

Dear Padre,

Isn't evangelization a role best left to religious professionals? I worry about being ridiculed if I try to spread the Good News. Any suggestions?

Many Catholics incorrectly assume that evangelization is not their job but a task for priests, deacons, or others serving in an official capacity. But it is helpful to remember that evangelization is more a matter of commitment rather than a specialized competence. The Gospel proclaims that a disciple must go out into the world and spread the Good News.

Evangelization is the mission and purpose of the whole Church. It is doing God's will and work on earth.

Your anxiety about being ridiculed may arise from a notion that others will reject information about Jesus Christ. This fear may be underestimating the powerful attraction of the Good News. This worry may be based on your own lack of confidence rather than the response of others. There are several ways for dealing

with this concern: First, acknowledge this fear and seek counsel and advice from someone who has overcome it. Second, remember that to help us offset these negative emotions we are all given the fruits of the Holy Spirit: joy, love, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Third, remember the future—God works in mysterious ways, and grace, though powerful, may take a long time to come to fruition.

The Redemptorists / Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

A WORD FROM Pope Francis

It is our great responsibility, as baptized persons, to proclaim Christ, to carry the Church—this fruitful motherhood of the Church—forward. Mary, during the persecution of the first Christians, prayed so much and moved those who had been baptized to go forward with courage.

HOMILY, APRIL 17, 2013



CNS PHOTO/JERRY MENNENGA

Calendar

Monday
SEPTEMBER 27
St. Vincent de Paul,
Priest
Zec 8:1–8
Lk 9:46–50

Tuesday
SEPTEMBER 28
Weekday
Zec 8:20–23
Lk 9:51–56

Wednesday
SEPTEMBER 29
Sts. Michael, Gabriel,
and Raphael,
Archangels
Dn 7:9–10, 13–14 or
Rv 12:7–12a
Jn 1:47–51

Thursday
SEPTEMBER 30
St. Jerome,
Priest and Doctor
of the Church
Neh 8:1–4a, 5–6, 7b–12
Lk 10:1–12

Friday
OCTOBER 1
St. Thérèse of the Child
Jesus, Virgin and Doctor
of the Church
Bar 1:15–22
Lk 10:13–16

Saturday
OCTOBER 2
The Holy Guardian Angels
Bar 4:5–12, 27–29
Mt 18:1–5, 10

Sunday
OCTOBER 3
Twenty-seventh Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Gn 2:18–24
Heb 2:9–11
Mk 10:2–16 or 10:2–12

Our Parish COMMUNITY

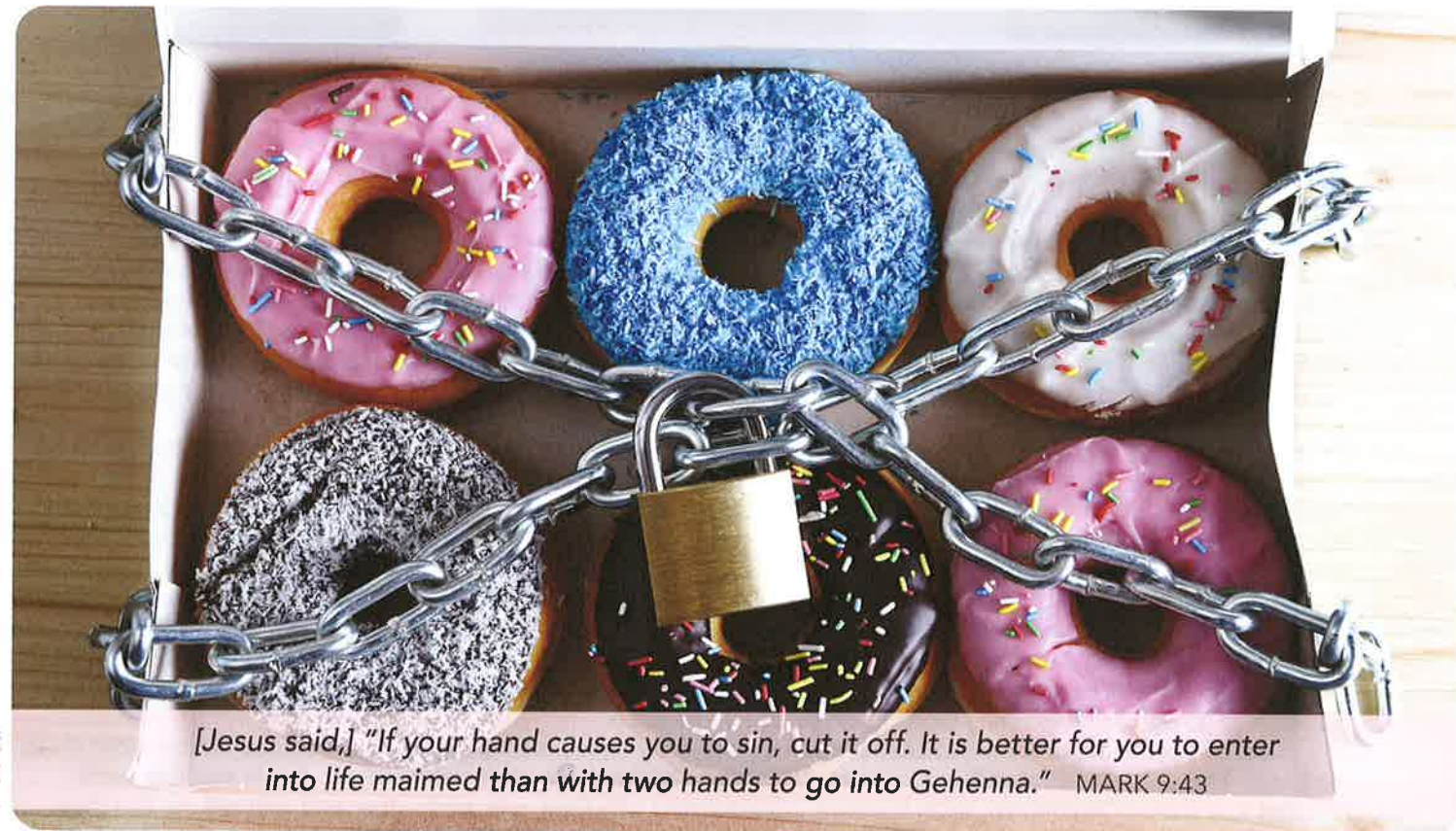
September 26, 2021

Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Nm 11:25–29

Jas 5:1–6

Mk 9:38–43, 45, 47–48



SHUTTERSTOCK

[Jesus said,] "If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna." MARK 9:43

Isn't That a Bit Extreme?

No sacrifice is too extreme in pursuit of a dream. We will forego sleep, the enjoyment of a favorite pastime, the company of good friends—even the pleasure of good food. Ask anyone who has spent hours preparing for a recital, trying out for a position on an athletic team, or studying for an entrance exam. The same is true when one's livelihood is involved. Ask farmers, people in the military, teachers, or health-care workers. Ask new parents, or even those who have been at it for a long time. If we really value something or someone, no sacrifice is too great—at least for a while—when that cherished goal is in view.

We don't seem as willing to forfeit comfort when negative inclinations are involved, and we all have them: rivalry, jealousy, fury, selfishness, slander,

gossip, conceit, to name a few. We know that such pettiness or rank cruelty can harm us as well as those we offend, but too often we seem unwilling to restrain such inclinations.

In today's Gospel passage, Jesus speaks quite strongly to such reticence. Does he really expect us to maim ourselves? Isn't that a bit extreme? The fact is, when we try to purge ourselves of reprehensible behavior it is like cutting off our hand or plucking out our eye. Ask anyone who deals with an addiction. If Jesus asks this of us, it means that we certainly have the strength to do it.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ Pray for the insight to recognize a bad habit that keeps you from being your best self.
- ★ What behavior might you have to give up?



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336

Pastor:

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

It is better for you to enter into life crippled than...Mark 9. 43

Today in telling us this Jesus is warning us clearly, because it is sin that destroys us and draws us away from God and each other. His vision is that if we want lasting happiness we must hold our relationship with God as more precious than anything else we possess. Especially he emphasizes this with regard to leading little children away from God, not teaching them right, giving them bad example or even abusing them. Think for a moment, this is the gentle, merciful, loving Jesus who is speaking to us when he tells us it would be better for someone to have a great stone tied around their neck and be thrown into the sea rather than lead astray one of God's little ones.

Dr. Karl Menninger, the world famous psychiatrist who died a few years ago at the age of 97, wrote a book entitled, "Whatever became of sin?" The theme of Dr. Menninger's book is that society has lost its sense of sin. In his book, Dr. Menninger is not trying to tell us that sin has gone out of existence, but on the contrary, he is telling us that sin has become a greater problem in society simply because many people today are indifferent to the reality of sin. Yet, this is precisely what our readings tell us today.

Sin is what St. James is speaking of when he talks about social injustice and lack of concern for those in need. Sin is what Jesus is talking about too, when he tells us to cut off our hand, our foot, or tear out our eye if it is going to lead us away from God into damnation. This is a metaphor of course. Jesus certainly does not want us to go and mutilate ourselves in this way because sin does not find its origin in our hands or feet but in our minds and hearts. Sin is a decision to go against something God has commanded us to do.

Some people might think that Jesus is soft on sin. Truly Jesus is forgiving, but Jesus does not consider sin to be trivial. The fall of Adam and Eve is a perfect illustration of the destructive nature of sin. Adam and Eve were created in a state of happiness, living in peace and harmony with God, with each other and with nature. But they chose not to trust God fully and follow their desires, and pursue the happiness they thought God was hiding from them. This failure to trust led to disobedience, and this sin brought to an end the peace and harmony they enjoyed. Their innocence was gone. The story tells us sin, any sin, but especially serious sin, harms us and damages our relationship with God, with one another and with all of creation.

In scripture, the term for sin that is most often used is the Greek word "hamartia" or the verb "hamartano" which means "missing the mark." Our aim in life, our purpose and our greatest happiness in life will be when all our relationships are perfect, when we are totally one with God, one within our own person that is being integrated, not at war within ourselves and one with each other. This perfect state will be heaven. When we sin, we are missing our real goal in life. We are taking a path that will lead us more and more away from our true goal that is God, and the perfect happiness and joy He only can give. May Jesus continue to help us to live our lives focused on Him alone.

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
9/27	Monday	No Mass Today		
9/28	Tuesday	No Mass Today		
9/29	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
9/30	Thursday	No Mass Today		
10/1	Friday	10:00 AM	Bridgeport	Funeral Mass for Epimena Heredia
10/2	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	† Shane Ernest
10/3	Sunday	8.00 AM	Bayard	† Harry & Ruth Scherrer
10/3	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	For People of the Parish

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

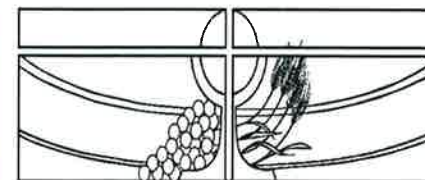
MASS TIME
Tuesday – 6:00 PM
Sunday – 10:30 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$715.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$198.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 913.00
MASS STIPEND	
WEST NE CATHOLIC	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$ 963.00
HEAT/AC	
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$3,815.00
BALANCE	\$2,231.00

- 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.
- There will be an ASCCW meeting on Monday, Oct. 4 at 7:00 pm. All ladies are welcome.



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

MASS TIME
Friday – 12:00 NOON
Sunday – 8:00 AM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

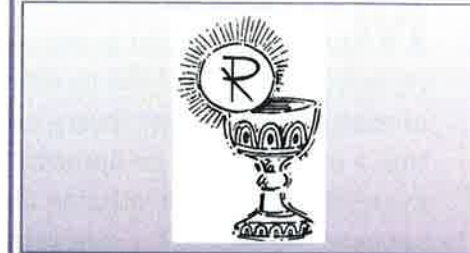
ADULTS	\$265.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$59.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 324.00
MASS STIPEND	
REUBEN CHACON MEMORIAL	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$ 824.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$3,165.00
BALANCE	\$1,742.00

- 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**

MASS TIME
Thursday – 6:00 PM
Saturday – 5:30 PM



OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$690.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$84.53
SUBTOTAL	\$ 774.53
MASS STIPEND	
TOTAL	\$ 774.53
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.

