

Christ Child Catholic Church

*Dedicated to Growth in Christ and to the
Challenges of Loving Service*

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FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY
TIME
January 31, 2021

First reading Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

A New Prophet Like Moses

The Lord your God will raise up you a Prophet like me speaks of the coming of the Lord.

There are three standard prophetic offices of the Coming One – Prophet, Priest, and King – along with two more expectations: the Sage and the Suffering Servant. Each of these five ideals was a subject of intense interest in the century before the coming of Christ –texts in the Dead Sea Scrolls show how lively the issues were.

When a **prophet** made a prediction in the name of the Lord that did not come true, the prophet was stoned to death. The failure of the prophecy demonstrated the vacuous nature of the “prophet’s” credentials. Even today, Christians should avoid making predictions about the future because the Bible says, “No man knows”. If God’s people focus on mysteries they were never intended to unravel, they will neglect the Master’s ongoing work in this day and time. Those Satan cannot dissuade, he will distract.

If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts!

Harden not your hearts as at Meribah, as in the day of Massah in the desert, where your fathers tempted me; they tested me though they had seen my works!

(Psalm 95: 7-9)

Second reading 1 Corinthians 7: 32-35

To the Unmarried and Widows

Day-to-day life is but a blink in the eye of eternity. Christians should live their lives and manage their priorities as though the Son’s return could happen at any moment-because it can! Every believer should live every moment fully for God.

Those who are **unmarried** are free to **serve the Lord without distraction**. Those who are **married** must rightfully seek to **please** their spouse as well as the Lord.

The Gospel Mark 1: 21-28

Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit

Capernaum was a nondescript border town on the northwest corner of the Sea of Galilee. Jesus may have based His ministry there in order to keep a lower profile.

The **unclean spirit** (demon) used the first-person plural (**us**), signifying the presence of multiple demons. The demon instantly recognized Jesus and called Him **the Holy One of God**, perhaps in hopes that identifying Jesus by name would give the demon power over Him. The title Holy One of God refers to Jesus’ high-priestly authority. Ironically the demons recognized this first. Whereas the people were “astonished” at Jesus’ authoritative teaching in 1:22, they were **amazed** in this instance because Jesus had absolute authority over the demon. His words had full power to accomplish what He spoke.

The people who sit in darkness have seen a great light; on those dwelling in a land overshadowed by death, light has arisen.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

By request or appointment

Sacrament of Baptism and Marriages

Call the office for an appointment

Anointing of the Sick

Celebrated biannually at Mass or individually by appointment

For Pregnancy Support:

Birthright 241-8444 or 800-550-4900

MASS INTENTIONS Jan. 30 to Feb 5, 2021

Saturday 4:00 p.m. + John Parker

Sunday 10:00 a.m. + Charles McCrery

Tuesday 9:00 a.m. + Irene Ann Miller

Thursday 9:00 a.m. + Jose Eliseo Cabrera

Friday 9:00 a.m. + Corwin H. Lakin

Stewardship of Treasure

Collections January 23 & 24, 2021

Total \$ 1,115.00

Today the Second Collection Maintenance.
We Need Your Support, Thank you and May
God bless you!

We pray the ROSARY together every Saturday
at 3:30 PM.

Please come to pray for the families and our Country

Prayer requests, can be email to
christchildchurchprayerline@gmail.com

Villa Maria Del Mar

Spiritual Direction Opportunity is available
Wednesdays at the Villa by appointment.
Other times and days available in other areas.

Information contact/Referrals: Sister Molly Neville SNJM, neville.molly@yahoo.com or 408 679-0176. Sister Lois Rombi at Lrombi50@gmail.com

Come awaken your soul; spark the Divine!

Join Us for

OUTDOOR WORSHIP!!!

Fr. Eugenio

New address: 1555 Merrill St. # 111-B

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

Cell 831-578-5036

THE NEEDIEST IN THE FACE OF EVIL

Some are imprisoned definitively in an institution. Others wander around on our streets. They’re among us, but hardly anyone’s interested. They’re those with mental illness.

It’s not easy penetrating their world of suffering and loneliness. Deprived, to one degree or another, of conscious life and healthy affect, it’s not easy for them to live together with others.

Many of them are weak and vulnerable, or live tormented by fear in a society that is afraid of them or doesn’t understand them. From time immemorial, a pattern of prejudices, fears, and suspicions have gone about raising a kind of invisible wall between that world of darkness and pain, and the life of those of us who consider ourselves =sane=. The psychologically sick create insecurity, and their presence always seems dangerous. What’s most prudent is to defend our =normalness=, shutting them up or distancing them from our surroundings.

Today we hear of the social insertion of these infirm and of the therapeutic support that can mean their integration into social gathering. But all that isn’t more than a nice theory if doesn’t lead to a change of attitude in the face of the psychologically ill and doesn’t help to more effectively form so many families who feel themselves on their own or with little support to confront the problems that come upon them with the illness of one of their members. There are families who know how to take care of their loved one with love and patience, working together positively with their doctors. But there also are homes when the sick person ends up a difficult burden to carry. Little by little, the living together falls apart and the whole family get negatively affected, helping bring about the worsening of the sick person at the same time.

What place do these sick persons have in our Christian communities? Aren’t they mostly forgotten? Mark’s Gospel especially underlines Jesus’ attention to =those possessed by evil spirits=. His nearness to the people who are most defenseless and needy in the face of evil will always be for us a call that questions us.

José Antonio Pagola