



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. Joseph's Church

was consecrated on the 29th of January 1928.
It is the oldest standing Roman Catholic Church on the island.

Address: 45 Somerset Road, Sandys MA 03, Bermuda
or
P.O. Box MA 05, Mangrove Bay, Sandys MABX, Bermuda.
Telephone: (441) 234-2321
Email: stjosephbermuda@gmail.com

Acting Pastor: Fr. Joseph Morley - Cell: 705-0236



Tentative Mass Schedule

Saturday afternoon at 4:00 p.m.
Sunday morning at 8:45 a.m.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

St. Joseph's – Sunday morning 8:30 a.m. or by appointment

BAPTISMS by appointment – one month in advance

WEDDINGS by appointment – one year in advance (approx.)

FILIPINO MASS – Saturday, 28^h September – 11:00 a.m.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION – Resumes 29th September.

Children's Mass – Resumes in October.

Pastoral & Finance Council Meeting – Resumes on Monday, 9th September.

Monthly Coffee Social – 22nd September

DIOCESE HAMILTON IN BERMUDA

Most Rev. Bishop, Wiesław (Wes) Śpiewak
www.romancahtolicbermuda.bm

Parish Team Leaders

Mrs. Elizabeth Card – Pastoral
Council Chairperson

Mrs. Annette Barclay
St. Vincent de Paul
Society Representative

Walette Cross
Stewardship Representative

Natalia Walker
Religious Education

Mrs. Mary Harvey - Parish
Administrator & Finance
Committee Team Leader

Mrs. Jane Farge
Music Ministry

Today's Hymns

Entrance	Word of God	#742
Offertory:	Servant Song	#820
Communion:	Bread for the World	#780
Recessional:	With One Voice	#814

Leader of Song: Justin Tavares



The St. Joseph's Parish family takes this opportunity to thank you for coming to worship with us today. May the loving Lord always be with you, and with your families.



Sunday – 8th September 2024

Proclaimer of God's Word
Opening/Closing of the Church
Eucharistic Minister
Collection Counters
Altar Servers
Music

Elizabeth Card
Annette Barclay
Joanne Smith
Kathie Ausenda
Seamus Stones
Jane Farge

Prayers: Please keep our **sick and shut-ins** in your prayers, especially Ilene Bremar, Eleanor Correia, Bernie & Eileen Davies, Jenny Woods; Jose Garcia, Evelyn Pinlac, and for Mary Maybury and Petra Caesar who are still in the hospital.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sunday, 1st September

People of St. Joseph's

ATTENDANCE & COLLECTION

MASS	Attendees	Collection
Saturday 24 th August 4:00 p.m.	19	92.00
Sunday 25 th August 8:45 a.m.	52	342.00
TOTAL:	71	\$434.00

Thank you for your kindness and generosity, it is appreciated. Banking information: St. Joseph's Parish – Account Number: 20006060757062100 – Bank NT Butterfield



THANK YOU to all who contributed to the delectable Coffee Social held last Sunday morning; it was enjoyed by those who attended.



Next Sunday is the second Sunday of the month; therefore, there will be two collections - regular and maintenance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CLASSES will resume on Sunday, 29th September. If you know of a child who will be five (5) by the end of December and would like to enroll them in the classes, please contact Liz at 234-0872 or Email: lizatstjosephs@gmail.com or Fr. Joe at 705-0236. Please feel free to pass this on to friends and family.

Sue did an amazing job of creating classes that were fun and informative for the children, and at times, for the parents 😊; these will now be continued through the willingness of Natalia and Justin, who are committed to passing on our faith to the children of the parish. **However, in saying that, they could do with a few more willing hands, especially on days that "creative" activities are taking place.**

As the PCL (*seems that title still exists*) I (Liz) would like to say, that some would get the impression, that because our classes are combined, and sometimes the material might seem a little "young" for a few of the older children; if they truly participated in the class, they would be amazed at what they would learn!! It could also be an opportunity for them to help and be role models for the younger group.

Also, it is sad that **most** (not all) of the Catholic children going to MSA in the First Holy Communion Sacramental Class no longer participate in parish activities. However, we would like to encourage our St. Joseph's families whose children might be in sacramental classes outside the parish (FHC and Confirmation) to participate in the parish, especially by attending Mass.

We all should be reminded, however, that, not only are those with children, expected to attend weekend Masses based upon the Ten Commandments (which come from God). We owe God, and our parish community; if it is to thrive and survive, to come together as a family to pray, socialize, and have fun.

See #2042 in the *Catechism of the Catholic Church - The first precept* ("You shall attend Mass on Sundays and holy days of obligation.") *requires the faithful to participate in the Eucharistic celebration when the Christian community gathers together on the day commemorating the Resurrection of the Lord.*

PASTOR'S POINT:

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, Acting Pastor

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!

Bishop Wes



A prayer for our school children who will returning to school over the next two weeks.

Dear Lord,

As our students begin a new school year, we pray that you will keep them in your care.

Send your Spirit to open their minds to all that is true and beautiful and good.

Help them to see the gifts and talents you have given them and to use them well.

Help them to grow in knowledge and wisdom. Help them to be kind to others

and lead others to be kind to them.

Give their teachers patience and understanding and help them teach what is just and true.

Send your angels to guide and guard our children and to keep them from all harm.

Open their young hearts to your presence and enfold them in your peace and protection.

Hold them in the palm of your hand and let them return home safely at the end of each day.

Amen.

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). ●

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	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
September 2	September 3	September 4	September 5	September 6	September 7	September 8
Weekday	St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor of the Church	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Weekday	Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time
1 Cor 2:1–5	1 Cor 2:10b–16	1 Cor 3:1–9	1 Cor 3:18–23	1 Cor 4:1–5	1 Cor 4:6b–15	Is 35:4–7a
Lk 4:16–30	Lk 4:31–37	Lk 4:38–44	Lk 5:1–11	Lk 5:33–39	Lk 6:1–5	Jas 2:1–5
						Mk 7:31–37



GIULIO NAPOLITANO / SHUTTERSTOCK

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

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 unfailing 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.