

# THE GOSPEL OF JOHN INTRODUCTION

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- April 17, 2023
- Jim Scullion, ofm

# CLASS SCHEDULE

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APRIL 17	INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW
APRIL 24	GOSPEL OF JOHN – PROLOGUE (1:1-18)
MAY 1	GOSPEL OF JOHN – BOOK OF SIGNS (CHAPTERS 1-4)
MAY 8	GOSPEL OF JOHN – BOOK OF SIGNS (CHAPTERS 5-9)
MAY 15	GOSPEL OF JOHN – BOOK OF GLORY (CHAPTERS 13-20)
MAY 22	1ST LETTER OF JOHN

# SACRED SCRIPTURE – *DEI VERBUM*

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- “However, since God speaks in Sacred Scripture through human beings in human fashion, the interpreter of Sacred Scripture, in order to see clearly what God wanted to communicate to us, should carefully investigate what meaning the sacred writers really intended, and what God wanted to manifest by means of their words.” (Vatican II, *Dei verbum* (DV), “Word of God”)

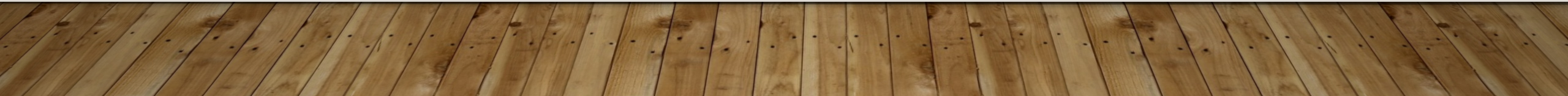


# PURPOSE (JOHN 20:30-31) SIGNS TO FAITH TO LIFE

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“Meaning the sacred writers really intended...”

“Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.”

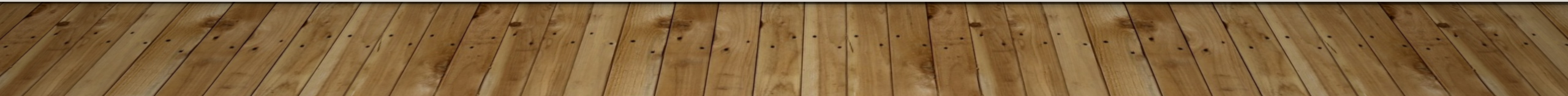


# JESUS THE BREAD OF LIFE

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“The Church has always venerated the divine Scriptures just as she venerates the body of the Lord, since, especially in the sacred liturgy, she unceasingly receives and offers to the faithful the bread of life from the table both of God’s word and of Christ’s body.” (DV #21)

“I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never hunger, and whoever believes in me will never thirst. (John 6:35)

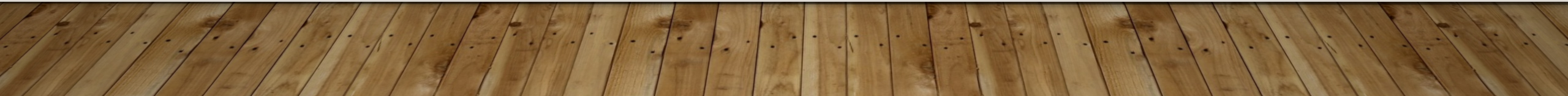


# JESUS OPENS THE SCRIPTURE

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“You are indeed Holy and to be glorified, O God, who love the human race and who always walk with us on the journey of life. Blessed indeed is your Son, present in our midst when we are gathered by his love, and when, as once for the disciples, so now for us, he opens the Scriptures and breaks the bread.”  
(Eucharistic Prayer IV for Various Needs)

“Were not our hearts burning within us while he spoke to us on the way and opened the scriptures to us...Then the two recounted what had taken place on the way and how he was made known to them in the breaking of the bread.”  
(Luke 24:32, 35)





# JOHANNINE LITERATURE

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- Gospel of John
  - “In the beginning was the Word (*logos*), and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ”
- Johannine Epistles (1, 2, 3 John)
  - “What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we looked upon and touched with our hands concerns the Word of life...(1 John 1:1)
  - “The Presbyter (*presbyteros*) to the chosen Lady and to her children...” (2 John 1)
  - The Presbyter (*presbyteros*) to the beloved Gaius...” (3 John 1)
- Revelation
  - The revelation (*apokalypsis*) of Jesus Christ, which God gave to him, to show his servants what must happen soon. He made it known by sending his angel to his servant John...John, to the seven churches in Asia...I, John, your brother..found myself on the island called Patmos (Revelation 1:1, 4,9)

# GOSPEL OF JOHN - TWO ENDINGS EXPANSIONS

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- Two Endings
  - “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book. But these are written so that you may come to believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through believing you may have life in his name.  
(20:30-31)
  - “But there are also many other things that Jesus did; if every one of them were written down, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.”  
(21:25)
- Last Suppers Expansions (14:31 to Chapters 15, 16, 17)
  - “...but I do as the Father has commanded me, so that the world may know that I love the Father. Rise, let us be on our way.



# GOSPEL OF JOHN & THE SYNOPTIC GOSPELS

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- Gospel of John
  - Simplicity and Profundity
    - Word, life, light, bread, water, wine
  - Spiritual Gospel - Clement of Alexandria (150-215)
    - “Clement has set down a tradition which he had received from the elders before him, in regard to the order of the Gospels, to the following effect. He says that the Gospels containing the genealogies were written first, and that the Gospel according to Mark...But John, the last of all, seeing that what was corporeal [outward facts] was set forth in the Gospels, on the entreaty of his intimate friends, and inspired by the Spirit, composed a spiritual Gospel.” (Eusebius, *Ecclesiastical History*, 6.14.7)

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# HISTORICAL GOSPEL? JOHN AND THE SYNOPTICS

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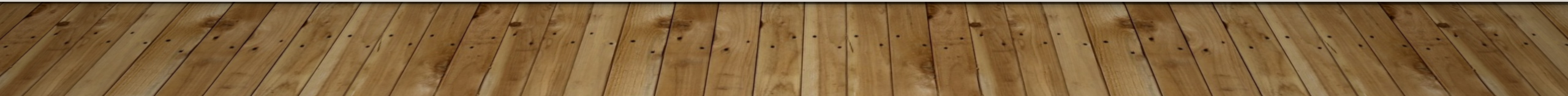
- John the Baptist
  - John's disciples to Jesus' disciples
    - John: "Behold the Lamb of God..."(1:29-30)
  - Jesus' baptismal ministry
    - "After this, Jesus and his disciples went into the region of Judea, where he spent some time with them baptizing..."(3:22)
    - "Now when Jesus learned that the Pharisees had heard that Jesus was making and baptizing more disciples than John <sup>2</sup> (although Jesus himself was not baptizing, just his disciples)...(4:1-2)

# HISTORICAL?

## CRUCIFIXION ON PREPARATION DAY

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- “Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover...” (18:28)
  - “So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one... when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs... For this happened so that the scripture passage might be fulfilled: “Not a bone of it will be broken.” (19:32-36)
    - “It must be eaten in one house; you may not take any of its meat outside the house. You shall not break any of its bones.” (Exodus 12:46)
- “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)





# JOHN AND SYNOPTICS

## CLEANSING OF TEMPLE

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- John: Cleansing of Temple at beginning of Jesus' ministry (2:13-25)
  - “Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there...“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”... Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. ”
- Synoptics: Cleansing of Temple at end of ministry
  - “They came to Jerusalem, and on entering the temple area he began to drive out those selling and buying there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves...” (Mark 11:15)

# STYLE AND CONTENT

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- Miracles are called signs (2:11; 4:54; 20:30)
- Prologue (1:1-18)
- Long Discourses
  - Jesus and Nicodemus (Chapter 3)
  - Jesus and Samaritan Woman (Chapter 4)
  - Bread of Life (Chapter 6)
  - Last Supper Discourses (Chapters 13-17)

# CHRONOLOGY - THREE YEAR MINISTRY

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- 3 Passovers (2:23; 6:4; 11:55)
  - Cleansing of the Temple:
    - “While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing...” (2:23)
  - Multiplication of Loaves:
    - “Jesus went up on the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near.” (6:3-4)
  - Last Passover:
    - “Now the Passover of the Jews was near, and many went up from the country to Jerusalem before Passover to purify themselves...” (11:55)



# PURPOSE AND METHOD

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- Purpose (John 20:30-31)
- “Now Jesus did many other signs in the presence of [his] disciples that are not written in this book. But these are written that you may [come to] believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that through this belief you may have life in his name.”
  - Signs to Faith that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God
    - Missionary Purpose: “Come to believe...”
    - Strengthen People of Faith: “continue to believe”

# METHOD - GOSPEL OF SIGNS

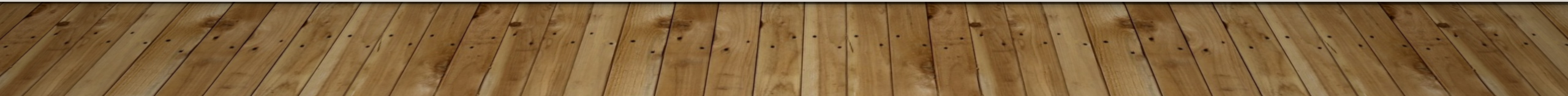
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- Seven Signs
  1. Water into wine at Cana (2:1-11)
  2. Cure of royal official's son (4:46-54)
  3. Cure of paralytic (chapter 5)
  4. Multiplication of loaves (6:1-15)
  5. Walking on Water (6:16-21)
  6. Cure of Man Born Blind (John 9)
  7. Raising of Lazarus (John 11)

# METHOD: MISUNDERSTANDING AND DOUBLE MEANING

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- Temple/Jesus' death and resurrection - Jesus and Jews (2:19-21)
- Born again/Born from above - Jesus and Nicodemus (3:3-5)
- Fresh Water/Living Water - Jesus and Samaritan Woman (4:10-15)
- Food/Doing God's Will - Jesus and Disciples (4:31-34)
- Sleep/Death - Jesus and Disciples (11:1-15)
- Lifted up on Cross/Glorification (3:14; 8:28; 12:32, 34)





# GOSPEL - DOUBLE STORY

## STORY OF JESUS, STORY OF COMMUNITY

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- Story of the Johannine Community - John 9; 12:42; 16:2
  - “We do not know how he sees now, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him, he is of age; he can speak for himself.” His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone acknowledged him as the Messiah, he would be expelled from the synagogue. For this reason his parents said, “He is of age; question him.” (9:21-23)
  - “Nevertheless, many, even among the authorities, believed in him, but because of the Pharisees they did not acknowledge it openly in order not to be expelled from the synagogue. For they preferred human praise to the glory of God.” (12:42)
  - “I have told you this so that you may not fall away. They will expel you from the synagogues; in fact, the hour is coming when everyone who kills you will think he is offering worship to God.” (16:1-2)