

## *Our Lady of the Desert*



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**Padre: Victor C. Yakubu,**  
**Administrador Parroquial**

**Padre: Julius Kayiwa, Vicario Parroquial**  
**Confesión el Sábado:**  
**Por cita en (Español y Inglés)**

**Rosario el Sábado: Y Letanías de la Santísima**  
**Virgen María—3:20pm**

**Misa el Sábado: (Vigilia) / Inglés 4:00 p.m.**

**Rosario el Domingo: Y Letanías de la Santísima**  
**Virgen María— 9:40am**

**Misa el Domingo: Español /10:00 a.m.**

### **Liturgia en los Días de la Semana**

**Cada Día a las Doce: Angelus/Regina Caeli**

**Lunes: Adoración 7:30am y Misa a las 8:00am**

**Martes, Miércoles Jueves, Viernes:**

**Adoración 7:30am y Misa 8:00am**

**Viernes: a las 6:00pm Rosario Reina de la Paz**  
**con Adoración**

**Sábado: Adoración: 7:30am y a las 8:00am**

**Misa en Honor de Virgen María**



## **January 14th, 2024**

**Rev. Victor C. Yakubu, Parochial Administrator**  
**Rev. Julius Kayiwa, Parochial Vicar**

### **Confession on Saturday:**

By appointment English/Spanish

**Saturday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary - 3:20pm

**Saturday Mass (Vigil):** English -4:00 p.m.

**Sunday Rosary:** With Litanies of the Blessed Virgin  
Mary—9:40am

**Sunday Mass:** Spanish 10:00am

### **Liturgy of the Weekdays**

Every day at Noon: Angelus/Regina Caeli

**Monday:** 7:30am Adoration & Mass 8:00am

**Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday:**

**Adoration 7:30am & Mass 8:00am**

**Friday:** At 6:00pm Rosario of Queen of Peace with  
Adoration

**Saturday:** Adoration: 7:30 a.m. & 8:00 a.m. Mass  
**In Honor of the Virgin Mary**

Reflection for Second Sunday in Ordinary Time : Year B  
Second Sunday in Ordinary Time – January 14, 2024  
Fr. Christopher Trummer

*Readings: 1 Sm 3:3b–10, 19 • Ps 40:2, 4, 7–8, 8–9, 10 • 1 Cor 6:13c–15a, 17–20 • Jn 1:35–42* [bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011424.cfm](http://bible.usccb.org/bible/readings/011424.cfm)

Last Sunday we celebrated the Epiphany, when the infant Jesus was visited by the magi. Today, we have entered Ordinary Time and in the Gospel we are again presented with the adult Jesus. The Sundays and weeks of Ordinary Time lead us through the life of Christ, emphasizing his ministry and teachings so that we can mature as his disciples. With this in mind, it makes sense that we should begin Ordinary Time by returning to the beginning of Jesus' public ministry and his calling of the first disciples. In fact, our readings this Sunday in general have a theme of vocation, of hearing the call of the Lord and responding properly.

In our first reading, the prophet Samuel is only a boy and is hearing the voice of God for the first time. This whole scene is rich with lessons on the spiritual life. Before we consider these lessons, we need to remember that, while perhaps most of us won't receive the rare gift of hearing the audible voice of God, all of us can hear God speak to us in various ways, especially through Sacred Scripture, the teaching of the Church, our conscience, and in our own prayer. Jesus himself says that, because we are his sheep, we know him and can hear his voice. But we have to learn to distinguish his voice from that of strangers (see John chapter 10).

Now, back to Samuel. First, we hear that "Samuel was sleeping in the temple of the Lord where the ark of God was." If we want to hear God's voice, to know His will for our life and receive His guidance, we need to place ourselves in His presence in concrete ways. As Catholics, of course, this ideally looks like spending time before the Eucharist, whether during exposition or simply in the tabernacle.

Second, Samuel has a posture of obedience and readiness. While at first he mistakes the voice of God for the voice of the priest Eli, his response is telling: "Here I am. You called me." This simple response implies humble obedience and an eagerness to serve. In our Responsorial Psalm, we prayed to have this same disposition: "Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will."

Third, Samuel is persistent; he doesn't become frustrated or give up when he doesn't understand what is happening. Instead, he obediently follows Eli's instructions. Sometimes we are quick to judge our prayer as fruitless or ineffective. But we need to trust the process: God

wants us to form us in humility and obedience so that we can receive what He wants to give us.

Finally, Samuel hears the Lord and responds, "Speak, for your servant is listening." His disposition of humility and openness allows the Lord to use him as a great prophet. We are told that he "grew up, and the Lord was with him, not permitting any word of his to be without effect." This applies also to us: if we spend time in the Lord's presence, we will carry that presence in a powerful way. We will be living tabernacles, or as St. Paul says in our second reading, "temples of the Holy Spirit." People are supposed to experience God when they encounter us. Also, like Samuel, we will only be able to speak effectively on behalf of God to the extent that we have listened humbly.

Looking briefly at the Gospel reading, it has a very similar theme of responding to God's call. Just as Samuel required the advice of Eli, the first disciples needed help from trusted people in order to follow the Lord. John the Baptist points out Jesus as the Lamb of God to his disciples, who follow Jesus as a result. One of them is Andrew, who in turn brings his brother Peter to Jesus. None of us is alone as we seek to know God better, to hear His voice and follow His will. While personal prayer is extremely important, we should not seek the Lord in total isolation. No one has a monopoly on the Holy Spirit or the ability to hear God's voice. Rather, God speaks to each of us and He gives everyone a variety of gifts so that we need to rely on each other. To use Paul's image, the Body of Christ is interdependent, with each member both serving and needing all the others. This is certainly true of the variety of vocations, but also more generally of the way the Church lives her mission of proclaiming the Gospel.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, help us to hear your voice clearly in the midst of so many other voices. Increase our desire for your presence and your words. Give us the help we need in following you, and use us to bring others to you. Amen..

## Sunday's Readings

### First Reading:

The LORD came and revealed his presence, calling out as before, "Samuel, Samuel!" Samuel answered, "Speak, for your servant is listening." (1 Sm 3:10)

### Psalm:

Here am I, Lord; I come to do your will. (Ps 40)

### Second Reading:

Do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ?  
But whoever is joined to the Lord becomes one Spirit with him. (1 Cor 6:15, 17)

### Gospel:

So they went and saw where Jesus was staying, and they stayed with him that day. (Jn 1:39)

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## Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

"Come and see," Jesus said to the disciples who were curious to know about him. Today, he whispers this invitation into the deepest place of our heart. Have courage — go, and see what Christ has to show you.

## Observances for the week of January 14, 2023

- Sunday:** 2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time  
**Monday:** Martin Luther King Day  
**Wednesday:** St. Anthony, Abbot  
**Thursday:** January 18-25 is the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity  
**Saturday:** St. Fabian, Pope and Martyr; St. Sebastian, Martyr  
**Next Sunday:** 3rd Sunday in Ordinary Time



## Saint of the week

St. Clare of Assisi, a devoted follower and friend of St. Francis, centered her life around poverty, prayer, and the Eucharist. As the founder of the Poor Clares, she promoted a ministry of simplicity, adoration, and service to the poor.

## Prayer of Discernment

Dear Lord,  
Here I am! Help me to know the path You would have me walk, to speak the words You would have me speak, to love and serve those You put in my path. Amen.



### (PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

#### Those Who Seek the Truth

In my work as a freelance writer, I have a regular column in the archdiocesan paper writing profiles of ordinary people in the local church. Laity, religious, and clergy alike — I hound them all to give me an interview, and when I do, the answer is almost always this: “You don’t want to talk to me. There’s nothing special about me.”

I always try to convince them that there is something remarkable about everyone who is searching for the truth. It is easy to think we are not made for holiness because we are ordinary people with ordinary habits, ordinary abilities, and ordinary sins. It is easy (and very convenient) to designate holiness as something belonging to Better People. People like the saints. People like the Disciples.

The Bible gives us next to no personal information about the disciples. There is no archdiocesan newspaper profile on Andrew and Simon that can give us insight into who they were before they became St. Andrew, Inaugural Disciple and Announcer of the Messiah, and St. Peter, First Pope and the Rock-Upon-Which-Christ-Built-His-Church.

Yet I find myself insatiably curious about it. What was their childhood like? What games did they play with each other as the sun set, before their mother called them into bed? What did they think of as they fell asleep at night? What secret jokes did they share to make each other laugh? What were they afraid of? What did they hope for? Who did they want to be?

Before they were towering figures of salvation history, Simon and Andrew were just two men searching for the truth. When they looked at Christ, there was something that made it click. Perhaps they themselves could not identify what it was, but their hearts whispered it nonetheless: *There it is. We finally found it.*

Isn’t that the best we can all hope for?

*“Jesus turned and saw them following him and said to them, ‘What are you looking for?’” — John 1:38*

*Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman*

#### Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

##### Question:

Why do we make changes in the Mass? Some seem so small and unimportant. Are they really necessary?

##### Answer:

The celebration of the Eucharist is at the heart of our identity as Catholics. Our purpose as a Church community revolves around the Eucharist. Everything we are and everything we do is measured not only by how well we celebrate, but also by how well we live the sacrament. If that is so, then we as a community will always strive to celebrate the Mass as best we can. The reasons for some changes might seem more obvious than others, but there is a reason behind each one.

The General Instruction of the Roman Missal is the introduction to the Missal that contains all the prayers for the celebration of the Mass. The Order of Mass we use now was issued in 1975 and, as often happens over the course of years, some questions have come up about the proper way of doing some things and whether or not other practices are acceptable. These changes clarify some things and make the celebration of the Mass more meaningful for everyone.

The opportunity is presented to us to better learn and understand each part of the Mass, which in turn should help us deepen our appreciation for its beauty and meaning. We will be a better Church if we have a clearer understanding and knowledge of Who and what we celebrate.

*Fr. Victor is scheduled  
To be at “Our Lady of the Desert”  
the 4th Sunday of every month.  
(Dates are subject to change)*



## **Gospel Meditation**

### **Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture**

As a priest, I'm amazed how happily married couples remember the tiniest details of their earliest encounters. They effortlessly report things like: "he wore a blue shirt," "we ordered brussels sprouts," "her hair was up in a bun," and "he spilled shrimp cocktail sauce at my family's open front door when it was ten degrees below zero," (that one's courtesy of my mom). We delight in remembering and speaking of when our new life of love began. The little details are glorious reminders that it's all real.

It's similar for John the Apostle. He tells us of the two disciples who followed Jesus into his house, **"...they stayed with him that day. It was about four o'clock in the afternoon."** Why does that tiny detail matter? Because *that's the time of day when they encountered the love of Jesus the Messiah in their lives*. Our religion is not primarily about abstract truths about God, no matter how true or sublime. It is about God meeting and saving us in our human nature. It's about a *human* relationship.

What was the time of day when you first recall encountering Christ and his Church? Who was there? What did you feel? How did things look and smell? What happened? Take some time to recall it in detail. For me, it was inside an old, rickety church on a hillside in Jerome, Arizona. It was about 9 p. m. on a Saturday evening. I was with my friends Jenny, Brad, and Laura. We were praying, singing, and laughing. When was it for you? Remembering the details isn't empty nostalgia. It reminds us now that God's love for us in our humanity is real.

— Father John Muir

## **Readings for the week of January 14, 2024**

### **Sunday:**

1 Sm 3:3b-10, 19/Ps 40:2, 4 7-8, 8-9, 10  
(8a, 9a)/1 Cor 6:13c-15a, 17-20/Jn 1:35-42

### **Monday:**

1 Sm 15:16-23/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and  
23/Mk 2:18-22

### **Tuesday:**

1 Sm 16:1-13/Ps 89:20, 21-22, 27-28/  
Mk 2:23-28

### **Wednesday:**

1 Sm 17:32-33, 37, 40-51/Ps 144:1b, 2,  
9-10/Mk 3:1-6

### **Thursday:**

1 Sm 18:6-9; 19:1-7/Ps 56:2-3, 9-10a,  
10b-11, 12-13/Mk 3:7-12

### **Friday:**

1 Sm 24:3-21/Ps 57:2, 3-4, 6 and 11/  
Mk 3:13-19

### **Saturday:**

2 Sm 1:1-4, 11-12, 19, 23-27/Ps 80:2-3, 5-7/  
Mk 3:20-21

### **Next Sunday:**

Jon 3:1-5, 10/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (4a)/  
1 Cor 7:29-31/Mk 1:14-20





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