

# Dear Padre,

**Recently my son made his first reconciliation and was told to say some prayers as his penance. Doesn't this make prayer seem like a punishment for being bad?**

**Y**ou raise a valid concern. In fact the latest rite of reconciliation suggests that, if at all possible, penance must right the wrong and be clear enough that the penitent knows he has fulfilled it. Penance should not just show God we're sorry; it should also put us on the path to a Christian life and correct the harm our sins caused.

For instance, if someone has stolen something and returning it would reveal his sin (this cannot be part of the penance), making a comparable donation might be a fitting penance. When someone confesses gossiping, I challenge him or her to tell someone else something good about the person who was gossiped about. In other words, instead of spreading pain, learn to spread joy. The penance for disobeying parents might be to do something nice for them or do chores without being asked. This type of penance is far more beneficial to the penitent and the community at large.

Using prayer as a penance can send the signal that we pray only when

we've been bad or need something from God, like forgiveness. On the contrary, prayer should be constant. We should pray always and in all ways, if for no other reason than to give glory to God.

*Fr. Rick Potts, CSsR*  
*Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*



## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*We must never forget that true power, at any level, is service, whose bright summit is upon the cross....Although man frequently equates authority with control, dominion, success, for God authority is always synonymous with service, humility, love. It means entering the logic of Jesus who kneels to wash the Apostles' feet.*

ADDRESS TO INTERNATIONAL UNION  
 OF SUPERIORS GENERAL, MAY 8, 2013



## Calendar

**Monday**  
 FEBRUARY 1  
 Weekday

Heb 11:32-40  
 Mk 5:1-20

**Tuesday**  
 FEBRUARY 2  
 Presentation  
 of the Lord

Mal 3:1-4  
 Heb 2:14-18  
 Lk 2:22-40  
 or 2:22-32

**Wednesday**  
 FEBRUARY 3  
 Weekday

Heb 12:4-7, 11-15  
 Mk 6:1-6

**Thursday**  
 FEBRUARY 4  
 Weekday

Heb 12:18-19, 21-24  
 Mk 6:7-13

**Friday**  
 FEBRUARY 5  
 St. Agatha,  
 Virgin and Martyr

Heb 13:1-8  
 Mk 6:14-29

**Saturday**  
 FEBRUARY 6  
 St. Paul Miki and  
 Companions, Martyrs

Heb 13:15-17, 20-21  
 Mk 6:30-34

**Sunday**  
 FEBRUARY 7  
 Fifth Sunday  
 in Ordinary Time

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7  
 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23  
 Mk 1:29-39

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

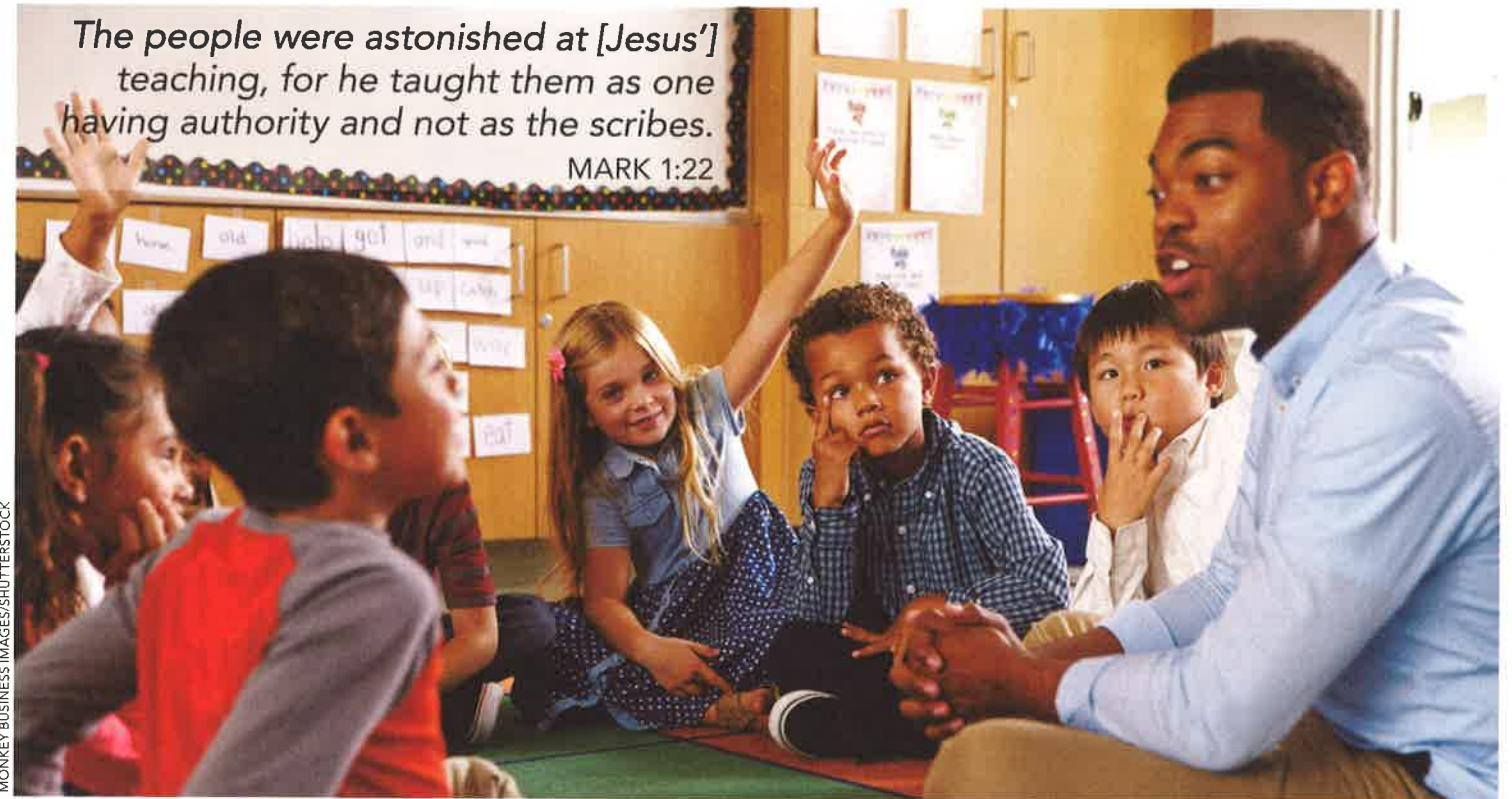
January 31, 2021

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Dt 18:15-20

1 Cor 7:32-35

Mk 1:21-28



MONKEY BUSINESS IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK

## Teaching with Authority

**W**ho teaches with authority? To whose voice should we listen? The first reading provides an answer. Moses had been appointed by God to be God's voice for the Israelites—for that is what a prophet is. Moses assures the people that God will raise up a leader like himself. They are to listen to that voice just as they listened to his voice. The Gospel presents Jesus as the fulfillment of that promise.

The issues of contemporary life are extraordinarily complex. Actually, when one is in the midst of living, it is always complex. It was complex at the time of Moses and at the time of Jesus as well. So, to whose voice should disciples listen? It is easy to answer: "The one with authority." But who has authority? Recognizing genuine authority is not as easy as it sounds. Moses' position of authority was eventually recognized, but that was not the case in the beginning. The expression, "Who died and left you boss?" comes right

out of an earlier story of Moses (Exodus 2:14). As for Jesus, he never held a recognized position of authority in his society, and we know his authority seems eventually to have been rejected by most.

A sign of genuine authority is seen in the integrity of one's life. Moses led the people through the struggles of the wilderness. In this Gospel, Jesus confirms the message of his teaching with his works of healing. Who has authority? "By their fruits you will know them" (Matthew 7:16).

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### FOR Reflection

- ★ As a disciple of Jesus, whose voice are you inclined to follow? Why?
- ★ What is your attitude toward official authority? Is this a good attitude to hold?





St. Mary's Church  
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church  
Bridgeport, NE 69336  
Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese  
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church  
Bayard, NE 69334

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: [allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com](mailto:allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com) Website: [www.smassh Catholics.org](http://www.smassh Catholics.org)

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

The common theme of today's readings is Divine authority, as exercised in this world by the prophets of the Old Testament in their messages, by the apostles (including St. Paul), in their writings and teaching in the New Testament, and by Jesus in his teaching and healing ministry.

Today's first reading tells us that a true prophet like Moses speaks with authority because it is God Who speaks through him. After the Babylonian exile, the Jewish priests began to interpret the words of Moses given in the first reading, namely, "a prophet like me," as referring to one individual, the expected Messiah. This passage is chosen for today's first reading because it refers to Jesus, the "preacher with authority," mentioned in today's Gospel. The response for today's Responsorial Psalm, (Ps 95), speaks of not hardening our hearts when we hear God's authoritative voice through the Scripture and the Church's teaching authority. In the second reading, St. Paul exercises his God-given authority as the *Apostle to the Gentiles* to teach people in Corinth that marriage is a holy state ordained by God and that it is a life-long partnership according to the teaching of the Lord. But he opts for, and recommends, celibacy, so that one may serve the Lord without the distractions of married life.

In today's Gospel, Mark describes one sample Sabbath day of Jesus' public life. Jesus joins in public worship in the synagogue as a practicing Jew, heals the sick, drives out evil spirits and prays privately. People immediately noticed that Jesus teaches with authority and heals with Divine power. Jesus explains the Scriptures with complete confidence, and when questioned by people, he answered with authority. Jesus in using his real (authentic) Divine authority to teach, empower, liberate, and heal others. In today's Gospel, the evil spirit recognized and loudly declared Jesus as the Messiah. Jesus harsh, command, "Be quiet! Come out of him!" exorcises the demon who departs, obedient to His Divine authority.

So many people with authority have made a lasting impression on our lives either for good or ill. Perhaps it was a grandparent, an uncle, a parent, or a CCD instructor who loved us and cared for us instilling in us our faith. Like Jesus, let us use authority to mold young lives in the right way.

Yours in Christ Jesus,  
**Fr. C. P. Varghese**  
Pastor

**SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
02/01	Monday	No Mass Today		
02/02	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Oneva Lummel
02/03	Wednesday	In - person CCD Classes		
02/04	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Leonard Troidl
02/05	Friday	11.00 AM	Bayard (Adoration & Mass)	Bernard Rodriguez
02/06	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton (Adoration & Mass)	Margerie Enriquez
02/07	Sunday	800 AM	Bayard (Adoration & Mass)	Bernard Rodriguez
02/07	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport (Adoration & Mass)	Oneva Lummel

**ALL SOULS**  
617 P STREET  
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

**MASS TIME**  
Tuesday — 6:00 PM  
Sunday — 10.30 AM

**Online Evening Prayer:**  
February 02, Tuesday  
at 8.00 PM

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$1178.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$40.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,218.00
MASS STIPEND	
LATIN AMERICA	\$120.00
UTILITIES	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$1,388.00
BUILDING FUND	
HEAT/AC	
DONATIONS	\$3,615.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
BALANCE	(\$2,431.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SACRED HEART**  
1003 AVE B  
BAYARD NE 69334

**MASS TIME**  
Friday — 12:00 PM  
Sunday — 8:00 AM

**Online Evening Prayer:**  
February 02, Tuesday  
at 8.00 PM

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$685.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$10.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 695.00
MASS STIPEND	
CHRISTMAS	\$300.00
LATIN AMERICA	\$25.00
TOTAL	\$1,020.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$2,915.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
BALANCE	(\$1,992.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.



**SAINT MARY'S**  
718 FRANCIS ST  
DALTON NE 69131

**MASS TIME**  
Thursday — 6:00 PM  
Saturday — 5:30 PM

**Online Evening Prayer:**  
February 02, Tuesday  
at 8.00 PM

**OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH**

ADULTS	\$250.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$12.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 262.00
MASS STIPEND	
LATIN AMERICA	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$ 302.00
BUILDING FUND	
DONATIONS	\$3,511.00
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
BALANCE	(\$2,625.00)

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

