

January 31, 2021

FOURTH Sunday in ORDINARY TIME

Uniquely in the Gospel of Mark, Jesus' public ministry begins with a direct confrontation with an unclean spirit. Today's Gospel passage reflects a recurring theme in Mark, that Jesus' coming is part of a cosmic battle between God and evil forces. It was commonly believed that many spirits were present in the world, and some sought to control human beings. Mark asserts that in Jesus, God has come to rescue humanity, to free us from every form of bondage.

In today's passage, the unclean spirit does not surrender power quietly. After complaints, convulsions, and screams, the spirit finally departs. As we may witness in own experience, that which binds us—fear, injustice, resentment—often departs only after a mighty struggle. Confronting anything "unclean" in our hearts, our institutions, or our society often involves a long journey toward freedom. May we sustain our efforts and our trust in God, during these long struggles.

PROPHETS IN DAILY LIFE

Moses assures Israel of God's continued presence by promising a new prophet. Like Moses, the prophet will be

raised up directly by God. But how to distinguish a true prophet from a false one? Many claim to speak for God. The task is complicated by the fact that often, true prophets make waves, cause trouble, and disturb how things are normally done. Many simply don't want to hear what God is saying, because it threatens their privilege, comfort, or sense of identity.

Like the Israelites in today's reading, it can be hard for us to bear the voice of God. For God calls us out of all the ways we avoid opening our hearts to God and to others. And so, God raises up surprise prophets in daily life. These are all the people and events who summon us to fuller maturity in love and in faith. We are called upon to always be ready for the prophetic word that may emerge from God's surprises.

Today's Readings: Dt 18:15-20; Ps 95:1-2, 6-7b, 7c-9; 1 Cor 7:32-35; Mk 1:21-28

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St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

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Pastor's Email: arockiamsvd@gmail.com

PASTOR:

Father Arockiam Arockiam, S.V.D.

PERMANENT DEACON: (Retired)

Deacon Benjamin Dunbar, Jr. 225-324-5808

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Martha Davis 225-357-4108

SECRETARY: Mary Martin 225-383-2537

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Christy Hall

BOOKKEEPER: Debra Dudley

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Justin Kennedy

PARISH NURSE: Maxine Walts

LITURGY GUIDE

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m.

(Temporary due to Covid-19)

RECONCILIATION

By Appointment

Live Stream Mass on Facebook @

[stpaultheapostleatholicchurchbr](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultheapostleatholicchurchbr).

10:30a.m. Mass



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70802

Baptism: Call the Rectory to make arrangements. Infant Baptism is on the first Sunday of the month. Attendance of the pre-baptism workshop is required.

Marriage: Make arrangements six (6) months in advance of wedding date with the pastor.

Communion to the Sick: Please call the office to make arrangements to bring communion when someone is unable to attend Mass due to illness.

FALSE PROPHETS, TRUE PROPHETS

In Deuteronomy today we hear that God's very words will fill the mouth of a true prophet, but a false prophet will, in a manner of speaking, put mere mortal words into God's mouth.

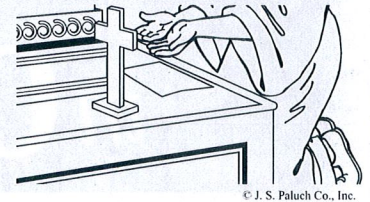
In Mark's Gospel, we see Jesus teaching and healing as a true prophet, one filled with the authority of God's own voice, the Holy One of God.

The whole history of our church is filled with both true and false prophets. But in today's Gospel we learn that Jesus' fame spread because he taught with authority; he wasn't an authority because he was popular or famous. We also learn from him, in his desert temptation confrontations with Satan, that anyone can quote scripture, even against God's purposes. And today we hear that his authority was not like that of the scribes, who held the official positions of religious authority in his day.

Our work is to do our best to discern the true prophets in our midst, and to be true prophets as well. The psalmist tells us how to do this: by not hardening our hearts when God speaks.

If we truly listen to God, it will be God's very words filling our mouths.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Heb 11:32-40; Ps 31:20-24;
Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: **The Presentation of the Lord;**
Blessing of Candles;
Groundhog Day
Mal 3:1-4; Ps 24:7-10; Heb 2:14-18; Lk 2:22-40 [22-32]

Wednesday: **St. Blaise; St. Ansgar;**
Blessing of Throats;
Heb 12:4-7, 11-15; Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a; Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24; Ps 48:2-4, 9-11; Mk 6:7-13

Friday: **Memorial of St. Agatha;**
First Friday

Heb 13:1-8; Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9;
Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: **Memorial of St. Paul Miki and companions; First Saturday**
Heb 13:15-17, 20-21; Ps 23:1-6;
Mk 6:30-34

Sunday: **Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time;**
World Day for Consecrated Life;
Scout Sunday
Jb 7:1-4, 6-7; Ps 147:1-6; 1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23; Mk 1:29-39



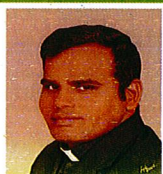
MASS INTENTIONS

Mr. Jessie Joseph, Mr. Aaron Bradley Joseph, and the Joseph Family

7:30 a.m. Mass

Effective next Sunday, February 7, 2021, Mass will be celebrated at St. Paul at 7:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. We will continue to practice social distancing and wearing mask.

For pastoral needs, contact
Fr. Arockiam Arockiam, SVD
at Cell # (337) 522-0624
Email: arockiamsvd@gmail.com



May she rest in peace...



Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Bossier and Cornell family at the passing of Ms. Janet Bossier, sister of Mrs. Barbara Cornell.

May her soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

INSTALLATION

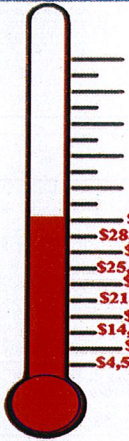
Fr. Arockiam will be installed as pastor of St. Paul by Bishop Michael Duca on February 21st at the 10:30 Mass. Please join us in welcoming Fr. Arockiam as pastor of St. Paul the Apostle.



Support St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

"Celebrating 60 Years of the Family of St. Paul Thriving Because of Our Giving Through Faith, Hope, and Love"

GOAL
\$60,000



- \$28,833.00 - Week of Jan. 24, 2021
- \$28,388.00 - Week of Jan. 17, 2021
- \$27,098.00 - Week of Jan. 4, 2021 - Jan. 10, 2021
- \$25,523.00 - Week of Dec. 21, 2020 - Jan. 3, 2021
- \$23,408.00 - Week of Dec. 20, 2020
- \$21,938.00 - Week of Dec. 6 - Dec. 13, 2020
- \$16,853.00 - Week of Nov. 22 - Nov. 29, 2020
- \$14,268.00 - Week of Nov. 8 - Nov. 15, 2020
- \$8,443.00 - Week of Oct. 25 - Nov. 1, 2020
- \$4,593.00 - Week of Oct. 11 - 18, 2020

Thank you, St. Paul church-family, for your generous donations to our 4-Month Fundraiser to help offset some of the financial losses because we were unable to have our annual fish fry, raffle, and church fair due to the COVID-19 Pandemic. As of last Sunday, the total collected through this fundraiser was \$28,833. Today marks the end of the 4-Month Fundraiser; please expect the final total next Sunday. As we go forward in this new year, remember that our faith, prayers, commitment, and generosity have sustained St. Paul this far. This same groundwork will help advance our ministries, evangelization, and works of mercy in the future. Again, thank you for your support!

2020 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

If you are interested in obtaining a statement of your contributions made to St. Paul during the year 2020, please request a statement by calling the parish office or sending an email. Only requested statements will be prepared. You will be notified when the statements are ready.



OFFERTORY

January 24, 2021

Offertory Collection	\$ 4,201.13
Online Giving	\$ 2,330.00
Building Fund	\$ 70.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 65.00
New Years	\$ 10.00
Latin America	\$ 441.00
4-Month Fundraiser	<u>\$ 445.00</u>
Total	\$ 7,562.13

CELEBRATING JANUARY 31st - FEBRUARY 6th BIRTHDAYS



- Kellen Anthony 1/31
- Carolyn Patterson 1/31
- Wanda Rodney 1/31
- Ciera Dickson 2/01
- Brooklynn Bailey 2/02
- Troylynn Balancier 2/02
- Cindy Chenevert 2/02
- Chelsey Haynes 2/02
- Virgil Johnson 2/02



- Liyah Landry 2/02
- Kaelyn Dennis 02/04
- Veronica Dyson 02/04
- Willis Reed, Jr 02/04
- J'Alen Grevious 02/05
- Kimberly Davis 02/06
- Albert Grevious 02/06
- Isaiah Sam 02/06




PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND






Audrey Christopher, Mary Smart, Carolyn Christophe, Myrtis Coleman, Robert Seals, Mona Seals, Sylvia Collier, Lena Batiste, Marie Myles, Mary Lena Price, Willis Reed, Jr., Annie Joseph, Harry Sills, Denovas Crockett, Jasman Benjamin, James Hayward, Cheryl Crockett, Brenda D. Hickman, Charles Davis, Jr., Rose Crockett Carter, Dianna Franklin, Meredith Jones, Gregory Cornell, George Cornell, Mable King, Curtell Thibodeaux, Irene Warner, Louis Simms, Sadie Simms, Patrick Simms, and Yvonne Joseph

PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Ronnie Gauthier, Helen Celestine, Florence Jackson, Betty Hammond, Frank Ross, Mona Bossier Bailey, Walker Williams, Barbara Brennan, Richard Dillon, Calvin Thomas, III, Joel Rivera, Dorie Martin, Alberta Conner, Martha Reinhart, Dana Simoneaux, Nichelle Hollins, Jessica Hughes, Ernie Butitta, Edna Dixon, Charles Bethley, Jenna Scott, Anthony Grand, Allen Paschal, James Pace, Connie St. Romain, Kirk Haynes, and Carey Haynes

<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Opston, Dorcena, Wilbert, Philip, Opston, Jr., Albert & Jerome Guillory, CB, Ruth & Tia Davis, Catherine Williams, Yvonne Warren and Marcus Montigue</p> 	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>George Coleman, Jr Geneva Coleman George Coleman, Sr. Carrie Coleman M.H. Weathersby Odelia Weathersby Donald Coleman</p> 	<p>JANI-KING</p> <p>Commercial Cleaning Service</p> <p>Monique Scott 225 273-5464</p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p>State Farm Insurance</p> <p>Leonard Benjamin 775-2494</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Geneva Battley Spooner Della Battley Rodney</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p><u>St. Paul the Apostle Quick Reference</u></p> <p>Altar Servers - 7:30 - Shirley Dawson.....802-6128 Altar Servers - 10:30 - Christy Hall... ..223-7851 Infant Baptism - Deacon Benjamin Dunbar, Jr.....324-5808 Bible Study - Barbara Haynes.....665-2630 Bookkeeper - Debra Dudley.....383-2537 Center (Use of Center) - Mary Martin.....383-2537 Center Rental & Repast - Velita Benjamin.....654-6705 Child Protection Coordinator - Vera Dunbar.....324-2939 Eucharistic Ministers - Nancy Ball.....397-4309 Liturgy Committee - Gigi Collin Mathis.....278-0071 Nurse - Maxine Watts278-6732 Office Assistant - Christy Hall.....383-2537 Parish Office - Secretary - Mary Martin.....383-2537 Pastor - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....383-2537 Readers - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....383-2537 Religious Education Director - Martha Davis.....357-4108 RCIA Coordinator - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....383-2537 Ushers - Edmonia Joseph772-2090 Youth Ministry - Justin Kennedy.....754-2609</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones:</i></p> <p>Roosevelt Bowers Joseph "Buddy" Walker Oscar LeDuff, Jr. Elizabeth & Frank P. Bowers Carrie & Douglas Rodney, Sr. Clara & Willis Walker Sarah Rodney Domino & Wilbert Domino, Sr. Freddie Bowers Ora Bowers Ward Sybil Thomas Johnson Maureen Bowers Johnson</p>  	
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Famye Reed and the Reed, Stewart, Davis, and Grainger Families</p> 	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p>Chenevert Construction & Remodeling 344-0183</p>
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<p>SIGMA ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS, INC. SAFETY/RISK, FACILITY SERVICES, ENVIROMENTAL, CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, ARCHITECTURAL, MECHANICAL, PIPING, PROCESS, ELECTRICAL, INSTRUMENTATION, STAFFING</p> <p>225-810-3100 www.sigmaec.com</p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Lionel Bazile, Sr. James Bazile Sheila Bazile</p> 	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Aaron Bradley Joseph H.P. Martin</p> 	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Milton. Rachel. Lillie. Lillian, Kirby, James "Pookie" Verdell, Corinne & Michael Joseph, Lawrence, Sr. & Shedrick Ashford, Ellis Myles, Sr., Rose & Albert Hebert, Eua White</p> 	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>
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