

Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

A woman answered her door to find two people canvasing the neighborhood. After a polite introduction, one asked the woman, "Do you read the Bible?" She replied, "I'm Catholic. We don't do that."

This is, sadly, a true story and expresses a common attitude in the Catholic Church – reading and studying the Bible is what Protestants do. Catholics have the Mass and the Eucharist.

We do indeed have the great gift of the Eucharist, but scripture too is a gift. We say it is "the Word of God" and we mean that! We believe that under the direction of the Holy Spirit, God conveyed to us great truths to help us grow in our relationship to our Lord. St. Jerome famously said, "Ignorance of Scripture is ignorance of Christ."

And yet, we won't read it.

We have lots of excuses and many sound quite reasonable to us. A few years back, while spending a week at the Covecrest youth camp in Georgia, I asked several of the young adult workers about their reading. Without exception they enthusiastically shared about some great spiritual book that currently had their attention. But when pressed, each one told me they were not reading their Bible and had rarely done so in the past. The Word of God, it seemed, took second place to the writings of a human.

"If you're going to

follow Christ, you

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about Him."

Today is Word of God Sunday. Pope Francis established it in 2020 writing, "we urgently need to grow in our knowledge and love of the Scriptures and of the risen Lord, who continues to speak his word and to break bread in the community of believers" (Aperuit illis, #8).

We should take this to heart.

If you've never (or rarely) read your Bible, please, just start. The Gospel of Mark is easy to read as it contains lots of little stories (often 1 paragraph long!). You'll learn the stories of Jesus and that's important. If you're going to follow Christ, you need to know about Him.

As you progress, you'll be able to read more deeply and find timeless truths that will help in your day-to-day life. This past Tuesday, our Bible study briefly saw how a passage in Paul's first letter to the Corinthians could help us make sense of a recent Supreme Court case.

I've never met a person who regretted the time they spent reading, studying, and reflecting on God's Word. I certainly have not. Reading the Bible shaped my life. I wouldn't not be the same person, I would not be a priest, if I had not. Will you give God's Word a chance in your life?

In Christ,

Fr. Kevin



Weekly Mass Intentions



Saturday, January 21 8:00 a.m. **†**Angel Natal, Sr. 4:00 p.m. Thanksgiving for Roldan Family Blessing 6:00 p.m. **†**Casey Lujano

Sunday, January 22

7:30 a.m. **†** Leoncia & Francisco Quezon 9:30 a.m. Special Intention 11:30 a.m. **†**Jane Gossett

Monday, January 23 8:00 a.m. Michael Jecen

Tuesday, January 24 8:00 a.m. **†**Irene and Jesse Hastings

Wednesday, January 25 8:15 a.m. **†**Ann Nyari 6 p.m. For the recently <u>departed</u>

Thursday, January 26 8:00 a.m. **†**Igantius & Ann Pagano

Friday, January 27 8:00 a.m. **†**Pacita Santos Enriquez

Saturday, January 28 8:00 a.m. Powalski & Roland families 4:00 p.m. Dcn Christopher & Lynne Jensen 6:00 p.m. Thanksgiving for Roldan family blessings

Sunday, January 29 7:30 a.m. **†** Irene and Jesse Hastings 9:30 a.m. For our parishioners 11:30 a.m. **†**Joe Alegarbes

Sanctuary Candle The sanctuary candle burns in loving memory of Jeanne Yarnell

Our Stewardship

January 14-15 Offertory: \$10,059.00 Building Fund: \$872.00 His Heart: \$333.00 Other: \$2,842.97* Total: \$14,106.97 Attendance: 1,027

**includes an \$1,800 donation for Hurricane Relief from St. Mary of the Angels, our Twin parish in New Orleans.*

Second Collection

For those who use giving envelopes or online giving, the second collection this week is for our Maintenance Fund and, if you need a tax receipt for your 2022 giving to Sacred Heart, please contact the office. We'll be happy to provide one.

Welcome Patricia Tover!

We are pleased to welcome Patricia Tover as a new part-time staff member. She will be assisting Fr. Brad, serving as our Spanish Ministry Coordinator. Your stewardship each week allows Sacred Heart to have a terrific staff. While we heavily rely on volunteers (and our so grateful for them!), some tasks are best done by employees.

His Heart Donations

Did you know that your generosity to His Heart exceeded \$20,000 last year? Donations marked for His Heart and money put into our Poor Boxes fund this vital ministry. Your gifts truly helped the poor in our area with utility assistance, food, clothes, and, of course, a warm smile from our volunteers!



For Your Information

Take Five with Bishop Gregory Parkes



Each week Bishop Parkes hosts Take Five: Conversations on Faith and Life. The segments are about five minutes in length and, so far, have included a mother of 5 and the chaplain to the Tampa Bay Bucs. New video segments can be seen each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. on the

bishop's Facebook and Instagram (@BishopParkes) accounts, the diocesan YouTube channel (@DioStPete) and our diocesan website.

Thanks for Asking!

Do we have a parish council? Yes, we have a small parish council. Ann Santos, Carol Muka, Kathy Mitcheson, and Johann Gray are the current members. The group meets every few months to discuss parish goals and plans. Recent discussions have focused on redefining the role of this group. If you'd like to contribute your thoughts, feel free to email Fr. Kevin (frkevinyarnell@gmail.com). We are also considering increasing the size of the council. If you or someone you know would be interested in serving, let us know.

We just received several boxes of great books for the library...



But the shelves are nearly full. Take a few minutes after Mass today to look through the wide selection. Prayer, Mary, Church History, discipleship, devotionals... You'll find them and more. Since this is Word of God Sunday, why not consider a book about the Bible or a commentary to help you read God's Word?

Remember, there is no check-out needed. Simply take a book. Later, if you decide you won't be reading it again, bring it back for others to read.

Do You Know the Answers?

What is an annulment?

"Annulment" is an unfortunate word that is sometimes used to refer to a Catholic "declaration of nullity." Actually, nothing is made null through the process. Rather, a Church tribunal (a Catholic Church court) declares that a marriage thought to be valid according to Church law actually fell short of at least one of the essential elements required for a binding union.

For a Catholic marriage to be valid, it is required that: (1) the spouses are free to marry; (2) they are capable of giving their consent to marry; (3) they freely exchange their consent; (4) in consenting to marry, they have the intention to marry for life, to be faithful to one another, and be open to children; (5) they intend the good of each other; and (6) their consent is given in the presence of two witnesses and before a properly authorized Church minister. Exceptions to the last requirement must be approved by Church authority.

Is an Annulment just a "Catholic Divorce"?

A civil divorce and a church annulment are two vastly different things. A divorce is concerned with the legal realities of marriage only; an annulment is concerned with the religious and spiritual element—the sacrament of marriage. A divorce focuses on the end of a marriage; an annulment looks at the beginning, the very moment the couple said, "I do." A divorce looks at marriage in civil law; an annulment looks at marriage from the perspective of the Gospel and of Church doctrine.

If you are divorced or were never married in the church, please consider making an appointment to talk about your situation. Fr. Brad or Fr. Kevin would be happy to meet with you and see what might be the best way forward. Keep in mind that there is never a fee for annulments.

Our Current Liturgical and Devotional Schedule

Weekday Mass

Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri, & Sat: 8am Wed: 8:15am & 6pm *(Rosary prayed before morning Masses at 7:25am)*

Weekend Masses

<u>Saturday Vigil</u> 4pm and 6pm *(Spanish) (Rosary prayed in Spanish at 5:30pm)*

<u>Sunday</u> 7:30am, 9:30am *(live-streamed)*, & 11:30am *(Rosary prayed at 7am)*

Confessions

Wednesdays: 6:45-7:45pm (English) Saturdays: 2:45-3:45pm (English) Saturdays: 5:30-5:55pm (Spanish) (If you need more time with the priest in confession, please contact the parish office for an appointment)

Morning Devotions

Monday & Thursday at 9am (livestreamed): *Fr. Kevin provides some background and a short devotion on the saint of the day.*

Our Chapel is Open for Prayer Mon, Tues, Thurs, & Fri:8:30am-5pm Wednesday: 9am-8pm Saturday: 8:30am-4pm

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament Wednesdays: 6:30-8pm

First Friday Exposition: 8:30-10am, 6pm-9pm, Mass 9pm Exposition continuing until 8am Saturday

First Saturdays with Mary: 8:30-10am (includes Adoration)

Divine Mercy Chaplet: Tuesdays, after the 8am Mass

Our Mother of Perpetual Help: Thur., after 8am Mass

Santo Nino (Infant Jesus) Novena: 2nd & 4th Wednesdays, after the 6pm Mass

Livestreamed liturgies and devotions can be found at sacredheartpinellaspark.com (look for the "Live" link at the top of the page) or on Facebook (SacredHeart Parish PinellasPark).

This Week at Sacred Heart

If you need information about a group or ministry listed, call the office. We'd be happy to get you connected to them!

Sunday, Jan. 22nd: The 3rd Sunday of Ordinary Time: Word of God Sunday!

- Faith Formation classes follow the 9:30am Mass
- Middle School Youth Group & Confirmation Session, 4-5:30pm, Parish Hall

Monday, Jan. 23rd:

- Morning Devotions (livestreamed on Facebook), 9am; Learn a lesson from one of the Saints!
- Legion of Mary, 9am, Marian Room
- Beyond Our Walls prayer group, 5:30pm, Chapel. Each week we pray individually for requests we receive throughout the week. Have a request? Cards are available in the narthex.
- Junior Legion of Mary, 6pm, Parish Hall

Tuesday, Jan. 24th:

- Fr. Kevin's Bible study, 9-10:15am and 6-7:15pm
- His Heart Society: food and clothing distribution, 9-11am

Wednesday, Jan. 25th:

- Adoration 6:30-8pm; Confessions, 6:30-8pm
- Chosen video series and discussion, 6:30pm, Parish Hall
- Spanish Prayer Group, 7pm Retreat House

Thursday, Jan. 26th:

- Morning Devotions (livestreamed on Facebook), 9am; Learn a lesson from one of the Saints!
- His Heart Society: food and clothing distribution, 9-11am
- Prayer Shawl Ministry, 10am, Retreat House
- First Communion Session, 6:30pm, Parish Hall

Friday, Jan. 27th:

• Men of St. Joseph, 7pm, Retreat House

Sunday, Jan. 29th: The 4th Sunday of Ordinary Time Readings: Zephaniah 2:3, 3:12-13; Psalm 146;

1 Corinthians 1:26-31; Matthew 4:1-12

A Bible verses for the Week

"Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light for my path." Psalm 119:105

"All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for refutation, for correction, and for training in righteousness." 2Timothy 3:16



MINISTRIES IN ACTION

DIOCESE OF ST. PETERSBURG | CATHOLIC MINISTRY appeal



GOOD SAMARITAN PROJECT Encountering Christ in each other

"I've been involved with the Good Samaritan Project since I was a seminarian. I've been invited to help at GSP when I was at my pastorial parish at Our Lady of the Rosary. And that pastoral year we had a summer assignment of being assigned to help out at GSP. And ever since, I went



back as a priest. I also would come and visit here.

What I greatly appreciate about GSP in general is that it's not just about getting service hours. It's about encountering Christ in each other.

But here [GSP] it has been a more concentrated aspect of building up those relationships because we're with each other 24-hours a day for the next five days and you just get so many opportunities and you get to know them much better. They get to share about not just the experiences of the retreat, but they point out something maybe in their own life that they realize they need healing or that the graces that have been there or just to share funny stories and build up those relationships."

Rev. Elixavier "Xavy" Castro Chaplain of Tampa Catholic High School

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ENCOUNTERING GOD AND NURTURING OUR SPIRITUAL LIFE

The Youth and Young Adult Ministry is one of 11 diocesan ministries that embrace God's call to serve, and offer all who seek God an opportunity to encounter Him and enrich our spiritual lives, fostering our response to God's call to serve. Through the Catholic Ministry Appeal, this group

of ministries will receive \$3.6 million of the total \$8.5 million appeal goal to carry out their good works.



SCAN TO LEARN MORE about these ministries!



DOSP.ORG/CATHOLICMINISTRYAPPEAI

Website: sacredheartpinellaspark.com

Facebook: SacredHeartParish PinellasPark

Church Office & Mailing Address: Address: 780946th Way N. Pinellas Park, FL 33781 Phone: (727)541-4447 Email: shcc7809@gmail.com

Office Hours: 8am-noon, Mon-Thur

Pastor: Fr. Kevin Yarnell, frkevinyarnell@gmail.com

Parochial Vicar: Fr. Brad Reed frbradreed@gmail.com

Deacons: Dcn. Chris Jensen Dcn. John Ustick

Parish Staff: Parish Administrator: Tony Mazzella mazzfest@aol.com Faith Formation Coordinator: Lisa Gunnin sacredfaithformation@gmail.com Spanish Ministry Coordinator: Patricia Tover sacredspanish@gmail.com Bulletin Editor: Liz Wilson Property Technicians: Michael Scavelli, Ray Watson, & Connor Horgen Music Ministers: Michael Marth mjfm89@yahoo.com Nicholas & Ella Gunnin ngunnin@yahoo.com Alberto Maisonet alberto.maisonet@gmail.com Vanessa Dockery

Parish Religious Gift Shop: Located in the church narthex Open: Sat.3:30-5:30pm Sun.8:30am-12:45pm

His Heart Society Outreach: 4661 80th Ave. N. Pinellas Park, FL33781 Food & Clothing: Tue. & Thurs. 9-11am Call (727)544-5445 for financial assistance

Sacred Heart School: 7951 46th Way N., Pinellas Park, FL 33781 Phone: 727-544-1106 SacredHeartPinellasPark.org

A Message from Pope Francis

This is from Pope Francis' Wednesday, January 11, 2023, General Audience, where he discusses Jesus' call of Matthew. You can read the entire talk at vatican.va. Click on Audiences and choose the one for Jan. 11th.

We can ask ourselves: how do we look upon others? How often do we see their faults and not their needs; how often do we label people according to what they do or what they think! Even as Christians we say to ourselves: is he one of us or not? This is not the gaze of Jesus: He always looks at each person with mercy and indeed with predilection. And Christians are called to do as Christ did, looking, like him, especially at the so-called "distant ones". Indeed, Matthew's account of the call ends with Jesus saying, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners" (v. 13). And if any one of us considers themselves righteous, Jesus is far away. He draws near to our limitations, to our miseries, in order to heal us.

It all starts, then, with the gaze of Jesus. "He saw a man", Matthew. This is followed – second step – by a movement. First the gaze: Jesus saw. Then the second step, movement. Matthew was sitting at the tax office; Jesus said to him: "Follow me". And "he rose and followed him" (v. 9). We note that the text emphasizes that "he rose". Why is this detail so important? Because in those days he who was seated had authority over the others who stood before him to listen to him or, as in that case, to pay taxes. He who sat, in short, had power. The first thing Jesus does is to detach Matthew from power: from sitting to receive others, He sets him in motion towards others, not receiving, no: he goes out to others. He makes him leave a position of supremacy in order to put him on an equal footing with his brothers and sisters, and open to him the horizons of service. This is what he does, and this is fundamental for Christians. Do we, disciples of Jesus, we, Church, sit around waiting for people to come, or do we know how to get up, to set out with others, to seek others? Saying, "But let them come to me, I am here, let them come", is a non-Christian position. No, you go to seek them out, you take the first step.



Our Parish Prayer List

June Abraham Sheryl Acunal Robert Anderson Genevieve Aziz Rita Bahler Mary Barbuti Kenneth Barcomb Audrey Bentley Ryan Buck Jr. Judy Cardone Melina Carmen Chase Maryloo Carrico Sean Casev Paul & Gail Catalona Bill Cauchon Kathy Chabot Joseph I. Chase Bonnie Crisafulli Rita Durish Christina Fabb Brooke & Brianna Farnsworth Anne Fiamengo Florence Garrido Ian Gossett James Guimond

Mary Haisch Jenny Holland Jean & Gary Hossman Amy Iketani Janet Jacob David Johnson Elija Johnson Elizabeth Jurado Deanne Karner Liam & Jeanne Kennedy **Dolores Kenney** Barbara Klasek Tony Lociech Anna Kumari Charlotte Laliberti Gail Larson Sharn Lundy Sheila Lutz Katie Malins Connie Marmaro Mary Masterson Mary Mattingly Mattie Mores Jeff Odajewski Diane O'Neill **Rinette Parece**

Antoinette Passero Neil Petrocci Daniel, Sylvia, & Stella Przywalny Nicole Rizzo Judy & Mark Rucker Janet Schaumann Maryanne Sirrianna Patricia Slaymaker Jeanne Slofkin Fred & George Sontheimer Helen Sullivan Norman & Leonette St. Germain Sherry Taylor Gloria Unger

Bold indicates new name added to prayer list.



Pope Francis January Prayer Intention

Educators

We pray that educators may be credible witnesses, teaching fraternity rather than competition and helping the youngest and most vulnerable above all.

To keep this list meaningful, we respectfully ask that requests to be included on the list be renewed every 4 weeks and that you provide a specific prayer intention. To respect the privacy of individuals, please submit requests only with the expressed permission of the person for whom you are requesting prayer. Send requests to frkevinyarnell@gmail.com



