**FOR THE WEEKEND OF JANUARY 27-28th, 2024**

Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**Gospel reading**

Mk 1:21-28

Then they came to Capernaum,

and on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught.

The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority

and not as the scribes.

In their synagogue was a man with an unclean spirit;

he cried out, “What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth?

Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are—the Holy One of God!”

Jesus rebuked him and said, “Quiet! Come out of him!”

The unclean spirit convulsed him and with a loud cry came out of him.

All were amazed and asked one another,

“What is this? A new teaching with authority.

He commands even the unclean spirits and they obey him.”

His fame spread everywhere throughout the whole region of Galilee.

**Intercession**

That, firmly rooted in Christ, we might bravely give to our Diocesan Ministry Appeal.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

Today’s Gospel states that Jesus *“taught as one having authority, and not as the scribes”* (Mark 1:22). He proved his authority with accompanying signs, such as casting out a demon. The people were astonished.

Today, many of us waver between craving real authority and rebelling against authority altogether. We criticize our leaders for being too weak or the Catholic Church for being too firm. Why can’t the Church loosen up her doctrines and “get with the times”?

The truth is, the Church cannot “change with the times.” Jesus, who “is the same today, yesterday, and forever,” founded the Church (Hebrews 13:8). However, together, we can continue to stay strong in the way God is calling us and, through your support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal, spread the Good News as we always have.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Jesus taught with authority. Our parish speaks with the authority of His truth and His love to our local community. Please help our Diocesan Ministry Appeal so we can stay strong in our task. Give, and as Jesus promised, “gifts will be given you” (Luke 6:38)!

**Social media post/content**

Photo: A painting of Jesus speaking from the synagogue; hopefully with a loving smile.

Text: *“He taught them as one having authority.”* – Mark 1:22

Copy: Christ has given us His authority to speak the truth in life and love others. Many people depend on us to carry out His mission and we depend on your support of the Diocesan Ministry Appeal to do so!