

NOTES FROM FR. SEÁN

January 31, 2021

In Today's Gospel

As Jesus began his public ministry, he brought something new to the people, a new authority. In today's gospel, the people recognize that Jesus "taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes." (Mk 1:22) This is not to say that the scribes did not have authority. Jesus, himself, recognized the authority of both the scribes and Pharisees, saying, "The scribes and the Pharisees have taken their seat on the chair of Moses." (Mt 23:2) Although they had the authority of their position, the people recognize that they lack moral authority because of their actions. Jesus goes on to say, "Therefore, do and observe all things whatsoever they tell you, but do not follow their example. For they preach but they do not practice." (Mt 23:3)

Sadly, too many people, even in the Church, do not practice what we preach. When we fail to practice what we preach, we are no different than the scribes and Pharisees. Although we may have the authority that comes from our position, we lack moral authority. Please pray for the Church and those in authority that we act with true authority that comes from a life in Christ.

Scout Sunday

Next Sunday, February 7th, is Scout Sunday. We will honor all our Scouts at the 11:30 Mass. If you are a Boy or Girl Scout or a Brownie or Cub Scout, a Daisy, or any other organizations associated with the Scouting movement, we invite you to join us at the 11:30 Mass. Please wear your uniform to Mass and join us in the entrance procession. There will be a special recognition for Scouts who have earned religious medals or badges during the last year.

World Marriage Day

Sunday, February 14th we celebrate World Marriage Day. The marriage of a man and woman is a sign of God's love and his relationship with his people. Through your marriage, you are witnesses to the world of God's love. We want to recognize that witness. We especially want to acknowledge those who are celebrating significant anniversaries during 2021. If you are celebrating your 1st, 5th, 10th, 15th... anniversary, and anything over 50 years, please contact the parish office to let us know. Although we cannot have the reception following Mass that we usually have, we still want to recognize your marriage.

Lent

Lent is fast approaching. This year, Ash Wednesday is on February 17th. Although it is not a holy day of obligation, Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular days for people to attend Mass during the year. Our Ash Wednesday schedule will be the same this year as it has been in the past, with 9 AM Mass at both St. Mary and St. Richard, a 12:30PM Scripture service at St. Mary, a 7 PM Mass at St. Mary, and a 7 PM Scripture service at St. Richard. The distribution of ashes will occur at each of these services following the instructions from the Congregation of Divine Worship in Rome.

Traditionally, the ashes used on Ash Wednesday come from burning old palms. In preparation for Lent, we will begin collecting your old palms. Please bring your old palms to either church and place them in the baskets provided at the entrances.

THE POWER OF THE WORD OF GOD

God speaks to his people first and foremost through Holy Scripture. St. Jerome is quoted as saying, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ." Although we listen to Scripture every week when we go to Mass, if that is the only Scripture we hear, we hear far too little.

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Last weekend, Archbishop Vigneron issued a pastoral note on Scripture, *The Power of the Word of God*. In this pastoral note, he briefly reviews Catholic doctrine concerning the Bible, he reflects on how we should read the Bible in a “prayerful dialogue with the Lord,” he explains the “importance of the Bible in our lives as a local Church and our call to respond to the word,” and he recommends some ways parishes help to foster a biblical renewal.

To read the pastoral note, go to www.AOD.org.

View this full bulletin on the *BULLETIN* tab on our webpage.