



Be doers of the word and not hearers only,
deceiving yourselves.

JAMES 1:22

One for All and All for One

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

One day, I asked the eighth-graders I was teaching to imagine themselves on a fantasy journey. They had to pretend they were flying across the ocean in a small airplane when suddenly the plane has engine trouble. The pilot manages to land on a sandy island beach. Everyone survives, but a few passengers are injured.

The captain divides the passengers into groups, each with a specific task. One group is responsible for finding food; another for water; another to explore and map the island; another to care for the injured. After explaining the scenario, I divided the eighth-graders into groups of four or five to complete the same “pretend” tasks—to create a set of rules by which to live until they were all rescued. The rules each group created were much the same: share everything, no hoarding, no fighting, obey the captain, no stealing,

those who do not work do not eat. In effect, these eighth-graders created their own “commandments,” enabling the community to survive in its own kind of desert, likely in the same way the Ten Commandments helped the Israelites.

The teachings of Jesus do not abrogate the original Ten Commandments. They continue to hold a great deal of wisdom for surviving as a community. Jesus taught us to focus on how our behavior shapes the sort of individuals we become and, ultimately, what sort of community we form. What flows from one’s heart, Jesus taught, reveals who we are both alone and in community. ✱

Reflect

***What would you include in a set of rules
for yourself and your family?***



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:15am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today.

MINISTRIES...

AUGUST 31/SEPT. 1ST - THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Karen Marsh EM: Fred Anderson
10:15AM Lector: Willie Forbes EM: LaVerne Lau
Collection: Pat Robinson, LaVerne Lau

SEPTEMBER 7/8th - THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Karen Marsh
10:15AM Lector: Pat Robinson EM: Christine DaCosta
Collection: Carlos DeFrias

MASS INTENTIONS...

AUGUST 31/SEPT. 1ST - THE TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Mary & Benjamin Botelho++
Adelina & Jose de Frias ++
10:15AM In Loving Memory of Baby Chloe
For all Teachers, Staff, Students returning to their Education

SEPTEMBER 7/8th - THE TWENTY-THIRD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For a Safe, Happy and Blessed School Year
10:15AM Josephine & Nyal Clinton ++

You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at

St. Theresa's - 7:30^{AM} Mon.-Fri.

St. Anthony's - 8:00^{AM} Tues.-Fri. | St. Patrick's - 8:00^{AM} Mon.-Fri.

**ST. THERESA'S 7:30am Masses are live streamed via the
Diocesan Website and their Facebook Page**



August 24/25t : \$598.00

THANK YOU EVERYONE WHO CONTRIBUTED

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE ONLINE

to St. Michael's Church's

BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and "collection" as your memo on your banking transaction.

**Thank you to those parishioners who continue to
answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.**

Bishop's Corner...



Dear Fellow-Catholics,

Pope Francis has established the 1st of September as the World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation, encouraging the Catholic community around the world to pray for our common home.

The day is inspired by Pope Francis' landmark encyclical *Laudato Si'*, which calls on "every person living on this planet" to care for our shared Earth.

On this occasion, the Holy Father writes a message addressed to the Catholic Church and to all people of good will. The theme for 2024 is "Hope and Act with Creation" which draws its inspiration from the Letter of St. Paul to the Romans.

In his message, Pope Francis encourages us "to live an incarnational faith, one that can enter into the suffering and hope-filled "flesh" of others; to join forces to help to rethink, among other things, the question of human power, its meaning, and its limits; to extend harmony among humanity and to creation in the sense of responsibility for a humane and integral ecology, the path of salvation of our common home. With the assistance of the Holy Spirit seek to live a life that becomes a song of love for God, for humanity, with and for creation, and that finds its fullness in holiness."

For the official text of the Pope's message see:

<https://tinyurl.com/3dzfkjsn>

May your weekend be serene and your week blessed!

Wes Jurewicz
Bishop Wes



**TO HOPE AND ACT
WITH CREATION**

SEASON OF CREATION 2024

The firstfruits of hope
(Rom 8:19-25)



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

We spend time assigning blame; but spending time blaming others is wasting time. We become angry, bitter, and keep God away from our heart.... One cannot be truly religious while complaining: complaining poisons, it leads you to anger, to resentment and to sadness...which closes the door to God. Let us ask the Lord today to free us from blaming others....

ANGELUS, ROME, AUGUST 29, 2021



COLLECT

God of might, giver of every good gift,
put into our hearts the love of your name,
so that, by deepening our sense of reverence,
you may nurture in us what is good
and, by your watchful care,
keep safe what you have nurtured.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

FIRST READING – Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8

Moses said to the people: “Now, Israel, hear the statutes and decrees which I am teaching you to observe, that you may live, and may enter in and take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, is giving you. In your observance of the commandments of the Lord, your God, which I enjoin upon you, you shall not add to what I command you nor subtract from it. Observe them carefully, for thus will you give evidence of your wisdom and intelligence to the nations, who will hear of all these statutes and say, ‘This great nation is truly a wise and intelligent people.’ For what great nation is there that has gods so close to it as the Lord, our God, is to us whenever we call upon him? Or what great nation has statutes and decrees that are as just as this whole law which I am setting before you today?”

RESPONSORIAL PSALM – Psalm 15:2-5

R. The one who does justice will live in the presence of the Lord.

Whoever walks blamelessly and does justice;
who thinks the truth in his heart
and slanders not with his tongue. **R.**

Who harms not his fellow man,
nor takes up a reproach against his neighbor;
by whom the reprobate is despised,
while he honors those who fear the Lord. **R.**

Who lends not his money at usury
and accepts no bribe against the innocent.
Whoever does these things
shall never be disturbed. **R.**

SECOND READING – James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27

Dearest brothers and sisters: All good giving and every perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, with whom there is no alteration or shadow caused by change. He willed to give

us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

Humbly welcome the word that has been planted in you and is able to save your souls.

Be doers of the word and not hearers only, deluding yourselves.

Religion that is pure and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to care for orphans and widows in their affliction and to keep oneself unstained by the world.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.

The Father willed to give us birth by the word of truth that we may be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures. Jas 1:18

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23

When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands.—For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.—So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, “Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?” He responded, “Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written:

*This people honors me with their lips,
but their hearts are far from me;
in vain do they worship me,
teaching as doctrines human precepts.*

You disregard God’s commandment but cling to human tradition.”

He summoned the crowd again and said to them, “Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile.

“From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile.

Dear Padre,

Do Christians need to follow the Ten Commandments, or are they the “Old Law”?

There is nothing arbitrary or old-fashioned about the commandments of God. The Ten Commandments, given to us by the Author of the World, are found in Exodus 20:2–17. They are: (1) I, the Lord, am your God. You shall not have other gods besides me. (2) You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God, in vain. (3) Remember to keep holy the Lord’s day. (4) Honor your father and your mother. (5) You shall not kill. (6) You shall not commit adultery. (7) You shall not steal. (8) You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (9) You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife. (10) You shall not covet your neighbor’s goods.

The first three Commandments were meant to guide us in our relationship with God; the remaining seven Commandments pertain to our relationships with others. Jesus gives us a new motivation for keeping the Commandments—the motivation of love. He gives a double commandment: love of God and love of neighbor (Mark 12:28–34). Saint Paul tells us these new commands fulfill those of the Old Law (Romans 13:8–10); and John writes that keeping the Commandments simply out of fear of punishment is not enough: love must be the driving force (1 John 4:18). ✱

Our Parish News . . .

SUNDAY MASS CONTINUES AT 10.15am

► **EMMAUS BIBLE STUDY** looks at the 3 Scriptural readings for the upcoming weekend with questions for discussion after each reading with those present. It is a very good way to prepare for the Scriptures with other parishioners. This is a free Bible Study and all of the information will be provided. It will be taking place at St. Michael's starting on Tuesday September 3rd from 3:00 - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. For further information please phone Fr. Joe at 705-0236.

- **ST. CHARLES "GOING DEEPER" BIBLE STUDY** - which goes into greater detail virtually line by line for the upcoming Scriptural readings at Mass. This is a NEW free Bible Study and all of the information will be provided. It will be taking place at St. Michael's starting on Thursday September 5th from 3:00 - 4:30 pm. All are welcome. For further information please phone Fr. Joe at 705-0236.

Around the Diocese . . .

- **ST. THERESA'S 12:10 MASS** resumes on Wednesday, Sept. 4th, and will be celebrated on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays.
 - **The 9:00am Mass at St. Theresa's on Saturdays** will resume on Saturday, September 14.
- **ST. PATRICK'S:** The Rosary - each Wednesday morning at 10am. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the Rosary - each Thursday evening at 7pm. Everyone is welcome.
 - There will be **NO** Wednesday evening Portuguese Mass at St. Patrick's during the Summer. This Mass will resume October 2nd
 - Fr. Vivien celebrates Mass in Tagalog at St. Patrick's the second Friday of the month at 7:00pm. All are welcome!
- **ST JOSEPH'S FILIPINO MASS** is celebrated by Fr. Dandy on the third (3rd) Saturday of each month at 11:00am.
- **STELLA MARIS FILIPINO MASS** - Join Fr. Dandy, and our Filipino community on the last Wednesday of each month at 7:00pm.
- **ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP: Reopens** Tuesday, 3rd September with regular opening hours each Tuesday and Saturday from 10am - 2pm.
- **LECTIO DIVINA:** Resumes in September.

EVENTS in our Catholic community...

- **29th of September, Sunday: St. Michael's Parish Liturgical Feast**
- **1st of October, Tuesday: St. Theresa's Feast, Patroness of the Parish and of the Diocese**
- **13th of October, Sunday: 7:00pm - Our Lady of Fatima Feast at St. Patrick's**
- **2nd of November, Saturday: 11:00am - All Souls' Mass at St. Theresa's**
- **12th of December, Thursday: 6:30pm - Stella Maris Parish Liturgical Feast**
- **17th of December, Tuesday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Theresa's**
- **18th of December, Wednesday: 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Advent Reconciliation Service at St. Patrick's**



Pastor's Points



Dear Parishioners,

All of today's readings illuminate God's call to wholehearted obedience. Deuteronomy 4 names two purposes of God's holy law: one purpose faces inward, intended for the flourishing of Israel; one purpose faces outward, intended for witness to the world. For Israel, God gave the law "that you may live." As the psalmist writes, whoever follows the law will live well: in peace, without disturbance. The law is not to restrict followers but to set them free for a life of true abundance. As for the world, the law was given to Israel so that they could bear witness that their God's wisdom and kindness surpass all other nations' gods. The law illuminated the Israelites so that they might shine brightly, drawing other nations to Israel's God.

James picks up on the theme of fruitful obedience and applies it to Christians. He uses three metaphors to show how intertwined our lives are with God's "word of truth" (that is, the Scripture, or God's law): we are the infant children of the Word; we are like the first figs blossoming the Word's tree; and we are the soil in which the Word is planted. Our lives are bound up with God's Word, in such a way that to hear the Word without living it out would be to turn away from our parent, to wither on the tree, or to dry up and crack as desert soil.

Finally, Mark's Gospel warns that obedience to the law must be deeper than mere observance. Our obedience should be inward, coming from hearts turned toward God. Mark warns, rather literally, against paying "lip service" to the law without loving God with the heart. The purpose of God's holy law is inner transformation leading to abundant life.

I believe that there are some ways to monitor the effectiveness of the above within, namely if this interiorization is taking place would others notice a change (or changes) within me and maybe they will say such, but also do I notice such a change (or changes) within me and experience how others relate to me? When you pray the Our Father, you say "...thy (God's) will be done," not "my will be done." Try God's way for a change and see or better yet EXPERIENCE what happens.

God bless

Fr. Joe Pastor

LOOKING TO RENT

A parishioner is **URGENTLY** seeking a one (1) bedroom apartment preferably located between Southampton and Hamilton Parish, but will consider another parish.

Their maximum budget for rent is \$1,600 per month, and they require that the apartment have an assessment number. Please contact 335-0075 or email makeo_123@hotmail.com if you can assist.

Our Sunday Readings

DEUTERONOMY 4:1-2,6-8
PSALM 15:2-5
JAMES 1:17-18,21b-22,27
MARK 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Pure & Undefined

JAMES 1:17-18,21b-22,27

Reading closely

1. What do you think of the words and phrases that James uses to describe God?
2. What might be examples of God's *good giving* and *perfect gifts*?
3. How do people falsely convince themselves that they're acting on God's word?
4. What groups of people are the most vulnerable in our society today?
5. In what ways are people *stained by the world*?
6. What does James seem to mean by *religion*?

Living the word

7. How do you evaluate whether you are more a doer or a hearer of God's word?
8. How can you *humbly welcome* God's word?
9. What challenges confront you as you try to live *pure and undefiled*?

THE SECOND READING

Exhortation

This letter draws more from Jesus' teaching than any other letter in the New Testament. It urges us to live justly and morally because Christ will hold us accountable for our actions (5:8-9). There is no time to waste as we seek to know and live God's word.

Good gifts

By insisting that God gives good gifts, James pointedly rejects the notion that God tempts people to sin (see vv.13-14). On the contrary, the one who gave us light itself acts with unflinching goodness (v.17).

In desiring only good for people, God brings them to new life through baptism and the proclamation of his word (v.18). Like the first crops gathered during a harvest, those who heed God's word are sure to enter eternal life.

Doers of the word

God's word challenges us to live differently. As we hear God calling us to change the way we speak and act, James warns us not to ignore what we've heard.

God's word, like the Christian *religion* itself, demands radical action. We should help others, especially those in need. In the Old Testament *orphans and widows* represent the weakest members of society.

James also warns us not to conform to the values of our culture (*the world*).

MARK 7:1-8,14-15,21-23

Reading closely

1. Why might the Pharisees and scribes have come from Jerusalem to hear Jesus?
2. What might these religious authorities expect Jesus to say?
3. What do you think Jesus' disciples feel about the presence of these other authority figures?
4. What effect might Jesus' use of scripture have on the religious authorities?
5. What concerns run through this passage?
6. If the discussion continued, what might the Pharisees and scribes say next?
7. How might the disciples react to Jesus' teaching in this passage?

Living the word

8. What does it mean to be *religious*?
9. Do you want to be thought of as *religious*?
10. How does each of the sins that Jesus names affect individuals and communities?
11. How do your sins defile you?

THE GOSPEL READING

Pharisees

Pharisee seems to mean “separated one.” Pharisees drew from both the Jewish scriptures and other teachings and practices in order to help their fellow Jews preserve their identity and traditions during the Roman occupation of their land.

Pharisees represent only one form of Judaism. Their mostly negative portrayal in our Gospels reflects a later stage of conflict between Jews and Christians. Some Pharisees were compassionate and just and inspired others to act likewise.

Ritual purity

Hand-washing and *purifying* refer to ritual cleansing not personal hygiene. Jewish law stipulated that objects and people be ritually purified in certain circumstances, such as for use in worship.

The Pharisees seem to have made ritual hand-washing before every meal a requirement for all Jews. Their expansion of this law is an example of *the tradition of the elders*.

Contesting authority

When the Pharisees ask Jesus about hand-washing, they're really asking him to justify his entire ministry. They question whether he truly speaks for God.

Jesus responds by first quoting a passage from Isaiah in order to indicate that the Pharisees have taken over rules about holiness so completely that they've lost touch with what God wants. By quoting scripture, Jesus also indicates that he is the true teacher of God's law.

Rendering holy

Jesus next echoes a big theme of the Jewish scriptures: worship is meaningless, even sacrilegious, if the worshiper doesn't act justly and morally.

However, when Jesus declares that *nothing from outside can defile a person*, he contradicts scripture, which now makes him seem unfaithful to God's law. There are two reasons he speaks so boldly.

- As God's Son, Jesus has authority over God's law. Therefore, he's the only one who can correctly interpret or change it.
- Jesus brings about a new era of salvation in which he purifies people. Therefore, the criteria of holiness in this new era is obedience to Jesus.

PRAYER

Father of light,
Giver of all that is good,
you share your Spirit with us
and invite us to participate in your work of
renewing the world.

Keep us attentive to your word.
Gently reveal the ways we resist doing what is just
and moral.

Forgive us when we know what is right
but fail to act on that knowledge.

Help us distinguish between the values of the
world and the values of your kingdom,
and help us persevere in upholding your will.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.