

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Catholic Parish—Spokane

1104 W Heroy Ave Spokane WA 99205 509-325-1321 Office hours Tues-Fri 9-12

February 7th, 2021

MANY



He cured many who
were sick.

MARK 1:34

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

©LPi

Pastoral Staff

Pastor: Fr. Michael Blackburn, OFM

Deacon: Dave Dudinsky

Parish Staff

Office Manager: Anitra Turney

Youth Ministry: Tammie Fabien

Maintenance: Brian Sandner

Choir Directors

Sun.: Betty Ross

Sat: Mary Lou Bentley

Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5pm

Sunday: 10am

Daily: 8am

Holy Days: 8am and 7pm

Parish Committees & Organizations

Pastoral Council: Frank Taylor

Finance Council:

Women's Club: Renee Lewis & Geri Wasson

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament:

Thurs. 8:30-4pm

Sacraments:

Anointing of the Sick:

Masses with anointing 2 or 3 times a year

Baptism:

Parental preparation is required

Marriage:

contact the parish at least 6 months in advance

Reconciliation:

Saturdays 3:30-4:30 or by appointment

ST FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH



A WORD FROM FR MIKE

In today's first reading we find Job speaking to himself or to whomever might be listening, including God. At this point of the book, we know all that has befallen this suffering man of faith. In the previous chapter he bewails his condition by claiming that nobody knows the suffering he is experiencing. Now we hear his statements announcing the human condition as nothing but dragging one's life around like a dead rat on a string. Humans just wait around for it all to be over and done with. There is nothing but slavery to an unseen master. Nights are long and days blow past like the wind. Loss, personal pain and deep sadness are all he has and all that it seems he will ever have.

In contrast, the Gospel is a rather delightful upswing of spirit after listening to old Job. Jesus is on a holy roll. He has cured a man from an unclean spirit and stops briefly at the home of Simon and Andrew. Simon's mother-in-law who has a physical sickness is lying in her bed. He touched her and the fever left. At this the whole town turned out with the sick and possessed. He cured them as well and forbade again, the unclean spirits to announce Who He was.

Early the next day Jesus slips off to pray and his friends find Him and with some excitement, tell Jesus that His popularity is at an all-time high. He rises and invites them to keep moving on in the message of salvation He is having with this world. He has come to do such things. His touch is not to be localized, but universalized.

I would guess that there are those of us who love stories, novels, plays, movies and sports contests which end just the way we want them to. A good story leaves us feeling good and especially if it has a little moral or bit of human wisdom to convey. Maybe we like happy endings, because of the reality of suffering within and around us. Our local TV stations swamp us with all the bad things going on for most of the half-hour news, but just as a little medical relief, they all end with a pretty, or smiley story and then chuckle or grin as they fade off the screen. The producers know that we all want membership in that Silver-Lining Society.

We do experience the various sufferings of Job and the risings of mama-in-law. It's amazing how different personalities either react or respond to hurts and losses. Reacting is an instinctual impulse; a knee-jerk flash. Job is having one in our First Reading. Responding is a more personal involvement. This responding is not centered in asking "why" or "what is God asking of me?" In conversations we often fail to hear something or misinterpret what is said. Life is so much like a very long conversation.

Jesus did heal many of the illnesses He encountered as signs of a deeper healing of our human condition. The hardest thing to hear in all this life-long conversing is that after all, we are humans! Healings, happy-endings, smiles and contentment's are temporary! There is more than suffering of course and some have more to drink of that cup than others.

There are no easy answers to resolve the questions about suffering. Even Jesus is not an easy answer to our humanity, but in His Divine relationship with God He can help to move us from reacting to responding. Suffering, as much as we dislike it, can assist us to be more available to our humanity and that of others. Sorry, no happy-ending story for this one. May God bless and keep you safe. Shalom.

Father's Funnies

A young man from Texas walks into a bar and orders a beer. The bartender replies, "Ya got any ID? The Texan say's "An idee about what?"

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

- SUN 2/7** Jb 7:1-4, 6-7/Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [cf. 3a]/1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23/Mk 1:29-39
- MON 2/8** Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104:1-2a, 5-6, 10 and 12, 24 and 35c [31b]/Mk 6:53-56
- TUE 2/9** Gn 1:20—2:4a/Ps 8:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [2ab]/Mk 7:1-13
- WED 2/10** Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104:1-2a, 27-28, 29bc-30 [1a]/Mk 7:14-23
- THR 2/11** Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128:1-2, 3, 4-5 [cf. 1a]/Mk 7:24-30
- FRI 2/12** Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 6, 7 [1a]/Mk 7:31-37
- SAT 2/13** Gn 3:9-24/Ps 90:2, 3-4abc, 5-6, 12-13 [1]/Mk 8:1-10
- SUN 2/14** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45

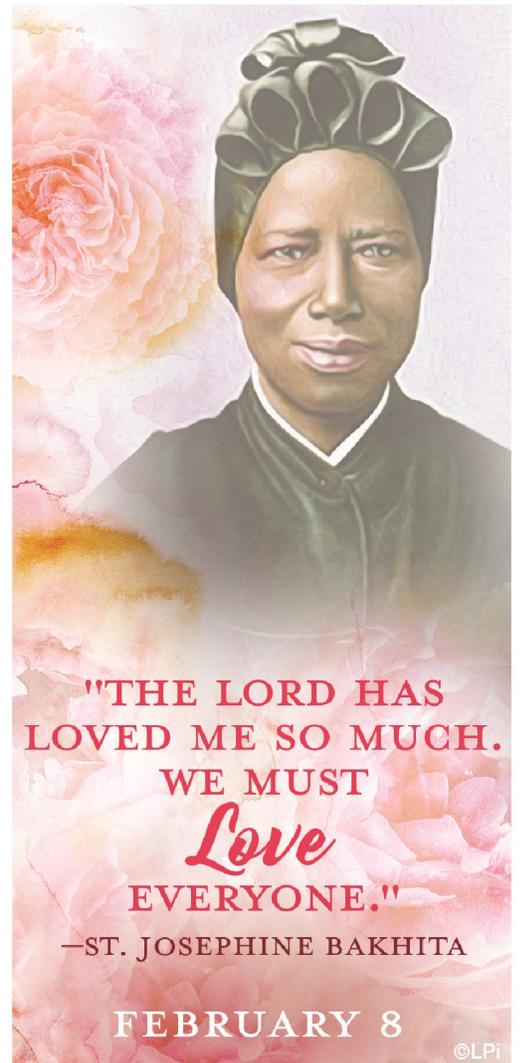
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

- Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
- Monday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
- Wednesday: St. Scholastica, Virgin
- Thursday: Our Lady of Lourdes
- Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary
- Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Valentine's Day

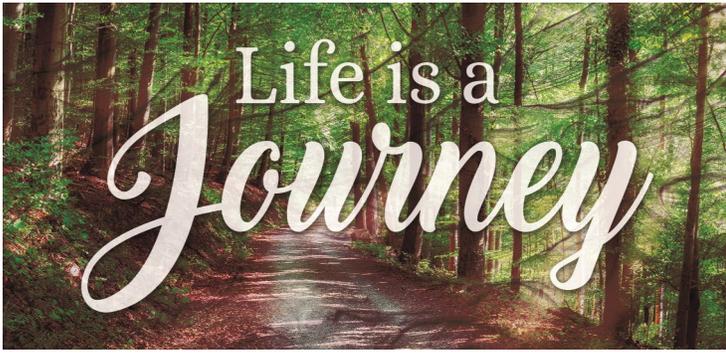
LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it's intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God's healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises.



All you
need is
Grace



A Prayer Time to Calm Your Mind

You are invited to join our
**Centering Prayer / Contemplative Prayer
group.**

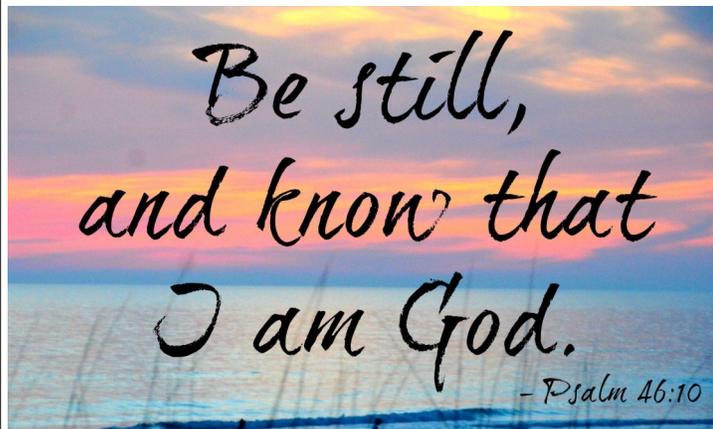
We meet via Zoom every other Thursday night until we
can meet again in person.

What is Centering or Contemplative Prayer?

It is prayer that awakens and prepares the mind to
know God better and rest in God's presence while
calming our mind at the same time. We let go of what
is going around and within us and meet God in the
moment. It is a long journey that helps us rediscover
the JOY within that we lost. It is the opening of mind
and heart – our whole being – to God, beyond thoughts,
words, and emotions.

The Thursday gathering starts at 7 PM and last for a
little over an hour. The time includes a short
contemplative reading, 20 minutes of being quiet in
silent prayer, 20 minutes of a video (led by nationally
known Catholic Contemplative teachers), and about 20
minutes of sharing and discussion.
(When COVID restrictions allow, we will also have a
Tuesday morning group meeting in person)

For more information, Please contact Mike or Jean
Walters at ... (509) 939-2185 –
waltersmichaelh@gmail.com



THE AUDACITY OF HOLINESS

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking
about piety — that's important, too, in its own
way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

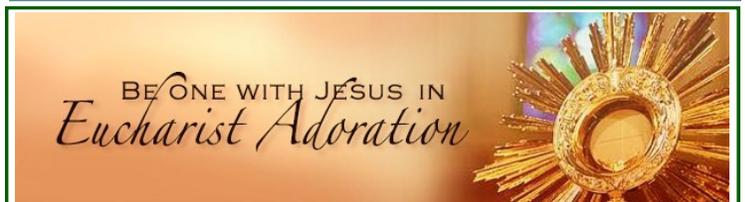
St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness “a
disposition of the heart that makes us humble
and little in the arms of God, aware of our
weakness, and confident — in the most
audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness.”

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon
of life, and rather than give themselves over to
fear and despair (natural and understandable
reactions), regards the gathering winds as an
opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy
person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it
with charity and understanding that defies our
fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of
a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't
until she took his hand and allowed him to
help her up that “the fever left her and she
waited on them.” Before the fever could leave
her, she had to commit to holiness — to put
her trust in him in a most audacious way. She
had to find it within herself to lift her weakened
hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she
was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she
gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will
we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride
and worldly concerns rages in our souls?
Will we muster the strength? Will we be
audacious enough to have confidence in
His Fatherly goodness?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS



Thursdays
from 8:45-4pm in the side chapel



WOMEN'S CLUB NEWS

The Women's Club would like to thank everyone for the wonderful support you have shown to us during this trying time of Covid 19. The Virtual Cookies in a Can and the donations for the books was phenomenal.

Since we know how hard this pandemic has been on everyone, we at the Women's Club are going to be calling those who are unable to attend services in person to see what we as a parish can do to help and support them. If you know someone who is not attending church regularly, please call Renee Lewis at 995-3898 or Anita Smith at 218-0059. We will send them the newly printed weekly bulletin and call them to do a spiritual "well check".

For those interested in attending our monthly meetings, we are doing a zoom group meeting the second Tuesday of each month. For information on how to join in, call one of the officers listed above.

We still have plenty of calendars and missals left in you are in need. They are in the bak of the church by the choir. Donations for the missals are appreciated but not mandatory. Due to the current state-wide restrictions on meetings, we are unable to have our yearly card party. However, as a fundraiser, we will still be raffling off not one, not two, but THREE

 beautifully hand made quilts. We will be sending  raffle tickets to all the

women in the parish. If we miss you, and you would like tickets, please let us know and we will gladly send tickets to you. If you have any suggestions for further fundraisers, please let the Women's Club know.

And that is the hubbub from the Women's Club.



WELCOME

Welcome to our new maintenance man Brian Sandner! Brian is married to Wendy Sandner (Muzatko) and together they have 2 children. Brian is excited to start work at the parish and we are excited to have him!

UPDATES AND INFO

Please check our Facebook page [St Francis of Assisi Catholic Parish Spokane | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/stfrancisofassisi.catholic.parish.spokane)



and our Web page <https://stfrancisofassisispokane.org/>



for up to date info and messages from Fr Mike



Frank Rose, Steve Rij, Don & Mary DeLuca, Florence Himelspach, Kathy Bromley, Dana Duvanich, Janice Duvanich, Anita Smith,

Rita Loft, David Francis, Ramona Jones, Marylin Connolly-Overbey, Kathy White, Ellen Turnbull, Michael Brick, Kathryn Brown, Tom Chadler, Melissa Bromley, Mike Arcondizy, Steve Wren, MaryAnn Forcier, Gary Turnbull, Brian Chandler, Marlene Weller, Charlie Johnson, Nancy Sims, Stanley Mundell, Jean Rottmayer, Joyce Johnson, Tom Bienemann, Helen Arzen, Kelly Carrubba, Linda McPeek, Jan Martin, Bill Kendall, Manny Baumbauer and Lindsey Fry



Manfred Baumbauer
Mary Morton
Frank Rose
Tom Bienemann
Pearl Leach
Lowell Pederson
David Clark

Pauline Marienau Kathy Bromley