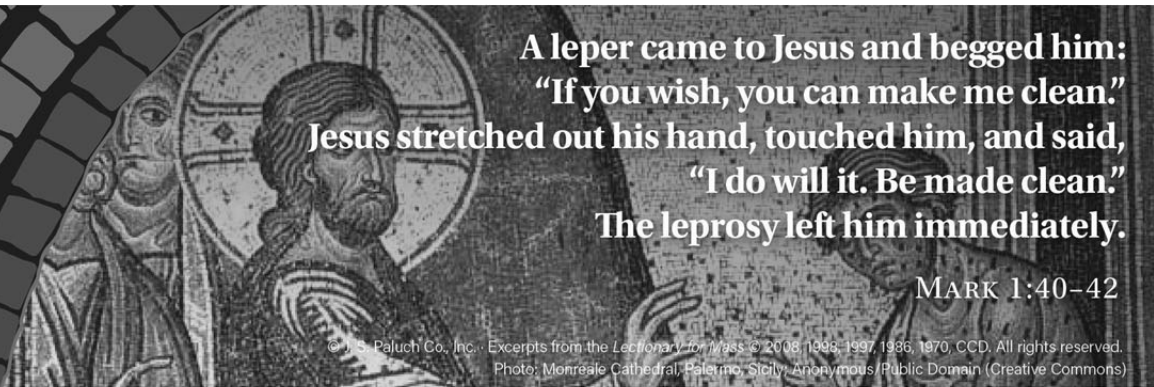


SIXTH Sunday
in ORDINARY TIME

February 14, 2021



A leper came to Jesus and begged him:
“If you wish, you can make me clean.”
Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said,
“I do will it. Be made clean.”
The leprosy left him immediately.

MARK 1:40-42

© 1993 Paluch Co., Inc. Excerpts from the *Lectionary for Mass* © 2008, 1998, 1997, 1986, 1970, CCD. All rights reserved.
Photo: Monreale Cathedral, Palermo, Sicily. Anonymous/Public Domain (Creative Commons)

HEALING AND HOPE

The readings from Leviticus and from the Gospel of Mark today speak of healing and hope. Leviticus outlines procedures to prevent the spread of leprosy, a skin disease understood to be a great danger to the community. Those with the disease were isolated and ritually impure. Absent some cure from God, they were considered beyond hope. Their lives were like a living death, and likely they saw no future hope in their lives. Jesus’ healing of a leper was thus a profound sign of the promised reign of God, which Jesus had earlier announced. The healing was like raising the leper up from death, and thus a hint of Jesus’ resurrection. Where are there “lepers” today, those isolated or outcast from our communities? Who are those our society considers beyond hope, or deems not worth the trouble to offer hope? How can we imitate Jesus in offering a healing touch to them?

SURRENDERING CONTROL

The Gospel today concludes the first chapter of Mark, which traces the rapid expansion of Jesus’ ministry. Excitement about Jesus grows so much that he can’t enter a town without being besieged. His healing of a leper results in a reversal: the leper, who had been isolated from the community, is now free to speak with everyone. Jesus, who before could speak freely, now must isolate himself from the crowds. By serving others, Jesus lost some control over his ministry. This is the first hint of what happens later in Mark. Jesus’ displays of power—over illness, over evil spirits, over nature—eventually lead him to the “powerlessness” of the cross.

The experience of Jesus guides us in our own efforts to be of service. Surrendering control is often very difficult. To be a servant is to engage with others, where frequently we lose some control over our freedoms, time, and energies. Often there is a cross or two to bear. As Jesus let go of control in his life, he also placed his trust in his Father. He invites us to do the same.

FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

In today’s passage from First Corinthians, Paul concludes his extensive reflections on a variety of issues in Christian life, summarizing with “whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.” Beyond the specific problems he addresses, Paul invites his listeners deeper, to consider the primary orientation of life in Christ. We live “for the glory of God” when we organize our lives around God’s values and purposes. We find our identity within God’s story as described in the scriptures. We are called to join God’s work in care for others. Just like Paul, we wrestle with many difficult problems emerging from the messiness of daily living. As Lent approaches, we might claim some time to reflect upon how life’s messiness connects with our identity and calling.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Valentine’s Day
Monday: Presidents’ Day
Tuesday: Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence; Almsgiving
Friday: Abstinence

Immaculate Conception Parish

Immaculate Conception Church & St. Joseph Church

Pastor: Rev. James J. Ward • Deacon: Mr. Jack Mroz

Immaculate Conception Rectory: 570-325-2791 • iccjt@ptd.net • www.iccjimthorpe.org
St. Joseph Rectory: 570-325-3731 • stjosjt@ptd.net • www.saintjosephchurch-jimthorpe.org
St. Joseph Church side entrance is open daily for private prayer

Sacrament of Reconciliation: Tuesdays after 8 a.m. Mass @ Immaculate Conception Church
Thursdays after 8 a.m. Mass @ St. Joseph Church (call Rectory for evening individual confession appointment)

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator: Wendy S. Krisak, MA, NCC, LPC **Direct** Phone: 800-791-9209; Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection: Pamela J. Russo, MSW, MS Phone: 610-871-5200, Ext. 2204; Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service: If you have an allegation of abuse against a bishop, please contact the Catholic Bishop Abuse Reporting Service ReportBishopAbuse.org or by calling 800-276-1562.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Sat. Feb. 13

4:30 pm (ICC)

Carol, Edward, Jr., Edward Sr., & Helen Surmaitis (Lea-Ann Musselman) /
Lena Dominic (Lea Paluck)

Sun. Feb. 14

9:00 am (SJC)

Franklin Miller (wife, Fern)

Mon. Feb. 15

(private)

All Parishioners, Living & Deceased

Tues. Feb. 16

(private)

Mary Vittorio (Sarah)/
Helen & Charles Burnett (Chip Burnett)

*** Please note changes ***

Wed. Feb. 17 *Ash Wednesday*

8:00 am (SJC)

Maureen Hoppes (Kay & Dan Boyle)

12:05 pm (ICC)

Lucille Novak (John & Mary Ritenour)

Thurs. Feb. 18

No Mass

Fri. Feb. 19

No Mass

6:00 pm (SJC)

Stations of the Cross



First Sunday of Lent

Sat. Feb. 20

9:00 am (SJC)

Rosary for Life

4:30 pm (ICC)

Adam LaRizzio (Donna O'Donnell & Kristin Herman)

Sun. Feb. 21

9:00 am (SJC)

Irene Milan (Clete Milan & Family)

RESPONSORIAL PSALM ~ I TURN TO YOU, LORD, IN TIME OF TROUBLE, AND YOU FILL ME WITH THE JOY OF SALVATION.

ST. JOSEPH CHURCH CANDLES

SAINT JOSEPH: In Loving Memory of *Gordon Holland, Sr.*, (Requested by Wife)

BLESSED MOTHER: In Loving Memory of *Anna Mae Kasten*, (Requested by Sister)

SAINT ANTHONY: For *Prayers Answered*

NOTE CHANGES TO MASS THIS WEEK: The only public Masses this week will be on Ash Wed., 8am at St. Joseph Church and 12:05pm at Immaculate Conception Church, with distribution of Ashes. Confessions will not be heard Tues. or Thurs. this week, please call ICC Rectory to schedule a private confession, 570-325-2791.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP:

Jan. 24, 2021: \$6,479.00.
Thank you for your continued support & generosity.



OUR LENTEN OBLIGATION

LENTEN RECONCILIATION: Fr. Ward has added an extra Sacrament of Reconciliation time for the Lenten Season. Beginning next Wed. Feb. 24th, individual confessions will also be heard at 6:30pm at Immaculate Conception Church, & will continue every Wednesday of Lent through March 31.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: You are invited to Pray the Stations of the Cross every Friday evening in Lent at St. Joseph's Church. This is a beautiful way to spiritually join in Our Lord's great sacrifice for us. The Stations will begin on Friday, Feb. 19 at 6pm and continue for the Friday's of Lent (weather permitting). Please remember to wear a mask and social distance. We will have wipes available to clean the pews after the Stations.



1000 HAIL MARY'S, Friday, Feb. 19: The third Friday of the month we have the 1000 Hail Mary's said in St. Joseph Church. The day will run from 9am until 4pm. Please sign the paper as you enter church for contact tracing. Please wear a mask. Water will be available all day by the side door. We start by saying prayers, then the Hail Mary's. We will break for a light lunch in the rectory. After lunch we continue another set of Hail Mary's. At closing, we will say some prayers. A disinfected wipe will be given to you to wipe off the area you were sitting. A basket will be set up in front of the church for prayers request. Please join us at any time during the day. Stay for one Hail Mary or 1000. Hope to see you there.

Church Cleaners



LOOKING FOR A FEW CHURCH CLEANERS:

St. Joseph Church is looking for a few folks to help lighten the duties of cleaning church on Fridays usually 9am start. We dust, mop floors, empty garbage cans, etc.

If anyone can give an hour or two a week to help it would be greatly appreciated. Please call St Joseph Rectory office at 570-325-3731.

SAINT JOSEPH ECUMENICAL FOOD PANTRY

Located on the corner of 6th & North Street will be open 9-11am, Wednesdays, Feb. 24, & March 10 and Saturdays, Feb. 20, & March 6.



THE FOLLOWING DONATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE TO THE MEMORIAL FUND:

In Memory of **Thomas Sheehan** from Walter & Fay Schlenner; In memory of **Elizabeth Bach** from Karen DeTorres.

Church law considers every Friday and the season of Lent as penitential days and times. The practice of penance is a part of our faith and Christian life. When we do penance, we imitate Jesus, who Himself recommended it as necessary to His followers, and gave them the example of His prayer and fasting.

The Lenten obligation, as determined for Catholics in the United States by our bishops, requires that fasting be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The law of abstinence is to be observed on Ash Wednesday and all the Fridays of Lent.



Who must fast? All Catholics who are between the ages of 18 and 59. The obligation ceases when one begins his/her 60th year on his/her 59th birthday.

Who must abstain? All Catholics who are 14 years and older.

What does fasting mean? The observance of fasting means that those obliged may take only one full meal on the day of fast. Two lighter meals (not equal to another full meal) may be taken to maintain strength according to one's needs.

What does abstinence mean? The law of abstinence forbids the eating of meat, including poultry. Voluntary abstinence refers to refraining from lawful pleasures in a spirit of penance.

Can anyone be dispensed or excused from fast and/or abstinence? Individuals for a just cause may be dispensed by their pastor or by a priest with the faculty to do so. In our Diocese all priests may dispense individuals who are committed to their pastoral care. Those who are ill or have a similar serious reason are excused from the observance of fast and abstinence. Catholics are reminded that they should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

Are there other obligations which we should fulfill? Catholics are obliged to fulfill what has been called their "Easter Duty." They are required to receive Holy Communion during the Easter time. In the United States this obligation can be fulfilled from the First Sunday of Lent until Trinity Sunday (Feb 21 until May 30). Those conscious of serious sin are reminded of the obligation to confess their sins at least once a year during this time.

Catholics also are encouraged to make Lent a time of more intense prayer and to practice almsgiving and other works of charity. Parishes are encouraged to continue participation in Operation Rice Bowl.

MEN'S MISSION: You are making a difference with your donations!! All are invited to be part of our mission to help the children of Tanzania with food, uniforms, and the expansion to existing buildings. The collection can will be at the doorways to St. Joseph Church on Sun, Feb. 21.