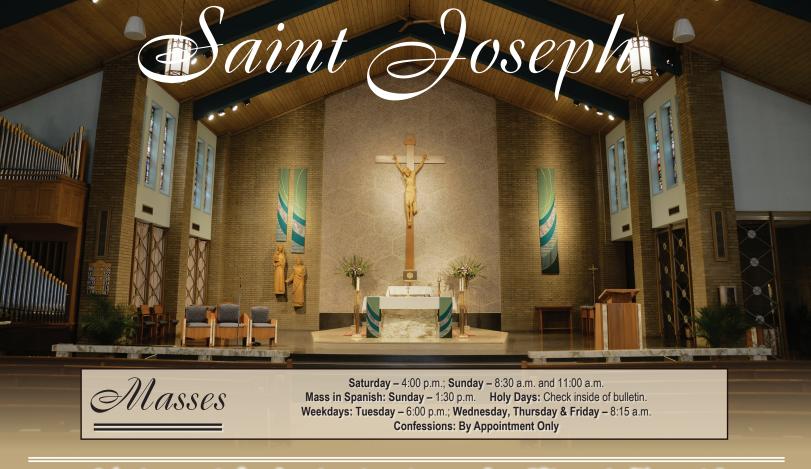
The Catholic Community of



"In the spirit of St. Joseph, we lovingly serve Jesus Christ and His people."

Parish Office Hours: 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday

- PARISH STAFF: Rev. James Hatfield, Pastor; Deacon Ronald Fondriest, Retired; Ms. Brenda Stilgenbauer, Pastoral Associate; Ms. Cindy Teynor, Director of Religious Education; Mrs. Kateri Renicker, Religious Education Secretary; Mr. Matthew Nadalin, Director of Music Ministry; Mrs. Jodi Lindberg, Bookkeeper; Mrs. Betty Bidinger, Coordinator of Family Life Center; Mr. Russ Clay & Mr. Coleman Boring, Church and Cemetery Maintenance; and Mr. Neal Kwasnicka, Custodian.
- FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Mr. Brian Bauer, Mr. Chris Chaney, Mr. Mark Clemence, Mr. Jack Dooling, Mr. Dennis Gonano, Mr. Jan-Michael LaBrake, Mrs. Brenda Pope, Mr. Frank Rose, Mr. Joe Sciarretti.
- MARRIAGES Arrangements should be made through the Parish Office at least eight months before any other planning.
- ◆ BAPTISMS Baptisms are celebrated on Sunday at 12:30 p.m. (outside of Mass). Parents must attend the Baptismal Preparation Program. This is at 7:00 p.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the Family Life Center. Godparents are also welcome to attend. Please pre-register by calling the Parish Office.
- ◆ BAUTISMOS Bautismo en español se celebran una vez al mes después de la Misa el Domingo. Los padres y padrinos deben recibir charles de preparación en el Centro Familiar. Deben inscribirse llamando a las Oficinas de la Parroquia.
- ♦ NEW PARISHIONERS Please register in person at the Parish Office or complete a registration form (available in church). Please return to Parish Office or put in collection.
- BULLETIN ANNOUNCEMENTS Please have bulletin announcements to the Parish Office by 3:00 p.m. on Monday, or e-mail stjosephchurch@roadrunner.com.

Parish Office: 330-364-6661

After Hours Emergency Line: 330-364-6662

Fax: 330-602-7488

Youth Ministry: 330-364-6661

Hispanic Ministry: 330-432-0811

Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School:

330-343-9134

Tuscarawas Central Catholic High School: 330-343-3302

St. Joseph Church Dover, Ohio 44622

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time February 6 and 7, 2021 Febrero 6 y 7 del 2021



Mass Intentions

Monday, February 8

No Mass

Readings: 329: Gn 1:1-19/Ps 104/Mk 6:53-56

Tuesday, February 9

No Mass

Readings: 330: Gn 1:20-2:4/Ps 8/7:1-13

Wednesday, February 10

No Mass

Readings: 331: Gn 2:4b-9, 15-17/Ps 104/Mk 7:14-23

Thursday, February 11

No Mass

Readings: 332: Gn 2:18-25/Ps 128/Mk 7:24-30

Friday, February 12

No Mass

Readings: 333: Gn 3:1-8/Ps 32/Mk 7:31-37

Saturday, February 13

The Vigil of The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

4:00 p.m. Ken and Norina Gold

Sunday, February 14

The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

8:30 a.m. Jack Reese11:00 a.m. Angela Owsley1:30 p.m. People of the Parish

(Mass in Spanish)

Readings: 77: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32/

1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Offertory for January 30 and 31, 2021

Loose Cash and Checks	\$	6,782.00
Adult Weekly Envelopes	\$	5,658.00
Online Giving	\$	2,753.00
Total	\$	6,983.00
Contributions needed each week	\$	15,193.00
	Oth	er Funds:
Poor Fund	\$	220.00
Capital Improvement	\$	32.00
St. Joseph School Subsidy	\$	240.00
Other Contributions	\$	255.00

Your contributions make the mission of St. Joseph Parish possible and keep our parish financially sound.

Thank you for your generosity!

Ministry Schedule

Tuesday, February 9 – 6:00 p.m. – Mary Salvo Wednesday, February 10 – 8:15 a.m. – Jack Burnham Thursday, February 11 – 8:15 a.m. – Jeannine Kennedy Friday, February 12 – 8:15 a.m. – Lyle Tope

February 13 and 14, 2021 4:00 p.m. Mass

Lector: Mary DeBois

Ushers: Cathy Bambeck, Jack Bambeck, Mary DeBois,

Kateri Renicker, Server: Cecilia Hostetler

8:30 a.m. Mass

Lector: Jeannine Kennedy

Ushers: Chris Chaney, Kelly Chaney, John Karl, Max Burnham, Ronnie Saffell, Joanne Hamilton,

Milt Hamilton Server: Peter Nguyen

11:00 a.m. Mass

Lector: Sue Worth

Ushers: George Kail, Patti DeVault, Mike Ernest,

Christine Avers, Volunteers Needed

Server: Nick Williams

The Church also will be open for individual prayer on:
Mondays from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Tuesdays from 1:00 p.m. until Mass begins at 6:00 p.m.
Wednesdays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1:00 p.m.
Thursdays following 8:15 a.m. Mass until 1:00 p.m.
Fridays following 8:15 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.
Saturdays from 1:00 p.m. until
Mass begins at 4:00 p.m.

Confessions are available by appointment. Please call the Parish Office if you would like to schedule a time.



Prayer Chain: To place your request on the Prayer Chain, please call the Parish Office or Charlene Herzig at 330-343-1063. If no one is available, please leave a message.

Please remember in your prayers all the sick, homebound, and recovering in our parish. Also, pray for those coping with physical or mental conditions.

Please include all those on our prayer lists who have asked for our prayers, and those who have no one to pray for them.

Spiritual Notes:

Today's first reading reminds us that we all experience difficulty in our lives; it is part of the human condition. Life can seem like a "drudgery," filled with months of misery and troubled nights. But the Book of Job ultimately calls us to recognize that all we have comes from God, and that our destiny is in God's hands. we are called to hope in God's goodness. Paul tells the Corinthians that his mission of preaching the gospel is "an obligation.... imposed on me" by God. His task is to win over as many as possible, both Jews and gentiles, those outside the law. In this preaching he is helping to fulfill God's will of saving as many as will accept the word, so that I too may have a share in it. In the Gospel today, Jesus's cure of Simon Peter's mother in law serves to illustrate Jesus's authority once again, an idea we encountered last week. Her response is to minister to Jesus and His disciples. Mark then tells us that when the Sabbath was over, after sunset, they brought to Him all who were ill or possessed by demons, and Jesus continues to exercise His authority by healing them. Jesus does not allow the demons to speak because they knew Him. This silencing is another example of Jesus's power, which is superior to that of the demons. We will encounter this theme frequently in Mark's text.

For reflection: When have I empathized with Job? How did I get through the suffering? Like Peter's mother in law, God has blessed me in many ways. What has been my response?

Please keep Jack Resse, age 95, who died on Saturday, January 30, 2021, in your prayers. Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon him. Also, please keep Jack's family in your prayers.

Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2020 Masses will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

This year, due to COVID-19, parishioners will receive ashes in a different way. The manner in which non-English speaking countries receive ashes is by having them sprinkled on the crown of their heads. Sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head recalls the biblical method of putting on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penance: "Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth upon their heads." (Neh 9:1) The American method of putting ashes on the forehead, usually in the sign of the cross, allows the ashes to be visible to others so that the communal, penitential nature of the day might be more readily visible. As ashes will be distributed by the manner of sprinkling, there are some things that one should be aware. First, when receiving ashes, simply bow your head. Second, since ashes may fall off of your head, it may be best to wear something that will not show the dark ashes. If you have any questions or concerns, please call the Parish Office.



There are baskets at each of the entrances to return any of your old blessed palm. We will burn them and they will be used on Ash Wednesday.

St. Joseph Soup Kitchen

Everyone is welcome!!
We are currently passing out takeout meals for all those in need.

February 10, 2021 – Team F (Boy Scouts) February 17, 2021 – Team G (Joan Wenzel) February 24, 2021 – Team H (Cindy Jones) March 3, 2021 – Team I (Isabellas)

Thank you for your support!



Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School Be A Saint!

The Tuscarawas County Catholic Schools are now accepting applications for enrollment in the 2021-2022 school year. Visit www.Be-A-Saint.org for more information and links to our school websites and application forms.

- Loving and supportive environment built on the Gospel Values and teachings of Jesus Christ.
- Small class sizes where students receive the individual attention they need to succeed.
- Dedicated and passionate teaching staff committed to student success.
- Opportunities to participate in co-curricular activities without getting lost in the crowd.
- Affordable tuition rates and EdChoice Scholarship program.

Call us to arrange a visit and tour to meet our students and staff!

For a Catholic perspective, *The Catholic Times* weekly newspaper features insightful and informative news around our diocese, our country, and the world. Sign up for, or continue receiving *The Catholic Times* for another year by placing your Catholic Times envelope, (or a plain envelope marked Catholic Times with your name and address) with a minimum donation of only \$17.00 into the regular Mass collection. Checks should be made payable to St. Joseph Church. As an evangelization tool, Bishop Brennan encourages every Catholic household to receive *The Catholic Times*.

Greeters Needed!

Are you interested in being a Greeter at Mass? This is a ministry your whole family can do together. Greeters welcome people to Mass and answer basic questions from our parishioners and our guests. If you would like to volunteer, please call the Parish Office.

St. Joseph Calvary Cemetery

If you are interested in purchasing lots, or if you have questions regarding rules and regulations, please call Russ in the Parish Office and he will be happy to assist

Office of Social Concerns - Action Alerts! https://columbuscatholic.org/social-concerns-office

The Social Concerns Office is encouraging the faithful to pray the Prayer of St. Francis during these turbulent times.

Peace Prayer of Saint Francis

Lord, make me an instrument of your peace: where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; where there is sadness, joy.

O divine Master, grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled as to console, to be understood as to understand, to be loved as to love. For it is in giving that we receive, it is in pardoning that we are pardoned, and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.

Immigration Reform

With a new Congress, comes a renewed debate on immigration reform. The immigration system is broken. Visit the USCCB's Justice for Immigrants Campaign website for the latest action alerts and education resources, www.justiceforimmigrants.org.



"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby

villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come."' - Mark 1:35, 38

In today's Gospel reading, we see a perfect example of stewardship. Jesus gives His time to do all that God wishes - healing the sick and preaching. But before He begins, Jesus makes time to be alone with God in prayer. It is through prayer, spending time with God, that we find the strength to do what He wishes us to do. Be sure to find time every day to be with God.

Learn how you can show your faith by supporting your parish and contact The Catholic Foundation. Visit www.catholic-foundation.org/development for more information.



i Other Information To Note: (i



Mass Intentions: Please be reminded that any parishioner is welcome to request Masses be celebrated for deceased or living loved ones. To schedule a Mass Intention, please contact the Parish Office.

Low-Gluten Hosts: If you are a person who needs to receive a low-gluten host because of wheat allergies or celiac disease, please call the Parish Office.

Bulletin deadline: The bulletin deadline is Monday at 3:00 p.m. Please include your contact information with phone number and email address. Bulletin notices may be in writing, faxed to 330-602-7488, dropped off, or emailed to stjosephchurch@ roadrunner.com



Online Giving. If you manage your bills online, we're sure you'll like giving to your church Online Giving online. It's safe and secure, and you decide exactly

when your gift is made and where it goes. To get started, please visit www.stjosephdover.org. If you have any questions or need assistance, please call the Parish Office.

The Holy Father's Prayer Intentions February 2021

Violence against women

We pray for women who are victims of violence, that they may be protected by society and have their sufferings considered and heeded.

For more information, the latest news, bulletins, and more, please visit our website at www.stjosephdover.org

other useful and educational websites www.colsdioc.org www.usccb.org www.catholic.org www.americancatholic.org www.vatican.va

"A parish is the presence of the Church in a given territory, an environment for hearing God's word, for growth in the Christian life, for dialogue, proclamation, charitable outreach, worship and celebration." - Pope Francis

OUR ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK is Haus Body Shop. Please patronize our advertisers. They make our bulletin possible. Thank You! This bulletin is furnished to the parish without charge. The advertisements that appear, completely defray all publishing costs, with which the church would otherwise be burdened. Please patronize these sponsors as a thank-you for their kind generosity.





February

St. Joseph Cathedral 212 E. Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215 8AM to 8PM

St. Vincent de Paul, Mt. Vernon 303 E. High St, Mt. Vernon, OH 43050 Wednesday 5PM to Thursday 5PM

St. Patrick, Columbus 280 N. Grant Ave, Columbus, OH 43215 7:30AM to 8PM

St. John Neumann, Sunbury 9633 E, OH-37, Sunbury, OH 43074 7:30AM to 8PM

Immaculate Conception, Kenton 215 E. North St, Kenton, OH 43326 9AM to 9PM

St. Joan of Arc, Powell 10700 Liberty Rd, Powell, OH 43065 7:30AM to 8PM

St. Mark, Lancaster 324 Gay St, Lancaster, OH 43130 8:30AM to 9PM

Our Lady of Peace, Columbus 20 E. Dominion St, Columbus, OH 43214 8:30AM to 9PM

St. Mary of the Assumption, Lancaster 132 S. High St, Lancaster, OH 43130 7:30AM to 9PM

Our Lady of Lourdes, Ada 300 E. Highland Ave, Ada, OH 45810 9AM to 9PM

St. Mary, Marion 251 N. Main St, Marion, OH 43302 Friday 7PM to Saturday 7PM

St. Anthony of Padua, Columbus 1300 Urban Dr. Columbus, OH 43229 7AM to 8PM

St. Leo's Oratory, Columbus 221 Hanford St, Columbus, OH 43206 10:30AM to 9PM March

St. Thomas, Columbus 767 N. Cassady Ave, Columbus, OH 43219 9AM to 9PM

Holy Name, Columbus 154 E. Patterson Ave, Columbus, OH 43202 Monday 9PM to Tuesday 9PM

St. Brendan the Navigator, Hilliard 4475 Dublin Rd, Hilliard, OH 43026 7AM to 9PM

> St. Mary, Waverly 407 S. Market St, Waverly, OH 45690 6:30AM to 7:30PM

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, Pickerington 600 Hill Rd N, Pickerington, OH 43147

St. Margaret of Cortona, Columbus 1600 N. Hague Ave, Columbus, OH 43204 6:30AM to 7:30PM

St. Matthew the Apostle, Gahanna 807 Havens Corners Rd, Gahanna, OH 43230

> St. Brigid of Kildare, Dublin 7179 Avery Road, Dublin, OH 43017 9AM to 5PM

St. Colman of Cloyne, Washington C.H. 219 S. North St , Washington C.H., OH 43160 9AM to 9PM

Church of the Resurrection, New Albany 6300 E. Dublin-Granville Rd, New Albany, OH 43054

St. Paul the Apostle, Westerville 313 N. State St, Westerville, OH 43082 Sunday 7PM to Monday 7PM

Christ the King, Columbus 2777 E. Livingston Ave, Columbus, OH 43209 7AM to 8PM

St. Rose of Lima, New Lexington 309 N. High St, New Lexington, OH 43764 8:30AM to 9PM

St. Christopher, Columbus 1420 Grandview Ave, Columbus, OH 43212 9AM to 4PM

> St. Peter, Chillicothe 118 Church St, Chillicothe, OH 45601 10AM to 7PM

St. Mary, German Village 684 S. 3rd St, Columbus, OH 43206

Sacred Heart, New Philadelphia 139 3rd St NE, New Philadelphia, OH 44663 8AM to 8PM

> St. Michael the Archangel 5750 N. High St, Worthington, OH 43085 8AM to 8PM

St. Joseph, Dover 613 N. Tuscarawas Ave, Dover, OH 44622 9:30AM to 9PM

> St. Mary Magdalene, Columbus 473 S. Roys Ave, Columbus, OH 43204

St. Joseph, Plain City 140 West Ave, Plain City, OH 43064 6AM to 9PM

St. Agatha, Upper Arlington 1860 Northam Rd, Upper Arlington, OH 43221 8:30AM to 8:30PM

Blessed Sacrament, Newark 394 E. Main St, Newark, OH 43055 8AM to 10PM

St. Francis de Sales, Newark 40 Granville St, Newark, OH 43055 Wednesday 7PM to Thursday 7PM

St. James the Less, Columbus 1652 Oakland Park Ave, Columbus, OH 43224 9AM to 9PM

Immaculate Conception, Columbus 414 E.-N. Broadway St, Columbus, OH 43214 7AM to 8PM

St. Mary of the Annunciation, Portsmouth 5th & Market St, Portsmouth, OH 45662 9AM to 9PM

> St. Cecilia, Columbus 434 Norton Rd, Columbus, OH 43228 4:30AM to 4:30PM

St. Patrick, London 61 S. Union St, London, OH 43140 8 AM to 8 PM

St. Peter, Columbus 6899 Smoky Row Rd, Columbus, OH 43235 9 AM to 9 PM

St. Andrew, Upper Arlington 1899 McCoy Rd, Columbus, OH 43220 9 AM to 9 PM

St. Pius X, Reynoldsburg 1051 S. Waggoner Rd, Reynoldsburg, OH 43060 9 AM to 9 PM

Holy Family, Columbus 584 W. Broad St, Columbus, OH 43215 Thursday 8AM to Friday at 12PM

St. Mary, Delaware 82 E. William St. Delaware, OH 43Q15 9:30AM to 6PM

St. Bernadette, Lancaster
1343 Wheeling Rd NE, Lancaster, OH 43130
4AM to 4PM

St. Catharine of Sienna, Columbus 500 S. Gould Rd, Columbus, OH 43209 9:30AM to 8PM

Updated 1/25/2021



Diocese to begin 40 Days of Adoration on Ash Wednesday

Bishop Robert Brennan calls upon the Diocese of Columbus to celebrate Jesus Christ's Real Presence in Eucharist in a special way this Lent. St. Joseph will be participating on March 14th. We will begin sign ups soon.

Starting on Ash Wednesday, February 17th, the diocese will launch 40 Days of Adoration. Every day for 40 days, a different parish throughout the diocese will host Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament for Adoration throughout the day.

Some of the hosting parishes will expose the Eucharist for 24 hours or longer. Others will expose the Blessed Sacrament after their morning Mass and conclude with Benediction in the evening.

Parishioners and families of host parishes, neighboring parishes and Catholic school communities are encouraged to volunteer for shifts to pray before the Blessed Sacrament on the parish's designated day. Even though local parishes are sponsoring each day of Adoration, the entire Diocese of Columbus is asked to participate. An ancient custom from the Church of Rome is to visit a different "stational church" each day of Lent. In the same manner, the people of the church of Columbus are invited to visit and spend time with Jesus in the Eucharist at as many different host parishes on their day of Adoration. The schedule of host parishes is available at columbus catholic.org/40days.

Bishop Brennan invites everyone to a time of Adoration this Lent.

"Our habit of adoring the Lord is so very appropriate. Remember at the Last Supper, the night before Jesus died, what did he say?" asked Bishop Brennan. "He brought his disciples in the garden and he said to them. 'Stay with me. Pray with me.' That's what Jesus is inviting us into during Adoration. When we're in front of the Blessed Sacrament we experience the Lord's presence in a very profound way. To me, that is what I enjoy most about Adoration - having that moment to simply pour out my heart and maybe say nothing, but just be there with the Lord as a friend."

The reason for this Lenten 40 Days of Adoration campaign is twofold. First, emerging from the COVID pandemic, it is fitting to celebrate the great gift of Jesus Christ in the Eucharist. Many have not yet returned from the temporary halt to public Masses and from the dispensation from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. This special time of Adoration is an invitation for all Catholics to remember the centrality of Christ's Real Presence.

"There are times where we have Adoration through Exposition when the Blessed Sacrament is exposed in a monstrance so that we can focus even more sharply on the presence of the Lord in the Eucharist. You see, it's important simply to be with the Lord," said Bishop Brennan.

The second reason for the Lenten 40 Days of Adoration throughout the diocese is to prepare for planning for the future presence of the Church and her mission to evangelize the local community. Bishop Brennan's stated goal for diocesan planning is to "build belief and reliance on the Eucharist through opportunities for Adoration, Confession and a return to public worship" and to "engage all individual Catholics to reflect upon the Real Presence of the Lord in their lives and how they can share that presence with others."

For more information, please call the Parish Office.

Iglesias San José Ministerios Hispanos Quinto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario 7 de Febrero del 2021



Calendario Litúrgico:
<u>Misas en Español</u>

Domingo Febrero 14 1:30 p.m.

Miércoles de Ceniza 14 de Febrero 8:15 a.m. y 6:00 p.m.

Domingo Febrero 21 1:30 p.m.

Confesiones con cita previa.

Misas en Ingles

Sábados 4:00 p.m. Domingos 8:30 a.m. y 11:00 a.m.

<u>Intenciones de Oración del Santo Padre</u> <u>Febrero 2021</u>

Violencia contra la mujer

Recemos por las mujeres que son víctimas de la violencia, para que sean protegidas por la sociedad y para que su sufrimiento sea considerado y escuchado.

Creo, Jesús mío, que estás real y verdaderamente en el cielo y en el Santísimo Sacramento del Altar.
Os amo sobre todas las cosas y deseo vivamente recibirte dentro de mi alma, pero no pudiendo hacerlo ahora sacramentalmente, venid al menos espiritualmente a mi corazón.
Y como si ya os hubiese recibido, os abrazo y me uno del todo a Ti.
Señor, no permitas que jamás me aparte de Ti.
Amén.



Por favor, recuerde en su oración, a todos los enfermos, al salir de casa, y la recuperación de nuestra parroquia. Además, orar por aquellos que sufren de condiciones físicas o mentales.

Clase de Bautismo: La próxima clase será en el Centro Familiar San José. 330-364-6661.

Sacramentos. Si necesita sacramentos como: Penitencia, Comunión o Confirmación, por favor regístrese en la Iglesia. 330-364-6661.

Notas Espirituales:

En la primera visita de Jesús a la sinagoga en el Evangelio de Marcos, nos encontramos con una clave en este evangelista escriben: la autoridad de Jesús. Prueba de ello es tanto en sus palabras - "la gente se admiraba de su doctrina, porque les enseñaba como quien tiene autoridad" - y en el exorcismo del espíritu inmundo. A diferencia de otro exorcismo de su época, que utiliza muchas palabras al realizar exorcismos, Jesús ordena al espíritu inmundo con sólo dos palabras en el texto griego, y se va. La brevedad de su mando ilustra su poder sobre el espíritu.

En el libro de Deuteronomio, Moisés prometió al pueblo que en un futuro Dios enviará "un profeta como yo" para dirigir al pueblo. Este deseo de un intermediario entre el Señor y el pueblo se basa en su experiencia del gran poder de Dios en el Monte Sinaí, mediada a través de Moisés. Las personas creen que para experimentar a Dios cara a cara es arriesgar la muerte. Dios promete "levantaré un profeta... (que) les diré todo lo que yo os mando". A través de los siglos, esta figura profética llegó a ser entendido como el Mesías anhelado.

Pablo continúa aconsejando a los Corintios con la expectativa de segunda inminente venida de Cristo, como hemos escuchado la semana pasada. Su consejo para los que no están casados, que deben abstenerse de casarse, se basa en la idea de que quien no está casado puede dedicar más tiempo a servir al Señor. Si la venida del Señor está cerca, entonces centrarse en las cosas de Dios es aconsejable. Aunque no esperamos el regreso de Jesús pronto, todavía podemos seguir el consejo de Pablo asegurándose de nuestras vidas tienen un sentido de equilibrio entre los asuntos del mundo y las cosas de Dios.

Para la reflexión: ¿De qué manera he experimentado la autoridad de Jesús? ¿Alguna vez he experimentado el poder liberador de Dios en mi vida o en la vida de otro?



Lectio Divina

SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

"Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with the sick. A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned. To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters."

~Message of Pope Francis for the 29th World Day of the Sick, February 11

Monday, February 8 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Jerome Emiliani, Priest; Saint Josephine Bakhita, Virgin

Holy Gospel: Mark 6:53-56 After making the crossing to the other side of the sea, Jesus and his disciples came to land at Gennesaret and tied up there. As they were leaving the boat, people immediately recognized him. They scurried about the surrounding country and began to bring in the sick on mats to wherever they heard he was. Whatever villages or towns or countryside he entered, they laid the sick in the marketplaces and begged him that they might touch only the tassel on his cloak; and as many as touched it were healed.

Meditation: Faith is an entirely free gift which God makes to us through the power of the Holy Spirit. Believing and trusting in God to act in our lives is only possible by the grace and help of the Holy Spirit who moves the heart and converts it to God. The Holy Spirit opens the eyes of the mind and helps us to understand, accept, and believe God's word. How do we grow in faith? By listening to God's word with trust and submission. Faith also grows through testing and perseverance. The Lord wants to teach us how to pray in faith for his will for our lives and for the things he wishes to give us to enable us to follow him faithfully and serve him generously. Jesus gave his disciples the perfect prayer which acknowledges God as our Father who provides generously for his children. The Lord's prayer teaches us to seek first the kingdom of God and to pray that God's will be accomplished in our lives. The Lord in turn, gives us what we need to live each day for his glory. The Lord is never too distant nor too busy to meet us and to give his blessing. Do you pray to the Father with confidence that he will show you his will and give you what you need to follow him? Ask the Lord to increase your faith and gratitude for his merciful love and provision for your life.

Prayer ~ Saint Jerome Emiliani: O God, Father of mercies, who sent Saint Jerome Emiliani as a helper and father to orphans, grant through his intercession, that we may preserve faithfully the spirit of adoption, by which we are called, and truly are, your children. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

Prayer ~ Saint Josephine Bakhita: O God, who led Saint Josephine Bakhita from abject slavery to the dignity of being your daughter and a bride of Christ, grant, we pray, that by her example we may show constant love for the Lord Jesus crucified, remaining steadfast in charity and prompt to show compassion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

Contemplation: Do you recognize the Lord's presence in your life? The gospel records that when Jesus disembarked from the boat the people immediately recognized him. What did they recognize in Jesus? A prophet, a healer, the Messiah, the Son of God? For sure they recognized that Jesus had power from God to heal and to make whole bodies, limbs, minds, and hearts that were beset with disease, affliction, and sin. What happened when they pressed upon him and touched the fringe of his garment? They were made well. The Lord Jesus is ever ready to meet our needs as well. Do you approach him with expectant faith?

As we begin the Season of Lent this week, perhaps we need to examine our level of faith, our sincerity of faith, so that we may grow in our faith of Christ.

Tuesday, February 9 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:1-3 When the Pharisees with some scribes who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus, they observed that some of his disciples ate their meals with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. (For the Pharisees and, in fact, all Jews, do not eat without carefully washing their hands, keeping the tradition of the elders. And on coming from the marketplace they do not eat without purifying themselves. And there are many other things that they have traditionally observed, the purification of cups and jugs and kettles and beds.) So the Pharisees and scribes questioned him, "Why do your disciples not follow the tradition of the elders but instead eat a meal with unclean hands?" He responded, "Well did Isaiah prophesy about you hypocrites, as it is written: This people honors me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me; in vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines human precepts. You disregard God's commandment but cling to human tradition." He went on to say, "How well you have set aside the commandment of God in order to uphold your tradition! For Moses said, Honor your father and your mother, and Whoever curses father or mother shall die. Yet you say, 'If someone says to father or mother, "Any support you might have had from me is qorban" (meaning, dedicated to God), you allow him to do nothing more for his father or mother. You nullify the word of God in favor of your tradition that you have handed on. And you do many such things."

Meditation: The Scribes and Pharisees accused Jesus' disciples of breaking their ritual traditions. Jesus deals with the accusation by going to the heart of the matter – by looking at God's intention and purpose for the commandments. Jesus explains that they void God's command because they allow their hearts and minds to be clouded by their own notions of religion. Jesus accuses them specifically of two things. First of hypocrisy. Like actors, who put on a show, they appear to obey God's word in their external practices while they inwardly harbor evil desires and intentions. Secondly, he accuses them of abandoning God's word by substituting their own arguments and interpretations of what God requires us to do. They paid more attention to their own legal arguments rather than God's word. Jesus refers them to the prophecy of Isaiah (29:31) where the prophet accuses the people of his day for honoring God with their lips while their hearts were far away from choosing and doing what God asked of them. If we listen to God's word with faith and reverence, it will both enlighten our mind and purify the hearts - thus enabling us to better understand how he wants us to love and obey him.

Prayer: Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus and his disciples apparently upset some of the religious leaders of Jerusalem who had invited them over for dinner. What did they do wrong? They apparently neglected the Jewish custom of washing their hands before eating. Such an offence was not only bad table manners, but it also caused ritual impurity for the religious-minded Jews. Jesus was publicly scolded as a rabbi who should have known better to instruct his disciples to keep themselves ritually clean. Jesus' response, however, caught his hosts off guard. Jesus turned the table on his accusing hosts by chiding them for their uncleanness of heart. The Lord invites each of us to draw near to him and to feast at his banquet table. Do you approach with a clean heart and mind? Ask the Lord to cleanse and renew you with the purifying fire of his Holy Spirit.

Wednesday, February 10 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time Saint Scholastica, Virgin

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:14-23 Jesus summoned the crowd again and said to them, "Hear me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that enters one from outside can defile that person; but the things that come out from within are what defile." When he got home away from the crowd his disciples questioned him about the parable. He said to them, "Are even you likewise without understanding? Do you not realize that everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile, since it enters not the heart but the stomach and passes out into the latrine?" (Thus he declared all foods clean.) "But what comes out of the man, that is what defiles him. From within the man, from his heart, come evil thoughts, unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly. All these evils come from within and they defile."

Meditation: Remember the story of Cain and Abel, when Cain became jealous of his brother Abel and God warned Cain to guard his own heart: "Sin is couching at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it" (ref. Genesis 4:7). Unfortunately, Cain did not take God's warning to heart. He allowed his jealousy to grow into spite and hatred for his brother, and he began to look for an opportunity to eliminate his brother altogether. When jealously and other sinful desires come knocking at the door of your heart, how do you respond? Do you entertain them and allow them to overtake you? Do you slam the door to keep these sinful desires out? Fortunately God does not leave us alone in our struggle with hurtful desires and sinful tendencies. He gives us the grace and strength we need to resist and overcome sin when it approaches the door of our heart.

Prayer: As we celebrate anew the Memorial of the Virgin Saint Scholastica, we pray, O Lord, that, following her example, we may serve you with pure love and happily receive what comes from loving you. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ wants to set us free from the burden of guilt and from the destructive force of sin in our personal lives. He wants to purify our hearts and renew our minds so that we can love and act in every situation as he would love and act. The Lord is ready to change and purify our hearts through the grace and help of the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Like a physician who examines the wound before treating it, God through his Word and Spirit first brings sin into the light that we may recognize it for what it truly is and call upon his mercy and grace for pardon and healing. The Spirit of truth is our Consoler and Helper. His power and grace enables us to choose what is good and to reject what is evil. Do you believe in the power of God's love to heal, change, and transform your heart and mind?

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A REMINDER: One week from today is Ash Wednesday – the beginning of Lent.

Start thinking about how you can make wise use of the Season of Lent for the benefit of your faith life, your spiritual life, and how you can help the poor, the needy, the homeless, the ill, the infirmed, and all who have particular needs.

Thursday, February 11 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time Our Lady of Lourdes; 29th World Day of the Sick February 11 was proclaimed World Day of the Sick by Pope John Paul II

Holy Gospel: John 2:1-11 On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." Jesus said to her, "Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servers, "Do whatever he tells you." Now there were six stone water jars there for Jewish ceremonial washings, each holding twenty to thirty gallons. Jesus told them, "Fill the jars with water." So they filled them to the brim. Then he told them, "Draw some out now and take it to the headwaiter." So they took it. And when the headwaiter tasted the water that had become wine, without knowing where it came from (although the servers who had drawn the water knew), the headwaiter called the bridegroom and said to him, "Everyone serves good wine first, and then when people have drunk freely, an inferior one; but you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this as the beginning of his signs in Cana in Galilee and so revealed his glory, and his disciples began to believe in him.

Meditation: John's Gospel takes its shape from a series of signs, revealing Jesus as the Messiah, Son of God, and Savior of the world. This miracle story is the first of these signs. The marriage feast at Cana heralds that Messianic age had begun. And, as a result of the miracle at Cana, "his disciples began to believe in him." Are you truly a disciple of Christ? If so, do you believe in him?

Prayer: Grant us, O merciful God, protection in our weakness, that we, who keep the Memorial of the Immaculate Mother of God, may with the help of her intercession, rise up from our iniquities. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: When Mary says to the servers "Do whatever he tells you..." we, too, are taught by these words that if we desire anything from Christ, we will not obtain our wishes unless we depend on him and him alone, look to him, pray to him, and, in short, do whatever he tells us. This is part of his invitation throughout scripture when Jesus says "Follow me." He is the shepherd and we are his flock. Thus, as a

disciple, do you really follow Christ? Do you do whatever he teaches in scripture, follow his teachings, and incorporate them in your daily life?

About Our Lady of Lourdes: The many miracles which have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes prompted the Church to institute a special commemorative feast, the "Apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary." The Office gives the historical background. Four years after the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854), the Blessed Virgin appeared a number of times to a very poor and holy girl named Bernadette. The actual spot was in a grotto on the bank of the Gave River near Lourdes. The Immaculate Conception had a youthful appearance and was clothed in a pure white gown and mantle, with an azure blue sash. A golden rose adorned each of her bare feet. On her first apparition, February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin bade the girl make the sign of the Cross piously and say the rosary with her. Bernadette saw her take the rosary that was hanging from her arms into her hands. This was repeated in subsequent apparitions. With childlike simplicity Bernadette once sprinkled holy water on the vision, fearing that it was a deception of the evil spirit; but the Blessed Virgin smiled pleasantly, and her face became even more lovely. The third time Mary appeared she invited the girl to come to the grotto daily for two weeks. Now she frequently spoke to Bernadette. On one occasion she ordered her to tell the ecclesiastical authorities to build a church on the spot and to organize processions. Bernadette also was told to drink and wash at the spring still hidden under the sand. Finally on the feast of the Annunciation, the beautiful Lady announced her name, "I am the Immaculate Conception." The report of cures occurring at the grotto spread guickly and the more it spread, the greater the number of Christians who visited the hallowed place. The publicity given these miraculous events on the one hand and the seeming sincerity and innocence of the girl on the other made it necessary for the bishop of Tarbes to institute a judicial inquiry. Four years later he declared the apparitions to be supernatural and permitted the public veneration of the Immaculate Conception in the grotto. Soon a chapel was erected, and since that time countless pilgrims come every year to Lourdes to fulfill promises or to beg graces.

Friday, February 12 ~ Fifth Week in Ordinary Time

Holy Gospel: Mark 7:31-37 Jesus left the district of Tyre and went by way of Sidon to the Sea of Galilee, into the district of the Decapolis. And people brought to him a deaf man who had a speech impediment and begged him to lay his hand on him. He took him off by himself away from the crowd. He put his finger into the man's ears and, spitting, touched his tongue; then he looked up to heaven and groaned, and said to him, "Ephphatha!" (that is, "Be opened!") And immediately the man's ears were opened, his speech impediment was removed, and he spoke plainly. He ordered them not to tell anyone. But the more he ordered them not to, the more they proclaimed it. They were exceedingly astonished and they said, "He has done all things well. He makes the deaf hear and the mute speak."

Meditation: When Jesus approaches a man who is both deaf and a stutterer, Jesus shows his considerateness for this man's predicament. Jesus takes him aside privately, not doubt to remove him from embarrassment with a noisy crowd of gawkers. Jesus then puts his fingers into the deaf man's ears and he touches the man's tongue with his own spittle to physically identify with this man's infirmity and to awaken faith in him. With a word of command the poor man's ears were opened, his tongue was released, and he spoke plainly.

Prayer: Keep your family safe, O Lord, with unfailing care, that, relying solely on the hope of heavenly grace, they may be defended always by your protection. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: Jesus never turned anyone aside who approached him with sincerity and trust. And whatever Jesus did, he did well. He demonstrated both the beauty and goodness of God in his actions. Pope Saint Gregory the Great comments on this miracle: "The Spirit is called the finger of God. When the Lord puts his fingers into the ears of the deaf mute, he was opening the soul of man to faith through the gifts of the Holy Spirit." The Lord treats each of us with kindness and compassion and he calls us to treat one another in like kind. The Holy Spirit who dwells within us enables us to love as Jesus loves. Do you show kindness and compassion to your neighbors and do you treat them with considerateness as Jesus did?

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of Catholic Culture.

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