



St. Mary's Catholic Church



4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit; he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!" Jesus rebuked him and said, "Quiet! Come out of him!" - Mk 1:23-25

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor

Mass Schedule and Intentions

2/1: Malta - To Be Announced

2/2: Malta - 5:30 PM: Repose of Jack Lind ^{r/b} Knights of Columbus

2/3: Malta - 8:30 AM: Belated Birthday for Jack Stenswick ^{r/b} Knights of Columbus

2/4: Malta - 8:30 AM: Special Intentions ^{r/b} Lana Fortin

2/5: Malta - 8:30 AM: Recently Deceased ^{r/b} Lana Fortin

2/6: Malta - 4:00 PM: Repose of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Marks ^{r/b} Helen DePuydt

2/7: Saco - 8:30 AM: Repose of Mr. & Mrs. Gay LaFond ^{r/b} Bruce and Darlene Cummings

Malta - 10:30 AM: For all Parishioners;

Dodson—12:30 PM: Repose of Mr. & Mrs. Newt Cummings ^{r/b} Bruce & Darlene Cummings

Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00, Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon;** and by appointment.

Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM after Daily Mass.



Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.



Knights of Columbus
Council 2124

Parish Council of Catholic
Women

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

Daily Scripture Readings

1/31: 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Catholic Schools Week: Deuteronomy 18:15-20; Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9; 1 Corinthians 7:32-35/Mark 1:21-28

2/1: Monday in the 4th week of Ordinary Time; Hebrews 11:32-40; Psalms 31:20-24; Mark 5:1-20

2/2: The Presentation of the Lord; World Day for Consecrated Life; Malachi 3:1-4; Psalms 24:7-10; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

2/3: St. Blaise, Bishop and Martyr; St. Ansgar, Bishop; Hebrews 12:4-7, 11-15; Psalms 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18; Mark 6:1-6

2/4: Thursday in the 4th week of Ordinary Time; Hebrew 12:18-19, 21-24; Psalms 48:2-4, 9, 10-11; Mark 6:7-13

2/5: St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr; Hebrews 13:1-8; Psalms 27:1, 3, 5, 8-9; Mark 6:14-29

2/6: St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs; Hebrews 13:15-17, 20-21; Psalms 23:1-6; Mark 6:30-34

2/7: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time; Job 7:1-4, 6-7; Psalms 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39

MASS TIMES

Saturday Evening - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday—Saco - 8:30 a.m.

Malta - 10:30 a.m.

Dodson - 12:30 p.m.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are really present in the Most Holy Sacrament.

I love You above all things, and I desire to possess You within my soul.

Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as being already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

Sacraments

Confessions: See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

Baptism: Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

Anointing of the Sick: Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

Marriages: Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

Please Pray For

Lary Poulton, Sarine Venerble, Dallas Green, Missy Boos, Corrine Hould, Ann Clouse, Chayten Pippin, Jim Niebur, Hi-Line Retirement Center, Terry Idler, Marshal Kline, Paul LaBrie, Jacob LaBrie, and those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Dale Bruckner, David Broadbrooks, Jack Lind, the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Jean Niebur at 654-2822 or Dianne Salsbery 654-4675. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one month unless specified.

Everyday Stewardship

Embracing Change in Christ

It's officially one month since we popped the champagne, toasted 2021 and wrote down a list of resolutions. This is usually the time when we start to take a good, hard look in the mirror to assess what we have done — or have not done — with the first month of this brand-new year.

New years can be scary, can't they? Full of promise, sure, but also full of room for failure. Full of space for our old baggage, old fears and the continuation of old mistakes.

The same can be said of Christ, and the new life he offers us, if we are brave enough to accept it. Opportunities like that can be intimidating. In that moment, we might find ourselves like the man with the unclean spirit crying out: "What have you to do with me, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us?"

Jesus is a comforter of the afflicted; he is a consoling figure, but he is also a challenging one. Sometimes we have grown attached to our afflictions. The idea of correcting bad habits or forming new ones is frankly terrifying to us. We have a voice deep inside who sees Christ and his invitation to repentance, and it cries out in fear: "I know who you are!"

When we live in the present, disavowing the baggage of the past or fear of the future, we submit ourselves to the promise of redemption. Let us be brave everyday stewards and invite Christ's healing power into our lives. We won't regret it — I'm sure the demoniac never did.

Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

Thank you for all your prayers and financial support! Although we're not "passing the basket", we still need your generous donations. You can drop off your donations at the baskets in the front of the church, mail them to Box 70, Malta, MT 59538.

***There is no longer online giving. Direct deposits from your account into your parishes account is available at Bank of Malta and FSB . Please contact Mariah or Brenda for routing numbers* 301-0936, 654-1311**

Pope Francis' Intention

For a Life of Prayer

We pray that our personal relationship with Jesus Christ be nourished by the Word of God and a life of prayer.

Fr. Felix

IV Sunday (B): DT 18:15-20; I COR 7:32-35; MK 1:21-28

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ. The theme of today's readings is Divine authority reflected in the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus.

Today's first reading describes how the Chosen People were terrified because they were about to lose Moses who had been successfully leading them through the wilderness toward the Promised Land. They were also going to lose a prophet who had been keeping them informed of Yahweh's will. God answered the question by promising Moses that He would heed the people's request and "raise up for them a prophet like you from among their kin, and ... put My words into his mouth; he shall tell them all that I command him." Moses had set up a theocratic society for the Israelites as he had been instructed to do by God. This society had judges, kings, priests and prophets to regulate the civil and religious life of the people. The passage tells us that a true prophet would speak with authority because it would be God Who spoke through him. After the return from the Babylonian exile (538 B. C.), the Jewish priests began to interpret this text of Deuteronomy as referring to one individual, namely the Messiah who was to come. These verses refer to Jesus, the "preacher with authority," mentioned in today's Gospel.

In the Second reading as we hear, St. Paul and most of the early Christians believed, that the end of this world and the second coming of Christ were imminent. For this reason, many Christians in Corinth thought they should not enter into marriage, lest marriage should interfere with their whole-hearted service of

God in preparation for the second coming of Jesus. But St. Paul exercised his God-given authority as the Apostle to the Gentiles to teach people that marriage is a holy state, ordained by God and that it is a life-long partnership according to the teaching of the Lord (Mt. 5:32; 19:3-9). Further, he recommended a life of virginity to the non-married. So we need to respect the sacrament of matrimony.

Today's Gospel passage begins and ends with comments about Jesus' authority as a teacher. The synagogue service consisted of three parts – prayer, the reading of God's word, and the exposition of it made by anyone who wished to do so. In this chapter St. Mark tells us that, in the synagogue, Jesus taught with authority which means that Jesus explained the Scriptures with complete confidence, and when questioned by people he answered with authority. He cited no authorities or experts. Jesus also showed his power and authority by curing the sick and granting forgiveness to people. Everyone in the ancient Biblical world feared evil spirits and believed in demonic possession. People believed that demons caused leprosy, lameness, paralysis, etc. But today we have some other types of possession or unclean spirits: the sudden explosions of anger that occur, the suicidal impulses, the intense jealousies, overwhelming feelings of depression, etc. Jesus came to destroy the unclean spirits living inside of us. Jesus came to drive out those unclean spirits within us, to wash them away, to cleanse our lives of them and fill us with his love and compassion. Let us put ourselves under his authority and he will liberate us.

Let us pray for the grace that we may have trusting faith in Jesus so that he may free us from all the evil spirits that keep us from praying and prevent us from loving and sharing our blessings with others. He also frees us from all the “evil spirits” of fear, compulsions,

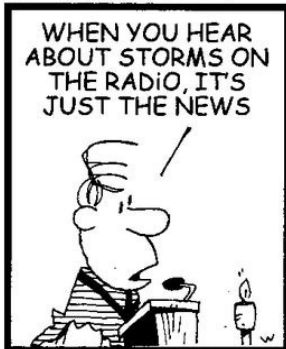
selfishness, anger, resentment and hostility. May he free us from all those spirits that make us deaf, dumb, blind, lame and paralyzed, physically and spiritually, Amen.

BOOKS HAVE ARRIVED - Bible Study with Mary LaFond “**Walking Toward Eternity – Daring to Walk the Walk**”. Engaging the struggles of your heart by making choices for today, by Jeff & Emily Cavins.... begins next **Tuesday evening, February 2nd at 6:30pm and Thursday, February 4th at 9:30am** and will be offered for 8 continuous weeks. **Extra books have been ordered.** Contact Mary LaFond or Anne Boothe to sign up.

5 Common Mistakes Catholics Make at Mass:

1. Do not—Sit before the Priests sits. Wait for the Priest to sit first.
2. Do not—Make the sign of the cross repeatedly in the Mass, especially after Holy Communion. The sign of the cross should only be made at the beginning and end of Mass.
3. Do not—Genuflect with the left knee. Always genuflect with the right knee.
4. Do not—Meet the priest for a blessing immediately after Mass. The priest has already made the blessing at the close of the Mass.
5. Do not—Leave the church before the priest has completely recessed out of the church.

4TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



Gospel Meditation

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Most of us are quiet people who desire to live a good and holy life, promote the values and mission of the Gospel as best we can and desire to one day inherit the surprise of life eternal God promises to us. We are not trail blazers. We are simple people who want to do the simple things of life well. But there are others who left a more profound impact along the way of the paths they walked. Folks like Dorothy Day, Martin Luther King, Thomas Merton, Gandhi, St. Teresa of Calcutta, and many others left lasting impacts and legacies. Like Moses, they show us by word and deed who God is and what integrity and a purpose driven life look like. They show us how to be holy. We need Moses people like these to give us inspiration, hope and an example of holy living.

We do not need to do what they did or even mirror their relationship with God. Each one of us is God's special creation, with a purpose and soul known only to us. We need to learn how to open up and bring, without compromise, our soul-ness to life. We know when someone is authentic and centered because they always point to truth, even though they struggle and sin themselves, and they embody

an unspoken timeless wisdom that just sounds and feels right. Jesus taught with this same type of authority and it astonished many who listened. We do not need to move mountains, advance a cause, write books or become notable. All we have to do is become credible witnesses of the faith we profess. Moses people can teach us how to do this.

St. Oscar Romero was an amazing man and a Moses figure for sure. He saw God in the burning bush and brought the flame of Gospel faith to the poorest of the poor, challenging the evils of the society in which he lived. He was tireless and persistent. He must have gotten very close to the problem because it cost him his life. He suspected it would. St. Romero said, "When we leave Mass, we ought to go out the way Moses descended Mt Sinai: with his face shining, with his heart brave and strong to face the world's difficulties." We can learn from this wisdom. If we allow the power of the Mass to truly transform us, we will leave that holy encounter changed. Our face will shine, and we will have courage. We can then bring what we have received to life's challenges. That sounds doable, doesn't it? Because of the example of our simple holiness, people will be amazed.

Join us in praying the Rosary before Mass.

Tuesdays at 5:10 p.m.

Wednesday—Friday at 8:10 a.m.

Saturday—3:40 p.m. K of C

Sunday— 10:10 a.m. Volunteers

Dates to Remember

February 9th: The next Liturgy & Worship Commission meeting is 5PM.

February 17th: Ash Wednesday

Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.

Please consider having Masses celebrated for family and friends on special occasions



	Goal	Remaining	Past Due
Malta:	\$15,520.00	\$3080.00	\$92,145.91
Dodson:	\$3,204.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Saco:	\$2,525.00	\$0.00	\$0.00

Sacrificial Giving for 1-24-2021

	1-24	Needed	Direct Deposit
Malta:	\$1,995.00	\$3,879.78	\$25.00
Dodson:	\$185.00	\$416.18	\$0.00
Saco:	\$228.00	\$470.96	\$0.00

Finance Council

Charlie Mears 654-7006, cmears@itstriangle.com

Regina Webb 319-491-7607, auntregina@gmail.com

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, lanceh_99@hotmail.com

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Scott King 654-7302, sbking1959@gmail.com

Lana Fortin 654-4811, lanafortin03@gmail.com

Please send bulletin announcements to office@SaintMarysMalta.org by Thursday Morning. Thanks!

Word of Life from the USCCB

“Walk with each other. Do not be afraid to embrace God’s gift of life. Whatever storms or trials we face, we are not alone. He is with us. ‘Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age’ (Matthew 28:20).”



Weekly Reflection from Priests for Life

“Human life must be respected and protected absolutely from the moment of conception. From the first moment of his existence, a human being must be recognized as having the rights of a person -- among which is the inviolable right of every innocent being to life. “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I consecrated you” (Jer 1:5; cf Job 10:8-

12; Ps 22:10-11). “My frame was not hidden from you, when I was being made in secret, intricately wrought in the depths of the earth” (Ps. 139:15). Since the first century the Church has affirmed the moral evil of every procured abortion. This teaching has not changed and remains unchangeable.”

Catechism of the Catholic Church, n. 2270-2271

Parish Council

Alora Snider— 399-1675, alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com (Malta)

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Tom DePuydt—674-7060, 4bard@itstriangle.com (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459, leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com (Dodson)

The Eucharist: Catholic Beliefs and Practices

The second in a series of teachings on the Eucharist

Bishop Michael Warfel

Archbishop Fulton Sheen, when teaching about the Mass, emphasized the notion of sacrifice. If we take time to ponder the notion, there is little in life that does not require sacrifice. This especially applies to relationships between people. A fundamental principle of life is that there is no communion or exchange of love without sacrifice. Even with the most mundane daily actions, sacrifice is necessary. By way of analogy, every day we must take in food for nourishment. If we do not eat, we become weak and can even die if we go too long without food. To eat something, whatever it is, be it a vegetable or a steak, requires the substance to sacrifice its life in order for us to take on its nourishment. Relationships too require sacrifice. Parents and spouses will readily recognize this. What marriage does not require making significant personal adjustments for one's spouse! What parent has not had to pour themselves out to take care of infant children! Understanding the significance of sacrifice helps us to perceive the element of sacrifice in the Eucharist.



Through the elements of bread and wine transformed into the presence of Christ, we receive the spiritual nourishment provided as a result of his sacrifice on the Cross. The reason why Jesus instructed his disciples to continue to gather for this meal was so that they could ingest his sacrifice. By ingesting the Eucharistic elements, we ritually ingest the sacrifice of the Cross that he embraced for us. Very much like the Hebrews of old who were instructed to eat a roasted lamb at Passover, its blood having marked the lintels and door posts of the homes of Hebrews to protect them from death, Christ is our saving Lamb. The sacrifice of Jesus is his total gift of self to the Father on our behalf. He sacrificed himself, not for himself, but for us. Christ did not need to sacrifice himself on the Cross. We needed him to sacrifice himself for our eternal well-being. As we partake of the sacred elements of bread and wine transformed into Christ, we participate in his sacrifice. And as simple elements of bread and wine are transformed, we who partake of these elements are being transformed more and more into the likeness of Christ. When ingesting regular food, the elements of what we eat are assimilated into our bodies for our nourishment. Ingesting the Eucharist, however, is the opposite. By ingesting the Body and Blood of Christ, we are assimilated into Christ for our spiritual nourishment. Eucharist transforms us spiritually into a closer image of the Lord with the hope that we are transformed into the likeness of Christ. St. Paul once said it so well, "I no longer live. It is Christ who lives in me" (Gal 2:20).

KNOW



“I know who you are—the
Holy One of God!”

MARK 1:24