

4TH SUNDAY
ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 1, 2009



Mark's first story of Jesus' ministry presented Him as preaching that the kingdom of God is at hand and then calling some fishermen to join Him in His work of "catching people." Today we see Jesus going beyond preaching to enacting the kingdom: His first act is to deliver a man from an unclean spirit.

What does it mean to speak with authority?

In today's Gospel Jesus entered the synagogue and began teaching with authority. The word "authority" comes from the Latin word *auctor*, which means "author." The word doesn't mean that a person with authority must be a writer. But it does mean that the person with authority must be an artist—someone who "authors" something. But what does that person author? Jesus knew the answer: life. The bringer of life has authority to change the world.

Jesus' presence allowed the people of His day to experience a sense of hope. People were held spellbound not only by Jesus' words, but by His presence. Have you ever been held spellbound by the presence of Jesus in your life? If not, were you resistant? Skeptical? Unsure?

I invite you to open your heart and your mind to receive Jesus' presence. Jesus is waiting for you.

Michael Kearney was home schooled by his parents. At one point, he was diagnosed with Attention Deficit Disorder, though his parents declined to prescribe any medication for it. Michael simply went on to graduate from high school at age six, from junior college at age eight, and he received his Bachelor's degree from the University of South Alabama at age ten. By the time Michael Kearney was seventeen, he had completed two separate masters' degrees and was teaching classes at Vanderbilt University. Imagine that, such a young person as a teacher!

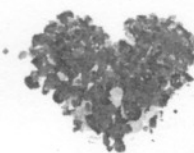
Jesus has just begun his ministry. So far as we can tell, he only has four of the disciples, James, John, Andrew and Simon Peter. On the Sabbath, Jesus calmly walks into the temple, sits down and begins teaching. Immediately, you can sense the elders' anger and ridicule over this "youngster" teaching among them. Impossible, they say. What could he know about the laws? Only when Jesus removes an unclean spirit from another man do the others begin to take serious note of him, and "his fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee."

It is said that our lives should be spent in continuous pursuit of knowledge, that we never stop learning. Jesus Christ's mission on earth was one of a teacher, and those who follow him will always be learning. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that Jesus is like a wise teacher, who leads us progressively towards an intimate relationship with God through prayer (CCC 2607). Likewise, just as we are disciples of Christ, our mission is to teach others to grow in faith, hope and charity along with us. Today, pray for an open mind and heart to the teachings of Jesus Christ.

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Have a blessed week.

Sister Dorothy





SCHOOL NEWS

PTG MEETING

Please join the PTG for their monthly meeting on Tuesday, February 3rd at 6:30 pm in the school library. All Homeroom Helpers are asked to be at this meeting.

EARLY DISMISSAL

The students will have an early dismissal on Wednesday, February 4th at 11:15 pm. There will be extended day care. Students must bring a bagged lunch if they are staying at extended day.

MASS

Please join Mrs. Smith and the 7th graders for mass on Thursday, February 5th at 10 am. All parishioners are welcome.

CONFIRMATION RETREAT



Please keep our 8th grade students in your prayers as they go to St. Susanna's on Thursday, February 5th.

Our students will attend this confirmation retreat for a day of reflection and preparation.



VALENTINE'S DANCE

The Student Council is sponsoring a Valentine's Day Dance on Saturday, February 7th at 7pm. St. Bart's students in grades 5th thru 8th grade may attend.

FUEL ASSISTANCE

The Pittsburgh Foundation has given a grant to Catholic Charities for winter fuel assistance. The grants are income based and have no age requirement. If you are on a limited income please call Bess at 412-242-7357 to see if you are eligible for aid. The grants are on a first come first served basis so call as soon as possible.

ATLANTIC CITY

MARCH 31 THRU APRIL 2, 2009
\$155.00 PER PERSON BASED ON
DOUBLE OCCUPANCY — IN-
CLUDES BUS TRIP, ROOM, BUFFET
DINNER AND \$20.00 COMP.

FINAL PAYMENT
FEBRUARY 23RD.

PLEASE CONTACT THE RECTORY
TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS.
MAKE SURE YOU CALL EARLY AND
GET ON THE LIST — SEATS ON
THE BUS ARE ASSIGNED ON A
FIRST COME BASIS BY YOUR
TOUR LEADER.

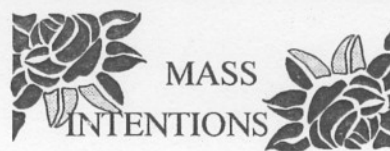


CONGRATULATIONS
ST. BART'S WOMEN'S
GROUP

The St. Bart's Women's group has received A Certificate of Appreciation in recognition of their significant contributions to the United States Air Forces in Europe. They have received this recognition by collecting, and sending coupons overseas. Please continue to support our Women's Group, and our troops overseas by donating your grocery coupons in the box provided in the vestibule of our church.

GOLDEN AGERS

The Golden Agers will hold their monthly meeting on Friday, February 6th at 1:30 PM in Helzlsouer Hall. Please join us. New members are always welcome. A light lunch will be served.



MON., February 2 The Presentation Of The Lord

10:00 AM Rose Antonucci (Paul Antonucci)

TUES., February 3, Blaise, Bishop & Martyr

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Joseph

WED., February 4, Weekday

8:00 AM St. Irenaeus
9:00 AM St. Gerard Majella, St. Susanna
7:00 PM Holy Hour

THURS., February 5, Agatha

10:00 AM Earl Schomburger (Ladies of Chaioty)

FRI., February 6, Paul Miki & Companions

10:00 AM Dorothy Brady (Women's Group)

SAT., February 7, Vigil Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

4:00 PM Confessions
5:00 PM 40th Wedding Anniversary
Joseph & Christine Flamm (Family)

SUN., February 8, Fifth Sunday Ordinary Time

8:00 AM People of the Parish
10:30 AM Kathy Spratt (Jean Hoburg)

ANNUAL WHITE MASS

The Annual White Mass for healthcare professionals will be held at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 8, 2009, at St. Paul Cathedral. Bishop David Zubik will be the celebrant. All in the healthcare profession are welcome.

The St. Bartholomew Men's Club has invited Police Officer Dennis Lynch to speak on "Crime Prevention" on Sunday February 8th at 6:00 PM. All men of the parish are welcome! Please phone the rectory if you plan to attend.

Please remember in you prayers the sick, shut-ins, and hospitalized members of the Parish.
Please remember in your prayers the departed members of our parish family, especially:

Phyllis Kernick,
Helen Pedersen
Edward Perkovic

