

In preparation for January 28, 2024: The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time

## Boldly Proclaiming the Good News

**“The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.” (verse 22 ) Mark 1:21-28**



**Adults -** Jesus models the way. While teaching in the synagogue, a man with an unclean spirit cried out. Usually, authorities would try and remove this person, however, Jesus does not. Instead, he recognizes the troubled man's humanity and moves to help him. We too are called not to judge those who cry out, but to address their needs with compassion.

1. How is Jesus teaching us to address others who may be different? Why is this so important?
2. Jesus also acts with authority in this teaching. Acceptance of Jesus's authority still remains a challenge for us today. Where do you struggle with Jesus' authority in your life?
3. How do you tend to respond to authority?

**Obstacles for living out the Gospel:** Thinking we are in charge of our own lives.



## Teens -

1. This Gospel states that Jesus taught with authority. In your life now and for the rest of your life you will have people in authority that you should listen to and respect. How do you respond to the people of authority that you encounter? Do you show them respect?
2. Do you think it is more important to “talk to Jesus” or “live a life that reflects Jesus”? Why?
3. Do you behave in a way that boldly proclaims that you are a disciple of Jesus when you are with your friends and/or family?

**Obstacles:** Believing in God's plan for our lives when the temptations of this world don't line up with that plan. You will constantly be tempted to worship the things of this world and not what God has planned for you.

## Children -

1. Why do you think the people listened to Jesus when he talked? Why do you listen to Jesus? How can you be a better listener to Jesus?
2. In our creed, we profess that we are one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. The word holy means to be set apart for a special purpose by and for God. What do you think God's special purpose for you is? How can you fulfill this purpose?
3. Reflect on how you behave at home and school. Does your behavior show others you are one of Jesus' disciples? Why or why not? Is there a behavior you would like to change?

**Obstacles:** Not realizing how you live your life can lead others closer to Jesus or away from him; not taking time to reflect on what our true purpose is; not putting Jesus first in our lives.