



## Why Is There Evil?

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**A**t some point in one's faith journey, every believer asks: If God is good and loving, why is there evil in the world? Why is there war? Why do children die prematurely? Why do pandemics rage? The biblical story of Job seeks to speak to that question, though it never really answers it.

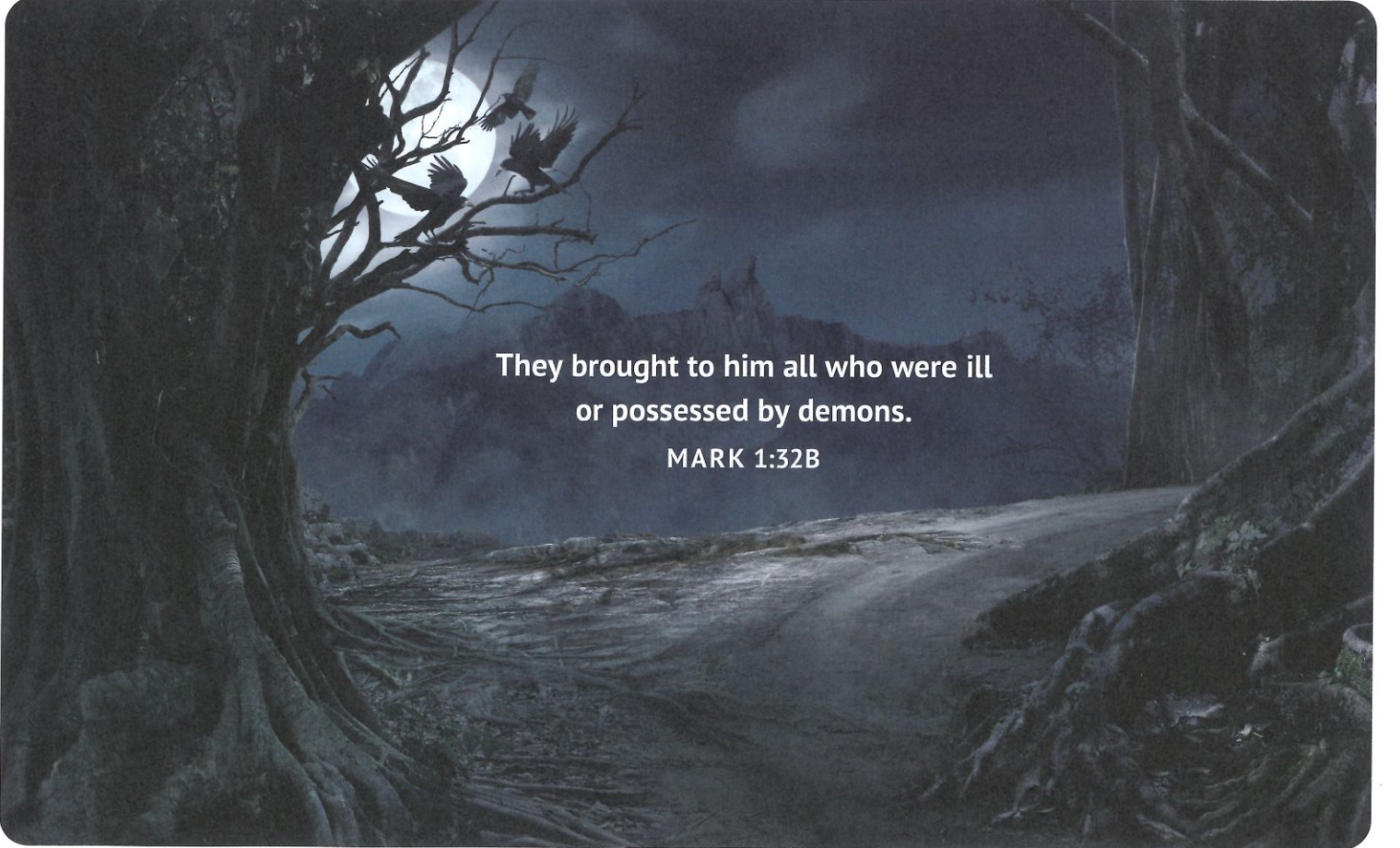
God and the satan (the name he is called in the Book of Job) are discussing Job and what a fine man he is. The satan suggests Job is a good man only because everything is going well for him. God then tells the satan that he may do whatever he wishes to test Job but may not harm him. By a series of catastrophes, then, Job loses his flocks, his camels, and even his sons and daughters. It is at this point that we hear today's first Scripture reading—Job's lament of misery and hopelessness.

Though Job's friends suspect that the cause of all

that has befallen him must be due to some grave sin on his part, Job denies this accusation and continues believing in the goodness of God, never wavering in his faith. Though frustrated by what life has brought, Job never blames God or asks God to fix his life. God is God, concludes Job, whether we understand the ways of life or not. To seek any more is to seek to be God. He continues to trust in God and admits that the ways of God are incapable of being understood. This becomes Job's only answer to the question about the "why" of evil. ●

### Reflect

*How do you answer the question of why evil exists?*

A dark, atmospheric landscape with a large, gnarled tree on the left. The sky is dark and stormy, with a full moon visible. Several birds are flying in the sky. The ground is rocky and uneven.

They brought to him all who were ill  
or possessed by demons.

MARK 1:32B



# Catholic Communities

Parish Pastor

Rev. William Pifher

419-446-9288



## Our Lady of Mercy

409 E. Main St.  
Fayette, OH 43521

### MASS SCHEDULE

Sunday 8:30 a.m.  
Thursday 9:00 a.m.

### PASTORAL COUNCIL

Ron Eisel  
Pat Eisel  
Ray Hollstein  
Mike Burkholder  
Traci Maginn  
Barbara Roby

Clothing items can be donated via our drop off site on the east side of the building. Our store is open on Thursdays from 10 a.m. until 2 p.m. Contact Rhonda Monahan at 517-306-7986 for information.



## OLM PARISH OFFICE

P.O. Box 429  
Fayette, OH 43521

**Phone:** 419-237-2441

**Hours:** 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Tuesday and Thursday

### PARISH STAFF

**Secretary:** Sherry Renner

[OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

**Bookkeeper**

Tami Baker

[OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMBookkeeper@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

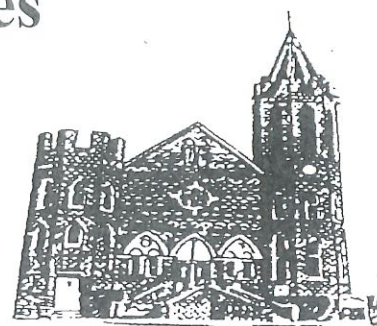
**Youth Leader/CRE**

Anita Van Zile

[OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMCre-youth@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)

**Website (bulletin online)**

[stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy](http://stpeterarchbold.com/our-lady-of-mercy)



## St. Peter

614 N. Defiance St.  
Archbold, OH 43502

### MASS SCHEDULE

1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of month 8:30 a.m.  
Saturday 4:30 p.m.  
Sunday 10:30 a.m.  
Tuesday 7:00 p.m.  
Wednesday 9:00 a.m.  
Friday 9:00 a.m.

### Parish Secretary

Kim Garrow 419-446-2150  
[email-stpeter@rtccexpress.net](mailto:email-stpeter@rtccexpress.net)

**Religious Ed**

Deb Herring

**Parish Council President**

Stephen Bernath

### SACRAMENT INFORMATION

- **Baptism:** Please call Father Pifher at 419-446-9288 to make arrangements for Baptism. A month's notice would be helpful.
- **Reconciliation:** Father will be available for confessions **starting 30 minutes before Mass each week.**
- **New Parishioners:** A warm welcome as you enter our Parish Community! You are asked to register at the parish office or see the pastor as soon as possible. If you are moving from the parish, please inform the office so we may remove your name from our parish records.
- **Anointing of the Sick:** Those who can participate: Anyone who is seriously sick or suffering a grave illness (not a cold, or flu) which is treated or medicated for by a doctor. Also for those of old age which often brings morale or depression factors (body, mind, or spirit). Please make arrangements with Father or call the parish office.
- **Matrimony:** Please contact the Parish Office *six months* ahead of your planned wedding date, for Marriage Preparation and scheduling.
- **RCIA :** The Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults is a series of classes designed to bring new members into the Catholic church. Weekly sessions begin in September. People who have not been baptized, who have not been practicing or who have been raised in another faith are all welcome to register. Parishioners are encouraged to invite interested family members and friends. There is no obligation to join the church. This is simply an opportunity to learn more about the Catholic faith. Contact Fr. William Pifher at 419-446-9288.

**BULLETIN DEADLINE:** Please note that the bulletin deadline is **Tuesday, Noon.** Please either call, email at [OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com) or put in the collection basket any announcement for the following week's bulletin

# SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2024

## 5th Sunday Ordinary Time

ROSARY WILL BE PRAYED SUNDAY'S AT 8 A.M.

### BFF BREAKFAST

Join us today after Mass for breakfast, friends & fellowship in the church basement.

### FIRST PENANCE

Please keep Bryson Kessler, son of Brad & Merissa Kessler and Jaelynn Asbury, daughter of Larry & Sarah Asbury as they prepare to make their 1<sup>st</sup> Penance on February 11, 2024.



### ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is February 14, 2024. Please see flyer in bulletin for Mass/Service schedule for Our Lady of Mercy and St. Peter.

### ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX – THE STORY OF A SOUL

St. Therese of Lisieux – The Story of a Soul is available for purchase \$10, please use the signup on the sheet on the back table to reserve your book. There will be a discussion on the book on March 14, 2024, at 7 p.m. here at Our Lady of Mercy.

### 2023 CONTRIBUTION STATEMENTS

2023 Contribution Statements have been mailed. Please let the office know if you do not receive yours.

### INCLEMENT WEATHER POLICY

With winter weather upon us, this will be the implementation of closure for Our Lady of Mercy.

**Sunday Mass** – Our Lady of Mercy will close when there has been a Level 3 Emergency issued for Fulton County 2 hours prior to Mass beginning.

**Thursday Mass** – if Fayette Schools are delayed or closed for the day because of inclement weather (snow/ ice) there will be NO Mass at Our Lady of Mercy.

### PREVIOUS WEEKS BULLETINS

For your convenience, the previous weeks bulletin will be on the back table.

### THE WISDOM OF THE SAINTS – Introduction by Matthew Kelly

"Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak."

St. Anthony of Padua

### Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska – Notebook 1

(32) Another time I heard these words, **Go to the Superior and ask her to allow you to make a daily hour of adoration for nine days. During this adoration try to unite yourself in prayer with My Mother. Pray with all your heart in union with Mary, and try also during this time to make the Way of the Cross.** I received the permission, though not for a full hour, but only for whatever time was left me after I had carried out my duties.

Prayer chain-ANYONE wishing to submit prayer requests can email Anita Van Zile at [vanzilejn@hotmail.com](mailto:vanzilejn@hotmail.com) or call Pat Eisel at 419-737-2163. **Privacy Issues for Parish Office: IMMEDIATE FAMILY** – must contact the parish office for all prayer requests to be posted in the parish bulletin. Please submit with the exact verbiage requested. Contact Sherry Renner at the parish office at 419-237-2441, no later than Thursday at noon. By law, the parish office does not divulge private information we receive from hospitals.

### ST. PETER NEWS

#### EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

Every Tuesday starting at 8 a.m. ending with Mass at 7 p.m.

#### ASH WEDNESDAY

7:00 am – Mass with dist. of Ashes  
6:30 pm – Liturgy with dist. of Ashes

#### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS FISH FRY-DAYS

January 12, 2024 – March 29, 2024

*Did you know that Deacon Larry Zachrich is also available for Baptisms and Weddings? Contact Larry at 419-966-7091.*

### FAYETTE/SURROUNDING AREA COMMUNITY EVENTS

---Feb. 8 – Bean Creek Coffee House  
7 p.m. – Fayette Opera House – Free  
---Feb. 21 – Community Dinner –  
Methodist Life Center – 5 pm – 6 pm  
---Feb. 24 – Opera House – Public  
Scene - \$15 General Adm. \$12 Seniors  
\$10 Students

If you know of any Fayette Community events, please either call or visit the office or email to [OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com](mailto:OLOMFayette@olom2441.onmicrosoft.com)





*Ash*

W E D N E S D A Y

February 14, 2024

Image by Freepik

## **Mass & Services**

**7:00 a.m. – Mass with distribution of Ashes – St. Peter**

**9:00 a.m. – Mass with distribution of Ashes – Our Lady of Mercy**

**6:30 p.m. – Liturgy with distribution of Ashes – St. Peter**

**7:00 p.m. – Liturgy with distribution of Ashes – Our Lady of Mercy**

# Saints of the Day ([www.morningoffering.com](http://www.morningoffering.com))

Week of February 4- February 10

**Sunday, Feb. 4- St. Jane of Valois** - St. Jane of Valois (1464-1505) was born to French King Louis XI and Charlotte of Savoy. Much of her life was marked by neglect and emotional abuse. Her father resented her because she was a sickly and deformed female child. He sent her away to a remote country home where she was carelessly raised before being married off at the age of nine to her cousin, the Duke of Orléans. Her husband likewise despised and publicly humiliated her, and their marriage was never consummated. Jane had a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary from a young age, especially in the mystery of the Incarnation. One day Our Lady appeared to Jane and told her that in the future she would found a religious community. Through her veneration of the Blessed Mother, Jane found the strength to be a loyal and devoted wife during her painful twenty-two year marriage. When her husband became king, he had their marriage annulled. This left Jane free to found the Order of the Annunciation dedicated to imitating Mary's virtues, as Our Lady foretold. She also gave her Order the duty of constant prayer for the souls of her father and husband who both mistreated her. St. Jane of Valois' feast day is February 4th.

**Monday, Feb. 5 -St. Agatha** - St. Agatha (231-251 A.D.) was born in Sicily into an affluent family. At a young age she made the decision to devote herself to Christ, resisting every offer of marriage. Struck by her beauty and wealth, a magistrate named Quintian desired to marry her. He plotted to use his political power to force her hand, and threatened to prosecute her for the crime of Christianity unless she accepted his sexual advances. When she refused, he forced her into a brothel. Even there, she refused to relinquish her chastity. Furious, Quintian imprisoned and tortured Agatha, ordering her breasts to be cut off. Upon this barbaric treatment, God sent St. Peter the Apostle to Agatha in a vision, and he healed her wounds. St. Agatha's torture continued until an earthquake caused her captors to flee, and she died shortly after. St. Agatha is the patroness of rape victims, torture victims, martyrs, nurses, and against breast cancer. She is one of the seven women, besides the Virgin Mary, mentioned by name in the Roman Canon of the Mass

**Tuesday, Feb. 6- St. Paul Miki and Companions** - St. Paul Miki (1562-1597) and his twenty-five companions, known as the Martyrs of Nagasaki, were crucified for the faith in Nagasaki, Japan, in 1597. A Japanese layman of great nobility and wealth, Paul was converted to Christianity by St. Francis Xavier. Although the Christian missionaries did not meet with opposition initially, the Japanese rulers eventually launched a brutal campaign to wipe out its progress. The twenty-six men were forced to march 600 miles to meet their death in Nagasaki. The group included Franciscan and Jesuit missionaries and Japanese converts. They were repeatedly offered freedom if they would renounce Christianity; they all declined. When the march ended the martyrs were tied to crosses. They prayed and sang while Paul Miki preached the Gospel in a loud voice. The martyrs were then stabbed to death while they hung on their crosses. The crowd who witnessed the testimony of Paul Miki and his companions would immortalize his words and use them to further spread Christianity in Japan. Their collective feast day is February 6th.

**Wednesday, Feb. 7- St. Richard the King** - St. Richard the King (c. 720 A.D.), also known as Richard the Pilgrim, was a Saxon king born in Wessex, England, who was related by blood to the royal house of Kent. His brother-in-law was St. Boniface, and three of his children are numbered among the saints: St. Willibald, St. Winnebald, and St. Walburga. When Willibald was gravely ill as a child, Richard's prayers for his son are said to have saved his life. He wrapped his child in a blanket and took him to the foot of a large crucifix erected near their village, and the child recovered. When Willibald was grown, he convinced his father and brother to accompany him on a missionary pilgrimage to Rome and the Holy Land. St. Richard agreed, renounced his royal estate, and embarked on the journey with his two sons, while his daughter entered a convent. In Italy he became sick and died, and was buried in Tuscany at the Church of San Frediano. Numerous miracles are reported to have occurred at his tomb. Some of his relics were transported to Eichstatt, Germany, where his son Winnebald would become Bishop. His feast day is celebrated on February 7th.

**Thursday, Feb. 8 - St. Josephine Bakhita** - St. Josephine Bakhita (d. 1947) was born into a wealthy Sudanese family near Darfur. She was kidnapped when she was nine years old and forced into slavery. Her kidnappers named her Bakhita ("fortunate" in Arabic). She was sold and resold, beaten and tortured by her "owners" until 1883 when she was purchased by an Italian consul who treated her well. He brought her to Italy to work as a nanny. In 1889, the Italian courts ruled that Bakhita was enslaved illegally and declared her a free woman. She became enamored with the Catholic faith and chose to stay in Italy. Bakhita was baptized in 1890 and received her First Holy Communion from the future Pope St. Pius X. She took the Christian name of Josephine, and in 1896 entered the Institute of Canossian Daughters of Charity. She was affectionately called "Our Black Mother" by the Italians, as her amiable spirit and warm heart won the admiration of many

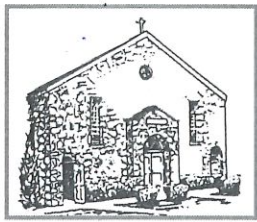


**(St. Josephine Bakhita – cont.)**

people during her fifty years of religious life. She was known for her charity towards children and the poor, her indomitable spirit during the hardship of slavery, and her joy in religious life. St. Josephine Bakhita is the patron of Sudan, and her feast day, February 8th, has been designated the International Day of Prayer to Stop Human Trafficking.

**Friday, Feb. 9– Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich** - Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich (1774-1824) was born in Germany to a devout peasant family. From a young age she received divine knowledge imparted to her through extremely detailed visions of the lives of Jesus, the Virgin Mary, and the saints. As a child her guardian angel often appeared to her, and Jesus himself visited her while she was tending sheep. The suffering souls in purgatory often called upon her assistance to offer prayers and penances on their behalf. At the age of 28, after many years of longing for the religious life, Anne Catherine entered the novitiate with the Augustinians. She devoted her life to waging a spiritual battle for suffering souls, and in her great charity she accepted extreme physical, yet supernatural, sufferings which ultimately left her bedridden. This strange phenomena of physical suffering for the spiritual condition of other souls was not always accepted by others, and she endured much ridicule due to the astonishing manner in which her experiences displayed themselves. Her daily visions gave her special insight into the spiritual realm which have been recorded into now-popular books, and were used to discover what is believed to be the house of Mary in Ephesus. Her feast day is February 9th.

**Saturday, Feb. 10– St. Scholastica** - St. Scholastica (480–542 A.D.) was born in Nursia, Italy, to a noble Roman family, along with her twin brother, the famous St. Benedict of Nursia. Their mother died in childbirth. Scholastica was dedicated to God as a child, and from a young age both siblings sensed a special divine calling. They both entered religious life and established communities within five miles of each other; St. Scholastica led a convent near Monte Cassino where Benedict established his world-renowned monastery. Because of the isolated nature of their vocations, the siblings only met once a year at a local farmhouse to discuss spiritual matters. During what was to be their final meeting, St. Scholastica had a premonition that her death was imminent. She asked Benedict to spend the night at the farmhouse so they could continue their visit, but he refused as it was forbidden in his monastic rule. Scholastica turned her request to God and prayed that her brother would stay with her. Suddenly a great thunderstorm erupted that made travel impossible, and Benedict was forced to stay. Scholastica died a few days later, and in a vision St. Benedict saw her soul leave her body in the form of a dove. St. Scholastica is the patron of nuns and against lightening, rain, and storms. Her feast day is February 10.



# Our Lady of Mercy Parish



FEBRUARY 4, 2024

## PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church is united by our commitment to minister to the physical and spiritual needs of our rural families and steward the resources entrusted to us. We value the diversity within our Catholic community and invite all to walk with us on our journey of faith.

### THIS WEEK'S MASS SCHEDULE

Date	Time	Church	Intention
Sun. Feb. 4	8:30 a.m.	OLM	Chad Miller
Father Daniel Ring	10:30a.m.	SP	Roger Anderson, Mikolaj Wlasiuk
Tues. Feb. 6	7:00 p.m.	SP	For the People
Communion Svc.			
Wed. Feb. 7	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Communion Svc.			
Thurs. Feb. 8	9:00a.m.	OLM	For the People
Communion Svc.			
Fri. Feb. 9	9:00a.m.	SP	For the People
Communion Svc.			
Sat. Feb. 10	8:00a.m.	SP	NO MASS
	4:30p.m.	SP	For the People
Sun. Feb. 11	8:30a.m.	OLM	Marcel Bonin
	10:30a.m.	SP	Natividad Anonar, Greg & Lydia Wlasiuk

### UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

- Feb. 4 – BFF breakfast after Mass
- Feb. 4 – Altar Rosary Society meeting after Mass
- Feb. 7 –Rel. Ed 6:45 pm – HS & Elem.
- Feb. 11 – 1<sup>st</sup> Penance before Mass
- Feb. 14 – Ash Wednesday – 9 a.m. Mass with Ash distribution – 7 P.M. Liturgy with Ash distribution
- Feb. 15 Council meetings  
Finance 5:45 pm  
Parish 6:15 pm
- Feb. 21 – Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.
- Feb. 25 Youth Breakfast after Mass

### SACRIFICIAL OFFERING REPORT

Reported for January 28, 2024

SUNDAY OFFERTORY (6envelopes)	\$	136.00
LOOSE OFFERINGS	\$	162.00
<b>BUDGET</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,747.00</b>
Over/(Under)	(\$	1,449.00)
<b>OTHER COLLECTIONS</b>		
Maintenance	\$	145.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$	25.00
Latin America	\$	20.00
CHWC Payment	\$	100.00
<b>TOTAL COLLECTION</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>588.00</b>

### NEXT WEEK'S MINISTERS

	Feb. 11, 2024	Feb. 14, 2024 Ash Wednesday
<b>Greeters/Gifts</b>	Mary Bird Shelly Gruman	
<b>Reader</b>	Shelly Gruman	9 am Anita Van Zile 7 pm Mary Bird
<b>Servers</b>	Evan Beauregard Will Maginn	
<b>Ushers</b>	Phil & Tami Baker	
<b>Ministers of the Eucharist</b>	Until further notice	
<b>Money Counters</b>	Phil & Tami Baker Barb Bruggeman	

### Word(s) of the week (from The America College Dictionary)

**MISSION**– a sending or being sent for some duty or purpose

Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose I have come."- Mark 1:36-38



# Dear Padre,

*In the Our Father, we pray, “thy kingdom come.”  
Will God’s kingdom come only at the end of the world?*

God’s kingdom will come in its fullness only at Jesus’ Second Coming, but the kingdom came into the world with Jesus’ first coming as a man. That means we are in God’s kingdom right now, but not in its fullness.

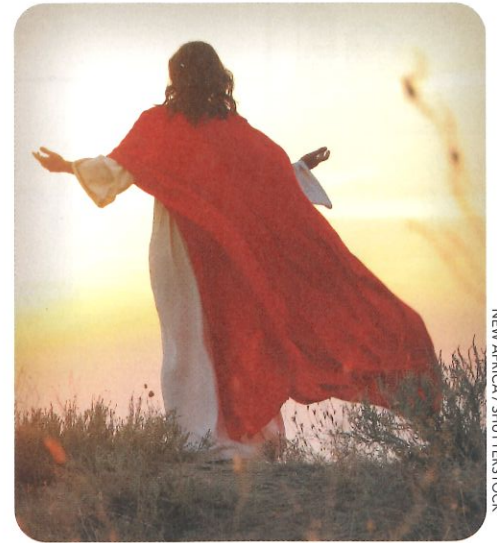
In the Scriptures, we read that John sends his disciples to ask Jesus if he is the messiah or if they need to wait for another. Jesus responds, “The blind regain their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, the poor have the good news proclaimed to them” (Luke 7:22). These are all signs of the kingdom of God.

In the meantime, we don’t have to just wait for God’s kingdom to come in its fullness. We can make God’s kingdom more of a reality on earth by visiting the sick, caring for the poor, and being kind to others. Loving your spouse is a sign of the kingdom of God. God’s kingdom is among us, not completely but partially, and we can make it more of a reality in the good that we do for each other.

Jesus’ Second Coming will be at the end of time, an event Jesus himself did not know the time of: “But of that day or hour, no one knows, neither the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father” (Mark 13:32). ●

**Fr. Patrick Keyes, CSsR**

**DearPadre.org**



NEW AFRICA / SHUTTERSTOCK

## 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
February 5 <i>St. Agatha, Virgin and Martyr</i> 1 Kgs 8:1-7, 9-13 Mk 6:53-56	February 6 <i>St. Paul Miki and Companions, Martyrs</i> 1 Kgs 8:22-23, 27-30 Mk 7:1-13	February 7 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 10:1-10 Mk 7:14-23	February 8 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 11:4-13 Mk 7:24-30	February 9 <i>Weekday</i> 1 Kgs 11:29-32; 12:19 Mk 7:31-37	February 10 <i>St. Scholastica, Virgin</i> 1 Kgs 12:26-32; 13:33-34 Mk 8:1-10	February 11 <i>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</i> Lv 13:1-2, 44-46 1 Cor 10:31- 11:1 Mk 1:40-45



## A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

*Jesus shows a particular predilection for those who are wounded in body and in spirit: the poor, the sinners, the possessed, the sick, the marginalized. Thus, He reveals Himself as a doctor both of souls and of bodies, the Good Samaritan of man. He is the true Savior: Jesus saves, Jesus cures, Jesus heals.*

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 8, 2015