

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

JANUARY 28, 2024



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

Second: 1 Corinthians 7:32-35

Gospel: Mark 1:21-28

FOCUS: *Jesus taught as one having authority – having power of his own.*

When Jesus speaks or teaches, his words have power; for example, in today's Gospel by driving out demons. In our lives, Jesus can free us from anxiety and bring us into union with the Father in the kingdom to come. Unlike all the preceding prophets, Jesus does not simply convey God's word and commands. He *is* God's word in the flesh. His power derives from the Father, for he and the Father are one.

LITURGY OF THE WORD:

In the first reading, Moses says God will raise up a new prophet who will speak the words of God. In the second reading, Paul contrasts the divided loyalties of married people with those who are unmarried and have only the desire to please the Lord. In the Gospel, Jesus commands an unclean spirit to be quiet and come out of a man in the synagogue.



MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m.: Regina Martin, Donald Marshall and Danielle Beam

10 a.m.: Mike DiMarzo, Sonia Del Pilar and Barbara Quicksell

INVESTIGATE A CATHOLIC SCHOOL

National Catholic Schools Week (CSW) is an annual celebration of Catholic education in the United States. This year's new theme is Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community. It will be used through 2026.

Now entering its 50th anniversary year, CSW has traditionally been held the last week in January; this year, **January 28 to**

February 3. Schools nationwide typically observe the week with Masses, assemblies and other activities for students, families, parishioners and community members to celebrate what makes Catholic schools great.

At **Our Lady of Mount Carmel School** in Middletown (www.mtcarmelschoolmiddletown.org), there will be an Open House every morning this week. Anyone is welcome to visit from 9 to 11 a.m. – and be sure to visit the Scholastic Book Fair at that time, too.

Although **Most Precious Blood School** in Walden (<https://mpbschool.org>) does not have any specific community events planned, parents can call anytime to make appointments for tours, which are conducted weekdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.



Catholic Schools
United in Faith and Community

HELP US HELP THE HOMELESS

Our **Youth Ministry** has just learned from the Guild of St. Margaret Soup Kitchen that people using the Middletown Warming Station would be best served this year by the take-away bags they will be assembling.

Sadly, though, both agencies reported that the number of people in need of help has almost doubled since last winter. Having some basic provisions, then, can make all the difference for those who are trying to

survive brutally cold temperatures without shelter once they leave the Warming Station in the morning.

Our kids will gather from 6-8 p.m. on Friday, **February 2**, to package all the items you have so generously donated – so generously, in fact, that a **minimum of 100 bags is within reach!** Donations have been counted. Here's what's still needed:

Toothpaste

Small hand sanitizers

Small bottles of water

Travel-size mouthwash

Healthier, nut-free snacks, such as protein bars

Items can be dropped off in Deacon John Hall. All surplus donations will be given to the Warming Station.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

You know how quickly days turn into weeks and into months; unbelievably, it's the end of January already!

To help you plan, here's a look at some of what's on tap:



The **Men's Faith-Sharing Group** is an ongoing Zoom meeting that begins at 6:45 **Monday evenings**. Newcomers are welcome at any time – and this could be something to consider as Lent nears. Contact Deacon Carl at carloc@yahoo.com or the office for info.



On the first Friday of Lent, **February 16**, our Social Activities team will be preparing and serving a **Fish "Fry" Dinner**. More information, including ticket prices, will be provided next week.



There will be a **Bake Sale** after the Masses on **March 2** and **March 3** to raise fleece funds for our Prayer Blanket Ministry. The Confirmation candidates will be making blankets later in the month. Anyone in need of the comfort of a prayer blanket should call the office.



The Xavier Company will perform the **musical drama "Whom Shall I Send"** at 4 p.m. **Sunday, March 3**, at Our Lady of the Assumption Church in Bloomingburg. For those wishing to stay for the light supper that will follow, call OLA's office at 845-733-1477 to make a reservation.



For more than 60 years, the **Cursillo** movement has been helping Catholics bring about changes in themselves and the world around them. To learn more, consider a three-day Cursillo weekend. There's a men's weekend from **March 14-17** and one for women from **April 11-14**. For more information, call Debbe Garry at 845-695-1944.



The second segment of the ChristLife series, **Following Christ**, begins at 5 p.m. **Sunday, April 7**. It is a seven-week program plus a retreat (April 5-May 5, May 11, May 19 and June 2) that is open to everyone – not just those who participated in Discovering Christ, the first in the series.



The next Healing Weekend for men and women of all ages and faiths **grieving the loss of a spouse**, sponsored by Beginning Experience of the Hudson Valley, is scheduled for **April 19-21** at the St. Lawrence Retreat Center in Beacon. Call Phyllis at 914-261-5812 or Jim at 845-220-7883.

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday – 86

Sunday – 146

ST. JOHN BOSCO

Pioneered educating the poor

Founded the Salesian order

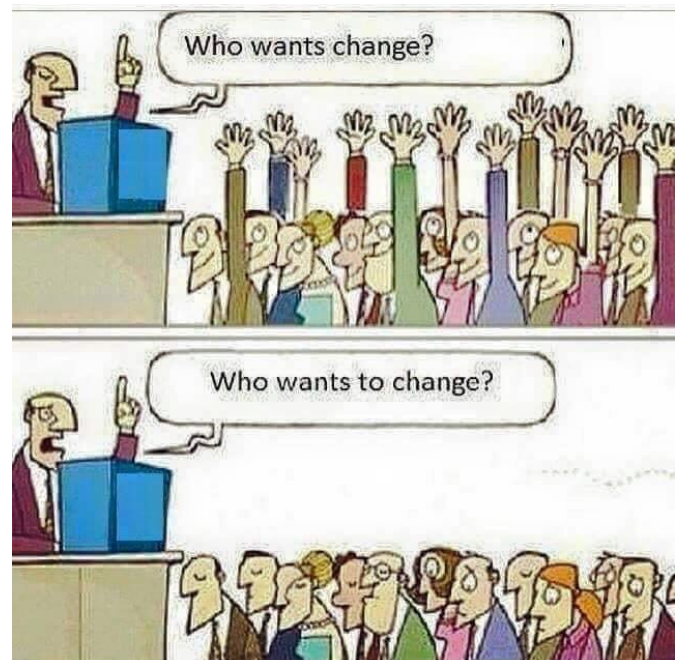
Patron saint of youth

Feast Day: January 31



Without confidence and love, there can be no true education.

If you want to be loved... you must love yourselves, and make your children feel that you love them.



TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

January 8- January 14: \$ 7,613.93

Envelopes: \$ 3,435.00 – Online: \$ 4,178.93

January 15- January 21: \$ 7,652.25

Envelopes: \$ 3,114.00 – Online: \$ 4,538.25

THANK YOU!

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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