

# EPIPHANY

CATHOLIC CHURCH

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 7, 2021



*He cured many who were sick*

# FROM POPE FRANCIS

## ON HUMAN TRAFFICKING



"I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). These words of the Gospel of John summarize the mission of Jesus: to offer the fullness of life to all men and women of every age, according to the plan of the Father. The Son of God became man to show all human beings the path to realizing their humanity, in conformity with each person's uniqueness and unrepeatability.

Tragically, our world today is marked by situations that hinder the fulfilment of this mission. As pointed out by the Pastoral Orientations on Human Trafficking, "our times have witnessed a growth of individualism and egocentricity, attitudes that tend to regard others through a lens of cool utility, valuing them according to criteria of convenience and personal benefit" (§17).

It is essentially this tendency to commodify the other, which I have repeatedly denounced[1]. Trafficking in persons is one of the most dramatic manifestations of this commodification. In its many forms, it constitutes "an open wound on the body of contemporary society"[2], a profound injury to the humanity of

those who suffer it and to its perpetrators. Trafficking profoundly disfigures the humanity of the victim, offending his or her freedom and dignity. Yet at the same time, it dehumanizes those who carry it out, denying them access to "life in abundance". Finally, trafficking seriously damages humanity as a whole, tearing apart the human family as well as the Body of Christ.

Trafficking, as I said, represents an unjustifiable violation of the freedom and dignity of its victims, of those constitutive dimensions of the human being as willed and created by God. For this reason, it is to be considered a crime against humanity[3]. Of this, there can be no doubt. The same gravity, by analogy, must be attributed to all forms of contempt for the freedom and dignity of every human being, whether a compatriot or a foreigner.

Those guilty of this crime cause harm not only to others but also to themselves. For each of us is created to love and care for others, and this culminates in the gift of self: "No one has greater love than this: to give one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13). In our relationships with others, we play out our humanity, approaching or moving away from the model of human being desired by God the Father and revealed in his incarnate Son. Therefore, every choice contrary to the realization of God's project for us is a betrayal of our humanity and renounces that "life in abundance" offered by Jesus Christ. It is to take the down staircase, to debase ourselves, to become animals.



All actions that aim to restore and promote our humanity and that of others are in line with the Church's mission, as a continuation of the saving mission of Christ. This missionary value is evident in the struggle against all forms of trafficking and in every commitment to the redemption of the survivors; a struggle and a commitment that also have beneficial effects on our own humanity, opening the way to the fullness of life, the ultimate purpose of our existence

Your presence, dear brothers and sisters, is a tangible sign of the generous commitment of many local Churches in this pastoral area. The numerous initiatives which put you at the forefront of efforts to prevent trafficking, protect survivors and prosecute offenders, are worthy of admiration. I feel I should express special thanks to the many religious congregations that have worked and continue to work, also through networking, as the "front line" of the Church's missionary action against all forms of trafficking.

*Continued on Page 6*

# FROM THE PASTOR

## ON POLARIZATION



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In the past week I have been trying to understand better the idea and reality of “polarization.” It seems to be a political constant, and affect the Church as well. Why bother? Because sorting out one’s context is important when communicating a message (the Faith, for example).

So, I picked up and read the book,

**Polarization in the US Catholic Church.** It is a collection of essays resulting from a Notre Dame Conference in 2015. I will share a takeaway or two. In general the book has helped me as a cautionary tale to appreciate the complexity of our setting today, for me as a priest, preacher and Facebook “friend.”

Bishop Flores of Brownsville Texas noted that familial images were adopted early in the Christian community. Identifying one another as brothers, sisters, fathers, and mothers is tightly woven into the New Testament record. Indeed, we are a household of faith. We are the Body of Christ, made so by baptism. That has consequences with how we engage each other. Family forms our context.

For believers, he says, the first question is “who are you to me?” And for the Christian, the answer is always the same: you are my brother, and you are my sister, etc. “The relation is prior to the conversation and to the disagreement. But if the relation is not apprehended at the start of the discussion, what happens then? We might as well ask what happens when salt goes flat.” He asserts that without a renewal in the primacy of relations in our dealings with one another, the Church will diminish. That goes directly to mission effectiveness. And the mission is the Great Commission.

Charlie Camosy, in the conclusion, proposes a starting point. “We must see ourselves as Pope Francis sees himself first: as a sinner.” We are each prone to mistakes and self-deception, and we need the space and freedom to change our minds as a result of listening to the insights of someone who thinks differently.

I readily acknowledge that I am a sinner. I suppose that is the inner ring of all contexts. Best wishes. —Fr. Eric

# CELEBRATING OUR FAITH

## SACRAMENTS SCHEDULE

### Mass Times

Incense is used at 10:30am Sunday Mass. All Ministers have Gluten-free Hosts. 7:30 am Sunday Masses are Broadcast on Facebook at Epiphanyparish.com Drive Up Communion is available Sundays till 8:30am (Canopy).

**Note:** 8:15am School Masses are currently closed to the public due to the Pandemic.

#### Sunday, February 7, 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm	Susan Lamb
7:30am	Kathy Albee
10:30am	People of The Parish

#### Monday, February 8, St. Josephine Bakhita

7:00am	Diane Bussan
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#### Tuesday, February 9, Weekday

7:00am	Steven Schultz
8:15am	Mary Fetsko

#### Wednesday, February 10, St. Scholastica

7:00am	Gene and Patricia Kernes
8:15am	George & Marcia Gibbons

#### Thursday, February 11, Our Lady of Lourdes

7:00am	Rev. Thomas Kelly
8:15am	Ann Dennison

#### Friday, February 12, Weekday

7:00am	George and Lorraine Sweeney
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#### Sunday, February 14, 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00pm	Bill and Ruth Harrington
7:30am	Carolee Pretet
10:30am	John, Dave, and Steve Perl

### Confession Time (Saturday)

3:00pm Reconciliation in Parish Hall. Please enter from the Corridor and depart out the South Door onto the Parking Lot.

### Adoration Chapel News

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament has returned to the Chapel: Monday to Friday: 7:30am to 6pm.

# EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

## THE AUDACITY OF HOLINESS

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness "a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness."

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that "the fever left her and she waited on them." Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her

trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?



## PARISH CONTACTS

### Parish Office

(309) 452-2585  
Epiphanyparish.com

### School Office

(309) 452-3268  
Epiphanyschools.org

### Parish Outreach

Orlando Lopez (St. Vincent de Paul)  
outreach@epiphanyparish.com

### Parish Staff

Fr. Eric Powell (Pastor)  
pastor@epiphanyparish.com

Deacon Mark Cleary (Baptisms)  
mcleary08@comcast.net

Cindy Myers, Kara Esker (Pastoral Team)  
Pastoral.assitant@epiphanyparish.com

Kara Esker (Youth, CCD)  
kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com

Domine King, Joyce Tellman (Office Staff)  
office@epiphanyparish.com

Angie O'Connor (Parish/School Books)  
business.manager@epiphanyparish.com

Sean and Jennifer Stevens (Music)  
music@epiphanyparish.com

**NOTICE:** If you find yourself in serious economic need due to the pandemic, St. Vincent de Paul and Epiphany Parish want to help. Email Orlando Lopez at Parish Outreach.

## SHARING IN THE WORK OF GOD

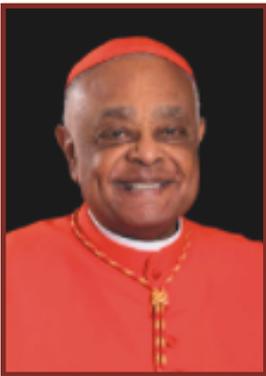
Thank you for your generosity in support of our mission.

### Gifts from Our Parish Family

<b>January 31, 2021</b> .....	\$14,417
E-giving.....	\$6,609
Special.....	\$2,039
Parish Endowment.....	\$578
School Endowment.....	\$1,321
Capital Improvement.....	\$140
<b>Weekly Budget</b> .....	\$24,500
YTD Budget (31 weeks) .....	\$759,500
YTD Income.....	\$751,443
YTD Balance.....	(\$8,057)

# CARDINAL GREGORY

MASS FOR LIFE 2021



My dearest young sisters and brothers in Christ,

Social and public norms continue to evolve in just about every area of our lives. On the first day of each new year, there are numerous

different laws introduced in most communities. They supplant old regulations and most of us have to check our behavior and activities that may have become unlawful with the mere changing of the clock. The once socially acceptable ways of doing things in next to no time can become obsolete and even useless, just consider the quick developments in technology. ... Language, fashions, technology, scientific knowledge, and medicine are just some of the facets in life where change happens with breathtaking swiftness.

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are they who mourn, ... Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you [falsely] because of me”

My goodness, that might sound to you like just another change in standards. Hardly, it is categorically the greatest and most enduring transformation in standards that any of us will ever be asked to accept. We are now called to a new standard, a higher standard, a divine standard – and one that will not pass

“For 48 years, regrettably the people of our nation have been given all types of deceptive excuses to continue our dreadful practice of killing infant children within the womb. Various people have called it merely a choice, others claim it as a human right, some have defended it as a personal decision, a few even suggest it as just a womanly act of self-determination – anything to keep from accepting God’s standard of respect and love for every human life – even that which is waiting to be born.”

away as ever being outmoded or obsolete.

The Beatitudes are the new standards that dare to suggest that we are to view life itself and our opinions about other people in a different way. These new standards are so revolutionary as to propose

that no life, no person, and no class of people are beyond our love and our respect. They are standards that say there is no such thing as an inopportune life or a reason, no matter how grave, no matter how serious, no matter how convincing that renders any life useless and deserving of hatred or destruction. The Word of the God exhorts us that it is no longer fashionable to hate – and it never was. Yet, just like every other measure of living, it is difficult to undergo a fashion change in our attitudes toward life. That is the challenge that faces our nation and far too many other nations as well regarding the inalienable value of human life at every moment of its existence. ...

For 48 years, regrettably the people of our nation have been given all types of deceptive excuses to continue our dreadful practice of killing infant children within the womb. Various people have called it merely a choice, others claim it as a human right, some have defended it as a personal decision, a few even suggest it as just a womanly act of self-determination—anything to keep from accepting God’s standard of respect and love for every life—even that which is waiting to be born.

Today, we find ourselves hopelessly mired in defective excuses that now extend to other acts of brutality against the terminally ill and aged, the immigrant seeking a better life, against prisoners who may have committed heinous crimes, but are still human beings. Still some societies have authorized laws that allow a person to take their own life – with the assistance of medical personnel whose primary job from time immemorial was to save and embellish life. We tell ourselves that capital punishment prevents crime and that some horrible criminals deserve to die – even as we continue to learn that too many convicted persons have been sentenced to death and later exonerated by DNA tests or whose very trials have been judged to have been unfair or biased.

We continue to pursue unspeakable human brutality against other people with whom we might disagree – politically, ideologically, and – sad to say – even religiously. We look for any grounds to avoid the divine standard of respect for every living person. Yet we are called to a standard that dares to demand that we become perfect, just as our heavenly Father is perfect – “be holy, for I, the Lord, your God am holy.” Standards have changed and too many of us remain hopelessly outdated in our attitudes toward life itself. At Eucharist this morning, let us pray for a widely accepted way of viewing and valuing all human life – God’s way – an old fashioned, yet perfectly contemporary way, of seeing every life as sacred, holy, and inalienable.



Much has been done and is being done; yet much remains to be done. Faced with human trafficking, a phenomenon as complex as it is dark, it is essential to ensure the coordination of various pastoral initiatives, both locally and internationally. The offices established by local Churches, religious congregations and Catholic organizations, are called to share their experience and knowledge, join forces and coordinate their activity regarding the countries of origin, transit and destination of those who are trafficked.

To make its action more adequate and effective, the Church should welcome the help of other political and social actors. Engagement in structured collaborations with public institutions and civil society organizations will guarantee more effective and longer-lasting results.

I offer heartfelt thanks for all that you are already doing on behalf of our many brothers and sisters who are the innocent victims of the com-

modification of the human person. Let us say this loud and clear: the commodification of the human person. We must say this and emphasize it because it is the truth. I encourage you to persevere in this mission, which is often risky and anonymous. Risky indeed for lay persons, but also for religious. It is risky because even within the congregation there are those who look at you askance! (I see the Sisters are nodding yes). It is risky, but we have to persevere. It is anonymous, but precisely because of this, an irrefutable proof of your selfless generosity.

Through the intercession of Saint **Josephine Bakhita**, who was enslaved as a child, sold and bought, but was eventually liberated and then “flourished” in fullness as a daughter of God, I pray for you. Upon all of you and on those who are committed to the struggle against human trafficking, I invoke abundant blessings. I will keep thinking of you and I pray for you. And you, please, do not forget to pray for me. Thank you! —Francis

## Trafficking: Key Statistics

The Walk Free Foundation's "Global Estimate of Modern Slavery" (2016) provides alarming statistics on the prevalence of human trafficking worldwide:

- 25% of all victims are children age 17 or younger, representing 10 million girls and boys worldwide
- Nearly 30% of all victims are men and boys; jumping to 46% for victims of forced labor
- Of the 24.9 million victims of forced labor and commercial sexual exploitation, nearly 1 of 4 were exploited outside their home country

## Why is Human Trafficking So Prevalent?

Owing to the hidden nature of the crime, lax enforcement of anti-trafficking laws, the ease with which victims can be re-exploited, and large demand, human trafficking is considered a low risk and highly lucrative illegal enterprise. Calculated as a 150-billion-dollar industry, modern day slavery has become the fastest growing source of illicit profit for criminals worldwide.

# February 8th: International Day of Prayer and Awareness Against Human Trafficking

Born in southern Sudan, **Josephine** was kidnapped at the age of 7, sold into slavery and given the name **Bakhita**, which means “fortunate.” She was resold several times, finally to the Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan. He took Josephine to Italy and gave her to a friend. Bakhita became babysitter to the wife, whom she accompanied to Venice’s Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine. The future saint refused to return to Africa. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian Sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine’s behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885. Josephine entered the Institute of St. Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. She once said, “Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!”

# UNIVERSAL SISTER

## ST. JOSEPHINE BAKHITA

When St. John Paul II canonized St. Josephine, he proclaimed her the “Universal Sister.”

Considering that Pontiff’s lifelong struggle against tyranny and oppression of all sorts, the logic behind that proclamation is clearly seen. Slavery, an ancient evil that shackles bodies and souls, is cruelly alive and well today, destroying the lives of people around the world. It is a “universal injustice.” St. Josephine’s life reminds us that within the heart of every enslaved person is the divine image yearning to be free, for “the glory of God is a human being fully alive,” as St. Irenaeus so forcefully declared.

As human trafficking increases its devastating onslaught worldwide, God shows us an intrepid example of empowerment and dignity in this audacious saint. Born to a virtuous animist family in late 19th century Sudan, at the age of nine Josephine Bakhita was kidnapped by Arab slavers. She endured a succession of brutal “owners” who degraded, tortured, and, in a manner alike many traffickers today, “branded” her with tattoos denoting ownership. Eventually she became servant a noble Venetian family, who took her to Italy, where she served as the children’s much beloved nanny. Because the family needed to tend to their business interests in Africa, however, St. Josephine was left at the Institute of the Catechumens for a year, in the care of the Canossian Sisters.

For the family who wanted to hold on to

their slave, this was a big mistake. For, with the Sisters St. Josephine first heard the most radically liberating message in human history: Christ had died for her, and she was beloved from all eternity by Him, who she recognized as “that God who from childhood I had felt in my heart without knowing who he was.” When Lady

Turina, her former “owner,” came back for her, St. Josephine had already made her choice: “No, I will not leave the house of the Lord.” The next few days were intense, with Turina threatening and harassing Josephine Bakhita and the Sisters. Finally, the Cardinal Patriarch of Venice himself came and defended St. Josephine’s freedom, armed with a favorable verdict from the kingdom’s attorney general. Like many traffickers today, Lady Turina tried to use “love” as a mechanism of control, the love that the saint had for the household’s children. To no avail: “It was the Lord who filled me with such firmness, because he wanted to make me all His.”

In the words of the Archbishop of Khartoum, a pastor in an enslaved land, we entrust the vulnerable to her intercession: “All of you who are refugees, oppressed, exhausted, and without a roof—you are ‘Bakhita.’ All of you who are victims of injustice and exploitation, victims of discrimination and of persecution—you are ‘Bakhita.’ And God’s love and tenderness embrace you.” Prayer is spiritual action, as St. Josephine reminded us before departing: “If the Lord allows it, I will send so many graces from paradise for the salvation of souls.” Let’s take her up on that promise.

“All of you who are refugees, oppressed, exhausted, and roofless—you are ‘Bakhita.’ All of you who are victims of injustice and exploitation, victims of discrimination and of persecution—you are ‘Bakhita.’ And God’s love and tenderness embrace you.”

“This holy daughter of Africa showed herself truly to be a child of God: the love and forgiveness of God were tangible realities that transformed her life in an extraordinary way. She even came to feel gratitude to the slave-traders who captured her and to those who mistreated her: for, as she herself would later say, if these things had not happened, she would not have become a Christian or a professed sister in the Canossian community.

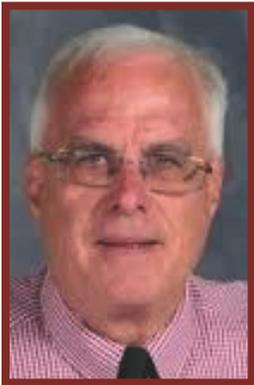
“Through the intercession of St Bakhita let us pray that all men and women will come to know the saving presence of the Lord Jesus and thus be freed from slavery to sin

and death. And in particular, let us be mindful of her homeland, Sudan, where war and violence continue to sow destruction and despair: may the Lord’s healing hand touch the hearts of those responsible for this suffering and open the way to reconciliation, forgiveness and peace.” St. John Paul II, October 2, 2000



# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

## TUITION COSTS



Dear Friends,

Registration opens for grades K-8 on Monday—February 1st for existing families for the 2021-2022 school year. After analyzing the current budget and enrollment projections for the few years it has been decided to increase tuition by \$65/student. The tuition structure for 2021-2022 is as follows:

K-8 Single Child	\$5,250	+1.25%
K-8 Two Children	\$9,260	+1.47%
K-8 Three + Children	\$11,900	+1.71%
Non-Parishioner (Each)	\$6,500	+1.17%

With a cost per student cost calculated at \$6,500, the parish is subsidizing over \$1,000 for each child's education. Our single child tuition rate is at levels similar to other parochial schools in town. The rate for multiple children is significantly lower than other schools. The entire tuition structure was electronically forwarded to our families last week.

We say, repeatedly, that a Catholic school education is well worth the economic sacrifice our families make to have their children here. Everything we do, every activity or game should have Jesus Christ at the center. Our faith is the focus of our existence.

There are associated practical advantages that our school provides for the area. First, the existence of private schools (Catholic schools make up 53% of all private schools nation-wide) infuses competition into an educational system that, by its nature, offers little opportunity for choice. Secondly, our school saves area taxpayers almost \$3.4 million (2018 – Illinois state median of per elementary pupil cost - \$12,000) by educating the 280 students in our K-8 programs.

If you have any questions on whether or not you child (ren) would benefit from a school centered on the Gospel-mission of Jesus Christ please do not hesitate to in contacting me. I look forward to hearing from you.

May the Lord bless your week,

—Mike Lootens

# PARISH UPDATES

## CATCH UP HERE

### Epiphany Youth Ministry

**High School Youth Group** will NOT meet this weekend (Feb 7th). Next weekend (Feb 14th) join us in the parish hall from 6:30-8 for a talk on The Four Loves, a service project for the Village at Mercy Creek, and fun and games! February 21st, Youth Group will join the TEC event (details below!) in lieu of our regularly scheduled events. **Junior High Youth Group** meets once a month to play games, share faith, and grow together in our journey towards Christ. The next Junior High Youth Group is Friday, February 19th from 7-8:30 pm in the Parish Hall. **Teens Encounter Christ Celebration** - Sunday February 21, 2021 from 4:00 - 6:00 pm at St. Patrick Church of Merina. Come join us for a Sunday afternoon of music, reflection, and mass. All are welcome, including the TEC community, and any teens and their families that are interested in learning more about TEC. Go to [bn-tec.org](http://bn-tec.org) for more information. To receive Youth Ministry updates, join our Flocknote group or email [kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com](mailto:kara.esker@epiphanyparish.com) to be added to the email list!

### Discerning Priesthood or Consecrated Life?

"Everyone is searching for You." Is your search for the Lord leading you to a vocation to the priesthood or consecrated life? Call Fr. Chase Hilgenbrinck at (309) 671-1550, or e-mail: [fr\\_hilgenbrinck@cdop.org](mailto:fr_hilgenbrinck@cdop.org). For those consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience, that they may seek to live their baptismal promises more intensely and have the grace to persevere in their commitment to the Lord and serve with open hearts and willing spirits, we pray to the Lord.

### YOUNG AT HEART

Celebrate Valentine's Day! Join us for lunch at the Olive Garden, Veteran's Parkway and Empire, on February 12, 2021. Seating will begin at 11:30am. You will order off the menu. Come enjoy a delicious meal, conversation, and visit with friends. Young At Heart is open to anyone 50 years young and older. Reservations: Call Mary-Margaret at 309-452-7976. Covid restrictions apply and continue to watch the local news for updates.

### 2021-2022 KINDERGARTEN AT ESC

Epiphany Catholic School

*Continued on Next Page*

# GOSPEL MEDITATION

## GOING DEEPER INTO SCRIPTURE

### If I knew then what I know now

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us up.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities.

# READINGS

## THIS SUNDAY'S SCRIPTURES

### First Reading:

"I am filled with restlessness until the dawn." (Jb 7:4) When We hear how Job struggled to find meaning and hope in his life. How does your faith help you get through difficult times in your life?

### Second Reading:

"I have become all things to all, to save at least some. All this I do for the sake of the gospel, so that I too may have a share in it." (1 Cor 9:22-23) Paul speaks of his singular desire to preach the "gospel" (the Good News of Jesus Christ). When do you share the gospel message with others?

### Gospel:

"He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him." (Mk 1:34) We learn that from the beginning of his public ministry Jesus was very purpose-driven: healing the sick and preaching the good news. How intentional is the practice of faith in your daily life?

will be hosting a Virtual Kindergarten Information Evening on Monday—February 8, 2021 at 6:00pm. Learn about the curriculum, schedule and meet the staff. Please contact Mike Lootens at [mike.lootens@epiphanyschools.org](mailto:mike.lootens@epiphanyschools.org) to receive a Zoom invite. Individual tours/meetings will be scheduled beginning on Tuesday—February 9, 2021. Please call Mike Lootens at 309.452.3268 with questions.

### ECS School Principal Sought

Normal Epiphany Catholic School, a Pre-K – 8 school of approximately 380 students, is seeking applicants for the position of principal for the 2021-2022 school year. The school, a 2011 recipient of the United States Department of Education's Blue Ribbon Award, provides a student-focused, standards-driven and secure educational environment. Instruction is based upon the Gospel values that promote the spiritual, emotional, moral, intellectual and physical development of all students. Previous administrative experience is desired. A principal application packet outlining qualifications and procedures is available at <http://cdop.org/careers> or by calling the Office of Catholic Schools at (309) 671-1550. A review of applicants will start in late march with interviews in mid-April.



# COLOR

Read the Gospel of the week and color the image.



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 1:29-39



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