course, is absurd. I Peter plainly teaches all believers to be members of a holy priesthood. Priest/believers do not take away from Christ’s unique priesthood, rather, as members of his body they establish it on earth.

PRIESTS AMONG PRIESTS

If all Christians are priests, then why do Catholics claim a ministerial priesthood essentially distinct from the universal priesthood? The answer is: God willed to call out a special priesthood among the universal priesthood to minister to his people. This concept is literally as old as Moses.

When St. Peter taught us about the universal priesthood of all believers, he specifically referred to Exodus 19:6 where God alluded to ancient Israel as “a kingdom of priests and a holy nation.” St. Peter reminds us that there was a universal priesthood among the Old Testament people of God just as in the New Testament. But this did not preclude the existence of a ministerial priesthood within that universal priesthood (see Exodus 19:22, Exodus 28, and Numbers 3:1-12).

In an analogous way, we have a universal “Royal Priesthood” in the New Testament, but we also have an ordained clergy who have priestly authority given to them by Christ to carry out his ministry of reconciliation as we have seen.

TRULY AWESOME AUTHORITY

A final couple of texts we will consider are Matt. 16:19 and 18:18. Specifically, we’ll examine the words of Christ to Peter and the apostles: “Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven.” As CCC 553 says, Christ here communicated not only authority “to pronounce doctrinal judgments, and to make disciplinary decisions in the Church,” but also “the authority to absolve sins” to the apostles.

These words are unsettling, even disturbing, to many. And understandably so. How could God give such authority to men? And yet he does. Jesus Christ, who alone has the power to open and shut heaven to men, clearly communicated this authority to the apostles and their successors. This is what the forgiveness of sins is all about: to reconcile men and women with their heavenly Father. CCC 1445 puts it succinctly:

The words bind and loose mean: whomever you exclude from your communion, will be excluded from communion with God; whomever you receive anew into your communion, God will welcome back into his. Reconciliation with the Church is inseparable from reconciliation with God.