



ST. FRANCIS XAVIER CATHOLIC COMMUNITY

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SUNDAY MASS~ DOMINGO MISA

9:30 AM English 11:30 AM Español

GOSPEL MEDITATION

I love movies about exorcisms. Apparently, so do many others. The 2023 movie “Nefarious” features a possibly possessed inmate on death row. Critics were not impressed, but audiences scored it at 97% on the website Rotten Tomatoes. Most people have an appreciation for the demonic realm, even if cultural elites are generally embarrassed about it. As is standard in exorcism movies, the afflicted person (in this case, a man named Edward Brady) thinks and acts like multiple persons. He is someone besides himself. We know what that is like. We feel fake sometimes, not ourselves.

The same dynamic is on dramatic display this week in the Gospel. Jesus the Exorcist approaches a possessed man who utters, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?” Notice the plural, us. The basic effect of the demonic is division. The man’s identity is fractured, divided, and thus many. Jesus powerfully expels the spirit by saying, “Quiet! Come out of him!” Jesus’ word has the power to restore the man’s singularity — him — and indeed it does.

All this helps us to dismiss childish images of demons sporting red goat tails. Equally, it overcomes the cultured aloofness that dreams demons are mere metaphors for evil. We see instead that fallen angels are conscious and intelligent beings who orient their agency toward division. They bring about schism where there should be unity, e.g., in persons, families, communities, politics, and so on. Thankfully, Jesus commands demons to flee from all these places to restore wholeness and peace. What if we made room for his word where we need it?

--Father John Muir



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole
region of Galilee. - Mk 1:28

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1996, 1970 CCD. ©LPI

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

When I reflect on the many years of my life, there are many people who were influential on my development as a person, a student, and a Christian. Through their graciousness and generosity, I was able to work through challenges and difficulties, becoming stronger in the end. They pushed me to become better than I was at the time and helped me to see what I could eventually become. Without them giving of themselves to me I am unsure where I would be today.

Because others were good stewards of the gifts and talents God gave them, I now strive to use wisely what I have been given as well. Yes, I spend much of my time on the road speaking in churches about stewardship and I write books and articles about this way of life, but my real desire is to impact the most those around me. I want my children to see how I am growing in this life and be an example to them. I want me and my wife to grow in generosity together. My hope is that my friends see a light in me and inquire about how and why it is there. Above all, I want to live with a graciousness and hospitality that others find welcoming.

I believe that through our kindness and grace-filled existence God can touch others, heal others, and embrace others. We are the hands and feet of Christ. May we, today and every day we hear his voice, harden not our hearts.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



God of all goodness,
you have called people to follow you faithfully.
Humans have heard that call and many choose to follow
your call
in varied and faith-filled lives.
Some follow your call in private, silent lives as hermits;
some choose to follow you with lives lived as virgins and
widows;
while others choose public lives of vowed men and
women
as religious brothers and sisters.
Abundantly give to these men and women the courage to
follow their call as witnesses to your gifts and faith and
service to the world.

We ask this in faith
through the name of Jesus our Savior.
Amen.

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MASS INTENTIONS ~ INTENCIONES DE MISA Sunday, January 28, 2024

9:30 AM

† Gary & John Paul Montano (by family)
† Elias Griego Birthday (by Rufina & family)
† Gillie & Clorinda Garcia Anniv (by family)

11:30 AM

† Francisca Gonzales Perez (de familia Maldonado)
† Antonio Vasquez Hernandez (de familia Maldonado)
† Gerado & Fredi Nunes Casas (by family)

Tuesday, January 29

Souls in Purgatory (by SFX staff)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY WEEKLY READINGS

Sun. 28th *4th Sunday in Ordinary Time*

Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35;
Mk 1:21-28

Mon. 29th: *Weekday*

2 Sm 15:13-14, 30:16:5-13; Ps 3:2-7;
Mk 5:1-20

Tues. 30th: *Weekday*

2 Sm 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-19:3; Ps 86:1-6;
Mk 5:21-43

Wed. 31st: *St. John Bosco, Priest*

2 Sm 24:2, 9-17; Ps 32:1-2, 5-7; Mk 6:1-6

Thur. 1st *Weekday*

1 Kgs 2:1-4, 10-12 (Ps) 1 Chr 29:10-11b,
11d-12d; Mk 6:7-13

Fri. 2nd: *The Presentation of the Lord*

Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18;
Lk 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

Sat. 3rd: *St. Blaise, Bishop, Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop;
BVM*

1 Kgs 3:4-13; Ps 119:9-14; Mk 6:30-34

ORGANIZATIONS/MEETINGS

- ♦ English Bible Study - Hospitality Room
Mondays 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- ♦ Grupo de Oracion - Parish Hall
Tuesdays at 6:30 PM
- ♦ Religious Education Class
Tuesdays 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
- ♦ RCIA - School Building
Tuesdays 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM
Hospitality Room
- ♦ St. Vincent de Paul Meeting
Every 2nd Thursday of the month at 6 PM
Hospitality Room

PRAYER REQUESTS FOR HEALING

Maria Orfelina Graciano, Richard Ignacio Dominguez,
Lauren Baca, Katy Montano, Benito Espinosa, Elizabeth
Espinosa, David Sanchez, Henry Espinosa, Eddie Garcia,
Leticia Sanchez, Paul Visarraga, Hope Romero, Ruby
O'Neill & Jose Martinez