RESCUE FROM BONDAGE

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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**FEAST OF FAITH**

### I Confess

One form of the penitential rite at the beginning of Mass is the traditional *Confiteor*, or “I confess,” a prayer that was formerly prayed by the priest alone at the foot of the altar, but which is now prayed by the entire assembly. The *Confiteor* is at once personal—“I confess”—and communal, prayed aloud, together. We recognize that sin does not just separate us from God; sin comes between us and others, isolating us. We acknowledge that sin has many dimensions, individual and communal: sins of thought, sins of speech, sins of action, sins of omission. Sin is not something that happens to us; sin is something we do. In the *Confiteor*, we take responsibility for our own actions. The repeated insistence on our “fault,” with the ritual gesture of striking the breast, an ancient sign of penitence, is not meant to lower our self-esteem. Rather, it acknowledges our human instinct to transfer the blame whenever we can (“The devil made me do it!”). This prayer stops us short. We take responsibility for ourselves, our actions, our failure to act. Then we cry out to God in those ancient words, *Kyrie, eleison*—Lord, have mercy. For the sinner who repents, there is mercy. This truth is at the heart of our faith, and it is where the Mass, our feast of faith, begins.

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### Please continue to support our Parish, sending your donation by mail, drop at the Church office or Online. Thank you for your support.

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### Rosary Ministry

*Our Rosary makers meet every 3rd Thursday of the month at 11:30am. For more information please contact Kathy Giddens at (229)482-2364*

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### Adoration Of The Blessed Sacrament

**First Saturday**

7:00PM to 10:00PM

**Wednesday 10AM - 12PM**

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### St. Anthony of Padua Prayer Garden

Support us by ordering a memorial brick for our prayer garden. The cost is $100 we do offer payment plan. To order a brick or if you have any question about our engraved bricks, please feel free to contact the Parish Office.

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### Let us pray for the health of:

Ray O’ Keeffe, Eva and Alfonso Angel, Tony Christiano, Nestor Beroch, Andrew Morrison, Bonnie Cornwell, Don Christiano, Manuel Arias, Fran LaRock, Melissa Green, Michael Kunai, Erika Lloyd, Anna Marie Gould, Nina Waters, Phyllis Fletcher, Nilda Peana, Beatriz Agudelo, Patricia Hunter, Tripp Lasseter, Ruby Green, Lisa Salomon, Madalyn Touchton, Debbie Hernandez, Angela Hood, José Hernández, Jeronimo Vivero, Alvaro Borrero

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### For the Eternal rest of:

Consuelo Borrero, Dennis David, Mary Malehorn, Angi Christiano, Tom Tumer, David Dennis, Lois Adkins, Frank Hunter, Guillermín Sanchez, Shawn Murphy, Kelle Jackson, Misty Lasseter, Stephanie Nelson, Kevin Ward, Juana Perez Edgardo Arias, Eugene Faborito, Giovanni Foschi, Judy Plantier, Maria Gallegos, Bill Raczkowski

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### January 24, 2021 Collections

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