

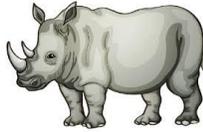
St. Mary's Catholic Church

4th Ordinary Sunday

January 31, 2021

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

The imposing figure of G.K. Chesterton, a witty English Catholic writer, was often seen squeezed behind a table in different London restaurants. Chesterton often joked about his large bulk, saying that it gave him the consolation of offering his seat on the train to three ladies. During one of his literary lunches, Chesterton was expounding on the relationship between **authority** and **power**. He described the difference as: "If a rhinoceros were to enter the restaurant now, there is no denying it would have great **power** here. But I should be the first to rise and assure it that it had **no authority** whatever."



Power without **authority** always looks dangerous; **authority** without **power** always looks comical. If **power** is the ability to cause or prevent change or to influence people and events, it is most important that those who exercise **power** also have the **authority** that justifies them in doing whatever they do. For many people, particularly those who have lived and suffered under oppressive dictatorships or military regimes, **power** is associated with force and violence. The **power** that identifies itself only with force or violence makes victims of all its subjects. That is the **power** of Chesterton's rhinoceros. People should rightly oppose any **authority** that uses **power** to exploit, manipulate, or bully them into conformity.

In today's Scripture readings we encounter the prophets Moses and Jesus, both of whom were invested with the **power** of God's spirit and were able to act and speak with **authority**. A prophet is anyone who, by design, has God's permission to speak on God's behalf. In proclaiming God's word a prophet has the authentic **authority** and **power** to speak and act in God's Holy Name. Because a prophet speaks in God's name, people will be held accountable if they do not listen to him or her. Moses is considered a prophet since he received God's **powerful** Word in the form of the Law and acted as God's voice as he promulgated God's Law with the Israelites. Jesus is the prophet par excellence, being the Son of God who's **authoritative** and **powerful** words and actions witnessed to and made real the presence of God and God's kingdom in our world.

God showed His love for the Israelites by asking the prophetic Moses to lead His People out of slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land. However, in today's first reading Moses reminds the Israelites that he is not the last prophet: "God will raise up a prophet from among our kin and will put His words into his mouth." Moses warns the Israelites that in the future a greater prophet will come after him and they **must** listen to that person. We know that this prophet was Jesus. *Continued...*

Weekend Masses

Sat Jan 30	4:00 p.m.	For our Diocese
Sun Jan 31	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Jan 31	10:00 a.m.	Rosemary Meyer
Sat Feb 6	4:00 p.m.	Rhonda Staley
Sun Feb 7	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Jan 7	10:00 a.m.	Larry + Imogene Mathewson

SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$2,000.00	Loose \$123.00
	Total	\$2,123.00
	41 envelopes returned = 21%	



*Thank you for your generosity!
Thank you also to those who give
electronically!!*

Assignments for February 6 & 7, 2021

**Money Counters: Courtney Gerten, Deb Buck
4:00 p.m.**

Cantor: Jenny Roby
Ushers: Dave and Mary Hoffer
Lector: *VOLUNTEER*
E.M.: Basil Meyer
Servers: Josh and Nathan Meyer

8:00 a.m.

Cantor: Karen Phillips
Ushers: *Volunteer*
Lector: *Volunteer*
E.M.: *Volunteer*
Server: *Volunteer*

10:00 a.m.

Cantor: Kevin Vance
Ushers: John Schlumbohm and Debbie Bullman
Lectors: Jenia Freewalt
E.M.: Wes Lovett
Servers: Lovett Boys

Readings for February 7, 2021

5th Ordinary Sunday

1st Reading: Job 7:1 – 4, 6 – 7

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16 – 19, 22 – 23

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:29 – 39

St. Mary's Catholic Church

4th Ordinary Sunday

January 31, 2021

... In today's Gospel passage Jesus came to a synagogue in Capernaum and spoke and taught with **authority** and **power**. His listeners were astonished as His words were effective and life-giving. While in the synagogue, Jesus encountered a man who was possessed with an evil spirit. Jesus cast out that evil spirit and restored the man to good health. The evil spirit identified Jesus as "the Holy One of God" but had **no power** over Jesus. Just as the people were astonished by Jesus' teachings, so they were amazed at His **power** over the evil spirit.

True **authority** and **power** is propelled by love and concern, not by coercion. Jesus' **authority** and **power** inspired and healed people. Jesus possessed an **authority** and **power** that was centered in compassion, empathy, and mercy for all. May all of us who possess or seek **power** imitate Jesus and use our **authoritative** position and **power** to serve others with love, compassion, and mercy. Have a blessed day

Love & prayers,
Fr. John



Data Base Update: Please help St. Mary's update our database so we can better connect with our parishioners. There will be cards in each pew for households to fill out, or if you would prefer to do it online, scan the QR code using your phone's camera and open the link, or you can follow the link directly here:

<https://forms.gle/ncnakEfxbS7sRNFn7>

Thanks for your help in updating our system! We are looking forward to being able to better serve you this way.

Bible Study Please let Deb Hohenbrink know by January 31st if you are interested in joining the next Bible Study Group, which will start on Monday, February 15th at 6:30 p.m. The study will focus on the Eucharist, and books are \$11. If interested, please call or text (567) 204 - [REDACTED] Thank you!

Shoebox Donation We are asking for donations of shoeboxes for our Vacation Bible School activities this summer. There will be a location in the main entrance for drop off. Also, be sure to mark your calendars – the dates for VBS will be July 18 – July 22, 2021. Thank you in advance for your help in making it successful!



YouTube Page We can now live-stream our 10 a.m. Sunday Mass! To watch our Sunday Mass online, please go to our

YouTube page at:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK-](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK-4_hQ9QbgP7sH4EhD9YA)

[4_hQ9QbgP7sH4EhD9YA](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCqK-4_hQ9QbgP7sH4EhD9YA) Be sure to click the "Subscribe" button while you are on our page so you don't miss out on any of our uploads!

Signup sheets for the "Partners in Prayer" prayer chain are on the cabinet this weekend. If you would like to join our group to pray for the needs of others, please provide your name, phone number, and email address. Anyone who would like to request prayer, please contact Shar Dunlap @ 419-236-[REDACTED] (call or text), or 419-643-[REDACTED] or dsdunlap@embarqmail.com, or Lois Kahle @ LJKahle@hotmail.com or 419-615-[REDACTED]. We will have commissioning of members on Ash Wednesday.

THANK YOU!

Liturgy Committee I want to express my gratitude and appreciation to Mrs. Lisa Welch who has served on our Parish Liturgy Committee for the past 30 years and now is "stepping down" as chairperson. I also want to thank Mrs. Deb Hohenbrink and Mrs. Chris Denecker who have and continue to serve on the Committee. The Liturgy Committee helps with the decorating of our Church for the various Liturgical Seasons and Celebrations throughout the year. **I am inviting other parishioners to serve on this important Parish Committee.** If you are interested in joining our Liturgy Committee or need more information please contact Rachel at the Parish Office - (419) 358-8631. Thanks and God bless. Fr. John

P.R.E.P

K-5: Class will meet Wednesday, February 3rd from 6:30 – 7:30.

6th Grade: Class will meet February 7 from 11 – 12:45

Jr High: Class will meet February 7 from 11 – 12:45



God Squad--High School Youth Group



God Squad High School Youth will meet February 7 from 11 – 12:45