Deliver us from every evil

Even the best of us harbor within ourselves an unclean spirit or two. "Unclean" simply means not compatible with the holiness of God. This isn’t a condition any of us can afford to be in! Consider the garden variety of dirty spirits that routinely board us: self-absorption, unforgiveness, envy, judgment, arrogance, hardness of heart, cynicism. Identify your familiar demons, practice their counterpart virtues, and fill your inner house with grace.

Today’s Readings: Deuteronomy 8:15-20; 2 Corinthians 7:22-35; Mark 3:21-29 (31). “Jesus expelled [the unclean spirit] and said, ‘Quiet! Come out of him!’”

Use your freedom well

The story of Legion in Mark’s gospel is quite sad. Doctors today might diagnose him with multiple personality disorder. To him, it was only apparent that he lived with his demons in torment. He caused such harm to himself and others that he couldn’t live in town but was forced to stay in the cemetery, a man bared alive by his pain. Once Jesus delivered him, his natural desire was to stay with Jesus. But Jesus told him to take his freedom home with him to his family and community. Everyone person made whole becomes a living, breathing gospel.

Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 15:13-14, 19, 30-36, 15; Mark 5:1-20 (32). “Jesus asked, ‘What is your name?’” The man replied, ‘My name is Legion, for we are many.’”

Have faith

How can a woman be healed from her hemorrhaging by only touching the cloak of Christ? He tells her that the sincerity of her faith had saved her. The church confirms the power of faith through its place as one of the three “theological virtues,” along with hope and charity. The Catechism of the Catholic Church tells us that faith is when “a person freely commits his entire self to God,” and by which he or she can accept everything given by God. But unlike the “cardinal virtues,” faith is truly not of our own accord; rather, it is a grace both from God and toward God. How often do we stop to ask for faith?

Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 18:9-10, 14b, 24-25a, 30-39; Mark 5:21-45 (52). “(Jesus) said to her, ‘Daughter, your faith has made you well: go in peace.’”

Good is the best teacher

With some notable exceptions, throughout much of history the default position for disciplining children was punishing them harshly when they were bad. One of the notable exceptions was the 19th-century Italian priest John Bosco. As a young priest in Turin, he encountered masses of boys the industrial conditions of the city had left out in the cold. In response, he established youth clubs, hostels, and boarding schools. What was especially unique was his “preventive system” of dealing with the boys, which was based on reason, religion, and kindness. It appealed to their intelligence and their desire for God and the good. Saint John Bosco also founded religious orders for men and women, the Salesians, to expand and continue this work. You can try to force the bad out of a person, or you can appeal to the good in them.

Today’s Readings: 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17; Mark 6:1-6 (25). “Where did this man get all this? Is this not the carpenter, the son of Mary?”

Do the math

Teachers who have students work in pairs see many benefits to this strategy: The students take more responsibility for their learning; they mentor and encourage their partners and engage in creative problem-solving techniques, such as brainstorming; and they are less likely to become isolated and disillusioned. Surely Jesus was mindful of these benefits when he sent the 12 apostles out two by two to preach the Good News—and when he promised his presence wherever two or more are gathered in his name. Today’s lesson: Work together to multiply the good.

Today’s Readings: 1 Kings 21:1-4, 10-12; Mark 6:7-13 (24). “He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two.”

You are dismissed

Simeon recognizes the infant Jesus as the promised savior and calls him a “light for revelation.” Simeon joyously exclaims that he is now free to die in his death in peace. His beautiful prayer, commonly called the Canticle of Simeon, is sung in monasteries and religious communities around the world as part of Night Prayer. Like Simeon, we, too, are the servants of God who, upon recognizing the light of Christ in the people we meet, may ask to be dismissed at the end of each day to go in peace—freed, at least for a time, from our responsibilities and anxieties.

Today’s Readings: Malachi 3:1-4; Hebrews 2:18-14; Luke 2:22-40 (52). “My spirit has seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.”

A full-throated blessing

In the 14th century when the plague was devastating Europe, people despised for a cure or to be spared the disease called upon the Forty Holy Helpers, a special group of saints whom they believed protected them from symptoms of this dreaded disease, like fevers, headaches, the deaths of animals, and in Saint Blaise’s case, throat ailments. If you go to church today, chances are there will be a blessing of throats in the interception of Haise. While we need all the help we can get in cold and flu season, the crossed candles and the words of the blessing are more symbols of our faith in God to protect us from whatever ails us. Take advantage of this unique once-a-year custom.

Today’s Readings: 1 Kings 3:1-3; Mark 6:30-34 (32). “At Jesus went ashore, he saw a great crowd, and he had compassion for them.”

Recovery Chapel

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

Sacraments

Reconciliation: Saturday from 3:15 – 3:45 PM

Baptism: Parents must come to the rectory to get the necessary forms at least a month in advance.

Marriage: Couples must contact the parish at least 6 months in advance.
Mass Intentions

Saturday, January 27
4:00 P.M.  Elizabeth Radicioni by Walter

Sunday, January 28
8:30 A.M.  The People of Saint Anthony Parish

Monday, January 29
9:00 A.M.  Brandi Wilson by James Krakowiecki

Friday, February 2
9:00 A.M.  Michael St. James by Shelley Renehan

Saturday, February 3
4:00 P.M.  The People of Saint Anthony Parish

Sunday, February 4
8:30 A.M.  Theresa Gregory by Ted & Elena Kurosad

Sanctuary Lamps
will burn for:

Vicky Chambers
Joan Smith
Frank Klynn
Roger Tatro
Diane Laroche
Susan Lashway
Lorraine F. Murphy
Mary Mayette
Linda West

Please also remember others who are in need of our prayers.

Names will be published in our bulletin for one month. If you would like to renew your prayer request after one month, please contact the parish office.

Low Gluten Altar Bread: If you require a low gluten host for communion, come to the altar with the Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. The celebrant will give you the consecrated low gluten host from a separate paten.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of John Esau whose funeral was held here on Saturday. May his family find solace in their faith and in the promise of eternal life with our heavenly Father.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Rev. Robert E. Graham, S.M. who served us at Saint Anthony Parish from 1961-1984. He died January 20th. Please be held this week in Framingham, Mass. Our prayers are with his brother Marist priests.

Haven: The most needed items this week are peanut butter, pasta sauce, soup, fruit and shelf-stable milk. Non perishable items may be left in the basket at the top of the stairs. Thank you!

Message from Fr. Rick:

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time - January 28th, 2018
“A New Teaching with Authority ...”

Although the Pharisees and scribes of Jesus’ time often get a bad rap (justifiably) they performed in valuable service for the people. They were the interpreters of the Mosaic Law (the Law of Moses).

That is to say, it was their task to determine how all that important ‘Mitzvot,’ the Commandments, were to be applied in every day life.

Typically at the time of Jesus the Scribes and Pharisees would be guided in their interpretation by precedent. What had a Scribe or Pharisee from the past said about this or that.

This was what was so fresh, so new, so exciting, if you will about Jesus, His teaching authority was His own. He did not appeal to anyone else to back him up. He did not need to. He was His own authority. This was evident too in His power over demonic forces. Even devils obey Him and are powerless before Him. In Jesus, a new power, a new source of authority has entered the world and has put the forces of evil on notice, their power is ending!

My sincere thanks to everyone who came out to attend our Parish ‘listening’ session held this past Sunday afternoon. Special thanks go out to Deacon John Guarino for setting up the hall and the video. To Joanne Collins and Chris Noble who took notes from the meeting.

As further regional listening sessions are scheduled I will let you know.

Father Rick

2017 Tax Letters: Tax letters were mailed this week. If you are expecting a letter for your 2017 donations to Saint Anthony Church and have not received one, please contact the parish office. We have had several items returned due to incorrect address. If we do not have your current address, please update your information with the office. Thank you.

Second Collection This Week: The Catholic Education Collection will take place this weekend. Your generosity to this annual collection helps to support the continued faith formation of our young people. One half of the collection will remain in our parish for the local religious education programs, and one half supports 13 Catholic schools throughout the Diocese. Your generosity to this very important mission in the life of the Church is greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to St. Anthony Church.

Minister & Counter Schedules: Requests for the next Minister and Counter schedules that will include March, April, and May, should reach the office by Sunday, February 18th. You may e-mail or phone our office, or drop a note in the collection basket or in the mail. Please note, this schedule will include Holy Week and Easter. Thank you.

Lenten Retreat Day: Every Lent the Pope takes his Vatican staff on a 5-day retreat, instructing them to leave their work at the office to take some time away with the Lord. This year the Diocesan Office of Evangelization & Catechesis is offering a FREE one day retreat to anyone who ministers for or works in a parish including religious leaders, parish volunteers and other parish staff. Locations and dates are Wednesday, March 14 in Ludlow at Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish and Wednesday, March 21 in Hinesburg at St. Jude Parish. The retreat will run from 9:30-3:00 with lunch provided. For more info, see the poster at the entrance of the church or visit www.vermontcatholic.org.

Young Adult Retreat: Fr. Lance Harlow will be leading this retreat at the Mary Theotokos Monastic Retreat Center in Newrark, VT from Saturday, February 24th at 10:00 a.m. through Sunday, February 25th at 3:30 p.m. The cost of $40 per participant includes food and lodging. The retreat is open to young adults ages 18+.

Father/Son Retreat: This retreat is scheduled for Friday, April 20 at 7:00 PM through Sunday, April 22 at 12:30 PM in Newrark, VT at Mary Theotokos Monastic Retreat Center. Cost of $75 per father and son includes food & lodging.

St. Anthony Parish would like to welcome all those who are visiting with us this weekend.