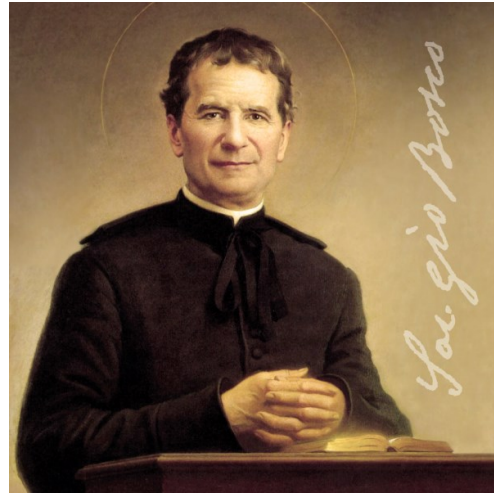


# St. John Bosco

**Feastday: January 31**

August 16, 1815 - January 31, 1888



John Bosco was born in Becchi, Italy. At the age of two, John lost his father, leaving him and his two older brothers to be raised by his mother, Margherita. (She was declared venerable by the Church in 2006.) They were very poor, but despite their poverty his mother found always shared with the homeless who sometimes came to the door. When John was nine years old, he witnessed a traveling troupe of circus performers. He was enthralled by their magic tricks and acrobatics. He set out to learn how to perform some himself. One Sunday evening, John staged a show for the kids he played with and was heartily applauded. At the end of the show, he recited the homily he heard earlier in the day. He ended by inviting his neighbors to pray with him. His shows and games were repeated and during this time, John discerned the call to become a priest.

To be a priest, John required an education, something he lacked but he found a priest willing to provide him with some teaching and books. John's older brother was offended by this and whipped John saying he's "a farmer like us!" John was only 12 when he left home, due to his brother's hostility to his vocation. John worked in a vineyard for two years before he met Joseph Cafasso, a priest who was willing to help him. Cafasso himself would later be recognized as a saint for his work, particularly ministering to prisoners and the condemned. In 1835, John entered the seminary and following six years of study and preparation, he was ordained a priest in 1841. His first assignment was to the city of Turin. While visiting the prisons, Fr. Bosco noticed a large number of boys, between the ages of 12 and 18, inside. He felt moved to help other boys from ending up there. He went into the streets and used his talents as a performer, doing tricks to capture attention, then sharing with the children his message for the day. When he was not preaching, Fr. Bosco worked tirelessly seeking work for boys who needed it, and searching for lodgings for others. His mother began to help him, and by the 1860s, Fr. Bosco and his mother were responsible for lodging 800 boys. In 1859, Fr. Bosco established the Society of St. Francis de Sales. Their purpose was to carry on his charitable work, helping boys with their faith formation and to stay out of trouble. The organization still exists today and continues to help people, especially children around the world. When Fr. Bosco died the call for his canonization was immediate. Pope Pius XI knew Fr. Bosco personally and agreed, declaring him blessed in 1929. St. John Bosco was canonized on Easter Sunday, 1934 and he was given the title, "Father and Teacher of Youth."

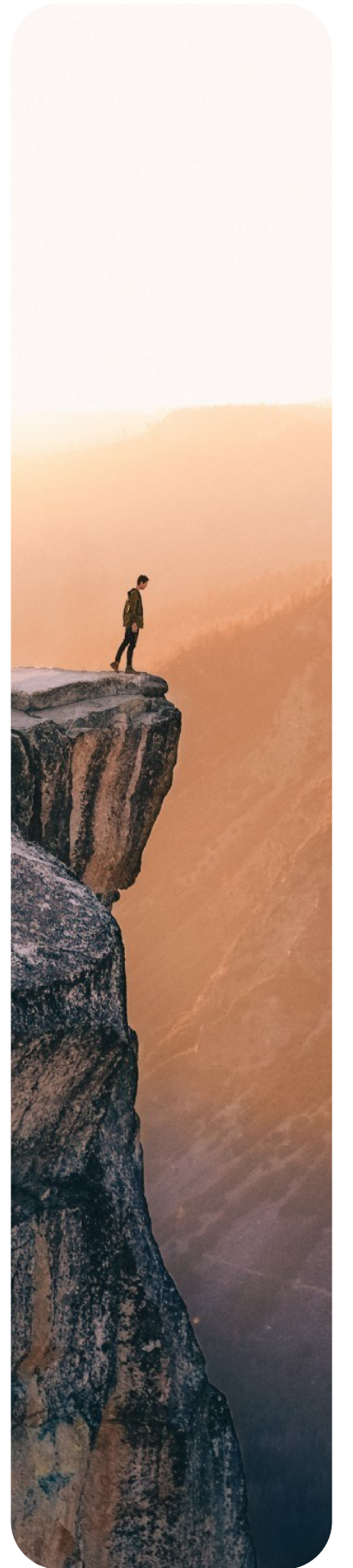
# GROWING CATHOLICS

Leaflet 

## Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sunday Gospel • January 30, 2022 Luke 4:21-30

Jesus began speaking in the synagogue, saying: "Today this Scripture passage is fulfilled in your hearing." And all spoke highly of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his mouth. They also asked, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" He said to them, "Surely you will quote me this proverb, 'Physician, cure yourself,' and say, 'Do here in your native place the things that we heard were done in Capernaum.'" And he said, "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But Jesus passed through the midst of them and went away.





## SEEDS FOR CONVERSATION

Who does Jesus say that He is?  
 Who do the people of Nazareth say that Jesus is?  
 Why do you think they don't want to find out more about him?  
 Why do the people reject Jesus? Why does He make them so angry?  
 (Why do people tend to reject prophets?)  
 There are Christians today in some parts of the world who risk their safety to hang on to their faith. Why are they willing to take these risks?  
 How do your actions and words show that you believe in Jesus?  
 Have you ever (metaphorically) thrown Jesus off a cliff?  
 What are you willing to risk to be a Christian?



### EVERYONE SHOULD KNOW

After reading Isaiah 61:1-2 Jesus told the people that He was the promised "Anointed One" that Isaiah wrote about in this passage. "Anointed One" means "Messiah" and refers to one anointed with God's Spirit, just as God's prophets, priests, and kings were "the anointed of God."



### HOW MANY GOSPELS ARE THERE?

St. Luke begins his Gospel by mentioning that other Gospels also record the events of Jesus' life. Some scholars count as many as 34 different gospels written within the first 2-3 centuries of the Church while others count more. However, the Church has always maintained from its earliest years that only the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John were Holy Spirit inspired.

# ACCEPT or REJECT

In today's Gospel we read about Jesus being rejected by the people in His own village! Jesus has put Himself in the same class as the prophets Elijah and Elisha whose stories He referred to (they were prophets who were also rejected). One of the things that Jesus calls us to do as His followers is to NOT reject people without giving them a chance.

Every day we are in situations where we have to make a choice to reject people or be accepting. Sometimes accepting others means we are also rejected.

How could you be accepting in these circumstances below (or should you be?) **Have this discussion as a family.** Some examples are for kids, others more "adult", but they all pretty much apply to each of us in our own state of life.

A co-worker starts telling you a story about something stupid someone else in the office did, hoping you will laugh at them.

Your friends don't include Tim at recess, but want his help when it comes to studying for a test.

Your cousin thinks you are great. You think he is a nerd. He's moving to your school.

Your friend has signed up for the choir. She is *such* a horrible singer!

Your uncle often makes jokes about Jewish people, even when your Jewish friend Aaron is visiting.

You are having coffee with other school moms when the mother of a new student at the school comes in and sits alone.

The new neighbors are from an African country. You'd spend time with them but they are just too hard to understand.

Your friend's dad will take you with them to the zoo. But mom won't let you go; she says he drives crazy.

## Candlemas

February 2  
 Candlemas is also known as the Feast of the Presentation and the Feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary. We remember how Mary and Joseph presented Jesus at the Temple. We can read about it in Luke 2:22-40.

It is traditional to have candles blessed on this day. Why? Because St. Simeon said of the infant Jesus that He would be 'a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel'.