

A Reflection from Fr. Joseph

What is it with Jesus and these demons? This is the second weekend in a row in which Jesus tells the demons to be quiet because they know who he is. While the crowd and even Jesus' disciples are trying to figure out his identity, the demons get it right. They understand that Jesus is the holy one of God. So why doesn't Jesus let them say it? They know the truth. Why not let them proclaim it? Would it not be good marketing, for Jesus' ministry, to have the endorsement of his enemies that he was truly the Son of God? But Jesus tells the demons to be quiet. He does so because he understands that truth in itself is not enough. As essential as truth is, it is not the whole of discipleship. This is because truth, at times, falls short and it can fall short in at least two different ways. Truth can fall short by being too narrow, and it can fall short by being too isolated.

Truth can fall short by being too narrow. We can know a truth, and it can be powerful, but there can be other truths that we do not see. This is the case with the demons. They know the truth of Jesus' identity, but they do not see that if Jesus is the Son of God, they should submit to him. They know the truth of who Jesus is, but they do not see the truth of who they should be. We can experience narrow truth in our lives. Married couples know this. It is easy to see the truth of what is wrong with our wife or our husband, but it is much harder to see how we, on our part, contribute to what is wrong. Narrow truth also occurs in political dialogue. Partisan thinkers are convinced that they have the truth of what is going to be good for Canada. They can be right, but they can also be unwilling to listen to a person who sees another truth. When we experience narrow truth, it is important that we proceed with humility and the willingness to listen. Pope Francis is good at this. On many occasions he has insisted that he will not apologize for holding the truth of Jesus Christ. Yet he chooses to approach people of different faiths and even atheists with respect and the willingness to dialogue. He does this admitting that he might learn something that he did not know before.

Truth can fall short by being too narrow. It can also fall short by being too isolated. Truth is most effective when it is part of a relationship. Truth works when it is offered with care and with love. Again, the demons do not have this kind of truth. They know who Jesus is, but they have no desire to be in a relationship with him. They do not want to listen to His teaching or serve him. The same can happen in our lives. Parents often know the truth of what is best for their children, but they also know that they have to do more than just tell them the truth. The truth needs to be offered as part of a relationship, as part of a commitment, and with great patience. When we try to help someone who is different from us, perhaps someone who is disadvantaged, we can see the truth of what they should do: this is how they should save their money, this is how they should eat, this is how they should guide their children. But simply telling that truth, without respect and compassion for their struggle, will produce little effect.

The demons know the truth of Jesus' identity, but their truth is too narrow and too isolated. That is why Jesus tells them to keep quiet. But Jesus tells us to speak. Jesus commissions us to proclaim the Good News of God's love to the world. That is why we must speak the truth of God in a way that is open to other truths. That is why we must announce the gospel with respect, patience, and love.

**C.W.L. NEWS**

Friendship Day: Please join us this Sunday, after the 9 & 11 am Masses at the entrance of the church.

DAILY SCRIPTURE READINGS

Mon. Feb. 5th - ST. AGATHA, memorial

1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56

Tue. Feb. 6th - ST. PAUL MIKI & COMPANIONS, memorial

1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13

Wed. Feb. 7th - 1 Kings 10:1-10; Mark 7:14-23

Thurs. Feb. 8th - 1 Kings 11:4-13; Mark 7:24-30

Fri. Feb. 9th - 1 Kings 11:29-32, 12:19; Mark 7:31-37

Sat. Feb. 10th - ST. SCHOLASTICA, memorial

1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Mark 8:1-10

Sun. Feb. 11th - SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Leviticus 13:1-2, 45-46; 1 Cor. 10:31-11:1; Mark 1:40-45



A 2nd Collection for the BC CATHOLIC will be taken up this weekend, at all the Masses.

This Sunday's second collection helps our parish defray the costs of distribution in the circulation of the official newspaper of the Archdiocese of Vancouver. Thank you for your generosity.

ALTAR SERVERS

Wed. Feb. 7th - 7:30 PM - Volunteers

Sat. Feb. 10th - 5:00 PM - A & A Taban, C & C Tang, J. Tuguinay.

Sun. Feb. 11th - 9AM - Isaiah, Jonah & Norah Chao, S. Cheung, A. Lee, A & A Chan. **11AM** - K & K Bui, N & N Sanchez, A & A Babas, W. Pham. **5PM** - C & J Le, C. Akol, J. Roque, J. Paja, D. Dang, J. Cayabyab, Z. Bambila.



PARISH ENVELOPES FOR 2024

Have you picked up your new sets of parish envelopes? They are arranged alphabetically. If you have recently requested a set, you will also find them there. Anyone wishing envelopes for 2024, is asked to call the parish office.



Anointing of the Sick

On Wednesday, February 21st, Fr. Jun will administer the Sacrament of the Sick at our Novena Mass at 7:30 pm. All are welcome!

SCHOOL NEWS

- **School Mass:** Please join us this Wednesday at 9 am.

- **St. Jude School Accepting new Applications**

We are now accepting new applications for the 2024-25 school year. If interested, please call the school office at 604-434-1633 for application form.

- **School tours:** Our Gr. 7 Student Ambassadors are available to provide tours of our school to prospective families. If you know of someone who might be interested in attending St. Jude School, please tell them to sign up for a tour. Any interested family can email registrar@stjude.ca to schedule a tour.

ARCHDIOCESAN NEWS

Up-Coming Events

Stewardship Reflection

“Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, ‘Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come.’” - Mark 1:35, 38

In today’s Gospel reading we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus takes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we are given the graces needed to do what He wishes us to do. Praying before acting is a great habit to develop.

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World Day of the Sick

As the church marks the World Day of the Sick on Feb. 11, the Catholic Health Association of BC encourages everyone to pray for those who suffer from illness and for their caregivers.

The theme of this year’s observance is *“It is not good that man should be alone—Healing the Sick by Healing Relationships.”* Archbishop Miller, CSB, will celebrate Mass for World Day of the Sick on Saturday, Feb. 10, at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Parish (555 Slocan St. Vancouver). Reception to follow. All are welcome! Pray with us on this day. To learn more, visit chabc.rcav.org/wds2024

Weekend Getaway Marriage Conference

We are excited to partner with [Family Life Canada](http://FamilyLifeCanada.com) to offer weekend getaways to married couples in the Archdiocese of Vancouver! The Weekend Getaway is a marriage conference uniquely designed to enrich your relationship. The next getaway is on the weekend of Feb. 16-18, 2024 at the Fairmont Empress in Victoria. For info: beholdvancouver.org/events

Spiritual Care Training Program

Pope Francis has challenged everyone to think about their brothers and sisters in a new way as many are experiencing profound loneliness and isolation. The Archdiocese of Vancouver is offering the Spiritual Care Training Program as one way to answer this call.

The 8 week course teaches how to make yourself more available to seniors and others who can benefit from your genuine concern and presence in their lives. Some topics covered include aging, communication, boundaries and self-care. The training is offered online every Thursday, from Feb. 1 to March 21, from 1:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost is \$30. Learn more and register at beholdvancouver.org/events

The Great Divorce: A Book Study for Young Adults

The Great Divorce by C.S. Lewis is the story of the journey of a man taking a bus ride from Hell to Heaven. Along the way, he follows several people who, upon arriving in Heaven, meet people and situations from their past lives.

Young adults aged 19-35 are welcome to a book study with the Religious Sisters of the Archdiocese. The next meeting is on Friday, Feb. 9 at 6:00 pm until 8:30 pm at the Vanspec Centre (2811 Venables St.). Register at beholdvancouver.org/events

Seminary of Christ the King

There will be a Vocation Live-In Feb 10 -11 at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. Anyone wishing to enter the Seminary in the next couple of years is welcome. For more info. phone 604-826-8975 or email rector.minors@sck.ca

Pastoral Letter on the Use of Social Media

The Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCCB) has released its Pastoral Letter on the use of social media titled: *“Let Your Speech Always Be Gracious.”* The Pastoral Letter can be accessed and shared via rcav.org/announcements

