

**LITURGIES FOR THE SECOND WEEK
IN ORDINARY TIME AND THE THIRD
SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

JANUARY 15 - 21, 2024

Monday, 1/15 † Weekday

6pm: Doris Neumaier by Headley & Vanek Families

Tuesday, 1/16 † Weekday

8am: Maizy

9am: A.S. The Daly Family by Mary Daly

Wednesday, 1/17 † Saint Anthony, Abbot

9am: A.S.-

6pm: Alysha (Birthday)

**Thursday, 1/18 † Weekday, Week of Prayer for
Christian Unity (Jan.18-25)**

8am: Ryan

9am: A.S.

Friday, 1/19 † Weekday

8am: Doris Neumaier by The Menis Family

9am: A.S. Jon Griesbach (Birthday)

**Saturday, 1/20 † Weekday; Saint Fabian, Pope &
Martyr; Saint Sebastian, Martyr, BVM**

8:30am: Addie (Birthday)

**Saturday, 1/20 † Vigil: The Third Sunday in
Ordinary time**

4:30am: Linda Potempa by The Scamerhorn Family

**Sunday, 1/21 † The Third Sunday in Ordinary
Time**

7:30am: Rolly Nielsen by Kevin & Betty Bobcek

9am: A. S.

11am: Sherry Jorczak by the Jorczak Family

The Office will be closed this Monday, January 15 in observance of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

This week at SS. C & M & All Saints

Thurs., Jan. 18 – 2:15pm - Legion of Mary, SS.
C & M

Thurs., Jan 18 – 4pm - Our Lady of Perpetual Help,
SS. C & M

Sun., Jan. 21 – 7am – 12N – K of C Country
Breakfast, Parlor

Sun., Jan. 21 – 9:30am – Religious Education

Sun., Jan 21 – 12N – Finance Comm. Mtng., Rectory

Our 2024 collection envelopes will not be here for a while according to the company. We have envelopes (without names) from 2023 you are welcome to use until they come in. You will need to either place one of your personal address labels on the envelope or write your name on it.

The Knights of Columbus will have a Country Breakfast next Sunday, January 21st, from 7am – 12N In the Church Parlor. The Menu includes: Sausage, eggs, Biscuits/gravy & fried apples. The cost will be \$10.00. Proceeds will help fund Scholarships and Donations to Charities.

The theme for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in 2023 was selected by the Minnesota Council of Churches, USA in the aftermath of the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd and the trial of the police officer responsible for his death. These events brought anguish, but also time for the Christian communities to contemplate ways in which they may be complicit in racial injustice. Christian unity is needed as a source of reconciliation and unity.

The theme, taken from the first chapter of the Book of Isaiah, reflects his concern for the oppressed who suffer from injustice and inequality fed by hypocrisy that leads to disunity. He teaches that God requires righteousness and justice from all of us, to create the peace and unity that God desires. These virtues originate in God's love for all, and racism runs counter to this vision. Isaiah's challenge to do good and seek justice together applies equally to us today.

In the Gospel today, Jesus asks "What are you looking for?" Often, we are looking for happiness in very selfish ways, but we find that when we look for ways to make others happy, it is then that we truly become happy.

As you place your gift with the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, know that you are a sign of God's love to those who are suffering, and you give them reason to believe and to trust.

Dear Padre

January 14, 2024

If St. Matthew was an apostle, why do we have Gospels from other writers who were not apostles of Jesus? Since he knew Jesus personally, wouldn't his Gospel be the definitive one?

There are two assumptions that need to be addressed. One is that the Apostle Matthew is the same as the evangelist Matthew. The book's title, the Gospel According to Matthew, was added to the text in the second century. Whether it was written by the same Matthew or someone else, it still traces back to the experience of the apostles. The Scriptures are the inspired word of God, and Christians can rely on the truth of the Gospel message through the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The other assumption is that one Gospel is somehow more "definitive." All four Gospels are the inspired word of God. A Gospel is not a history of the life of Christ. It is a collection of stories that each evangelist arranged in a specific way so that they would make sense to a particular audience. For the Gospel of Matthew, the audience was predominantly Jewish, but these Jewish Christians were being excluded from mainstream Judaism and perhaps were wondering among themselves if Jesus was really the Messiah for whom they had waited so long. Matthew's Gospel asserts repeatedly that Jesus is a true Israelite who fulfills Old Testament prophecies, while also reinterpreting the Law of Moses in a new direction that includes all nations. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

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"Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, 'What are you looking for?'" - John 1:38

When we recognize who we are, it's easier to find what we are looking for. Once we see ourselves, and others, as children of God, we spend less time looking for the material comforts of the world. Instead, our hearts long for something deeper that can only be filled by God. Ask God daily how He wants you to live the life He intended for you.

Good News!

January 14, 2024

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

1 Samuel 3:3b-10, 19 / 1 Corinthians 6:13c-15a, 17-20 /
John 1:35-42

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

"What are you looking for?" asks Jesus of the two disciples who come to see who he is and what he is about. They are Jesus' first words in John's Gospel, and that's what the entire Gospel of John is about, an answer to that piercing question.

I spent the week living with that question, never really finding an answer that seemed to fit, or perhaps I got too many answers, all of them somehow falling short. Why do I spend an hour early each morning sitting in the silence? I read some Scripture, but then mostly I sit with the silence. Many are the times when my mind drifts to other times and places and daydreams. Sometimes the silence is scattered with boredom; at other times it stumbles with prayerful words; and sometimes in the silence I look for answers to the plaguing whys of life. Mostly, though, I sit in the silence. I'd like to call it prayer, but then I wonder if I'm simply floundering in wishful thinking. So I return to that haunting question—"What are you looking for?"

I think perhaps the answer is similar to what I look for when I gather with friends. Sometimes the get-together is engaging, but not always. Sometimes it is memorable, but not always. Sometimes we just hang out, and that can be enough. Ultimately relationships keep me grounded. That also is why I spend time in the silence. It's what I'm looking for when I pray—to be in relationship with God, to be grounded lest I drift away and grow lost. ●

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Abortion killed 44.6 million people worldwide in 2023, more than any other cause of death

(LifeSiteNews) Jan 9, 2024 – Abortion remained the world’s leading cause of death for the fifth consecutive year in 2023, despite the 2022 overturn of *Roe v. Wade* putting a dent in the United States’ contribution to those totals.

More than 44.6 million abortions were committed across the planet last year, according to Worldometer, a nonpartisan resource that tracks and estimates statistics in real time on a wide variety of subjects, based on data from sources such as the United Nations, World Health Organization (WHO), International Monetary Fund (IMF), and more.

That total is greater than the number of deaths attributed to the next seven causes of death – communicable disease, cancer, smoking, alcohol use, HIV/AIDS, road accidents, and suicide – combined.

“The Worldometer measured the total deaths in 2023 as more than 60.6 million,” the *Christian Post* notes. “However, that figure does not include abortion as a form of death. If abortions were counted as deaths in the statistics, the fatalities last year would have exceeded 100 million, and abortions would have accounted for more than 40% of them.”

In the U.S., 14 states currently ban all or most abortions, with available data so far indicating that now-enforceable pro-life laws could effectively wipe out an estimated 200,000 abortions a year.

In response, abortion allies pursue a variety of tactics to preserve abortion “access,” such as enshrining “rights” to abortion in state constitutions, easy access to abortion pills, legal protection and financial support of interstate abortion travel, constructing new abortion facilities near borders shared by pro-life and pro-abortion states, and making liberal states sanctuaries for those who want to evade or violate the laws of more pro-life neighbors.

President Joe Biden has called on Congress to codify a “right” to abortion in federal law, which would not only restore but expand the *Roe* status quo by making it illegal for states to pass virtually any pro-life laws. The 2024 elections will determine whether Democrats retain the White House and keep or gain enough seats in Congress to make that happen.

In the U.S., getting an exact handle on the scale and details of abortion use has long been limited by a lack of uniform standards from state to state. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control (CDC) acknowledges that it only collects abortion data voluntarily submitted by states, whose reporting requirements (if they have any) vary significantly. California, Maryland, and New Hampshire – three states that are populous as well as significantly pro-abortion– have historically submitted no data whatsoever, further limiting the public’s understanding of the frequency of things such as late-term abortion and abortion complications. As of January 9, the world has already seen more than a million abortions in 2024, according to Worldometer.

Hundreds of Nigerian Christians killed, injured in brutal attack over Christmas

(LifeSiteNews) Jan 2, 2024— More than 100 Nigerian Christians were brutally murdered and hundreds more were injured in brutal attacks carried out over Christmas, according to numerous reports. The attackers struck more than 20 villages in a range of counties of Nigeria's Plateau State on Christmas Eve, according to International Christian Concern.

Reports vary concerning the number of people killed, with estimates ranging from between 140 and nearly 200 people in the majority-Christian areas. Many of those killed were women, children, and the elderly. International Christian Concern cited numbers from Amnesty International Nigeria, which said that a total of 194 people had been killed in the attacks. The group also said that over 300 people were injured and some 29,350 were displaced.

Christianity Today reported that the massacres are suspected to have been carried out by "extremists among Fulani Muslim herdsman against Christian farming communities." Reacting to the massacres, Nigeria's International Society for Civil Liberties and Rule of Law (Intersociety) openly declared that they see "the latest butcheries" of "not less than 160 defenseless Plateau Christians" as evidently the "clear handiwork of Fulani Jihadists (Jihadist Fulani Herdsmen and Jihadist Fulani Bandits)" as well as "conspiratorial security chiefs and operatives particularly the operatives of the Nigerian Army, the Nigeria Police Force and the DSS."

The organization expressed suspicion that the murders were carried out as a "coordinated revenge killing" in response to two airstrikes by the Nigerian Defense Headquarters of the Nigerian Armed Forces that killed more than 120 innocent Muslims taking part in a festival on December 3. "The 'class criminalization' sort of revenge killing of over 160 defenseless Plateau Christians must have also arisen from 'transfer of criminality responsibility' through class criminalization and ethno-religious hatred and bigotry," the organization surmised. A spokesperson for the U.S. State Department told Fox News Digital that the "U.S. Mission in Nigeria condemned the recent attacks in Plateau State and expressed heartfelt condolences for the tragic loss of life."

"Not a day goes by when Christians are not terrorized in western Africa in the most grotesque ways imaginable," he said. "Christians are killed for sport, especially Christian children." He also suggested that reported murders do not reflect the true numbers. "For every massacre which you hear about there are probably 10 others which happened in the shadows," the spokesperson said. "The death tolls are routinely in the hundreds."

International Christian Concern reported that "Nigeria is one of the most dangerous places for Christians, particularly in the Middle Belt region," noting that millions of Christians have been displaced in the region and over 50,000 have been murdered in the past two decades alone. Suspicion concerning the involvement of local Islamic jihadists comes as the phenomenon increased in recent years in Africa amid unsuccessful efforts by western militaries to curb its spread, LifeSiteNews previously reported.

A 2021 report by the Brookings Institute noted that "jihadi insurrections have persisted and are even expanding" in several geographical regions in Africa, including "West Africa, with the border region between Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso particularly affected."

The rise of the Islamic terror threat comes "[d]espite massive efforts by European nations and the United States — with France and the United Kingdom on the front lines," the report continued, noting that the U.S. had roughly 6,000 boots on the ground at the time in Africa. Most were tasked with combating the jihadist terror groups. And recent Islamic violence isn't isolated to Africa. Last month, four people were killed and dozens injured in the bombing at a Catholic Mass on a university campus in the Philippines on Sunday. ISIS militants claimed credit for the attack.

In October, hostilities in a decades-long conflict between the Muslim government of Azerbaijan and a small group of Armenian Christians broke out anew, killing hundreds and forcing nearly all of the roughly 120,000 Christian residents of a region known as Nagorno-Karabakh to flee to Armenia.

Catholic employee fired after putting ‘assigned by God’ as his ‘pronouns’ in company profile

(LifeSiteNews) Jun 21, 2023– A Catholic software engineer was fired by his former employer for putting “Assigned by God” as his “preferred pronouns,” an act which was preceded by pressure from the company to display “gender identity” in the name of “inclusion.”

Chad Scharf, who used to work as the vice president for software engineering at the password management company Bitwarden, lost his job for refusing to violate his religious beliefs by endorsing gender ideology, according to a lawsuit filed at the end of May.

“Ultimately, I was fired because my faith ‘may offend’ someone or could have made someone ‘feel unwelcome,’” Scharf told LifeSiteNews via email. “These are the statements used by the head of HR to complain to the CEO which reasoned that my faith was somehow harassing people through the statement of ‘assigned by God’ in the pronoun field of my Slack profile.”

“There wasn’t even an actual complaint of harassment or offense, it was purely based on virtue-signaling and speculative presumption.”

According to the complaint filed on May 25, Scharf began working for the company in 2020, one year before company-wide “inclusivity” efforts were initiated. Along with other employees, Scharf was “pressured by the company to add pronouns to his Slack profile, [and] he chose those in conformity with his religious belief: ‘Assigned by God.’”

When asked to remove the “preferred pronouns,” he refused to contradict his Catholic faith and argued “that Bitwarden’s policies and practices discriminated against his religion.” The complaint added that “Mr. Scharf was very good at his job and, until he voiced his religious beliefs, never had any issues at work.”

Beginning in March 2021 – one month after being pressured to include “preferred pronouns” in his Slack profile – the company’s human resources department asked him “to remove his pronouns [‘Assigned by God’] and informed Mr. Scharf that he could keep his faith at work but not show it.”

Despite four different demands from management, the employee refused to back away from the truth and violate his Catholic faith. Meanwhile, Scharf “continued to engage in discussions with HR [human resources],” including participation “on a committee regarding the topic of ‘inclusion’ and provided ideas for how Bitwarden could alter its approach to ‘inclusion’ in order to be truly inclusive of all beliefs, religions, and creeds.”

Communication with the company included a letter written to Bitwarden’s CEO, Michael Crandell, explaining “why he could not set aside his Catholic beliefs while at work.” In August 2022, Scharf was asked once again to remove his “preferred pronouns” because “HR said that two employees felt ‘harassed’ by the religious statement.”

This request came after Scharf interviewed an applicant for a position at the company, during which he did not use pronouns at all, as using the person's biologically inaccurate "preferred pronouns" violated his religious beliefs. Despite a professional interview and recommendation that the interviewee be considered for employment, Bitwarden's CEO wanted to know why the "preferred pronouns" were not used in Scharf's notes of the interview.

The CEO "then informed Mr. Scharf that he had contacted three attorneys, each of whom informed Crandell that he was legally entitled to fire Mr. Scharf because of Mr. Scharf's refusal to use pronouns that violated his religious beliefs."

"In the end, Bitwarden confirmed that it was 'inclusive' of certain beliefs and exclusive of Mr. Scharf's religious beliefs when it terminated his employment."

Scharf is seeking back pay and benefits for the company firing him through religious discrimination as well as "front-pay and/or reinstatement, stock options, compensatory damages, including emotion distress damages...punitive damages and pre and post judgment interest thereon."

"The thing that I was baffled about was that when I asked the head of HR why it was okay for me to be offended when seeing others list their pronouns but others could not be 'offended' with my pronoun," Scharf told LifeSiteNews. "She never answered me but instead shrugged her shoulders." "The whole thing is still quite a blur to me simply because I cannot believe we are where we are in society," he added.

Scharf is not the only employee to face discrimination for maintaining his religious beliefs in the workplace. In April, LifeSiteNews reported on a lawsuit filed by a music professor who alleges that he was fired after converting to Catholicism and rejecting his previous homosexual lifestyle.

A Georgia school district recently agreed to reinstate one of its teachers with reimbursement for legal fees after she was fired for expressing concerns about an LGBT children's book last year. Additionally, a Christian group in Rhode Island is also suing a school district for favoring "After School Satan Clubs" over religious clubs.

While hostility against religious beliefs is on the rise, Scharf offered some words of encouragement to those who may be facing such discrimination, telling them to "be at peace and pray for perseverance, courage, humility and meekness."

"It is a daunting feeling to see the world, those you work with, respect, or care about harbor hatred against you or the Faith," he told LifeSiteNews via email. "There is no tribulation here on earth in this life that is worth giving up eternal life in Heaven to avoid."

"To say or do nothing is an act of hatred towards your brothers and sisters because you hide the truth from them, even when they revile you for it," he added. "There are good, faithful people and companies out there. All is not lost, and ultimately Our Lady will crush the head of the ancient serpent as God has promised."