



## Love Takes Work

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**I**f you believed your own natural death was imminent, would that affect the decisions you make? When St. Paul wrote to the church in Corinth, that was his expectation—that the Lord's return was going to take place quickly, that the Second Coming was just about to occur and could happen at any time.

While St. Paul writes to the Corinthians that it is better to be unmarried than married, the purpose of this advice is to keep life simple and focused on what is important. Don't make any long-term commitments like buying a field, or starting a business, or even getting married. Be ready and prepared because the end of the world could literally be tomorrow. "I should like

you to be free of anxieties," he wrote. Much later, St. Paul realized the end was not going to happen as soon as originally expected.

Saint Paul was not against marriage. He would be the first to say that, ideally, marriage can and often does reveal the depths of human love, but he would also say that it takes work; it doesn't happen all by itself. Just as readily, St. Paul would also note that, ideally, celibacy can and often does reveal the breadth of love given in service to others, whether the celibate

person is lay, a priest, or a religious. It can seem, however, that the unclean spirit that Jesus cast out continues to roam human lives. All of us struggle to live out love as best we can, wherever we find ourselves in life. ●

### Reflect

*What in your life gets in the way of loving as well as you would wish?*

All were amazed and asked one another, "What is this? A new teaching with authority. He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him."

MARK 1:27





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**Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164**



9:45 am - 11:00 am at Cherry Church Hall  
Sunday, January 28th - 5th thru 8th Grades  
Sunday, February 4th - K thru 4th Grade & Confirmation Class  
Sunday, February 4th - Children's Mass for 2nd & 8th Grades

**Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of January 29, 2024**

Monday	1/29			+ No Mass
Tuesday	1/30	9:00 am	STM	+ For Purgatory Souls
Wednesday	1/31	5:30 pm	HT	+ Howard & Gladys Simkins
Thursday	2/1	9:00 am	HT	+ Bernard Schwamberger
Friday	2/2	9:00 am	STM	+ Clifford Sondgeroth

**Mass Intentions for the weekend of February 3 - 4, 2024**

Saturday	2/3	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ John Balma
Sunday	2/4	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	+ For the Parishioners
		10:30 am	St Patrick	+ Tony Taylor
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	+ Temporarily Suspended

# A Reflection on the Protection of Unborn Children



On January 22, 1973 the US Supreme Court's ruling in Roe v. Wade legalized abortion nationwide. Since that day, over 60 million innocent babies have lost their lives.

Each year on the anniversary of the above ruling, members of the Catholic Church unite in prayer and fasting for the legal protection of unborn children. As Christians, we value every human life because we are all children of God – no matter our race, gender, age, size, abilities, or health.

God became man at Jesus' conception in Mary's womb. As a result we all share a special connection to our Lord, even from conception.

In addition, abortion wounds women as it treats her unique and incredible gift to give life as somehow decreasing her value in certain situations rather than elevating it. Women in crisis need our support and encouragement. We need to work as a society to appreciate and protect women's irreplaceable role of giving life to all persons.

This means we need to change how we look at pregnancy in the workplace and the career track. It means facing the responsibility that is inherent in sex and its power to generate new human life. It means remembering that crisis pregnancies were the result of a choice made by BOTH the mother AND the father. Moreover, we need to show young women that they can rise to challenges in life and that others will be there to help them. We need to demonstrate that, with God's grace, good things can come out of mistakes and if we face our failures we can find a way forward. We need to encourage women in crisis pregnancies that they can give their child life both physically through the pregnancy, but also by choosing a loving adoptive family if she isn't able to raise the child. Adoption is a loving choice and a sacrifice by the birth mother we need to honor more. *(Excerpted from taketimeforhim.com)*

## Church Announcements

REMINDER: Feb 4th will be the next children's Mass. Parents of 8<sup>th</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> graders please have your children to the church by 8:15am, so they can be properly instructed with their Mass duties.

### Diocesan Workshop on the Topics of Abuse, Divorce and Annulments

Register now for a morning of Clarity and Love to understand the Church's response to abuse, divorce and annulments, and find spiritual and emotional healing. Saturday, February 17, 2024, 8:30-12, Spalding Pastoral Center, Peoria. Featuring Dr. Emma Bucher, Psy. D., Patty DeCapp, Office of the Tribunal, and Msgr. Jason Gray, J.C.D. Judicial Vicar. To register, email name and email address to [afandel55@gmail.com](mailto:afandel55@gmail.com) \$10.00 donation at the door. Sponsored by the Peoria Diocesan Council of Catholic Women.

### What A Record Breaker!

We would like to congratulate the SP sausage makers for having broken all the previous records; they have raked in \$11,748.21 for their beloved church. Thank you for the support of those who helped make the sausage and those who purchased it.

### LATEST OFFERING'S

JAN 14TH WEEKEND

HT – \$981.35

SP – \$626.00

STM – \$917.00

### *What is* **CANDLEMAS?**

Celebrated every February 2, the feast of CANDLEMAS includes the blessing of the candles and the procession of lights.

The mass for the day remembers the Presentation of the Lord and the Purification of Mary.

Jesus being consecrated to God and would be the light of the world as mentioned by the Prophet Simeon in his canticle is the message of the feast.

### CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE  
SAT. FEB 3RD  
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT  
ST THOMAS MORE  
IN THE CHAPEL

# Dear Padre,

**Why is the Old Testament part of Christian worship?  
Parts of the Old Testament seem to be opposed to the  
teachings of Christ.**

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says it best: "The Old Testament is an indispensable part of Sacred Scripture. Its books are divinely inspired and retain a permanent value, for the Old Covenant has never been revoked" (CCC 121).

The Old Testament, also referred to as the Hebrew Scriptures, is the only Bible Jesus ever knew. That is an important reason to try to understand these Scriptures. The Pentateuch (first five books), the prophets, the Book of Psalms, and the wisdom writings all had a profound impact on Jesus. His image of God as Father, his preaching, his parables, and his proclamation of the reign of God were all influenced by the Hebrew Scriptures.

It is true that Jesus' preaching also goes beyond the Old Testament. At times he substitutes what the law has to say with an even more demanding requirement (see, for example, the Sermon on the Mount). In general, however, the Old Testament forms a context for understanding what Jesus was doing. His passion and death made no sense to his first followers except in light of the Suffering Servant of the Old Testament (Isaiah 52:13–53:12). There are many more examples like this one. Thus, the *Catechism* says "the Old Testament bears witness to the whole divine pedagogy of God's saving love" (CCC 122). ●



VOLODYMYR ZAKHARCHUK / SHUTTERSTOCK

**The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org**

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
January 29	January 30	January 31	February 1	February 2	February 3	February 4
Weekday	Weekday	St. John Bosco, Priest	Weekday	Presentation of the Lord	Weekday	Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time
2 Sm 15:13–14, 30; 16:5–13	2 Sm 18:9–10, 14b, 24–25a, 30–19:3	2 Sm 24:2, 9–17	1 Kgs 2:1–4, 10–12	Mal 3:1–4	1 Kgs 3:4–13	Jb 7:1–4, 6–7
Mk 5:1–20	Mk 5:21–43	Mk 6:1–6	Mk 6:7–13	Heb 2:14–18	Mk 6:30–34	1 Cor 9:16–19, 22–23
				Lk 2:22–40 or 2:22–32		Mk 1:29–39



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

**Do we listen to Jesus' words, which are authoritative?  
Always...carry a small copy of the Gospel...to read throughout  
the day, to listen to that authoritative word of Jesus. And  
then...let us ask Jesus: "Jesus, you are the prophet, the Son of  
God, the one who was promised to us to heal us. Heal me!"**

ANGELUS, ROME,  
JANUARY 31, 2021

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