

January 7, 2018

Worship Centers: Holy Spirit Catholic Church, 201 44th St. South

Holy Family Chapel, 2800 Central Ave. Phone: (406)452-6491

Parish Offices: 201 44th St. South Great Falls, MT 59405 Parish Office hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m., Friday 8:30 a.m. – Noon

Fax: 452-6495 Email: hsparish@holvspiritgf.org

Website: www.holvspiritgf.org

School: 2820 Central Avenue Email: jwichman@holyspiritgf.org

Phone: 761-5775

web: www.holyspiritgfschool.org

Check out FORMED.org Our parish code is PGMYJZ

WE, the people of Holy Spirit Catholic Parish of Great Falls, Montana, created by God, centered in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, are sharing our journey of faith,

WE are committed to upholding our faith, strengthening our families, and being a joyful people of prayer.

WE strive to be the Lord's presence on earth by welcoming and ministering to all people with compassion and hope. Rev. March 1999

"For by gold the power of a king is signified, by frankincense the honor of God, by myrrh the burial of the body; and accordingly they offer Him gold as King, frankincense as God, myrrh as Man." ~ St. John Chrysostom



The Epiphany of the Lord

The Epiphany of the Lord, January 7, 2018

Holy Spirit Parish Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday – 4:30 p.m.

Sunday - 8:30 & 11:00 a.m.

Daily Mass Schedule

Holy Spirit Day Chapel:

Tuesdays 5:15 p.m., Wednesdays & Thursdays 8:30 a.m. Park Place (3200 15th Ave. S) 2nd Wednesday each month 2:30

Highgate (3000 11th Ave S) 3rd Wednesday each month 1:30

Holy Family Chapel (2800 Central Avenue) Fridays 8:30 a.m.

Reconciliation: Saturdays - 2-4 pm, Wednesdays 5:30-6:30 pm or by appointment with a priest.



Holy Spirit Chapel is open for prayer before the Blessed Sacrament: Monday - Thursday 8:30 a.m. - 4 pm Friday 8:30 - 12.

Mass Intentions:

Mon., 1/8 - 8:30 a.m. - +Luzviminda Campo r/b J Aguigui Tues., 1/9- 5:15 p.m. - +Emily Downey r/b E Lee Wed., 1/10-8:30 a.m, - Terry Mimnaugh (sp int) r/b K Mimnaugh (Highgate) 2:30 pm - +Melvin Thompson r/b A Verploegen Thu., 1/11-8:30 a.m - +Tillie Kilby r/b Depners Fri., 1/12-8:30 a.m., HF - +Greg Deffe r/b J Deffe Sat., 1/13-4:30 p.m.-+Annie Habel r/b Polaceks Sun., 1/14 - 8:30 a.m- +Kay and Al Bauer r/b C Bauer - 11:00 a.m.-Parishioners

Readings for next week: Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: 1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19

2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20

Gospel: John 1:35-42

Coffee & Rolls Schedule

Jan 7: Nurses

Jan 14: Formation program



Bus Schedule:

Jan 13: Cecelia Fuhrman and Therese Griffith

Jan 14: NOT FILLED

What's Happening This Week...

Sunday: Fair Trade Coffee sales	Hall
Parish nurses - 9:45 am	conf. Rm.
Elem. Formation - 9:45 am	Sts. P&P
Youth Ministry - 6:30 pm	Sts. P&P
Tuesday: Fellowship lunch - noon	hall
Pastoral Council - 7 pm	conf. Rm.
Wednesday: Elem. Formation - 6:30 pm	Sts P&P
Knights of Columbus - 6:30 pm	2816 Central
Thursday: RCIA - 7 pm	Sts. P&P
Sunday: Elem. Formation - 9:45 am	Sts. P&P
Youth Group - 6:30 pm	Sts. P&P



Please join us to pray the Rosary at 4:45 p.m. on Tuesday at Holy Spirit, 8 a.m. Thursday and Sunday at Holy Spirit, 8 a.m. Fridays at Holy Family and 4:00 p.m. on Saturday at Holy Spirit. The Knights of Columbus Council #9395 will lead the Rosary before the 11:00 Mass on the 5th

Sunday of the month.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Douglas Krings Pastor Dcn. Bill Medved Deacon Dcn. Pete Woelkers Deacon

Mark Mever Parish Administrator

Mary Dupuis Worship, RCIA (Becoming Catholic)

Aubrey Rearden DRE/Youth Minister

Cindy Eultgen Christian Service/Elementary Formation

Mary Wingerter Administrative Assistant

Chuck Osterman Maintenance

Liturgical Ministers for January 13, 14

	4:30 PM 8:30 AM		11:00 AM			
Holy Spirit	★ Sub requested ~ see Web Terminal					
Bread Baker	C. Hauk E. Kasayka					
Holy Wash		P. Fehres				
Sacristan	A. Klundt	J. Gort	N. Luth			
Greeter	J. Edgar / H. Vacek J Weiss / P Reagor	Team Donnelly	T. & P. Hilgendorf S. & D. Wilson			
Usher	G. McCabe J. Tarnowski	G. Drake D. Erickson	C. Christiaens M. & L. Francis			
Cross	D. Schumacher	R. Dean	D. Blair			
Altar Servers	L. Fitzpatrick B. Lorenz	R. Harrington ★ A. Harris	R. Blair Q. Blair			
CLW		C. Labunetz	NOT FILLED			
Reader	P. Molloy T. Gilligan	T. Hodges M. Preciado	A. Krattiger M. Leaf			
Gifts	Schumacher Family	Nickol Family	Kynett Family			
Extra- ordinary Ministers of the Eucharist	W. Baker E. Becker K. Frazier-Harris T. Hopkins Rita Kuka Rich Kuka Abigail Leggett K. Leggett R. Maronick D. Maronick S. Mayernik B. Medved Tracy Rigor P. Tremper G. Tremper	A. Ambuehl D. Barros J. Bomgardner A. Dean R. Erickson K. Hodges K. McGuire Caleb Mee C. Neu T. Neu L. O'Neill H. Smith V. Smith J. Stenzel P. Woelkers	K. Baker G. Boysun A. Bulger C. Huber D. Hudson K. Krattiger Don Miller E. Miller Reagan Ryan Rachel Ryan R. Seilstad B. Williamson V. Williamson P. Woelkers NOT FILLED			

Care for Creation by Recycling

Bins are S. of Sts. Peter & Paul Center along the N. edge of the parking lot. Newspapers, Cardboard, and Aluminum.

Schedule:

Weekend	Newspaper	Cardboard	
1st (Jan 5—11)	K of C 9395	Jernigan	
2nd (Jan 12-18)	Weinheimer	Sanders	

The weekend starts on Friday (shifts are Friday to Thursday).

School Newspapers: Greg Bonilla

Call Parish Office for information on RCIA, Adult Formation or Marriage Preparation

RCIA (Becoming Catholic) — a new team is forming! Weekly Thursday sessions, for unbaptized and those baptized in another faith tradition, every *Thursday*, 7:00PM, at the Sts. Peter and Paul Center.

Enter from the parking lot, thru the door marked RCIA; the room is on the left. For initial contact Mary Dupuis at the parish offices 452-6491, ext 206.

RCIA Adapted for Children: for children age 7 or older who are not baptized, or baptized in another faith tradition: contact Mary Dupuis at the parish offices 452-6491.

Young Adult Ministry

Aubrey Rearden 452-6491 ext. 207 aubrey@holyspiritgf.org Cell Phone: 868-6713 (call or text)

Young Adult Bible Study

Interested in meeting other young adult Catholics? Join Stacy Peterson Wednesday mornings @ Schulte's Coffeehouse for bible study & fellowship 6:45-7:30 am **Note time change**.

Youth Ministry

Aubrey Rearden 452-6491 ext. 207 aubrey@holyspiritgf.org Cell Phone: 868-6713

Youth Group Sunday Nights 6:30-8:15pm



Youth Group this Sunday 6:30-8:15pm

Sts. Peter & Paul Center.



Life Teen (High School) will begin a new series called "Life Skills", you don't want to miss it. The series will focus on "**Adulting**", through discussion we will look at the fundamentals of becoming mature human beings. Our first session is "Adulting: What was once a noun is now a verb"

Bibles & Brew High School Bible Study

<u>Every</u> Wednesday morning from 6:45-7:30am @ Schulte's Coffeehouse.

Sacramental Preparation

Paige Nicholson 870-0706 pdnicholson1@charter.net

Please contact Paige Nicholson (our new Sacramental Prep Coordinator) to visit about preparation for Completion of Initiation (1st Sacraments). If you have not already turned in your registration form for Sacramental Prep. please do ASAP; those forms are available in the book rack in the entrance of the church.

Elementary Faith Formation

Pre-K thru 5th gr.

Sun. 9:30—10::45 am or Wed. 6:30—7:30 pm @ Sts. Peter & Paul Center

Cindy Eultgen 452-6491 ext. 208 cindy@holyspiritgf.org



Classes resume this week:

Sun. 1/7 and Wed 1/10

We will be hosting **Coffee and Rolls** on Sunday, January 14. Contact Cindy to help with either 8:30 am or 11 am Mass.

Holy Spirit School

Jim Wichman - Principal Melissa Hallahan, Vice-Principal Judy Flint & Robin Verzuh, Administrative Assistants
Colette Longin, Development Director, clongin@holyspiritgf.org
761-5775 www.holyspiritgf.org

Are you wondering about a new school experience for your child? HSCS could be just the ticket! We have so many opportunities for students including competitive sports programs, Science Club, Junior Toastmasters, and field trips for all ages! We enjoy weekly Mass, community service projects, praying together and playing together! Our students head into High School with the foundations of faith, knowledge and service from their well-rounded education at HSCS. And, with smaller class sizes, our teachers really get to know their students! We have an amazing village of parents, staff, students and alumni, and we invite your child, and you, to come be part of it! Schedule a tour today by calling 761-5775! For more information on the school, please visit our website holyspiritgfschool.org.

Christian Service

Cindy Eultgen 452-6491 ext. 208 cindy@holyspiritgf.org

Fair Trade Coffee Sales—in the Parish Hall

today after all Masses

Yes, you can make a difference!

Your purchase of Equal Exchange goods supports a trade system that empowers farmers, strengthens communities, and benefits the environment. http://equalexchange.coop/

December Parish Relief Report:

Kids N Cans: 270 lbs

St. Vincent de Paul (wood bin): 241 lbs 37 bags

Yellow Envelopes: \$ 3255

Electronic Deposits: \$ 824 **Dispersals**: \$1190, St. Dismas stamps, rent, St. Mary Rocky Boy, St. Martin de Porres, Echoz

Pregnancy Care Center, and Family Promise

Recycling: 2650 lbs paper, 580 lbs cardboard, 59 lbs aluminum, 48 lbs scrap metal. Received \$10.46 for a portion reported above.

Fellowship......All Are Welcome! Free will offering

This Week - Senior Lunch

Tuesday, January 9 at noon in the parish hall.

Fellowship Dinner

Saturday, January 27 after the 4:30 pm Mass



Loosing a loved one brings many challenges. Each one of us find the experience unique. However, gathering with others who have had similar experiences can help. **All are invited to a luncheon,**

date to be determined no matter how long it has been. Ministry to, for, with,

by, and from the grieving.....

Planning will be at the Christian Service meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 16 at 6:30 pm at Sts. Peter & Paul, enter from the front or the alley behind, all are welcome!



Stewardship

As we journey to the close of the Christmas season, we walk with the Magi to seek, find and reverence a King. They traveled a great distance following a star / distance and then when they presented their gifts they re-



turned to their homeland by a different route because they listenedreally listened to the message of a dream. Stars, angels, shepherds, wise men, dreams are all part of the wonder of this holy church season. The "other world" intrudes on our understanding of our earthly home which is governed by laws of physics. The spiritual world directs our paths into our New Year challenging us to seek. find and reverence the Christ King in each person we meet. We are looking forward to serving with you at the Monsignor House. Sign-ups for our next hosting are after all Masses next weekend -January 13 and 14.

Training for working with guests at the Monsignor House is: 1:30 at the 7th Day Adventist Church on Saturday Jan. 13. For guestions or ways to help with Family Promise or to serve in the Monsignor House please feel free to stop by the Monsignor House at 2810 Central on Wednesday January 10 between the hours of 9:30 am and 11:30 am or call Kathie Malby at 781-5033.

"..they fell down and worshipped him. Then they opened their treasures and offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh..." - Matthew 2:11

Notice the order of events in the Magi's visit. First, they knelt before Jesus and prayed to Him. Then they presented Him with their gifts. We, too, must take time to pray before we present our gifts to the Lord. We never know what God may be asking us to share!

Worship

Mary Dupuis 452-6491 ex. 206 <u>mdupuis@holyspiritgf.org</u>

Musicians Rehearsals Wednesdays at 7:00pm.

You are invited to join the music ministry ~ All voices and most instruments are welcome to help

lead the music. For more info, contact Kody Diekhans at (406) 799-2626.

Liturgical Bits and Bytes ~ **Liturgical Colors**: On a Sunday before Christmas, a visitor to our parish looked out over the gathering congregation and remarked, "Isn't it great to see so many people wearing red for Christmas?" I politely agreed. But inside I knew another reason: The local football team had a game that afternoon, and a good many church-goers were actually sporting the team colors.

Purple vestments and hangings in church during Lent make our eyes take notice. Before we sing about these forty days, before we notice the Glory to God is missing, before they substitute a new Gospel acclamation for that word we're not supposed to say, our eyes have meditated on purple and told us a new season has come.

Why do we have liturgical colors? Why does the church environment change so drastically? And how and why do they affect us?

Even in the secular world we associate colors with particular celebrations: red and green for Christmas, purple and yellow for Easter, red-white-and-blue for the fourth of July, white for the bridal gown. Schools have colors, so do doctoral robes and, of course, sports teams.

The early church used only one liturgical color: white. Favored for the newly-baptized, it symbolized the pure new life they attained in Christ. That white garment returns several times in our faith life to remind us of our baptismal clothing ~ Completion of Initiation, weddings, the pall at funerals. Colors were few for a simple reason: Colored clothing was so expensive in those days that only the wealthy could afford it.

Not until 12th-century Jerusalem, when dyes were more commonplace, did liturgical colors start to become law. After a false start (they wanted black for Christmas and blue for Epiphany) the 13th century dawned with Pope Innocent III's decree for the colors we basically follow today: white for festive days and saints, red for martyrs and the Holy Spirit, green for the daily life of what we now call "ordinary time," and violet for the penitential seasons like Lent. Violet, together with blue and black, shared the range of colors for mourning. Hence, even though purple was originally one of the most expensive dyes to obtain, it came to symbolize a season of mourning and cleansing—a time to die to ourselves and live for Christ. Funerals today most commonly employ white, reflecting our belief in life and resurrection with Jesus Christ after death.

Liturgical colors still work their magic, helping us meditate on the seasons of the year and the meaning of life.

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Parish Council of Catholic Women

The PCCW will meet on Monday, January 8th, 1:00 p.m. in the parish conference room. Therese Griffith will bring a prayer, dessert and door prize. All women of the parish are invited.

Courtesy Announcements



In marriage, communication is more than just talking. Improving a marriage takes time and a conscious effort to learn about your spouse. Growing closer in a marriage does not happen automatically. Retrouvaille is a marriage program dedicated to helping couples grow closer and develop a

stronger bond. Sometimes the distance between a husband and a wife can seem so wide that it cannot be repaired. Retrouvaille is a marriage program designed to bring couples closer together For more information about an upcoming Retrouvaille Weekend program for couples. contact registration team: at 1-800-470-2230 or visit our website:

www.retrouvailleMT.org or www.HelpOurMarriage.com



Mark your calendar as /great Falls Central will hold its next Discovery Day January 16th, Discovery Days are a great opportunity for current 8th graders to experience high school at Central for a day. Students will visit 9th grade classes in action,

meet current Central students, and participate in an assembly to meet representatives from school clubs, athletic teams, and music programs. Call the school Advancement office at 216-3344 or email to hsmith@greatfallscentral.org to reserve a spot!

Loaves + Fishes

There is a great opportunity for coming in the new year. The Diocese of Great Falls-Billings is hosting a webinar series called Loaves + Fishes. These webinars, through Our Sunday Visitor, will be offered live monthly on the second Tuesday of every month at noon and a recording of the webinar will be available the following day. The first webinar is Tuesday Jan. 9th. The link to these webinars is posted on our parish website home page: hsparishgf.org.

The Tuesday evening study will continue meeting on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month beginning January 9th from 7-8:30 pm. We hope to grow our group so please join us in the RCIA room, Sts. Peter and Paul Center, to discuss Matthew Kelly's book, Perfectly Yourself, pages 1-24. Contact Pam Noble (788-2564) or Dcn Pete (899-7383) for more info.

> Saint Michael Radio ~ *FM 97.1 "Sharing the Splendor of Truth"

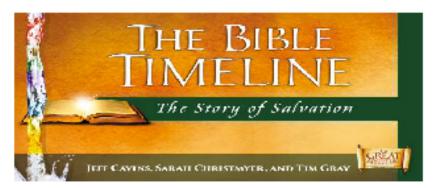
January 2018



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	I 10:00 am Mass Office Closed	2 5:15 p.m. Mass HS	3 8:30 am Mass HS Confessions 5:30- 6:30 pm	48:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA, 7 pm Sts. P&P	5 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	6 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass Fair Trade Coffee & Tea sales after Mass in the Hall
7 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses Elem. Formation 9:45 am, Sts. P&P Fair Trade Coffee after Masses in the Hall Youth Group, 6:30 pm Sts. P&P	8 PCCW meeting, 1:00 pm Conf. Rm.	9 Fellowship Lunch, noon, Hall 5:15 p.m. Mass HS Pastoral Council 7 pm, Conf. Rm. Perfectly Yourself study group, 7 pm Sts. P&P	10 8:30 am Mass HS 2:30 pm Mass at Park Place Confessions 5:30- 6:30 pm Elem. Formation 6:30 pm, Sts. P&P Knights of Columbus mtg., 6:30 p.m. 2816 Central	8:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA, 7 pm Sts. P&P	12 Mass, 8:30 am HF	13 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass
8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses Elem. Formation 9:45 am, Sts P&P Parish nurses, 9:45 conf. rm Youth Group, 6:30 pm, Sts. P&P	15	16 5:15 p.m. Mass HS Worship Comm. 7:00 pm, Conf. Rm. Formation Comm. 7:00 pm P&P Christian Service Comm. 6:30 pm, Sts. P&P	17 8:30 am Mass HS Confession, 5:30-6:30 pm. Elem. Formation 6:30 pm, Sts. P&P	18 8:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA, 7 pm Sts. P&P	19 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	20 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass
21 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses Elem. Formation 9:45 am, Sts. P&P Youth Group, 6:30 pm Sts. P&P	22	235:15 p.m. Mass HS Perfectly Yourself study group, 7 pm Sts. P&P	24 8:30 am Mass HS 1:30 pm Mass at Highgate Confession 5:30-6:30 p.m. Elem. Formation, 6:30 pm Sts P&P	25 8:30 a.m. Mass HS RCIA 7 pm Sts. P&P	26 8:30 a.m. Mass HF	27 2-4 p.m. Confession 4:30 Mass Fellowship Dinner, 5:30 pm Stewardship Fair!
28 8:30 & 11 a.m. Masses Elem. Formation 9:45 am, Sts. P&P Youth Group, 6:30 pm XLT, church Stewardship Fair! CATHOLIC	29 SCHOOLS	305:15 p.m. Mass HS	31 8:30 am Mass HS Elem Formation 6:30 pm, Sts. P&P Confession 5:30-6:30 p.m.			

You Can Understand the Bible!

If you want a better understanding of our faith, and a deeper relationship with God, then you should join us for *The Bible Timeline* Study, beginning on 21 January 2018. By being a part of this study, you will not only benefit personally, but you will also help to bring about a profound renewal in our parish as we all grow closer to Christ.



The Bible Timeline is a Catholic Bible study that can help anyone to make sense of the Bible and experience the life-changing power of God's Word. The study takes you on a journey through the entire Bible and brings you deep into each period of salvation history, so that you can discover the amazing story woven throughout all of Scripture. The Bible Timeline has helped hundreds of thousands of people to have a better understand the Bible and a deeper relationship with Christ, and it will help you too.

The study will include a series of twenty-four videos presented by Jeff Cavins. Each video will be preceded by a lively group discussion. Everyone who participates will receive this color-coded *Bible Timeline* Chart, as well as a *The Bible Timeline* Study Kit.



Holy Spirit Parish will begin *The Bible Timeline* on **21 January at 1:00PM** (other session times may be available). This study will be led by **Father Doug** and **Deacon Pete**. For more information or to register for the study contact Deacon Pete at 899-7383 or deaconpete@holyspiritqf.org; or Father Doug at 452-6491 or dkrings@holyspiritgf.org.

Discovering hope and joy in the Catholic faith.

January 2018

One Minute Meditations

St. Angela Merici

Born in Italy, St.
Angela and her
sister were
raised by an
uncle after
the deaths



of their parents. Angela received the vocational call as a teenager. Her sister died without receiving the Sacraments, so Angela became a Third Order Franciscan to pray for her. She opened her home as a girls' school for religious education. She was later inspired by a vision to start a religious community to educate young women, and founded the Ursuline Order.

The face of God

God doesn't want us to sacrifice our own wellbeing, but does want us to willingly bring his love to other people. It can be uncomfortable being his loving face to others. This means being patient with those who annoy us, kind to those who are demanding, and forgiving to those who haven't asked.

"Let another praise you, and not your own omouth; a stranger, and not your own lips" (Proverbs 27:2).

Move closer to God in the New Year

While contemplating your New Year's resolutions, wouldn't it be great to make at least one change this year that

brings you closer to God? Consider these ideas from other Catholics to strengthen your prayer life, learn more about your faith, or serve your parish.

Greg was bored with his prayer routine and wanted a change. His priest suggested he try a novena, nine days of focused prayer. So, Greg chose a novena to the Immaculate Conception. He loved the meditations and

felt a connection to Our Lady. Soon, he became hooked on novenas. Once again, he was excited to spend time in prayer.

Jennifer's husband is not Catholic

and asks lots of questions about her faith. Her own religious education ended years ago, and she became

dismayed when she couldn't answer his questions.

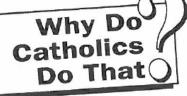
Learning that adult faith formation classes were starting in her parish, Jenn jumped at the chance to learn more. "Everything I discover helps me to grow stronger in my faith," Jennifer declared. "I'm so excited by what I'm learning

Maureen's children are grown and on their own, yet she teaches a

religious education class at her parish. "What better way to evangelize our faith than to share it with children? That's where I can do some real good," she said.

that my husband wants to

come, too."



Why do Catholics celebrate Epiphany?

On the feast of Epiphany, we recall the adoration of Jesus by the wise men, who had traveled "from the East." They were looking for the newborn king of the Jews, though they themselves were not Jewish. "Their coming means that pagans can discover Jesus and

worship him as Son of God and Savior of the world"

(Catechism of the
Catholic Church, #528).
The Epiphany
celebrates the
revelation of the
Messiah to the Gentiles
(non-Jews) and to the
rest of the world.

Adopt a three-point plan for holiness in the New Year

All Christians are called to holiness. "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect" (Matthew 5:48). There are three tools on which every Catholic can rely to attain greater holiness.

Daily prayer. God meets us in a very real and present way when we come to him in prayer. Start in the morning and pray throughout the day.

Weekly Mass. The Mass is a sacrifice and a meal. We receive Jesus' body and blood as real food for our souls. He said, "For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is

drink indeed. He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him" (John 6:55-56). That's why we call it, "Communion."

Monthly Confession. Jesus created the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation (Confession) because he knew we would stray. He also knew we would want to come back. Frequent participation in this Sacrament sharpens our sense of sin, holds us accountable for our errors, and gives us the grace to keep trying for

holiness.

from

Mark 1:21-28, God's authority is not a formality

In this Gospel passage, Jesus and his apostles entered the synagogue at Capernaum where Jesus taught those gathered for the Sabbath. It was customary for learned teachers to say, "Thus says the Lord."

"Thus says the Lord..." Instead Jesus said, "I say to you ..." He taught as one who spoke with the authority of God.

His calm authority astounded Jesus' listeners.
Just as they began to wonder what it meant, he gave them a sign. He further demonstrated his authority by performing an exorcism. Spirits that bedeviled an unfortunate man at the

synagogue recognized who Jesus was.

They were forced to obey him
when he commanded them to
depart, despite their
reluctance. In fact, God's
power and authority isn't
just a formality. What God

says, happens.
Our kind and gentle
Savior is also our powerful

and awesome Lord. As the Second Person of the Trinity, Jesus has supreme majesty and we will one day appear before him to be judged. Yes, he is our divine savior and mediator. But if we say, "Jesus is Lord," then we give him our loyalty and obedience.



Jan. 1 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God. Today, we honor Mary, but also Jesus as God. In their honor, pray a Rosary. Because this feast day is on a Monday, Mass attendance is optional (but encouraged) this year.

Jan. 25 – The Conversion of St. Paul the Apostle (1st Century). Setting out for Damascus to carry on the persecution of the Christians, he encountered Christ (Acts 9:1-19; 22:5-16; 26:12-18) while on the road to Damascus. He was struck blind from

the experience until he was baptized by Ananias three days later. He converted and began preaching the faith as he travelled around the Mediterranean.

Jan. 26 – Sts. Timothy and Titus (1st Century). Timothy was a convert of St. Paul's and later became his trusted friend, joining him in apostolic work. He was with Paul at the founding of the Church in Corinth. Titus, also a friend of Paul's, served the early Church as a peacemaker and administrator to a community on Crete.



I make terrible decisions. How can I do better?

It's true that bad decisions can lead to sin. Try to take a formal approach to decision making.

Get all the facts. That helps you know your options.

Pray. Place yourself in God's presence and ask for his guidance.

Listen to your conscience. Your conscience is the ability within you that helps you discern right from wrong. "Moral conscience, present at the heart of the person, enjoins him ... to do good and to avoid evil. It also judges particular choices, approving those that are good and denouncing those that are evil." (CCC #1777)

Choose to do the right thing, choose to follow your conscience. This requires courage.

Ask for help. When in doubt, ask a trusted advisor.

Be accountable. Take responsibility for any decisions you make and for their consequences. Although blaming others in some cases is justified, it usually is not productive.

Admit mistakes. Learn from mistakes you make and apply what you have learned to future situations. Don't get thrown by errors. Continue to persevere, despite setbacks.

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