

Cycle B 4th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday January 28th, 2018

Today we hear about Jesus commanding the unclean spirits and they obey Him. Jesus cast out the unclean spirit that had over taken a man. The unclean spirit recognized **Jesus of Nazareth** and called Him **the Holy One of God!** Jesus rebuked the spirit and said, “**Quiet come out of him.**” The spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him. This healing event during the Public Ministry of Jesus Christ; is just one of the many healing events found in the Gospels.

Two points that can be easily overlooked in the healing event we just heard is the time and the place. Jesus cast out the unclean spirit and healed the man on the Sabbath. The Sabbath was the 7th day of the week, Saturday the day of rest for the Jewish people. Just as in the beginning; all of creation was made by the Lord in 6 days, on the 7th day the Lord rested. So too, the Jewish people rested on the seventh day the Sabbath. The place where the healing happened is also significant. The place was the synagogue. The synagogue is the place where each community gathered on the Sabbath to worship. Just as there are a number of healing events in the Gospels, there are many occasions when Jesus is in the synagogue on the Sabbath.

For us as Christians our Sabbath is Sunday the day of Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Our synagogue is each parish church where we gather as a community on Sunday to give fitting worship and praise to almighty God. We hear the Word of God and encounter Christ in the Holy Eucharist. For us as Catholics the high point of every week is Sunday Mass. The whole week flows to and from Sunday worship. Gathering for worship is our response to the Third Commandment, **“You shall keep Holy the Lord’s Day.”**

Another point that we find in today’s Gospel passage is that, **Jesus was teaching with authority.** What did Jesus ultimately teach? **He taught the way to the Father.** Jesus has also given His teaching authority to the Church. This teaching authority continues down to this very day.

These points that we are reflecting on today: gathering on the Lord’s Day, gathering as a worshipping community, and Jesus teaching with authority, fit well with the celebration of Catholic Schools Week.

Catholic Schools and our Religious Education Ministry are oriented to preparing our students first and foremost for eternal life with the Father in Heaven. Catholic Schools in our nation have a long tradition. The purpose of every Catholic School is to hand on the faith to the next generation. Not only do we hand on the faith to the next generation, we prepare young people with academics that are

guided by faith. So, as they go out into the work place, their faith life can change the world; one personal encounter at a time.

Our Catholic schools also have an essential source and summit with which to draw from and to return to. That essential source is Sunday Worship. Sunday worship is what makes a Catholic School Catholic. Catholic Schools are an important ministry of the Church. However, Catholic schools can never replace parents. Parents are the first teachers of their children in the ways of faith. Catholic Schools collaborate with parents in handing faith on to the next generation of Catholics.

This week we thank our students, parents, teachers, administrators, benefactors, and all of our parishioners for supporting the mission of Catholic Schools. Most of all we thank the Lord for the continued success of our Catholic Schools. May our parish school of St. Antoninus continue to hand on the faith to the next generation, as the teachings of Jesus Christ show us the way to the Father.