

# Dear Padre,

I read this is the liturgical year of Mark, that next year will be the year of Matthew, and the following year, Luke. Then it starts over with Mark again. Why doesn't John have a year?

The purpose in a three-year cycle of readings at Mass was primarily a pastoral one. "The treasures of the Bible are to be opened up more lavishly, so that richer fare may be provided for the faithful at the table of God's word. In this way a more representative portion of the holy Scriptures will be read to the people in the course of a prescribed number of years" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*], 51).

All of Scripture is the word of God, but "Christ, present in his word, proclaims the Gospel" (*General Instruction of the Roman Missal*, 29). Moreover, Christ reveals himself to us from four different Gospel perspectives. For some people, John's version—often deeply symbolic and theological—can be pastorally challenging.

The semicontinuous reading of the three synoptic Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke) "provides a presentation of each Gospel's distinctive doctrine as well as a development of the Lord's life and preaching" (*Lectionary for Mass*, 1970; 16,1). Nevertheless, John's Gospel appears in all three cycles. For example, five readings from chapter six on the bread of life are inserted in Year B, when Mark's short Gospel is proclaimed. John's Gospel is also read during Easter and scattered throughout the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Lent.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSsR | [Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)



ADAM JAN HIGEL / SHUTTERSTOCK

## Calendar

**Monday**  
JULY 19  
Weekday  
Ex 14:5–18  
Mt 12:38–42

**Tuesday**  
JULY 20  
Weekday  
Ex 14:21–15:1  
Mt 12:46–50

**Wednesday**  
JULY 21  
Weekday  
Ex 16:1–5, 9–15  
Mt 13:1–9

**Thursday**  
JULY 22  
St. Mary Magdalene  
Sg 3:1–4b or  
2 Cor 5:14–17  
Jn 20:1–2, 11–18

**Friday**  
JULY 23  
Weekday  
Ex 20:1–17  
Mt 13:18–23

**Saturday**  
JULY 24  
Weekday  
Ex 24:3–8  
Mt 13:24–30

**Sunday**  
JULY 25  
Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time  
2 Kgs 4:42–44  
Eph 4:1–6  
Jn 6:1–15

**Do you have a question for the Padre?**

Go to [DearPadre.org](http://DearPadre.org) to share your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

# Our Parish COMMUNITY

July 18, 2021

Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
Jer 23:1–6  
Eph 2:13–18  
Mk 6:30–34

## Follow the Leader

This is not simply the name of a childhood game.

It is actually an essential directive for living. We learn so many things in life because we followed someone. That is how we learned to read, to play a musical instrument, to speak another language, or to understand social behavior.

Many nations at the time of Jeremiah represented their kings as shepherds, leading the people to verdant pastures and restful waters. We see this in the art they left behind. However, many of the kings of Jeremiah's day were not good leaders—not attentive shepherds, nor faithful to God, who had entrusted the people to their care. Consequently, God stepped in to be their shepherd. This is the image of the divine shepherd found in the responsorial psalm. Jesus also characterized religious leaders as shepherds. He was distraught that the people were "like sheep without a shepherd" (Mark 6:34).

Is this situation different today? Many are eager to follow a leader, but which one? Ours is a multicultural, pluralistic, international society with innumerable viewpoints. Voices cry out from many corners, demanding to be heard. But which voice should we heed? Which worldly leaders should we follow? It's apparent that our leaders, both civic and religious, disagree on certain matters. What are we to do? The issue is not "with whom do I agree?" but rather "whose point of view makes me a better person? More compassionate? More understanding? More selfless? More *Christlike*?" Are we following the right leader?

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

### FOR Reflection

- ✦ *Our Shepherd never pits us against each other but brings us together. Is this reflected in the way we live in society?*
- ✦ *Our Shepherd cares for all, not just those whom society has privileged. Do we?*

*I will raise up shepherds for them who will shepherd them so that they need no longer fear or be terrified; none shall be missing.*

JEREMIAH 23:4

ART: JIA / SHUTTERSTOCK



### A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*For leadership there is only one road: service. There is no other way. If you have many qualities—the ability to communicate, etc.—but you are not a servant, your leadership will fail, it is useless, it has not power to gather [people] together.*

ADDRESS TO PONTIFICAL COLLEGES AND RESIDENCES OF ROME, MAY 12, 2014





St. Mary's Church  
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church  
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church  
Bayard, NE 69334

Pastor:  
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

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)

“Come away by yourselves to a deserted place and rest a while.” [Mark 6:31a](#)

This is an invitation we may need to hear far more than we realize. And it's an invitation that many find hard to accept from Jesus. But take it as a direct invitation offered to you from our Lord. Hear Him say this to you: “You, my child, please do come away by yourself to a deserted place and rest for a while.” There is something very healing and helpful that comes from silence and moments of solitude. There is something about silence and solitude that enables us to get refocused. So often in life we are overwhelmed by busyness. “Busyness” is often a way for the evil one to wear us down and get us off track. It keeps us from the gentle, clear and refreshing voice of God. So how is it that God is inviting you to come away by yourself and rest?

At the heart of this invitation is a longing in Jesus' heart that we rest from those burdens which weigh us down unnecessarily. It's true that there are many good things God calls us to do that can exhaust us. But this “holy exhaustion” is not a bad thing. In fact, being “exhausted” by the will of God actually deepens our faith and fills us with joy. And that joy lightens our burden.

The main reason for our need to “come away” and “rest” is that there are many things in life that are not part of God's will. These are burdens we impose upon ourselves unnecessarily. These burdens, more than anything else, are what we need to rest from.

Coming away, alone, with Jesus, is a way of getting refocused and clearing out the clutter of life. It's a way of escaping from our impulses and habits that draw us away from the joyful will of God. So think about this invitation. Think about it practically. Can you find at least ten minutes today to go find silence so as to rest in the arms of Jesus?

Reflect, today, upon how ready and willing you are to accept the invitation from Jesus to come and rest with and in Him. Commit yourself to doing just that. Make the choice, today, to find time to be alone. From that time of solitude, seek the still, small and silent voice of God. Let the quiet and the peace of God's presence bring clarity and focus to your busy life.

*Lord, help me to hear You call me to a time of rest and peace. Help me to seek You and to accept Your gentle invitation. Jesus, I trust in You.*

**SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK**

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
7/19	Monday	No Mass Today		
7/20	Tuesday	No Mass Today		
7/21	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
7/22	Thursday	No Mass Today		
7/23	Friday	No Mass Today		
7/24	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Health of Joni Pelster
7/25	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	Leo Williamson
7/25	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	\$305.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$771.00
SUBTOTAL	\$1,076.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$1,076.00
BUILDING FUND	\$308.00
HEAT/AC	\$480.00
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	\$624.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$1.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 625.00
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 625.00
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	\$240.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$20.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 260.00
MASS STIPEND	\$10.00
TOTAL	\$ 270.00
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.

