



TO GUIDE. TO INSPIRE. TO SERVE.

January 31, 2021 | VOLUME 50 NUMBER 5 | Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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."

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

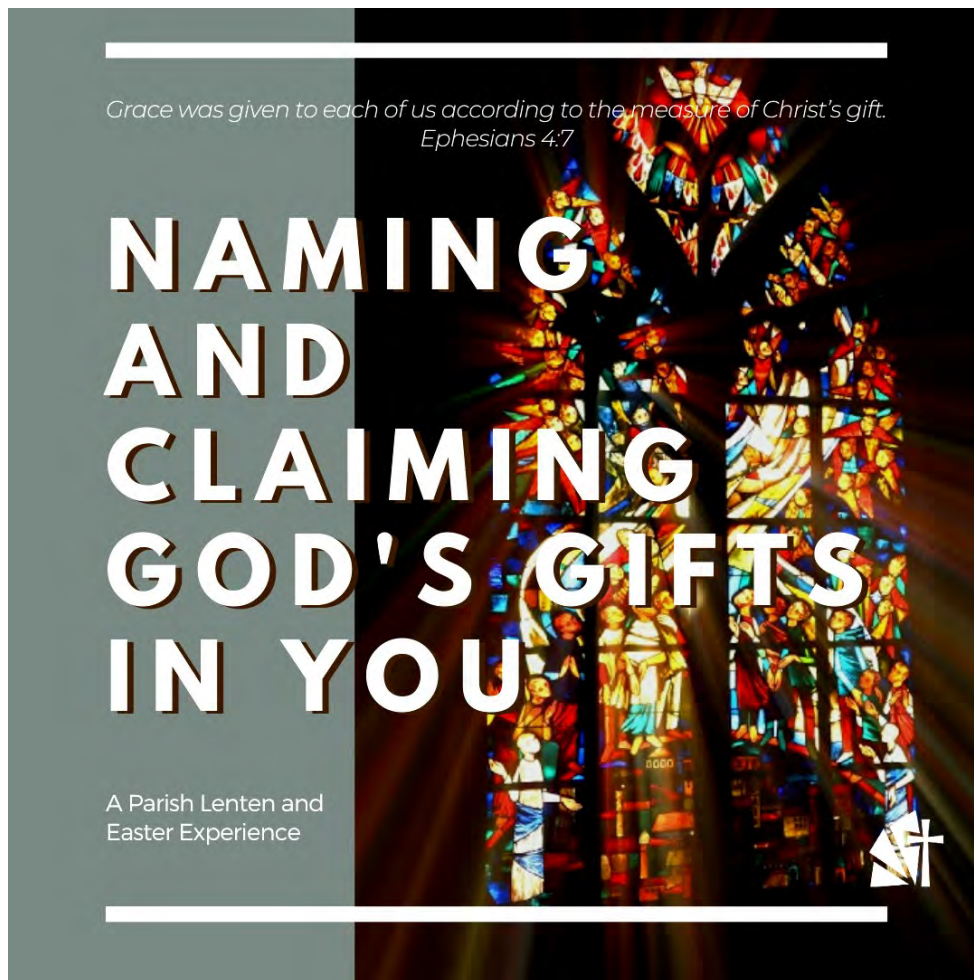
Mark 1:27-28

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.



St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed. ©LPi



Register to join us this Lent as we at STM connect with our God-given gifts!

Meetings either on Wednesday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

or Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

ONLINE, via Zoom

Meetings:

Wednesdays - February 17, 24, March 3, 10, 17, 24, or

Thursdays - February 18, 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25

REGISTER HERE:

<https://membership.faithdirect.net/events/details/6138>

*If you would like to participate, but have concerns about technology,
please contact Sr. Janelle at 225.275.3940.*



Pope Francis

@Pontifex

The word of God is the antidote to our fear of having to face life. In speaking to us, the Lord reminds us that we are in his heart, that we are precious in his eyes, and that he holds us in the palm of his hand.

SANCTUARY LIGHTING

The sanctuary light in the church will burn in memory of Lou Bares the week of Jan. 31 as requested by Mr. and Mrs. John Macus.

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, Feb. 2 - 6 p.m.: Joshua Keatts, Margarite Kelly, Ernest Bonaccorso Jr., Joseph, John Baotixita, Douglas Marian Gonzales Sr.

Thursday, Feb. 4 - 8:45 a.m.: Special Intention: Savannah Willey

Saturday, Feb. 6 - 4:30 p.m.: Felix L. Olivier

Sunday, Feb. 7 - 8 a.m.: STM Families, Friends and Neighbors; **10 a.m.:** Leland Williams; **5 p.m.:** Carlos A. Fandino, Douglas Marian Gonzales Sr.

PRAYER LINE

For serious or urgent prayer requests, call Sharon Hebert at 225-978-1246 (leave your name and phone number if there is no answer), or send a request by email to prayerline@stmbr.org.

PRAYER LIST

Please remember in your prayers the following seriously ill person(s):

David Longwell

To add your name, or the name of a loved one if you have their permission, contact Elise Moran at morane@stmbr.org, or call 225.275.3940.

PRAY WITH US



Divine Mercy Weekly Novena

Nine Week Novena of Chaplets

Tuesdays: February 2 thru April 6

• except Mardi Gras, February 16, no Mass or Novena •

6:30 p.m. in the church

following 6 p.m. Mass

Divine Mercy Sunday

April 11, 2021

Divine Mercy Chaplet

4:30 p.m. in the church

Everyday Stewardship

Embracing Change in Christ

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPI

One of the most important parts of the day is the morning, as it sets the tone for the rest of the day. Often if you want to have a good day, it starts with your attitude in the morning.

Praying in the morning can be a perfect opportunity to set the stage for a fruitful day.

Here is a prayer adapted from a 19th-century prayer book entitled *Morning Prayers* that focuses on the great love God has for you.

I give you thanks for all your benefits, particularly for having brought me to the beginning of this day, for having thought of and loved me from all eternity, for having made me out of nothing, preserved me from innumerable evils and borne with me in my sins, for having redeemed me by the death of your only Son, called me to the true Church, favored me with your graces and inspirations, watched over me night and day, appointed your angels to guard me and prepared a happy eternity for me.



START OFF THE
DAY BASKING
IN THE WARMTH
OF GOD'S LOVE.

Philip Kosloski, Aleteia.org

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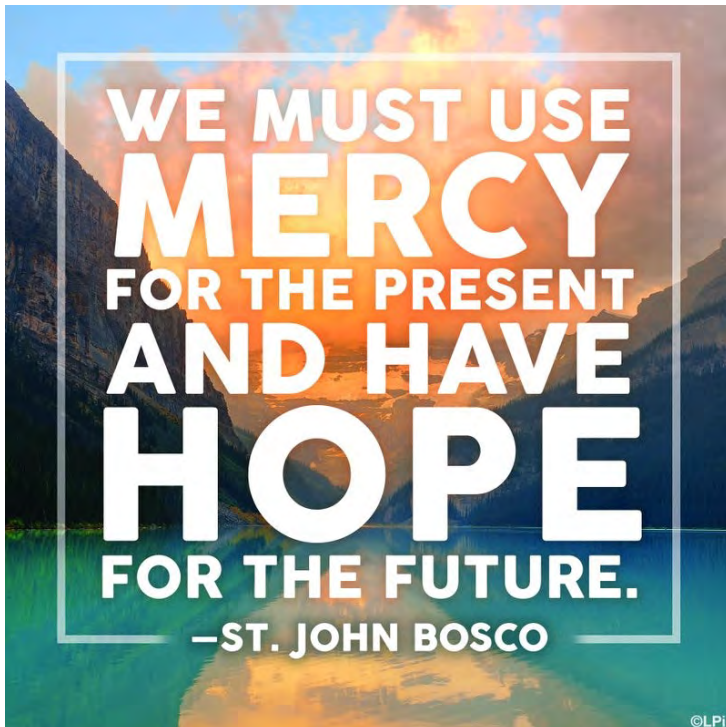
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Mr. Roosevelt Hamilton

OUR PARISH FAMILY

IN SYMPATHY

We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the families of: **Kathryn Dubroc** and **Betty Winston**.



PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

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