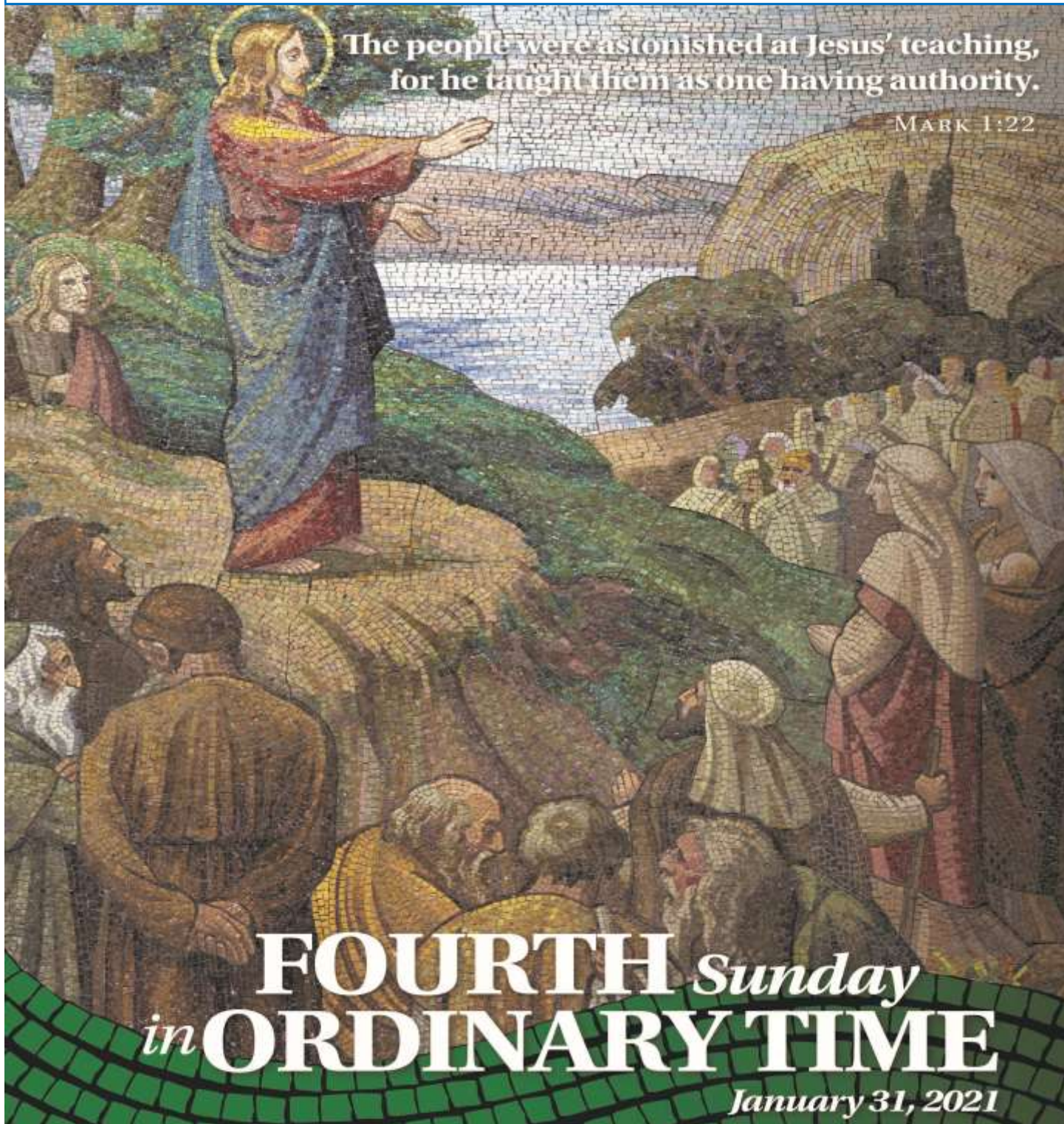


St. Joseph Parish



The people were astonished at Jesus' teaching,
for he taught them as one having authority.

MARK 1:22

FOURTH *Sunday*
in **ORDINARY TIME**

January 31, 2021

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Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m. Vigil

Suspended till further notice

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

8:30 a.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 am

Come Join Us

Reconciliation

Saturdays

4:00-4:45pm

By the East Church Door
parking lot

Eucharistic Adoration

No Adoration till
further notice due to
Covid-19



Come, let us sing joyfully to the Lord;
let us acclaim the rock of our salvation.

Let us come into his
presence with thanksgiving;
let us joyfully sing psalms to him.

Psalm 95:1-2



JANUARY 31, 2021
FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

GOD'S AUTHENTIC VOICE

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 our 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.

TODAY'S READINGS

Deuteronomy 18:15–20
Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7b, 7c–9
1 Corinthians 7:32–35
Mark 1:21–28

Parish Life

Welcome

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ:

As I announced last Sunday, Called to Renew is at work! We are in the third year of completing the **Archdiocesan 10 year maintenance upgrade program for St. Joseph's**. **Three weeks ago, I signed a contract and the current upgrades that you see going on at St. Joseph's are from Archdiocesan Called to Renew funds and not our parish Called to Renew funds.** The current Archdiocesan gift of \$60,000 includes the following works:

- The storage garages which includes the snack shack building closest to the field is getting a new look with the replacement of rotted wood and the outside of the building is being repainted.
- The outside of our church is being power washed and all of the trim is being repainted.
- The old carpet in the sanctuary of the church is being replaced. The worn tile in the sacristy is being replaced.
- **The outside of the Priest's residence is being power washed and the trim will be repainted.** The 25-year-old carpet in the residence is being replaced.

To date, our Parish Called to Renew Funds have supported the following completed projects:

- New pews, chairs and kneelers in the Church
- Major electrical upgrade for our campus providing enough electricity for decades to come.
- Parish and School restrooms all upgraded.

Last week, I made a check for the third installment of my pledge. This past December, many of you were faithful to your pledges as almost \$75,000 was deposited into our Parish Called to Renew Fund account. As the funds are secured, we will continue to complete the other items on our campaign list.

We all love our St. Joseph's campus and on behalf of all your fellow Parishioners, THANK YOU for your faithfulness to Called to Renew and your pledges!

This week is the annual celebration of Catholic Schools week and we're grateful for our students and their families, teachers, administration and our principal Ms. Alvarez. This past year, distance and in person learning has been a great challenge and I'm grateful for the leadership of our school that has worked so hard to keep our students first! Let's pray for all of our St. Joseph's Knights!

Gratefully in Christ,
Msgr. Kevin

Ministries

Did you know?

Do you know what to do if someone is choking?

Choking is one of the leading causes of accidental death, but many people do not know what to do if someone is choking near them. If a person is coughing, grabbing his or her throat, or passed out with no explanation, he/she could be choking. Utilizing abdominal thrusts, also known as the Heimlich maneuver, could prevent suffocation. Parents should be knowledgeable as to how to perform this maneuver, and if possible, should attend a CPR training course so they are prepared, in the event that a child or adult is choking. For more information, visit lacatholics.org/did-you-know

December Collection

Collection	
Faith Direct	\$16,440.30
Website	\$4,045.00
Regular Envelopes	\$29,228.00
Collection-Loose	\$2,990.00
Total	\$52,703.30

Thank you for being good stewards in favor of your St. Joseph Parish family.

Give anywhere, anytime from your computer, tablet or smartphone! To sign-up or learn more about online giving, please visit:
stjosephlb.org/about-us/giving

St. Joseph Book Club



Overdue: A Dewey Decimal System of Grace by Valerie Schultz
(2020 Catholic Press Association first place award, memoir)

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7pm.

In *Overdue* Valerie Schultz shares her experience in prison ministry and how she learned to see the prisoners as human beings. They possessed all the gifts and flaws that define humanity...every single one of them a human being created and loved by God. It was no challenge to find God in all things in prison because God was palpably everywhere.

All are welcome!
For more info. email: goodlife@msn.com

Meditation Group

St. Joseph's Meditation Group now meets as a Zoom meeting every Tuesday at 7:00PM. No prior experience is necessary and newcomers are welcome to experience both the prayerful and calming benefits of this ancient Christian practice.

For more information and to receive the Zoom log on information, please contact group leader, Frank McKown, at frmckown@gmail.com or 310-633-1744.





As you know, COVID-19 has changed many of the traditional ways of gathering; we are finding new and creative ways of ministering to God's people. Concerned for the safety of our attendees and the feasibility of an in-person event, the RECongress Team met with Archbishop José Gomez to discern the most effective way of offering the Religious Education Congress 2021. After consultation, prayer and discernment, they came to the decision that the Religious Education Congress 2021 will be a virtual event.

2021 RECongress Virtual Event Individual Registration February 18 – 21, 2021

Cost

The registration fee of **\$35.00 (USD)** covers your admission to the entire virtual event including exhibits, concerts, liturgies, Sacred Space, Keynote Addresses, Youth Track and **ALL** workshops.

Registration

Registration will only be available online at www.recongress.org. NO Mail in registrations will be accepted. A Unique email address will be necessary for each participant to complete their registration. Participants will not be able to share or use the same email address for this event.

Event Link

A URL (link) will be emailed to each paid participant to access the event to their unique email address on Monday, February 15th, 2021 between 10 am – 6 pm (PST). Be sure to check the RECongress website for updated information regarding the event.



Valentine's Day! Couples Dinner & Celebration

February 14 @ 5:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Cost per couple: \$100

Remote Via Zoom with a special dinner to pick-up and serve in your home
Rev. Jim Clarke, PhD, Coordinator of Spiritual Formation, LA Archdiocese
5:00pm Mass followed by talk & dinner

Wouldn't you love to spend an evening with your beloved to rekindle your love, revitalize your romance, and rejoice in the sacrament of your union? Celebrate your love with a dinner in your home and share a special renewal of your marriage vows led remotely by Fr. Jim Clarke.

Fr. Jim is the Coordinator of Spiritual Formation for the Diaconate Formation Office, LA Archdiocese, Associate Spiritual Director at the House of Prayer for Priests and Senior lecturer at LMU. Fr. Jim Clarke is an author and retreat master having given retreats and workshops for over 40 years. With background in the fields of spirituality, adult education, ritual, counseling and depth psychology, Fr. Jim is a knowledgeable and inspiring retreat leader.

To Register Please Visit:

maryjoseph.org/event/valentines-day-couples-dinner-celebration-2/

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