



Jesus returned to Galilee
In the power of the
Spirit, and news of him
spread throughout the
whole region.

LUKE 4:14



The Stories of Our Lives

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Every family has stories of times past when unique and curious happenings gave color to family life. They are part of each family's lore, told again and again with as much gusto as when they were told for the first time. Though everyone has heard them countless times, telling these stories still reminds us of who we are as family, lest we forget. This is why the faith community, the family of the Church, tells stories from the Bible every time we gather. We've heard them before many times, but we tell them because they are part of our history, part of who we have been, and part of who we are as God's people, lest we forget.

The stories in sacred Scripture are not just stories of past lives; they are also stories of our own lives.

The story of Moses standing before the burning bush in awe of God's presence is also our story as we come upon nature's beauty or experience the birth of a child. The story of Joseph, the son of Jacob sold into slavery by his brothers, may also be our story of being betrayed by someone we love. Zacchaeus climbing a tree to see Jesus is our story of longing to see and know God in our lives and in our homes. The story of the good shepherd is the story of God seeking us out, forgiving us, and carrying us back to life. We recognize the stories of sacred Scripture as our stories. ●

Reflect

What stories from Scripture comfort you, and which ones challenge you?



St. Thomas More

302 Chestnut Street

Dalzell IL 61320

Phone 815-663-6201

Email: thomasmore32@gmail.com

Adoration Room at STM

Open Daily from 9 am - 6 pm

Holy Trinity Catholic Church

212 S Main Street

PO Box 159

Cherry IL 61317

Phone 815-894-2006

Email: HolyTSP@gmail.com



Church Office Info

Pastor: Father Thaddeus Tran

Pastoral Assistant: Julie Hollinger

Parish Secretary: Melissa Pasillas Email: Melissahtc@outlook.com

Office Hours at HT: Tuesday-Friday 9am-1pm

Website: www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number: 779-248-2164

Confession Info

Confessions: Saturday morning, alternating between STM & HT 10:30 am-11:15 am

Upcoming/Ongoing Church Events

Fundraiser: STM Rav/Tort | call 815-252-2215 (leave name/phone number/order) | \$9.00/bag

CCD Classes

Sunday, January 26th - K thru 5th Grade

Sunday, February 2nd - 6th & 7th Grade

Children's Mass - HT at 8:30 am



Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 27, 2025

Monday	1/27			† No Mass
Tuesday	1/28	9:00 am	STM	† Richard Mariani
Wednesday	1/29	5:30 pm	HT	† Dorothy Stouffer
Thursday	1/30	9:00 am	HT	† Linda Rutoski
Friday	1/31	9:00 am	STM	† Josephine Weberski

Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 1 - 2, 2025

Saturday	2/1	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† For the Parishioners
Sunday	2/2	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† The Lavern Eiten Family

Faith and Catholic Schools

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. While we live in a world where medical and technological advances have, generally, made life more convenient and easier, having a sacramental vision has become way more difficult. As mankind seems to wander further and further away from God, there is no doubt that keeping the faith while growing up is getting harder.

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. They are a benefit to our cities and towns — believers and non-believers alike — but that is not what makes them so special.

Faith is the common foundation and pillar upon which all Catholic schools are solidly built. Hence, faith is a beacon which directs people's attention away from earthly distractions and up to the heavens. It is that solid foundation that makes Catholic schools so special.

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.

In a day and age when many seem to have lost their way, it is important to remember that the Catholic Church is not just a building or an institution, but the people of God working together to bring about the Kingdom of God today. The role of Catholic schools, an apostolate of the Church, is to raise up the next generation to continue this mission begun by Christ. Yes, these are hard times; yes, it is often a dark and confusing world, but at the center of the storm the light of Christ shines the brightest. Like everything else Catholic schools are in the midst of the fray, but Christ is the center of the school. Christ is that solid foundation upon which they are built, and that makes all the difference. *(Excerpted from covidio.org "David Cooley")*



Contribution Letter Requests

Again, this is a reminder to all parishioners to please call the office if you need a year-end tax letter for 2024.

Winter Weather Advisory

As the winter weather is getting frigidly cold, combining with very unpredictable amounts of snow and ice during the foreseeable future, your personal safety is most important to the church. Hence, please be extra careful as you come to Mass or any other church-related activity. In light of all the above, there may be certain days when the weather is worse and the road conditions become hazardous, please consider to stay home and watch Mass online or TV instead.

Latest Offering's: January 19th Weekend

STM - \$1,239.00
HT - \$ 559.00
SP - \$ 301.00



Confessions:

Sat. February 1st
10:30 am - 11:15 am
St. Thomas More
in the hall

Dear Padre,

At Mass, I see people on their cell phones, and I'm really distracted and irritated. Isn't this wrong?

Would it help if you thought of good reasons for someone to use a cell phone at Mass? Cell phones are the new pagers. People whose work requires them to be on call, those who care for an elder, or parents of teenagers, for example, may need to check their phones. Many people use their phones to follow along with the readings on the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops' website—usccb.org. It's easier for some to enlarge and read the print on a phone instead of following along in a missal. And, while this is relatively new, many hearing aids can be controlled by cell phone apps, so a person might use his or her phone to make adjustments to hear better. Perhaps if you imagine one of these reasons, your irritation will lessen, and you won't be so distracted.



NOT ORRILLI/VEPIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

Now, a word to those who are using a cell phone at Mass. If you are scrolling, checking your email or social media, think about giving yourself one hour when you will turn off your phone and put it aside. This is very difficult for some, and not just for young people. Checking one's phone is habitual—some might say addictive. Surely you deserve an hour when you are not tethered to your phone. A cell phone is a marvelous tool. Just make sure that it is the tool, and you are the master—not the other way around. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

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

Monday

January 27
Weekday
Heb 9:15,
24–28
Mk 3:22–30

Tuesday

January 28
St. Thomas
Aquinas, Priest
and Doctor of
the Church
Heb 10:1–10
Mk 3:31–35

Wednesday

January 29
Weekday
Heb 10:11–18
Mk 4:1–20

Thursday

January 30
Weekday
Heb 10:19–25
Mk 4:21–25

Friday

January 31
St. John Bosco,
Priest
Heb 10:32–39
Mk 4:26–34

Saturday

February 1
Weekday
Heb 11:1–2,
8–19
Mk 4:35–41

Sunday

February 2
The Presentation
of the Lord
Mal 3:1–4
Heb 2:14–18
Lk 2:22–40 or
2:22–32



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

[Jesus] has descended to the streets of our world in order to encounter our wounded humanity, to caress faces furrowed by suffering, to bind up broken hearts, and to set us free from chains that imprison the soul. In this way, he shows us the worship most pleasing to God: caring for our neighbor.

HOMILY, ROME, JANUARY 23, 2022