

As we share this period of "Ordinary Time" we pray you discover a new awareness of God's Word and God's love and presence in your lives through these reflections.



Searching for Insights in the Gospel of Mark

- 1. Why were the people in the synagogue "astounded" by the teaching of Jesus? What does it do to you when you recognize someone who teaches with authority?**
- 2. When have you experienced the authority and the impact of Jesus' teaching in your life?**
- 3. At baptism, we rejected Satan, all his works and empty promises. Are you convinced that the forces of evil in the world cannot overcome the power of God in the name of Jesus? What will it take for you to believe?**

We pray... Holy one of God, you still proclaim the kingdom of God and defeat the powers of evil in my life. You teach with authority and give me confidence in your protection from all that would damage God's image in me. Stay with me Lord Keep me safe in You! Amen



Our Lady of the Fields Church
Scriptural Review & Reflections
Saturday & Sunday February 17 & 18, 2018

For more information on any of the parish Faith Enrichment programs contact the Evangelization and Faith Formation Office & Staff or Dr. Little at tlittle@olffparish.com

The Gospel of Jesus: God's Suffering Servant Mark1: 21-28

All of the teaching, healing, and exorcisms of Jesus are verbal and physical proclamations of the coming of God's kingdom. They give to all who see and hear them a picture of Jesus the teacher who speaks with the authority of God in their midst. Jesus not only proclaims God's good news. They see that Jesus is God's good news.

In this early part of his ministry Jesus moves His center of activity from Nazareth to nearby Capernaum. It is not only the home of some of his disciples but also a central location for many Jews who gather in the synagogue for the services of reading, instruction and prayer. Jesus and his disciples, as faithful believers, regularly observe the Sabbath by attending services there.

Thus, when Jesus teaches in the synagogue the local people react with astonishment because of the "authority" with which He teaches. What is noted is his authority both as a preacher and a healer as contrasted with those of the scribes, the professionals who can only write and interpret the biblical texts. In the synagogue people witness and hear Jesus' central message: "The kingdom of God has come near." This is a new time for you.

And what people do witness in that place! This day a man with an unclean spirit rises from the congregation and shouts at Jesus. And in him everyone recognizes that in the presence of Jesus, demons fear destruction. The demon in the possessed man cries out, "I know you are the holy one of God!" It is the demons that recognize first what people are coming to know. In Jesus' divine holiness the one who is to come is here! And Jesus breaks the tyranny of the demon who knows that there is no place for them in the presence of God's kingdom. A new teacher is speaking now with God's authority among God's people!