



Words, Words, and THE WORD

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Our lives seem to be plagued by an abundance of words, all seeking to influence us.

Television ads try to convince us to buy; teachers seek to pass on knowledge; parents cajole, discipline, and beg; society warns against drinking and driving, smoking and drugs; preachers hope to convert and change. They all do so with limited and varying success, and at times seeming failure. Too often there is the presumption that more words will achieve greater results.

In the face of such questionable success, the prophet Isaiah proclaims that God's word "shall not return to me empty, / but shall do what pleases me, / achieving the end for which I sent it" (Isaiah 55:11). Yet the Gospel also suggests that the seed of God's word sown in our lives may wither and be choked

off and fail to take root, though also promising that what does produce fruit will surpass anything hoped for.

Because war is news and the media is obliged to report on it, it may appear that war is prominent worldwide. Not so. Statistically there is less war today than ever before, less violence, less conflict. We are more

likely to die in our beds than at any other time in history. While there is yet much hunger in the world, there is less than at any other time. Nations are more inclined to try to negotiate peace. Great generosity abounds amid natural disasters, and while injustice prevails, we still fight to overcome

it. All of it the fruitfulness of God's word.

Creation is groaning in labor pains, says St. Paul, and we also groan. Yet the groaning attests to the pains of growing fruitfulness. ●

Reflect

Which passage of Scripture would you choose as a motto for your life?



The seed sown on rich soil is the one who hears the word and understands it, who indeed bears fruit.

MATTHEW 13:23



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Adoration Room at STM
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Regular Hours
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Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164

*With
Sympathy*

Remember in prayer, family and friends of...

Dolores Perry - St Patrick

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of July 17, 2023

Monday	7/17			+ No Mass
Tuesday	7/18	9:00 am	STM	+ Mary Konieczny
Wednesday	7/19	5:30 pm	HT	+ Kathy Sondgeroth
Thursday	7/20	9:00 am	HT	+ Marion & Catherine Hunter
Friday	7/21	9:00 am	STM	+ Doris Schwamberger

Mass Intentions for the weekend of July 22-23, 2023

Saturday	7/22	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Connie Lauer
Sunday	7/23	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Virginia McNally
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Janelle Beattie Geiger
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ For All Parishioners

Can You Take A Vacation From God?

The Sunday obligation is one of the Precepts of the Church, duties that the Catholic Church requires of all the faithful. These aren't mere guidelines, but rather a list of things that the Church teaches is necessary for Christians to do in order to advance in the Christian life. For that reason, they are binding under pain of mortal sin, so it's important not to disregard them for anything less than serious reasons.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church states that the first precept is "You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation and rest from servile labor." You'll notice that the statement isn't qualified: it does not say, "When you are at home" or "When you're no more than X miles away from your home parish." Our obligation is binding on every Sunday and Holy Day of Obligation, no matter where we are.

Reasonable Exceptions

That said, we may find ourselves in circumstances in which we are unable to fulfill our Sunday obligation, and the reader has suggested one. Of course, if we find ourselves on Sunday morning in a town with which we're unfamiliar, we should do our best to locate a Catholic church and to attend Mass. But if, through no fault of our own, we discover that there is no church, or that we're unable to attend Mass at the scheduled time (for a good reason, and not, say, simply because we want to go swimming), then we haven't deliberately violated this precept of the Church.

If you have any doubts, of course, you should discuss the situation with a priest. Since we should not receive Holy Communion if we have committed a mortal sin, you could mention the circumstances to your priest in Confession, and he can advise you on whether you acted appropriately, and give you absolution if necessary.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ♦ Please be reminded that the **SP & HT Annual Cemetery Appeal** is still going on. We would like to thank those who have already sent in their donation; may the Lord repay their generosity a hundredfold. Again, this has been an annual appeal for SP cemetery and is the first appeal for HT cemetery. We hope that our people will be generous towards the upkeep of our two cemeteries.
- ♦ STM Ravioli/Tortellacci Group will begin taking orders on August 1st. However, orders will not be filled until they start up again in September. You may place your order by calling 815-252-2215. Please be sure to leave your name and phone number along with your order. You will receive a confirmation call. Raus/Tort are \$8.00 per bag. Volunteers are always welcome to help on Mondays and Wednesdays from approximately 8:30 am – 11:30 am.

LATEST OFFERING'S

JULY 9TH WEEKEND

HT –	\$800.00
SP –	\$588.00
STM –	\$919.00

**THANK YOU FOR SUNSHINE
THANK YOU FOR RAIN**

CONFESSIONS

THE NEXT CONFESSIONS
WILL BE SAT. JULY 22ND
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT
ST PATRICK
IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

I have a friend who has been coming to church with me, and he often has questions I can't answer. The big one last week was, "Why don't Catholics have more Bible preaching instead of all this ceremony?" I try to explain, but I don't think I have the right words. Help!

Your friend's question is very common because our Catholic ceremony can be confusing to those of other faiths.

The Catholic Mass comes from two prayer traditions. First, there is the tradition of the Jewish synagogue service where people gather to read and study the word of God. Second, there is the tradition of the early Christians who met in their homes to celebrate the breaking of the bread.

The earliest Christians, Jewish converts, maintained their Sabbath tradition of reading and studying the word of God. They added to that the gift of the Eucharist that Jesus gave them. Our Mass puts these two together in the Liturgy of the Word (readings, preaching, prayers) and the Liturgy of the Eucharist (offering, eucharistic prayer, holy Communion).

The homily may not be as long as it is in some other Christian traditions, but the preaching should be solid, based on Scripture, and in line with the teaching of the Church. We are a Church of word and sacrament. We listen to the word of God and we celebrate the breaking of the bread. ●



CATHOLIC NEWS SERVICE

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

It is difficult to distinguish, among the many voices and many words, that of the Lord, the only one that makes us free. Always keep a handy copy of the Gospel with you...and then, read a short passage every day, so that you become used to reading the word of God.

ANGELUS, ROME,
JULY 12, 2020



MONDAY

July 17
Weekday
Ex 1:8-14, 22
Mt 10:34-11:1

TUESDAY

July 18
Weekday
Ex 2:1-15a
Mt 11:20-24

WEDNESDAY

July 19
Weekday
Ex 3:1-6, 9-12
Mt 11:25-27

THURSDAY

July 20
Weekday
Ex 3:13-20
Mt 11:28-30

FRIDAY

July 21
Weekday
Ex 11:10-12:14
Mt 12:1-8

SATURDAY

July 22
St. Mary Magdalene
Sg 3:1-4b or
2 Cor 5:14-17
Jn 20:1-2, 11-18

SUNDAY

July 23
Sixteenth Sunday
in Ordinary Time
Wis 12:13, 16-19
Rom 8:26-27
Mt 13:24-43 or
Mt 13:24-30

Timely topics viewed with a Catholic perspective

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