



Why Is There Evil?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

At some point in one's faith journey, every believer asks: If God is good and loving, why is there evil in the world? Why is there war? Why do children die prematurely? Why do pandemics rage? The biblical story of Job seeks to speak to that question, though it never really answers it.

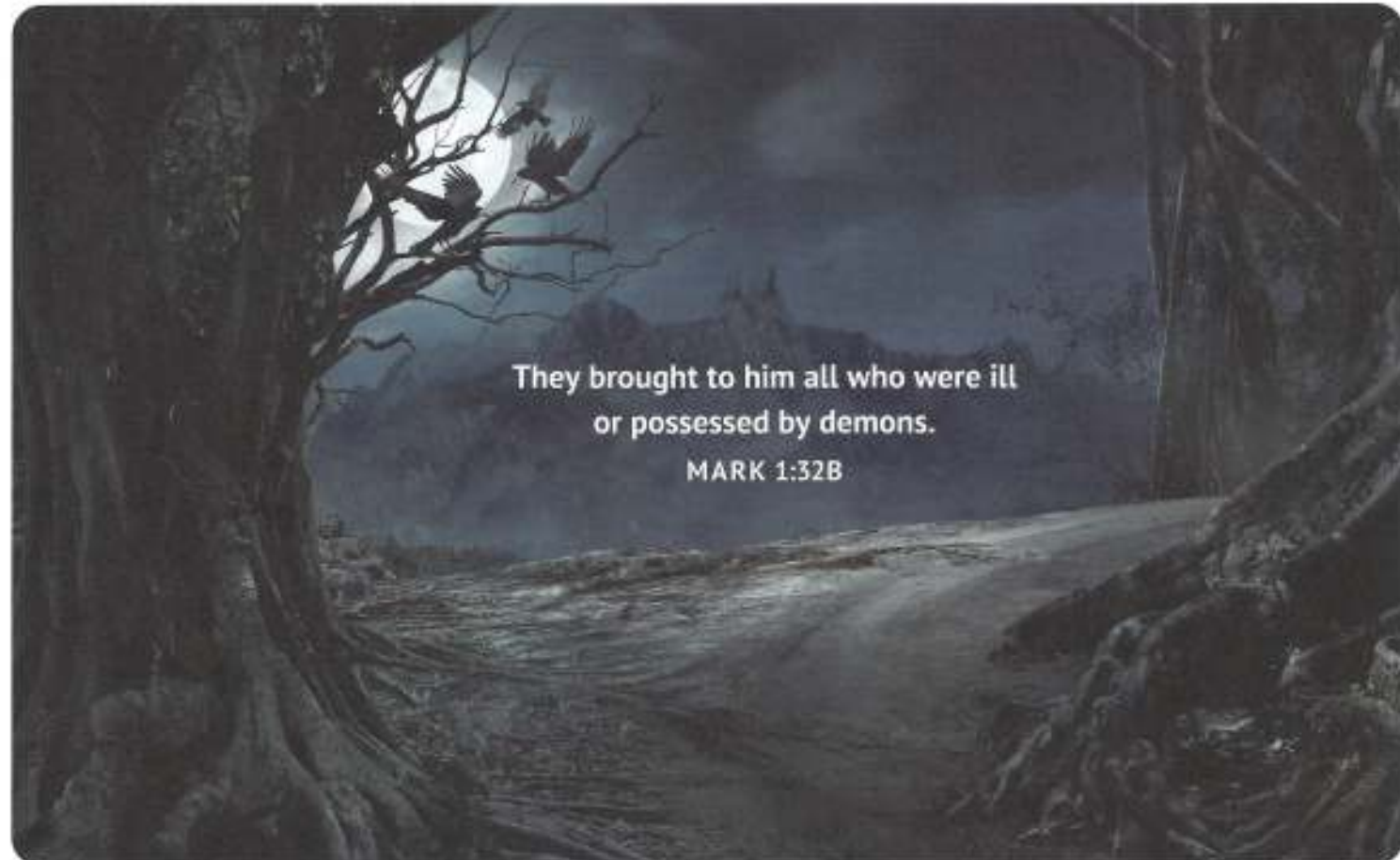
God and the satan (the name he is called in the Book of Job) are discussing Job and what a fine man he is. The satan suggests Job is a good man only because everything is going well for him. God then tells the satan that he may do whatever he wishes to test Job but may not harm him. By a series of catastrophes, then, Job loses his flocks, his camels, and even his sons and daughters. It is at this point that we hear today's first Scripture reading—Job's lament of misery and hopelessness.

Though Job's friends suspect that the cause of all

that has befallen him must be due to some grave sin on his part, Job denies this accusation and continues believing in the goodness of God, never wavering in his faith. Though frustrated by what life has brought, Job never blames God or asks God to fix his life. God is God, concludes Job, whether we understand the ways of life or not. To seek any more is to seek to be God. He continues to trust in God and admits that the ways of God are incapable of being understood. This becomes Job's only answer to the question about the "why" of evil. ●

Reflect

How do you answer the question of why evil exists?

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a large, gnarled tree on the left, a path leading into the distance, and a full moon in the sky. The scene is moody and mysterious, with dark, jagged mountains in the background.

**They brought to him all who were ill
or possessed by demons.**

MARK 1:32B



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

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Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall
Sunday, February 4th - K thru 4th Grade & Confirmation Class
Sunday, February 11th - 5th thru 8th Grades

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of February 5, 2024

Monday	2/5			+ No Mass
Tuesday	2/6	9:00 am	STM	+ Dominic Orlandi
Wednesday	2/7	5:30 pm	HT	+ Jerry Simkins
Thursday	2/8	9:00 am	HT	+ Michael Bickett
Friday	2/9			+ No MASS-Fr. @ SV Nursing Home Mass

Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 10 - 11, 2024

Saturday	2/10	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Cecelia McCormick
Sunday	2/11	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ Dec. Mem. Laverne Eiten Fam.
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ For the Parishioners
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Temporarily Suspended

A Reflection on 2024 Catholic Schools Week (Jan 28-Feb 3)

When focused on educating and exercising the minds, bodies and souls of today's youth, Catholic schools shine as beacons of light in a dark and confusing world. When they rise up to the challenges of society and culture they bring hope and joy to countless Christian families and others who are trying to do their best to serve the Lord in trying times. It is no small feat that Catholic schools have stood strong through the tests of time in America, but there is no reason to think that things are going to get any easier in the near future.

It is only right to take a moment each year and celebrate Catholic Schools Week (CSW). Catholic schools have a specific purpose to form students in love of God and love of neighbor, to be good citizens of the world and to enrich society with the leaven of the Gospel and by example of faith.

The CSW theme for 2024 is "Catholic Schools: United in Faith and Community." What does it mean to have faith? It means that you believe in more than what this world has to offer. It means that you have come to know and trust the Lord more than you trust your own eyes. It is an understanding that the realities we meet with our senses are simply passing us by and that eternity, which is beyond, is even more real. As communities of faith, Catholic schools instill in students their destiny to become future saints.

What is excellence, if not holiness? Every Catholic, from a Benedictine monk in Norcia to the lawyer or teacher down the street in Northern Kentucky, is called to take their mission from Christ and spiritual formation seriously. The Christian life, like everything else, requires constant education, training and attention. We know that habits are developed at a young age. While it's true that academic excellence is a hallmark of Catholic education, it is intentionally directed to the growth of the whole person - mind, body and soul - with an extra emphasis on the soul. A Catholic school teaches its students about the will of God, in contrast to our culture's tendency to promote the worship of the self and other false idols. By the time a Catholic is confirmed they should realize what is being asked of them - they are being asked to lead a true and holy life; to follow Christ, even when it leads to the Cross.

(By David Cooley @ Diocese of Covington)

Bad Weather - Diocesan Policies

According to the most updated diocesan policies, which we have just received, regarding bad and hazardous weather, strict measures are to be observed to prevent possible accidents from happening to people. Some of these measures are:

1. When inclement weather happens, ALL church-related activities are automatically cancelled. All church and church hall doors will be locked.
2. As the above policy is implemented, NO ONE is allowed to be in the church or in the hall. All buildings should be empty of people.
3. When severe weather warnings are issued, ALL people should stay home, except individuals assigned from operations and/or maintenance.

LATEST OFFERING'S

JAN 28TH WEEKEND

HT - \$ 919.00

SP - \$ 529.00

STM - \$1,277.00

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

SP Sausage Fundraiser
Saturday, March 2nd

STM Fish Fry & Rav/Tort Sale
Friday, March 15th

CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE
SAT. FEB 10TH
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT
ST PATRICK
IN THE HALL

Dear Padre,

*In the Our Father, we pray, "thy kingdom come."
Will God's kingdom come only at the end of the world?*

God's kingdom will come in its fullness only at Jesus' Second Coming, but the kingdom came into the world with Jesus' first coming as a man. That means we are in God's kingdom right now, but not in its fullness.

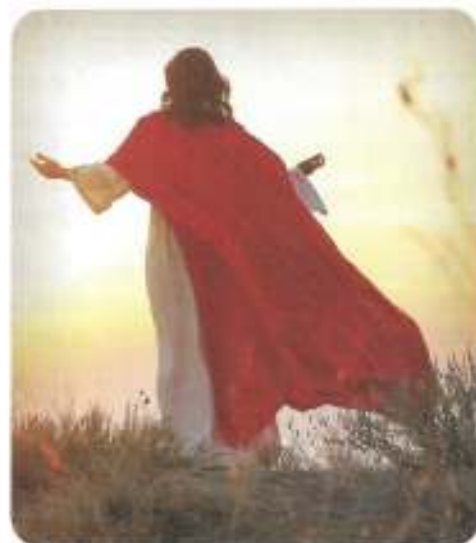
In the Scriptures, we read that John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the messiah or if they need to wait for another. Jesus responds, "The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them" (Luke 7:22). These are all signs of the kingdom of God.

In the meantime, we don't have to just wait for God's kingdom to come in its fullness. We can make God's kingdom more of a reality on earth by visiting the sick, caring for the poor, and being kind to others. Loving your spouse is a sign of the kingdom of God. God's kingdom is among us, not completely but partially, and we can make it more of a reality in the good that we do for each other.

Jesus' Second Coming will be at the end of time, an event Jesus himself did not know the time of: "But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father" (Mark 13:32). ●

Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSSR

DearPadre.org



NEW AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

MONDAY

February 5
*St. Agatha,
Virgin and
Martyr*
1 Kgs 8:1-7,
9-13
Mk 6:53-56

TUESDAY

February 6
*St. Paul Miki and
Companions,
Martyrs*
1 Kgs 8:22-23,
27-30
Mk 7:1-13

WEDNESDAY

February 7
Weekday
1 Kgs 10:1-10
Mk 7:14-23

THURSDAY

February 8
Weekday
1 Kgs 11:4-13
Mk 7:24-30

FRIDAY

February 9
Weekday
1 Kgs 11:29-32;
12:19
Mk 7:31-37

SATURDAY

February 10
*St. Scholastica,
Virgin*
1 Kgs 12:26-32;
13:33-34
Mk 8:1-10

SUNDAY

February 11
*Sixth Sunday in
Ordinary Time*
Lv 13:1-2,
44-46
1 Cor 10:31-
11:1
Mk 1:40-45



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Jesus shows a particular predilection for those who are wounded in body and in spirit: the poor, the sinners, the possessed, the sick, the marginalized. Thus, He reveals Himself as a doctor both of souls and of bodies, the Good Samaritan of man. He is the true Savior: Jesus saves, Jesus cures, Jesus heals.

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 8, 2015