

Dear Padre,

Does religious freedom mean we're free to worship whoever and whatever we wish? I thought Jesus gave us rules on this.

Jesus gave us the gift of freedom. Even as he hung on the cross, he didn't use force to change the minds of people or coerce them to believe in him. His example shaped the Declaration on Religious Freedom (*Dignitatis Humanae*), a document from the Second Vatican Council. The council gave us several principles that outline our beliefs about religious freedom:



First, God has made known to us the way in which we are to serve God and find salvation and eternal life in Jesus.

Second, this one true religion consists in the catholic and apostolic Church. To this Church, the Lord himself committed the obligation and duty to spread the truth that salvation in Jesus is ours.

Third, all people are bound to seek the truth, to embrace the truth they come to know, and to hold fast to that truth.

Finally, all of us have a right to be immune from coercion by individuals, social groups, or other human powers. No one is to be forced to act contrary to personal beliefs or prevented from acting in accord with those beliefs.

This also means that if people choose to reject Christ, they must not be forced to do anything against their will. The judgment for their actions must be left up to God. As a Church, we proclaim the truth of Christ and set high standards for membership in the Church, but we do not force people to convert or believe.

Fr. Paul J. Coury, CSsR
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

[Religious] freedom remains one of America's most precious possessions. And, as my brothers, the United States Bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it.

VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE, SEPTEMBER 23, 2015



Calendar

Monday
JULY 5
Weekday
Gn 28:10–22a
Mt 9:18–26

Tuesday
JULY 6
Weekday
Gn 32:23–33
Mt 9:32–38

Wednesday
JULY 7
Weekday
Gn 41:55–57;
42:5–7a, 17–24a
Mt 10:1–7

Thursday
JULY 8
Weekday
Gn 44:18–21,
23b–29; 45:1–5
Mt 10:7–15

Friday
JULY 9
Weekday
Gn 46:1–7, 28–30
Mt 10:16–23

Saturday
JULY 10
Weekday
Gn 49:29–32;
50:15–26a
Mt 10:24–33

Sunday
JULY 11
Fifteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Am 7:12–15
Eph 1:3–14 or 1:3–10
Mk 6:7–13

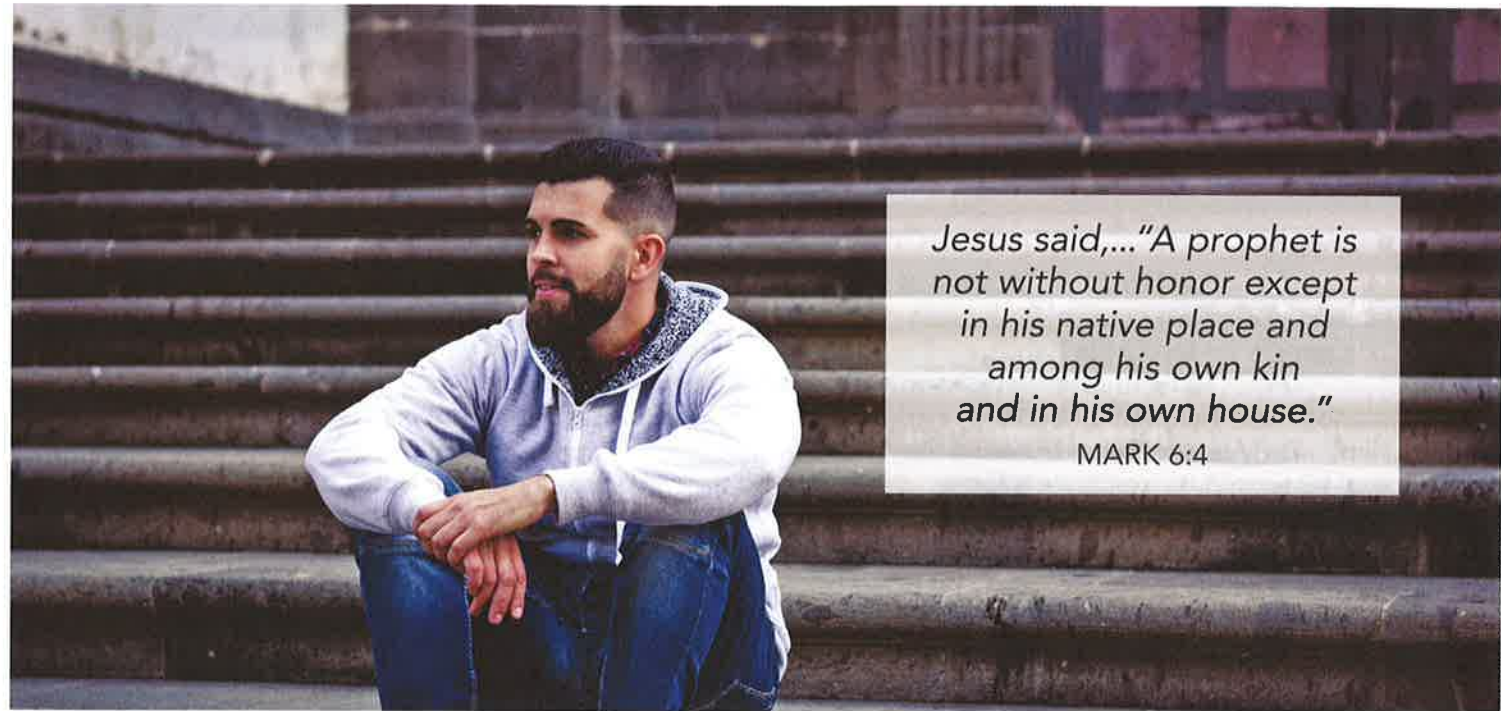
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Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 4, 2021

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)
Ez 2:2–5
2 Cor 12:7–10
Mk 6:1–6a



Jesus said,...“A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.”
MARK 6:4

Who Do You Think You Are?

This question is not always posed in a spirit of lightheartedness. It could be hurled at someone in indignation. This indignation might be justified; the other could be assuming an unwarranted attitude of superiority. However, the fault could be our own. We might resent another's genuine insight or unquestionable wisdom. There seems to be within some of us a sense of inferiority that is threatened by the abilities of others—as if their talents diminish those of us who feel inferior. And what do we do about this? We might ignore such an individual, implying that she or he has nothing that interests us. This probably happens more often than we like to admit. Or we might try to embarrass the person, thus lowering the individual in the estimation of others. This is how some people depicted in the Gospel passage acted toward Jesus.

Prophets are not people who only look into the future. Such people are called seers. Genuine prophets have insight into the present, understanding the

implications of the social forces that are operative and the challenge they might pose to religious traditions. That's why they are so often resented. We see this attitude in the passage from Ezekiel. God sent him to a rebellious people to call them to repentance. Chances are, this did not make him popular. It also did not make Jesus popular with some.

So often we applaud people who have religious insight—unless we know them well. Then we may think: *You're no better than the rest of us. Who do you think you are?*

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Do you appreciate the valid insights of others, even when they challenge your own?
- ★ Who do you think has insight into today's chaotic world? Why do you choose that person?



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

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

Jesus said to them, "A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house." So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith. Mark 6:4-6

Jesus' encounter with His own kin in His own town was disappointing. They were amazed at His wisdom and the mighty deeds He performed. But despite this amazement at Him, they "took offense at Him." They took offense because they didn't understand how someone whom they knew well, one of their own kin, could be someone special. They allowed their closeness and familiarity with Jesus to cloud their ability to have faith in Him and to rejoice in His greatness.

We do not have this same struggle in a direct way. None of us are from Jesus' own town or members of His extended family by blood relations. But we can still fall into the trap of turning Jesus away as He is present in those closest to us, within our own family and among our close friends.

This struggle that Jesus encountered reveals our tendency to look at those closest to us without the eyes of faith. Though Jesus was falsely judged, we can, at times, enter into judgment of those close to us on account of their sins or even our false perception of their good actions. Are you able to see others in the light of truth? Are you also able to look beyond the weakness and sins of others and see the presence and grace of God alive in their lives? Are you able to see their goodness and allow God to speak to you through those closest to you? This can be more of a struggle than we may realize.

If it happened to Jesus, it will happen in our families too. The lesson we should learn from this is to identify the temptation to see only the negative in the lives of those closest to us. If we can overcome that temptation, we will be able to focus in on the presence of God alive in their lives. This should be the first and primary thing we seek to discover each and every day.

Reflect, today, upon how well you do see God present in those closest to you. If you find you struggle with that, see it as a temptation you are called to overcome. Discovering the presence of God alive in those around you will help you to grow in love of them and love of God.

Lord, help me to see You in the lives of those closest to me. Help me to rejoice in Your presence and to grow in love of others and in love of You as I see You at work in their lives. Jesus, I trust in You.

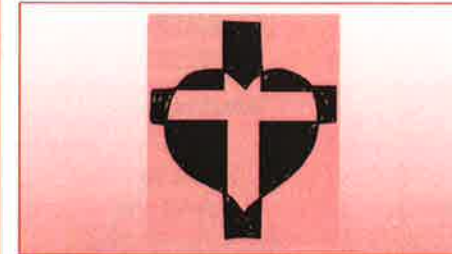
SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
7/5	Monday	No Mass Today		
7/6	Tuesday	No Mass Today		
7/7	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
7/8	Thursday	No Mass Today		
7/9	Friday	No Mass Today		
7/10	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Shirley Cruise
7/11	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	James Benzel-thanksgiving for healing
7/11	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Don Loxterkamp

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

**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER : MASS
TIME**

Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$430.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$66.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 496.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 496.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3,615.00
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**

**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER :
MASS TIME**

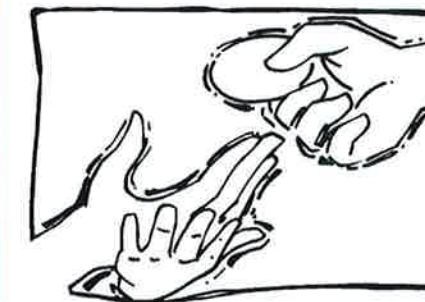
Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$245.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$312.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 557.00
MASS STIPEND	
PETER'S PENCE	\$15.00
TOTAL	\$ 572.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$3,165.00
BALANCE	\$1,742.00

- 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**

**SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER :
MASS TIME**

Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$560.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$81.70
SUBTOTAL	\$ 641.70
MASS STIPEND	
PETER'S PENCE	\$70.00
TOTAL	\$ 711.70
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$6,439.00
BALANCE	(\$303.00)

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

