



FROM THE DESK OF FR. MIKE

Every time we come to share in the Eucharist and participate in the Sacrifice of the Mass we are nourished in Word and Sacrament. The Mass is composed of the Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Eucharist. In the Liturgy of the Word, God speaks to his people. The Liturgy of the Word includes the Entrance Rites of the Mass through the Universal Prayers, also known as the Prayers of the Faithful. The Liturgy of the Eucharist includes the offering and the presentation of the gifts of bread and wine – symbolizing our sacrifices for the Lord – through the final blessing, dismissal, and recessional hymn.

In addition to listening to God speak to us in the Liturgy of the Word, studying and praying with God’s Word, the Bible, helps us grow in faith. A familiar and common prayer is known as Lectio Divina. Simply stated it is a manner of praying with the Scriptures. One reflectively reads a passage of the Scriptures or listens attentively as someone is reading a passage from the Bible. Time is then spent meditating on words, phrases, and images that speak to your heart and spirit from the passage. It is always proper to conclude the time spent in Lectio Divina with a short prayer of gratitude to God for the graces received in prayer. This form of prayer has roots in the earliest centuries of the Catholic Church.

As a child at St. Bartholomew’s Catholic School, I fondly remember going on a field trip to Chicago, specifically to the Chicago Theater. We were going to see “*The Ten Commandments*” narrated by Cecil B. DeMille with Charlton Heston playing Moses on the large screen. It made quite an impact on me as a young boy. A modern effort of bringing Scriptures to life is the very popular series, “*The Chosen*.” Beginning this coming week, you are invited to come and watch “*The Chosen*” and participate in faith sharing and discussion following the videos.

This Thursday, January 26, you have the opportunity to come and meet one of our parishioners who was in the filming of two of the episodes. The filming took place just outside of Midland, Texas. The Sermon on the Mount was filmed in February 2021 and The Feeding of the Five Thousand was filmed last year, in June 2022. Dr. Janice Looby will share her experiences of being part of the filming of these two episodes of “*The Chosen*.” You are invited to come yourself and bring a friend to watch the Scriptures come to life.



(Dr. Janice Looby on the set of “*The Chosen*” in Midland, Texas)

Next Sunday we will begin to celebrate **Catholic Schools Week 2023**. The children will participate in the 10:00am Mass on January 29, singing their hearts out and lifting the spirits of those who pray with them. For more information about the many activities and events of Catholic Schools Week, as well as registration of children at the School of St. Mary for next year, you can reach out to Mandy Castle at mcastle@schoolofstmary.org.

Next week I will share with you the “Liturgical ABCs” that the students are learning from Fr. Radley. How many of the “Liturgical ABCs do you know? Find out next week.

May we turn to God who strengthens us in living with Christ in 2023,

Fr. Mike Narusz