

SAINT PETER'S CATHOLIC CHURCH

FEBRUARY 14, 2021



A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

Mark 1:40-45

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Mass Schedule:

Saturday: 5:00 P.M.
Sunday: 7:30 A.M., 9:30 A.M., 11:30 A.M.
Monday & Friday 5:30 P.M.
Tuesday - Thursday 7:00 A.M.

Spanish Mass:

Resurrection Parish, Lexington
2nd and 4th Sundays 5:00 P.M.

Parish Office Hours:

Monday - Friday: 9:00 A.M.- 2:00 P.M.
Saturday and Sunday: Closed

Pastoral Care Contacts:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572
Ext. 2122

Hospital & Follow-up
Nursing Homes/Assisted Living &
Prayer Pipeline

Deacon John Reef 419.529.3694
Shut-ins/Homebound

Sacrament of Baptism:

Please contact the Parish Center to begin plans for the baptism of your baby or child.

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Saturday: 3:00 - 4:30 P.M.
Other times by appointment.

Sacrament of Marriage:

Arrangements should always be made at the **Parish Center office at least eight months** in advance of the ceremony. A wedding date is confirmed after the initial meeting with a priest.

Bulletin Deadline:

Friday, 12:00 noon. All requests must be submitted in writing or email and must receive prior approval.

Parish Administrative Assistant:

Ms. Kristi Reindl 419.524.2572
Ext. 2122

Pastoral Staff:

Fr. Gregory R. Hite, *Pastor*
Fr. Kevin Moebius, *Parochial Vicar*
Mr. Bill Johnson,
Director of Music & Liturgy
Ms. Lynne Lukach, *Pastoral Associate*
Mrs. Elizabeth Wurm, *Director of Religious Ed. & Youth Minister*

Deacon:

Mr. John Reef

St. Peter's School:

Mr. Jonathan Cuttitta
High School, Jr. High School
Mrs. Ashley Rastorfer
Elementary School and Montessori

Business Manager:

Dr. Vincent Palombo 419.524.2572
Ext. 2104

Director of Marketing:

Mr. Jason Crundwell 419.524.2572
Ext. 2125

A PARISH OF THE SAINT JUAN DIEGO DEANERY, DIOCESE OF TOLEDO

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, February 15, *Sixth Monday in Ordinary Time*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Joe and Virginia Boyd Anniversary

Tuesday, February 16, *Sixth Tuesday in Ordinary Time*

7:00 am Parish

Wednesday, February 17, *Ash Wednesday*

7:00 am Mass offered for Parish (*Pro Populo*)

12:10 pm Ash Wednesday Word Service

7:00 pm Mass offered for Parish (*Pro Populo*)

Thursday, February 18, *Thursday after Ash Wednesday*

7:00 am Parish

Friday, February 19, *Friday after Ash Wednesday*

5:00 pm Rosary

5:30 pm Parish

Saturday, February 20, *Vigil of the First Sunday of Lent*

5:00 pm Ronald Ranger

Sunday, February 21, *First Sunday of Lent*

7:30 am Parish

9:30 am Bill Connolly

11:30 am Raymond and Kevin Smith

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE
MINISTRIES OF ST. PETER'S PARISH**

By mailing in your offering envelopes, OR

By visiting the website at

**www.mansfieldstpeters.org, to learn about
opportunities for electronic giving.**

**We greatly appreciate your generosity and support
during these difficult days!**

THANK YOU!

Thank you for your continued generosity to our parish during this pandemic. Every sacrificial gift is accepted in the Lord's eyes.

Please remember to include our parish in your estate planning.

I loved my mother, I truly did, but she was never one to hold back what she thought. I remember when she said she couldn't wait to turn 70 years old because it was at that age, by her estimation, that she could start telling people what she really felt without tempering her statements. My sisters and I were all struck motionless with fear. We had never realized she had been holding back her opinions up to this point and if she were to let them loose without constriction, the world would need to take a step back in caution.

The good thing about her being so upfront is that you never had to guess what was on her mind. What came out of her mouth was precisely what she meant.

One day one of my older sisters wanted something, I can't even remember what it was. More than likely it was to get into a car with a bunch of inexperienced drivers, to travel half way across Ohio to see some concert in the middle of a snowstorm. The rest of us were sitting around watching this daughter/ mother fight play out, trying to figure out how to capitalize on the situation. In a few short moments she would be in the role of the bad daughter, which meant potentially one of us could move up a slot in the rankings and get something we wanted because it would pale in comparison to what she was asking. My mother said no to her crazy teenage plan, gave her a short, frank, explanation as to why, and considered the discussion over. My sister, in all her teenage glory and without even bothering to put on full body armor before she said it, looked my mom straight in the eye and said, "Just as I figured, I knew you didn't love me because if you did love me you would let me go." A hush fell over the crowd. My mother, instead of her lightning fast response that she was known for, didn't say a word for about a minute. Finally, when she spoke, all she said was, "If you don't know how much I love you, for the next week I am going to show you how much I love you". That was it. No further explanation. My sisters and I, who were spectating, were not sure what it meant, but could sense it was not the right time to buck for the prestige of #1 Daughter and all the benefits that could possibly come with it.

And so it went. A week after that my sister got to see firsthand how much my mother loved her. My sister got to do the laundry, do the dishes, make dinner, clean up the house and become the number one transporter of little sisters to all of their various events. It wasn't too hard for the rest of us to figure out what the point was, that she showed her love through the daily sacrifices of her life for us.

My mom had a phrase that she often repeated which was, "Some people can learn, while other people have to feel." Although not as eloquently stated as a phrase attributed to Saint Francis years earlier, "Preach the gospel at all times and if necessary, use words."

This weekend so many will be celebrating Valentine's Day. We will see cards adorned with hearts and candies that say, "Will you be mine". Statistically speaking, 10% of all couples choose to get engaged on Valentine's Day, and 198 million roses are sent to show someone that they are loved. *Continued on page 3*

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH



Bill Ruhl, Jeannie Burkhalter, Krista Marshall, Aaron Blank, Cindy Lassen, Dina Riley, Eliana Nelson, MaKaya Butler, Sharon Valdry, Maria Loschinkohl, John Ziegler, Marlene Ziegler, Dorothy Trinter, JoAnn Marbaugh, Gwen Yockey, Mel Switzer, Louise Steggall, Tammy Dudley, Keith Combs, Mady Ziegler, Elaine Johnson, Cindy Jasnek Cartier, Jeannine Klotz, Marilyn B. Williamson, Tom Powell, Chief Master Sergeant Joseph Basting, Peggy Basting Taylor, Kathy Carcione, Carol Pittenger, Catherine R. Liston, Alan Gallaway, Jacob Randall, Amy Malaska, Mary Page, Michelle Page, Pamela Schopieray, John Tatum, Marilyn Sertell, Michael Caldwell.

Names will only be listed for 4 weeks. If you wish to have additional time, contact the Parish Center at 419.524.2572.

IN GOD'S ARMS.....



Elvira Hollar Philip Hawk

Joseph John Mento Jerry Sweeney

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM, O LORD.

RESTRICTIONS ON TAKING COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Due to the continuing pandemic, OhioHealth Mansfield is still restricting patient visits for Holy Communion. If you have a family member who is in their home and would like a visit from a priest or deacon, please contact Kristi at Reindl.kristi@myspartans.org or 419.524.2572 ext.2122 with their name, address and phone number.

PRISON MINISTRY CORNER



As noted in the article cited in this Corner in last week's bulletin, Covid restrictions have resulted in suspensions of visits to prisons throughout the country. Our parish prison ministry visits to ManCI and RiCI continue to be on hold. We eagerly look forward to the day we can resume ministering to our brothers in local institutions. The article cited last week echoes the foundation of our Parish Prison Ministry:

- the importance of providing support and spiritual nourishment to our incarcerated brothers;
- being Christ in the world by going to the places where suffering, anxiety, and loneliness abound;
- living out the need to bring to those in pain God's healing, God's reconciliation, God's resurrection.

Continued from Page 2

It is one of the few days a year that is specifically set aside not only for love, but for the outward expression of it. As Christians, however, we understand that outward expression of love is not supposed to be captured in a few short hours of the year, but in a lifetime specifically dedicated to it. Christ's words were important which is why we have an entire portion of the Bible dedicated to hearing them, but the true lessons come from his actions of love, strewn out over his lifespan: healing the sick, helping the poor, hanging out with those who needed his love the most and most importantly, giving up his life out of love for us.

Some people can learn while other people have to feel. Let us always remember to show those actions of love first, let people feel them, and let the powerful lessons of Christ's examples of love grow from there.

Elizabeth Wurm

BISHOP THOMAS ON THE ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL



A letter from Bishop Thomas is being sent to you, asking for your gift and/or pledge to support the ministries of the Diocese of Toledo. This letter gives all registered parishioners an opportunity to contribute to the Appeal, especially those who are unable to attend Mass. The Annual Catholic Appeal will be successful if every member of our parish carefully considers their circumstances and truly strives to give a significant gift. Please give prayerful consideration to your level of support to help fund the essential ministries and services supported by the Appeal, continuing to make our parish and our diocese a place Where Charity & Love Prevail. To learn more about the appeal, visit <https://www.acatoledo.org/>

 RECYCLING—NEXT DATE: MARCH 12, 2021	
FOOD COLLECTION: February 13 & 14	
SUNDAY OFFERING	
	
<i>As of January 2021 Sunday Collection</i>	
Sunday and Holy Day Collections	
Sunday Collection & Holy Day Collection:	\$489,807
Total Budgeted Sunday Collection To Date:	\$497,000
Sunday Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$7,193)
School Collection	
Total School Collection To Date:	\$58,783
Total Budgeted School Collection To Date:	\$84,000
School Collection Surplus/(Deficit)	(\$25,217)

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES



SUBSTITUTE SECRETARY AND CLASSROOM SUBSTITUTE

St. Peter's Elementary is in need of substitute teachers and substitute secretaries for the 20-21 school year. Must have Bachelor's degree or, **in lieu of a Bachelor's degree**, interested persons should see the next paragraph about substitute/teaching license, and have BCI, FBI checks completed as well as VIRTUS requirements.

If interested this is a non-renewable temporary license that is only valid for the remainder of this academic year. Expiration is June 30, 2021 and does require new BCI and FBI reports. Be sure the applicant searches for and selects Toledo Diocese as the school district. Protecting God's Children in Virtus is also required. Go to <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Reset-and-Restart/Educator-Licensure>

Send resumes to rastorfer.ashley@myspartans.org. The secretary subs do not need a degree/license...they just need FBI, BCI, and VIRTUS.

SAINT PETER'S PARISH MASK POLICY

Richland County is now under a **"Red Level"** for the COVID-19 Virus, but the State of Ohio is still under mandatory mask wearing orders.

We respectfully ask that all who come to worship with us **WEAR A MASK OR FACIAL COVERING, USE HAND SANITIZER, AND RESPECT SOCIAL DISTANCING OF SIX FEET.**

Dispensation to attend Sunday Mass, Holy Days of Obligations, remains in place for the foreseeable future until we are notified otherwise.

Those who are at high risk, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions, are strongly advised to refrain from Mass attendance out of concern for their own well-being and out of Christian charity for others.

Thank you for your consideration. Please pray for all during this time of pandemic!

Mary, Help of the Sick, Pray for us!

ASH WEDNESDAY PASTORAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

Ash Wednesday is NOT a Holy Day of Obligation. Receiving ashes, while customary and laudable, is not an obligation of the faithful. Those who are at high risk, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing health conditions are strongly advised to refrain from Mass attendance out of concern for their own wellbeing and out of Christian charity for others.

ASK FOR HELP

Ask Our Lady to help you. Ask her to entreat her Son to let you know what you should do. —Bl. Marie Rose Durocher

For all of the current important information about St. Peters Parish operations during these troubled times,

please visit our website at:

MANSFIELDSPETERS.ORG

There you will also find devotional materials for use at home for you and your family.

WE NEED YOUR HELP



We are collecting new and gently used men's, women's and children's **WINTER** hats, scarves, gloves' and mittens. They will be available for those who need them at our Feed The Needy supper in February and March. Bring them to church any weekend or take them to the Parish Center. Thank you for your help and generosity.

STEWARDSHIP ENVELOPES & TAX STATEMENTS UPDATE

Hopefully, most parishioners have received their stewardship envelopes for the first quarter of 2021. If you did not receive a packet, we have extra packets at the parish center office. Also, tax statements were mailed on Wednesday. We hope they arrive quickly, but bulk mail is still seeing some delays. The statements will arrive in an envelope that is clearly marked "TAX STATEMENT ENCLOSED".



Lent is coming. . . Join us for the excellent series **FORGIVEN**. . .

Three Saturday evenings at **6:00 P.M.—February 20, 27 and March 6** in church.

Do you desire to encounter God's mercy in a deeper way this Lent?

Do you desire to experience the healing grace of Confession?

Are you a parent desiring to help prepare your child for Confession?

Do you want to experience FORMED with other parishioners (with proper distancing and facial covering, of course)?

Come and discover the merciful way God seeks us out and calls us back.

Forgiven explores the scriptural foundation of the Sacrament of Reconciliation and will deepen our understanding the beauty of this Sacrament.

No sign-up required. . . Simply come!

Sharing **FORMED feedback** this week (and next) is Mr. Andy Zmecek. St. Peter's High School Theology and English Teacher:

"To those just taking a quick glance through the bulletin, I'll make this brief—if you've not checked out the streaming service the diocese has paid for us to access (Formed) - give it a few minutes. No, it's not a substitute for your Netflix subscription, but it has a similar feel and there's some high-quality content on there that speaks to the restless heart and informs the doubtful mind.

The best *FORMED* exclusive content that I've found is "The Search" video series. I know there's been a group going through it together after the 5:00 P.M. Masses. However, if you were not a part of that group, I encourage you to check it out on your own. It explores life's biggest questions through seven, 30-minute episodes that are cinematically beautiful yet in a very approachable and understandable way. A Young Adult group I attend in Cleveland actually paid to watch the series before its release on *Formed*. You can also type in "The Search, Augustine Institute" to see a short preview on YouTube."

(We'll have more comments from Mr. Zmecek in next week's bulletin.)

CHURCH REGULATIONS REGARDING FAST AND ABSTINENCE

Abstinence from meat (beast or fowl) is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. This obligation prohibits the eating of meat, but not fish, eggs, milk products, or condiments of any kind, even though made from animal products.

Fasting means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are eighteen years of age but not yet fifty-nine are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional smaller meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength. However, the two smaller meals together may not equal one full meal. Moreover, eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

RECOMMENDED DEVOTIONAL AND SPIRITUAL PRACTICES DURING THE LENTEN SEASON

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday, February 17. In Lent we strive to turn away from all that separates us from our God and from others. The Church encourages us to focus on the three 'pillars' of the Church's Lenten Experience. The pillars focus our attention on those things which foster spiritual growth during Lent; specifically they are prayer, fasting and almsgiving. During the Lenten season St. Peter's will offer many opportunities to enter into the Lenten experience more deeply. All our Lenten activities will be listed in this bulletin and in a letter being mailed to all parishioners. In this holy season, why not make time for some of those activities?

DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT & ADVANCEMENT



St. Peter's Parish & School is seeking to fill a new position in our Development Office. The Director of Development & Advancement provides leadership, planning and management of the Advancement Office and is responsible for designing, implementing and maintaining a comprehensive institutional advancement program.

Minimum qualifications include a bachelor's degree in a related field or equivalent experience with a minimum of five years experience in fundraising, event planning, donor relations and alumni relations. Outstanding knowledge of fundraising data software and database management software. Practicing Catholic preferred.

Please visit the St. Peter's Parish and School web site for a full job description.

HEAD OF SCHOOL



St. Peter's Parish & School is conducting a search for its first Head of School. The Head of School will provide educational, spiritual, executive, financial, advancement and managerial leadership in order to achieve the fullest attainment of St. Peter's School's mission.

In addition to being a practicing Catholic, active in a parish, with a strong commitment to Catholic education, the qualified candidate must have appropriate State of Ohio licensure/certification, and be able to meet all Diocese of Toledo employment requirements.

Please visit the St. Peter's Parish and School web site for a full job description.

TUITION FREEZE FOR 2021-22 SCHOOL YEAR



To make sure a quality Catholic education remains affordable for our families, the Finance Council has agreed to keep our tuition rates frozen for the upcoming school year.

St. Peter's School will work with Catholic families who take an **active role in participating in their faith** and desire a high-quality education for their children.

Multiple scholarship opportunities are available including parishioner scholarships, Msgr. Dunn Foundation, Ohio EdChoice Scholarships, and other Financial Aid.

To schedule a tour for your family, please contact Jason Crundwell, (419) 524-2572 x2125 or visit the website.

Academic Program	Full Tuition	Monthly Installments**
Montessori 3-Day (Half Day)	\$3,000	\$300/mo.
Montessori 3-Day (Full Day)	\$4,000	\$400/mo.
Montessori 5-Day (Half Day)	\$4,000	\$400/mo.
Montessori 5-Day (Full Day)	\$5,000	\$500/mo.
Montessori Kindergarten	\$6,250	\$625/mo.
Elementary (K-6)	\$5,000	\$500/mo.
Junior High (7-8)	\$6,250	\$625/mo.
High School (9-12)	\$8,000	\$800/mo.
Required Fees		
Technology Fee (5-12)	\$25	



INTRODUCING LITTLE SPARTANS AFTERCARE

STIMULATING. STRUCTURED. SAFE.

St. Peter's School is excited to announce the launch of *Little Spartans AfterCare* for the 2021-22 school year. The program will be open to all elementary school students.

St. Peter's School will work with parents to provide a successful and quality experience for your child. Your children will in a safe environment while you work. They will be well cared for and enjoy the opportunity to play, complete homework, and other stimulating activities.

AfterCare students will be supervised by members of St. Peter's School staff, along with responsible students from our high school working towards their annual service requirements.

The cost is only \$120 monthly/per student. Contact Mrs. Rastorfer for more information!

SPACE IS FILLING FAST!



COME AND SEE YOU—DEANERY TOUR



This year, our deanery elementary schools can't spend the day as a class at the high school. So Father Kevin is taking the high school to them!

This week our Catholic school tour took us to Mansfield St. Mary on Friday! Father Kevin held Mass and St. Mary alumnus and SPHS Senior Caden Brubaker talked about his

time at St. Mary and how well prepared he was for St. Peter's.

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT ST. PETER'S SCHOOL

EXTENDED CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK FUN

Three snow days last week caused an extension of the elementary school's annual Penny Parade. Students in each class collected pennies and other change to help support the Richland County Humane Society's animals.

The second grade won the battle with the most (heaviest) coins and earned an out-of-dress code day. The students watched from their classrooms via Zoom as Father Kevin, Mr. Clark, and Mr. Zellner did the official weigh-in.

Overall, students collected \$575 for the Humane Society.

SAINT VALENTINE'S DAY PARTIES

St. Peter's students enjoyed socially distanced Valentine's Day parties this year, but the traditional exchange of valentines cards and candies for students.

Each child's valentines were placed in bags that they decorated, and students were allowed to enjoy some of their candy before the end of the school day.

Our Kindergarten class used candy hearts as a way to learn how to estimate and graph as part of their math class.



STAFF COVID-19 VACCINATIONS THIS WEEK

Please keep Father Hite, Father Kevin, and our school faculty and staff in your prayers this week. On Friday, February 19, St. Peter's School staff, along with other educators across Richland County, will receive their first COVID-19 vaccination shot.

Nearly 90% of our staff have indicated they want to receive the vaccination. We are so thankful for their tremendous efforts this year and their commitment to keeping our students' education progressing.



SPORTSMANSHIP AT BOWLING SECTIONALS

On Thursday and Friday, St. Peter's High School bowling team competed in their very first sectional tournament. In a beautiful gesture of sportsmanship, the Shelby High School bowling team members remained after their match to encourage and cheer on our Spartan bowlers in their first varsity tournament appearance.

STEUBENVILLE

This is the last call for anyone who is interested in taking part in the Steubenville Conference this year. The conference will take place June 11th - 13th and all who are incoming freshman to outgoing seniors in the 2020-2021 school year are eligible to attend. It is a dynamic weekend full of a lot of faith and fun! Anyone who is interested needs to contact Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org, no later than February 1, 2021.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL—VBS

Are you ready for a wild time? If so, you need to join us for VBS this year! Vacation Bible School is taking place July 12th– 15th from 9: 00 a.m. – 11: 30 a.m. in the high school building. All those who are 3 years old to 10 years old are welcome to participate, and we are also always looking for adult and youth helpers for the week! Registration forms are available in the parish office or you can receive one by contacting Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org. All registrations must be turned in by June 15th and no registrations can be accepted after that date. We hope that your child will join us this year for a wonderful week of faith and fun!

The Vacation Bible School planning team is currently searching for students in grades 6- 12 who are interested in being youth helpers during the week of Vacation Bible School which is scheduled for July 12th- 15th. It is a great week of fun and there are a million different ways you can help to make it a success for the younger children in the parish (and accomplish many service hours at once!) If you are interested in participating, please contact Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org. Spots fill up quickly for our youth helpers, and it is a "first come, first served" basis, so if you have an interest, please contact today!

ATTENTION HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR GIRLS

The Catholic Women's Club of the St. Juan Diego Deanery is offering a \$500.00 Scholarship to a Catholic high school girl who is planning to attend college. You do not have to be attending a Catholic high school or plan to attend a Catholic college to apply. Contact wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org for more information.

YOUTH ACTIVITIES

We are looking for youth who are interested in being a part of a dynamic parish leadership team! Those who are interested need to be in 7th-12th grades and have an interest in helping to plan youth activities of the parish. To get involved, please contact Elizabeth Wurm at wurm.elizabeth@myspartans.org or call the parish at 419.524.2572 x 2114.

RESTRICTIONS ON TAKING COMMUNION TO THE SICK

Due to the continuing pandemic, all hospitals and nursing homes are restricting patient visits for Holy Communion. If you have a family member living with you, and you would like to take them communion, please contact kristireindl@myspartans.org or at 419.524.2572 ext. 2122. If you have a homebound family member who would like a visit from a priest or deacon, please contact the Parish Center office with their name, address, and phone number.

DRIVE THRU LENTEN FISH FRY

Drive-Thru Lenten Fish Fry's at St. Joseph Church in Crestline will be held on the weekends of February 13 & 14, 20 & 21, 27 & 28 and March 6 & 7, 13 & 14, and 20 & 21.



A PRAYER IN TIME OF PESTILENCE

The Giver of Bread and Fish

Walter Brueggeman,
"Virus as a Summons to Faith,"
Cascade Books, 2020

We do "thoughts and prayers" easily and glibly;

we do "thoughts" without thinking;
we do "prayers" without praying.

We commit that glib act because it is what we know how to do with an anemic god,

or because we are embarrassed to do more,

or because it is convenient and costs us nothing.

Now, however, we are driven to unthinkable thoughts, about

all that is ending, and
all this we have lost, and

all that leaves us with a sinking feeling.

Now, however, we are driven, some of us, to unutterable prayers.

We are driven to such prayer by awareness that our usual reliabilities are gone.

We are driven to you, the abiding God when other helpers fail and comforts flee.

Thus we are bold to pray:

We are bold to ask, because it will be given!

So we pray for the end of the virus, for the health of the neighborhood, for the recovery of the economy.

We are bold to seek, because you will be found!

We seek your mercy and your goodness and your generosity, so let yourself be found by us.

We are bold to knock, because it will be opened.

We know many doors slammed shut, doors of health and safety and comfort and fun.

Open to us the door of life, and love, and peace, and joy.

Here we are in your presence:

We ask for bread:
the bread of life,
the bread of abundance,
the bread of neighborly sharing.

Do not give us a stone or a crumb.

We ask for fish:
the fish of a good diet,
the fish of your abundant waters,
the fish that signs the gospel.

Do not give us a snake or the hiss of poison.

We dare to pray, not because we are at our wits end, but because you are at the center of our life.

Our hope is in no other save in thee alone!

So hear, heal, save, restore!

Be the God you have promised to be.

Amen.

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JESUS' WAY

Today's readings present a contrast between "Jesus' way" and the "old way." An example of the old way is the law given to Moses and Aaron about leprosy: the leper was unclean and cast out of the community. Jesus' way is the opposite: the leper is reached out to, touched, and finally cured.

Nor ought we think of the "old way" as restricted to the days of Moses and Aaron, or even to the "old" testament. The difference between the old way and Jesus' way arises in our own lives. We still choose, every day, to live in our old way or in Jesus' way.

Jesus dared to touch a leper, disregarding the old way. The leper then was changed forever. He felt a calling. He couldn't keep himself from proclaiming that he had been touched by Jesus (even though Jesus told him not to!). Once Jesus touches us, we are called to proclaim his way.

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FEAST OF FAITH

The Gloria (2)

The Gloria is a rejoicing prayer, an exclamation of praise. It begins with the song of the angels at the announcement of the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:14), a heavenly burst of praise for God's loving action in the world. But in the Gloria, the song goes on, leaping, as it were, from height to height, with every kind of praise, blessing, adoration, glory, and thanksgiving.

We begin by thanking and praising God the Father; then we turn our gaze to Christ, the Lamb of God. The paschal mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection is found here, at the heart of this prayer, which descends to the depths with Christ, but then rises with him to the heavens, where he is seated at the Father's right hand. The Gloria ends with a series of acclamations to Christ, emphasizing over and over that he "alone" is the Holy One, the Lord, the Most High, truly God, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Our prayer of praise ends where it began, in the "glory of God the Father." The Gloria, with its arc leading us from the glory of God to the suffering of Christ and again to glory, is the pattern of the Mass itself. At the center of all our prayer is the sacrificial love of Christ.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The leper will dwell apart, making an abode outside the camp (Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46).

Psalm — I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation (Psalm 32).

Second Reading — Do everything for the glory of God; be imitators of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31 — 11:1).

Gospel — The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean (Mark 1:40-45).

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

This Week's Cover Art: " Thy Faith Hath Made Thee Whole " Stained glass window, Church of St. Beuno, Llamycil, Wales.