

February 11, 2018

**Ordinary Time
Sixth Sunday**



No Outcasts in Jesus' Eyes

Leprosy in the ancient world was a dreaded fatal disease that rendered its victims not only desperately ill but also outcasts in a society that referred to lepers as the "living dead." Their contemporaries thought that the sickness was a consequence of sin.

Rather than recoiling in horror and blaming the leper for breaking the law requiring him to keep his distance, Jesus was moved with compassion. He touches the leper, cures him and sends him to the authorities to legally affirm the healing. Jesus restores the man to health and full participation in society. Jesus' example challenges us to rethink our attitude toward the outcasts in our midst and how we would each act in a similar situation.



Flowers for the altar this weekend are donated by Lori & David Janecka in memory of Sue Steinhauser.

MASS INTENTIONS



Wednesday, February 14
5:30 p.m. For the Welfare of the Parish
Saturday, February 17
4:30 p.m. Stazie & Frank Stryk
Sunday, February 18
8:00 a.m. Julia & Anton Okruhlik

Full, Conscious and Active Participation in the Liturgy



Next weekend is *The First Sunday of Lent*. Prepare for the liturgy by reflecting on these passages from your Bible.

First Reading: Genesis 9:8-15
Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 25
Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22
Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

WORLD MARRIAGE DAY – TODAY

The observance of World Marriage Day was adopted by the Worldwide Marriage Encounter and continues to grow and spread. In 1993, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day. This event honors husband and wife as head of the family, the basic unit of society and the Church. It salutes the beauty of a couple's faithfulness, sacrifice and joy in daily married life.



SOCIETY NEWS

St. Anne's K.J.Z.T. #4 Quarterly Meeting Today, in the School Chapel after the 8:00 a.m. Mass. All members are cordially invited and encouraged to attend.

Catholic Daughters Court St. Rose #1597: Fried Chicken Dinner February 18, 10:30 a.m., \$10 per plate. Drive through or dine in at the Schulenburg KC Hall.

St. Mary's Altar Society: In an effort to include all men and women in the parish, the Altar Society would like to be able to communicate by email with those that have access to the Internet. Please email Robin Cerny at rlcerny@aol.com so that you can be included on the list. All men and women are welcome and encouraged to join the Altar Society. Dues are \$5.00 and the society supports the needs of the parish and its members.

Thank you,
Lori Janecka, Altar Society President

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Our Hope In Christ

Saint Thomas Aquinas never finished writing his *Shorter Summa*, since he died before he could complete it. The book ends with a chapter on prayer and hope. The last sentence expresses the saint's belief that the kingdom of heaven is attainable. How often is this thought in the forefront of our minds? How do our lives express our Christian hope? Few have the eloquence of Aquinas, but the words we say at work and at home reveal whether or not we are people of hope. One way of keeping this hope in our consciousness is to work on developing the habit of hopeful thoughts and speech. When frustrated, for example, instead of declaring, "Nothing ever works out!" try saying, "By the grace of God, all will be well." With a little practice we, like the leper seeking healing in today's Gospel, will be confident in our hope for Christ's healing in our lives.

WOMEN'S A.C.T.S. RETREAT – FEB. 15-18

Sign the prayer poster at the back of the church to pray for the retreatants/team members.

For more information contact Kathleen Svatek.

REFLECTION

"I Do Will It"

The curing of the leper today by Jesus is very touching. Jesus not only demonstrates his power over illness, he asserts his authority over the law. He touches the unclean. Then, as if to make up for his boldness, he asks the former leper to observe the law by offering to the priest what Moses prescribed.

The second part of the passage deals with Mark's concern about the "secret" of Jesus' real mission. The warning to the healed leper is Mark's way of showing us that Jesus is far more than a miracle worker, and that healing at this point is a mere foreshadowing of the ultimate healing he will accomplish on the cross. Likewise, the leper's inability to keep the secret is Mark's way of showing us how great the secret is. Jesus is becoming such a well-known figure, (and often for the wrong reason). The ultimate horror of the cross and the wonder of the resurrection will establish his true identity for his followers. Then the choice to follow him becomes more challenging. To ride on the coattails of a wonder worker is a thrilling experience. To follow in the footsteps of a crucified Messiah is quite another. To be a disciple of Jesus is not to be free of wounds and scars, but to be, like him, a wounded healer.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!



February 12 – Matt Cerny
– John Decker, Jr.
February 15 – Elton Moeller
February 16 – Patricia Gready

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!



February 17 – Pam & Nathan Vrazel

VOTIVE CANDLE INTENTIONS

The Catholic custom of lighting candles is rooted in Church teaching that Christ is the Light of the World. Candles serve as an outward sign of the light of faith burning in our hearts. They are our silent sentinels lifting up our prayer intentions to the Lord.



Remember to pray for the following intentions:

For My Son & His Family
For My Wife Donnarae to be Pain Free
Healing Request for Helen & Marvin Machac
Healing Request for Husband, John & Peace for Mother
For Ruben Velasquez - Give Him Strength for His Illness
– Votive Candle Intentions to be continued

LENTEN BULLETIN BOARD

Ash Wednesday Mass Schedule

St. Mary's, Praha: 5:30 p.m.

St. Joseph's, Moulton: 8:15 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

"Come and admit you are a sinner in need of redemption" is hardly an invitation the typical American would find favorable. The power of Ash Wednesday however, calls believers to their place of worship in droves to confess their sin, and even to wear a public sign of their repentance.



The blessing and administration of ashes opens this season of sorrow and mercy. Ash Wednesday has been observed throughout the universal church for over nine hundred years. It invites the baptized faithful into a spirit of repentance. Even those who do not frequent the Mass come to express their sorrow and to receive the symbol of repentance. This is a day of fast and abstinence. The faithful are asked to abstain from meat today. That includes poultry but not fish and seafood. Still, the idea is to eat simply, not lavishly as a sign of self-denial and repentance.

Lenten Class

Journeying With God in Lent

Thursdays of Lent, 5:30-6:30 p.m., in the School.

All parishioners are invited to attend.

Bring your Bible.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent, 6:00 p.m.

Preparing for the Season of Lent

See insert.

Lenten Fasting and Almsgiving

As Jesus' disciples we have a responsibility to care for our brothers and sisters at home and in all nations. The Season of Lent provides us the opportunity to help those in need.

***Lenten Food Drive:** We will once again be collecting canned good for our less fortunate brothers and sisters. You may leave your canned goods at the back of Church.

***Lenten Second Collection (Rice Bowl):**

All Sundays of Lent and Easter Sunday.

LENTEN FISH FRY

St. Joseph's Church, Moulton



Ash Wednesday & Fridays of Lent

5:00-7:00 p.m., \$9.00 Per Plate
Fish, Hush Puppies, Sides & Dessert

**Dine in the Parish Hall
Or Drive-Thru Plates-To-Go**

*All proceeds go to charities.