

St. Joseph Church
Dover, Ohio 44622
The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 14 and 15, 2015
14 y 15 Febrero del 2015

Mass Intentions



Monday, February 16

No Mass

Readings: 335; GN 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday, February 17

6:00 p.m. Pauline Gombos

Readings: 336: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5/Ps 29/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday, February 18 (Ash Wednesday)

8:15 a.m. Deceased Members of the Sattler Family

9:00 a.m. Rosary

6:00 p.m. Angela Weaver

Readings: 219: Jl2:12-18, Ps 51/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/
 Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday, February 19

8:15 a.m. Catherine Greco

9:00 a.m. Adoration of the Eucharist

Readings: 220: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1/Lk 9:22-25

Friday, February 20

8:15 a.m. Father John Bakle

Readings: 221: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday, February 21,

The Vigil of The First Sunday of Lent

4:00 p.m. Dan English

Sunday, February 22, The First Sunday of Lent

8:30 a.m. Sherry Moran

11:00 a.m. The People of the Parish

1:30 p.m. Gregoria Hernandez - Box

(Mass in Spanish)

Readings: 23: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

Offertory for Sunday, February 7 and 8, 2015

| | |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|
| Loose | \$ 1,120.00 |
| Adult (274 Envelopes) | \$ 8,795.00 |
| Online Giving | \$ 160.00 |
| Total | \$10,075.00 |
| Contributions needed each week | \$12,192.00 |

Other Funds:

| | |
|----------------------|-----------|
| Capital Improvement | \$ 315.50 |
| Youth Ministry | \$ 125.00 |
| Poor Fund | \$ 282.00 |
| Catholic Times | \$ 380.00 |
| Propagation of Faith | \$ 22.00 |

Your contributions make the mission of St. Joseph Parish possible and keep our parish financially sound. Thank you for your generosity.

Ministry Schedules

February 21 and 22, 2015

4:00 p.m. Mass

Lectors: Bonnie Edwards - 1st Reading,
 Sandy Deetz - 2nd Reading

Eucharistic Ministers: Norma Murphy,
 Vicki Avon, Tim Avon, Janice Cosenza,
 Jeri Middaugh, Sub Needed, Sub Needed

Hospitality: Pastoral Council Members

Servers: Anna Rafter, Nathaniel Rafter,
 Peyton Olson (Alt: Michael Maxwell)

8:30 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Keith Knestaut - 1st Reading,
 Peggy Biancamano - 2nd Reading

Eucharistic Ministers: Vicki Wilhelm,
 Andrea Settimio, Lou Settimio, Lynn Ballantyne,
 Cathy Galbraith, Dan Galbraith, Sarah Layton,
 Mark Layton, Teri Layton

Hospitality: Ann Riley and Pastoral Council

Servers: John Chaney, Joseph House,
 Rebecca Shultz (Alt: Tyler Tarulli)

11:00 a.m. Mass

Lectors: Anne Bruno - 1st Reading,
 Mike Ernest - 2nd Reading

Eucharistic Ministers: Jodi Bambeck,
 Stacey Savage, Duong Nguyen, Chris Helbling,
 Kevin Fitzgerald, Rebecca Nylund, Dave Nylund

Hospitality: Pastoral Council

Servers: Gabe Ernest, Will Ernest,
 Jackson Bambeck (Alt: Sebastian Sedares)

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

Please Note: If you would like to present the gifts at the Offertory, please contact the Ushers before Mass.

Spiritual Notes:

Leprosy was a serious concern in the biblical world. To be declared a leper was to be condemned to a life apart from the community, living "outside the camp" in Moses' day, later outside the towns and villages. It was the task of the priest to declare them clean and allow them to rejoin the community. The description of leprosy, detailed in Leviticus 13, makes it clear that biblical leprosy was not the same thing as what we call leprosy today. It could be contracted not only by people, but also by cloth and evening building materials and was something to be avoided because it was thought to be contagious. Paul calls the Corinthians to "do everything for the glory of God." Our task as disciples is to witness with our lives to God's goodness and mercy. We are called to work not just for our own salvation but "that they may be saved." Finally, in words uncharacteristic of Paul, we are encouraged "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." The leper in today's Gospel begs Jesus for help, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Though Jesus risks contracting leprosy and ritual uncleanness, "moved with pity, he stretched out his hand and touched Him." Mark tells us the leprosy left him immediately, again emphasizing Jesus' power. Jesus then commands the man to fulfill the Law of Moses by showing Himself to the priest, but instead the man began to publicize the whole matter, making it impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

For reflection: Who are the lepers today, and how do I view them? Why are some good deeds better left unannounced?

In Our Parish

The flowers in front of the Holy Family are in loving memory of Floyd and Patrick Murphy by Norma Jean Murphy.

"Fat Tuesday/Pancake Day"

On Tuesday, February 17th following the 6:00 p.m. Mass, we will burn our old blessed palms, at the Family Life Center. The ashes from these palms are used for Ash Wednesday. Following this prayer service, we will enjoy a pancake dinner.

On this day in history... 60 years ago... Our Music Coordinator Kevin Kutz and the Principal of Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School, Matt Ritzert, were born! When you see them, please take a moment to wish them a very happy birthday!

Dear Parishioners,

This year, I have been blessed with the opportunity to be part of a mission team through Franciscan University Missions of Peace. We will be going to the Amazon Rainforest in Ecuador this coming March to serve the native people there, both physically and spiritually. This mission trip focuses on caring for the whole person, both body and soul, by ministering to those who lack both proper medical treatment and consistent access to a priest and the Sacraments. However, we cannot do this without your help; we are in desperate need of donations for this mission. Any amount that you are able to give will be much appreciated. Also, we are asking for spiritual donations, as well, through your prayer to support this mission. In advance, thank you so much for your generosity toward this mission.

God Bless,
Ben Burnham

If you would like to make a contribution for Ben's trip, you may drop it in the collection basket in an envelope marked "Ben Burnham."



Lenten Series

Beginning on Tuesday, February 24th, Father Jimmy will host a Lenten Lecture Series, "Adventures in Bible Study: Uncovering the Treasures of Sacred Scripture." These sessions will teach us how to get more out of what the Bible has to offer us. These sessions will last about an hour and fifteen minutes beginning at 7:00 p.m. Refreshments will be served. If you are interested in attending this series, please contact the Parish Office, so we can ensure that there will be enough materials for every participant (We will have Bibles for you to purchase, if needed). **You may attend them all, or as many as your schedule allows!**

Catholic Relief Services Help Jesus in Disguise

In the Vestibule of the church there are Rice Bowls for you to take home. These monies support Catholic Relief Services agencies that touch more than 100 million lives around the world, they provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and Christ's love and respect for all people.

Upcoming Liturgies in the Spiritual Life of Saint Joseph Parish

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday Confession times are 3:15 to 3:45 p.m.; on Sunday mornings from 7:45 a.m. to 8:15 a.m. and from 10:15 a.m. until 10:45 a.m.

Anointing of the Sick

Each Tuesday evening during Lent there will be Adoration of the Eucharist from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m., followed by Mass at 6:00 p.m.

Adoration of the Eucharist

The Eucharist will be exposed for Adoration every Thursday morning after Mass until 9:30 a.m.

Rosary

Each Wednesday morning after the 8:15 a.m. Mass, join us as we pray the Rosary.

Ash Wednesday: February 18, 2015

Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Stations of the Cross: Each Friday during Lent, there will be Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. in English and at 8:00 p.m. in Spanish. You may also attend Stations with the students from TCCES at 1:00 p.m. on Fridays, February 20th, March 6th and March 20th.



Notes from Kevin...

Attention, all Teens! The next Mass for the Teen Choir will be on Sunday, March 15th at the 11:00 a.m. Mass. All students in the 7th thru 12th grades are invited to join in singing. Please be in the choir pews by 10:45 a.m. for a brief rehearsal... no need to bring anything, except for a friend to sing with you... all the music will be provided. Thanks to all of you that have been singing with the Choir!

Youth Ministry News



Jr.High Youth Group

Sunday, 2:00-4:00 p.m.
in the Family Life Center

High School Youth Group

Sunday, 6:30-8:30 p.m.
in the Family Life Center

Upcoming Meetings in the Life of the Parish

Secular Franciscans invite everyone wishing to attend the first Saturday of each month at 9:00 a.m. for Morning Prayer and Eucharistic Prayer followed by coffee and donuts.

Men's Bible Study Group: Saturday Mornings at 7:00 a.m. in the Family Life Center. For more information, please call 330-343-8008.

Heart of Mary Bible Study: Come and join us the first and third Fridays of every month from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) Sunday, February 15, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. in the Family Life Center: Fondriest Room. The Topic will be *Lent/Ash Wednesday/Holy Week.*



Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School



Spaghetti Dinner

Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School will host a Peach Fragasse Spaghetti Dinner on Today, February 15 from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Carry-out will be available. Join us for the best spaghetti in town!

You CAN afford a Catholic Education

Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary School participates in the Ohio EdChoice Scholarship Program. Families who meet income guidelines and have children entering kindergarten, first grade, or second grade are eligible for the scholarships that pay the full cost of tuition. For example, a family of four with a gross annual income of \$48,000.00 or less is eligible for the EdChoice Scholarship. For more information, please call the school office.

Tuscarawas Central Catholic Elementary and School will begin accepting registrations January 6 for our preschool and pre-kindergarten programs for the 2015-2016 school year. Registration forms are available at the school office or by calling 330-343-9134. We provide a caring, faith-filled environment for the spiritual, social, and cognitive development of three-, four- and five-year-old children.

St. Joseph Soup Kitchen

Everyone is welcome!!

The intention for the Soup Kitchen is to serve God's children in need: the poor in spirit, as well as the needy. **If you or anyone else you know lives alone and would like a hot meal to share with others, please feel free to come and have a meal with us.**

Below you will find the upcoming schedule.
Teams, if you need assistance, please contact Andrea Settimio or the Parish Office.

February 18, 2015 - Team F (Boy Scouts)
February 25, 2015 - Team G (Joan Wenzel)
March 4, 2015 - Team H (Cindy Jones)
March 11, 2015 - Team D (Lisa Weigand)

Also, if you do not have 6 to 8 people available for your night, please call Andrea or the Parish Office to get the name of a sub.

Please keep all our volunteers in your prayers.



The Dover Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a Fraternal Night on February 19th at the Family Life Center. Our guest speaker will be Joe Dietz, a Knight of Columbus Insurance

Agent, who will discuss the history of the Knights, the charities supported by Supreme, and member's benefits. Members are invited to bring their wives. Anyone interested in becoming members are invited with their spouses.

Immaculate Conception PTA Card Party: Get ready for the 3rd Annual Immaculate Conception PTA Card Party! Please join us on Sunday, March 15th from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. for an evening of cards, board games, and fellowship. Tickets are \$10.00, includes admission and a delicious dinner of Dennison Yard pasta and pizza. For tickets, please contact the Immaculate Conception School Office at 740-922-3539, Jody Ross at 740-922-6253 or Becky Price at 740-922-4081

Other Information To Note:

If you know of a friend or family member who is in the hospital, for surgery or due to illness, please call the Parish Office and give them the information, and someone will visit them as soon as possible.

Prayer Chain: To place your request on the prayer chain, please call the Parish Office or Charlene Herzig at 330-343-1063.

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.

Can you help with transportation to Mass?

We often get calls from parishioners in both Dover and New Philadelphia, who need help getting to Mass. If you are able to help, 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.

Items placed on the Church Bulletin Board:

It is the parish policy that all items placed on the bulletin board or in the brochure rack must first be approved by Parish Office. Please bring any items or postings to the office for prior approval. Thank you.

Lenten Morning of Reflection: Saturday, March 21, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Facilitated by Sr. Louis Mary Passeri. "Jesus said, 'When I am lifted up from the Earth I will draw all people to myself.'" Jesus proved His love for us by giving His life for us. Come and pray, listen, reflect, and share with others as a response to His love. The cost is \$15.00 and includes breakfast. Sts. Peter and Paul Retreat Center, 2734 Seminary Road, Newark, Ohio. For more information or to register, please call 740-928-4246.



**THE
CATHOLIC
FOUNDATION**

Leave a Legacy of Love and Faith

Your last will and testament can leave a legacy of your faith by helping to pass it on to others. When drafting your will, after taking care of your family, please consider naming St. Joseph Parish or the Diocese of Columbus as a recipient of your estate. For more information, contact James Anzelmo at the Catholic Foundation at 1-866-298-8893 or JAnzelmo@catholic-foundation.org.

St. Joseph Calvary Cemetery

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

Crafty Ladies

Crafty Ladies meet the first and third Tuesdays from 10:00 a.m. until Noon. Come share your talents with the group. Join us and have fun! For more information, call Charlene Herzig at 330-343-1063 or Mary Pusateri at 330-364-2775.

Third Annual Service Award

The Office of Vocations for the Diocese of Columbus is presenting the Third Annual Service Award. This \$500.00 award is available to all students, grades eight through twelve, living in the Diocese of Columbus, including those who attend public, private, Catholic school, as well as home-schooled students. The criteria for the award includes parish involvement, service, and a short 300-word essay on the importance of service and giving back to the community. For more information and to enter, visit www.faceforwardcolumbus.com/serviceaward

The 11th Annual J.O.I.N. BiblioBenefit

Save the Date!

J.O.I.N. BiblioBenefit will be Friday, May 15th from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. at St. Andrew Church, Nugent Hall, Columbus. Share in the support of Catholic Charities' ministry of the **Joint Organization for Inner City Needs (J.O.I.N.)** through an evening with friends, food, raffle, and entertainment by clergy. More details to follow.

Pilgrimage Opportunity:

Join internationally known tour guide Fr. Joshua Wagner for a Lenten and Easter Pilgrimage to some of the most beautiful churches in the Diocese of Columbus! "The Seven Church Tour" is a Pilgrimage in your own back yard and, this year, we are touring the OLDEST Catholic Churches in Ohio, as well as paying tribute to Pope St. John Paul II. This year there are two different Seven Church Tours, one touring the churches in the city of Columbus, and one touring the churches of Zanesville and Perry County! In you want to experience the Diocese of Columbus in a new and exciting way, then go to www.sevenchurchtour.com for more information.



Catholic Men's and Women's Conferences

The 2015 Catholic Women's Conference will be held on Saturday, February 21st at the Ohio Expo Center in Columbus. A week later on Saturday, February 28th, the Annual Catholic Men's Conference will be held at the same location. **If you are interested in attending, please call the Parish Office or contact John and Sharon Kuczirka.** We will be taking buses, and there is no charge; all you need to do is RSVP to the Parish Office.

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. This donation helps St. Joseph Parish provide the *Catholic Times* you and many of our parishioners. Checks should be made payable to St. Joseph Church. As an evangelization tool, Bishop Campbell encourages every Catholic household to receive the *Catholic Times*.

Divine Mercy

Divine Mercy is the central theme of the Bible and the heart of the Gospel. It is essential to understanding God's message of love and salvation. Mercy even reveals God's very identity. The mercy of God was especially shown when the Son of God gave His life for us in His passion and death on the cross. St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas taught that mercy is God's greatest attribute. Mercy is the form that God's love takes when it overflows His divine life and pours out upon His creatures. During Lent, we will be exploring primarily through Psalm 51 and ways that God's mercy is intended to work in our lives to bring about our salvation.

OUR ADVERTISER OF THE WEEK IS

Thomas H. Hisrich
Attorney At Law
121 West Fourth Street
Dover, Ohio 44622
(330) 343-8834

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SUNDAY *to* SUNDAY

SAINT OF THE WEEK

ST. PETER DAMIEN

1007-1072

Feast Day—Feb. 21



St. Peter Damien, OSB, was a great church reformer during a time of crisis among the clergy and religious. He reluctantly left a hermit's life to take charge of his religious community and establish five hermitages in Italy. Later, as bishop of Ostia, he was involved in important church events, yet he pleaded to be allowed to return to the solitary prayer life. Peter is credited with

many spiritual writings. To a bishop he once wrote, "Let your lips continually ruminate something from the scriptures." He was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1828.



CATECHETICAL CORNER

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT LENT AND LENTEN PRACTICES



Catholic family prays before dishing up typical Lenten meal. (CNS photo/ Nancy Wiechec)

Q. Why do we say that there are forty days of Lent? When you count all the days from Ash Wednesday through Holy Saturday, there are forty-six.

A. It might be more accurate to say that there is a "forty-day fast within Lent." Historically, Lent has varied from a week to three weeks to the present configuration of forty-six days. The forty-day fast, however, has been more stable. The Sundays of Lent are certainly part of the season of Lent, but they are not prescribed days of fast and abstinence.

Q. So does that mean that when we give something up for Lent, such as candy, we can have it on Sundays?

A. Apart from the prescribed days of fast and abstinence on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, and the days of abstinence every Friday of Lent, Catholics have traditionally chosen additional penitential practices for the whole season of Lent. These practices are disciplinary in nature and are often more effective if they are continuous, i.e., kept on Sundays as well. That being said, such practices are not regulated by the Church but by individual conscience.

Q. I understand that all the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat, but I'm not sure what is classified as meat. Does meat include chicken and dairy products?

A. Abstinence laws consider that meat comes only from animals such as chickens, cows, sheep, or pigs—all of which live on land. In addition, birds are also considered meat. Abstinence does not include meat juices and liquid foods made from meat. Thus, such foods as chicken broth, consommé, soups cooked or flavored with meat, meat gravies or sauces, as well as seasonings or condiments made from animal fat are technically not forbidden. However, moral theologians have traditionally taught that we should abstain from all animal-derived products (except foods such as gelatin, butter, cheese, and eggs, which do not have any meat taste). Fish are a different category of animal. Salt and freshwater species of fish, amphibians, reptiles, (cold-blooded animals) and shellfish are permitted.

Q. I've noticed that restaurants and grocery stores advertise specials on expensive types of fish and seafood on Fridays during Lent. Some of my Catholic friends take advantage of these deals, but somehow I don't feel right treating myself to the lobster special on Fridays during Lent.

A. While fish, lobster, and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer.

Q. I understand that Catholics ages eighteen to fifty-nine should fast on Ash Wednesday and on Good Friday, but what exactly are the rules for these fasts?

A. Fasting on these days means we can have only one full, meatless meal. Some food can be taken at the other regular meal times if necessary, but combined they should be less than a full meal. Liquids are allowed at any time, but no solid food should be consumed between meals.

Q. Are there exemptions other than for age from the requirement to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday?

A. Those that are excused from fast and abstinence outside the age limits include the mentally or physically ill, including individuals suffering from chronic illnesses such as diabetes. Also excluded are pregnant or nursing women. In all cases, common sense should prevail, and ill persons should not jeopardize their health by fasting.



During the season of Lent, our Liturgies will reflect qualities that are unique to the rest of the liturgical year with elements rich in meaning. The Church calls us to fast... musically, we fast from the joyful *Gloria* and *Alleluia* (except for the Solemnities of St. Joseph on March 19th and the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25th). During the season of Lent, there will not be Prelude or Postlude music. We notice a starkness, a simplicity, an austerity, a certain absence within the environment in our Church.

This year, we will begin Mass by praying the Confiteor together, then singing the Kyrie Eleison, Christe Eleison - a "chant by which the faithful acclaim the Lord and implore his mercy." This will be sung *a cappella*... with the Church's tradition to make less use of instruments during Lent. We also will fast musically by not singing a recessional hymn... as we depart each week in silence, accompanied only by soft instrumental music. *Sing to the Lord: Music in Divine Worship* (developed by the Music Subcommittee of the Committee on Divine Worship of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) tells us that "Although it is not necessary to sing a recessional hymn, when it is a custom, all may join in a hymn or song after the dismissal. Other options include a choral or instrumental piece or, particularly during Lent, silence" (199). We will chant the "Agnus Dei" (Lamb of God), also *a cappella*. A worship aid has been prepared for use here during Lent to assist in the spoken and sung words used during Mass.

A less elaborate style of music enables us to enter more fully into the season of Lent, when we are called to quiet self-examination and conversion of life. This musical "holding back" also sets us up for the jubilation of resurrection songs we will sing throughout the Easter season.

Also, you'll notice that we will be using the Apostles Creed . . . the direction from the *Roman Missal III* recommends the Apostles Creed be used during Lent and Easter.

Iglesia San José

Ministerios Hispanos

Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

14 y 15 Febrero del 2015

Calendario Litúrgico:



Misas en Español

Domingo 15 de Febrero 1:30 p.m.

Miércoles de Ceniza

18 de Febrero 8:15 a.m. y 6:00 p.m.

Misas en Ingles

Sabados 4:00 p.m.

Domingos 8:30 a.m. y 11:00 a.m.

Confesiones

Antes d misa de español de 12:45 p.m. a 1:15 p.m.

Miércoles de Ceniza

Es el inicio de la Cuaresma. La imposición de la ceniza nos recuerda que nuestra vida en la tierra es pasajera y que nuestra vida definitivamente se encuentra en el cielo. La Cuaresma comienza con el Miércoles de Ceniza y es un tiempo de Oración, penitencia y ayuno. Cuarenta días que la iglesia nos pide un cambio a nuestras vidas. El ayuno consiste en hacer una sola comida al día y la abstinencia es no comer carne. Este es un modo de pedirle perdón a Dios por haberlo ofendido y decirle que queremos cambiar de vida para agradecerle siempre.

Grupo "Corazón de María": Todas las mujeres están invitadas a participar cada viernes, de 11:00 a.m. a 2:00 p.m., en este grupo para Oración, Evangelización, clases de Inglés, labores del hogar y consejos prácticos para la vida.

El "Grupo de hombres" se reúne todos los viernes en Family Life 7:30 p.m. (en el edificio nuevo en frente de la Iglesia San José).



Invitación al coro "Guadalupe"

Están cordialmente invitadas a practicar el coro, todos los viernes a las 2:00 p.m. Si tiene preguntas llame a Carmen al tel: 330-432-0811 ó a la oficina al 330-364-6661.

Notas Espirituales:

La lepra era una grave preocupación en el mundo bíblico. Para ser declarado leproso debía ser condenado a tener una vida aparte de la comunidad, que vive "fuera del campamento" en los días de Moisés, más tarde fuera de las ciudades y pueblos. Fue la tarea del sacerdote para declarar a alguien impuro como un leproso y, en el caso de la remisión, para declarar limpios y les permita reincorporarse a la comunidad. La descripción de la lepra, se detalla en el Levítico 13, deja en claro que la lepra bíblica no era lo mismo que lo que llamamos lepra de hoy. Podría ser contraído no sólo por la gente mediante un trapo e incluso algún material de construcción y era algo que debía evitarse, ya que se pensaba que era contagiosa.

Pablo llama a los corintios a "hacer todo para la gloria de Dios." Nuestra tarea como discípulos es dar testimonio con nuestra vida a la bondad y la misericordia de Dios. Estamos llamados a trabajar no sólo para nuestra propia salvación, sino "que ellos (todos/muchos) seremos salvados." Por último, en palabras poco características de Pablo, se nos anima: "Sed imitadores de mí, como yo lo soy de Cristo." El leproso del Evangelio de hoy nos lleva a Jesús en busca de ayuda, "si lo deseas, puedes curarme." Aunque Jesús arriesga a contraer la lepra y la impureza ritual, "trasladado piedad de él, extendió su mano (y) lo tocó." Marcos nos dice que "la lepra se le quitó inmediatamente," una vez más haciendo hincapié en el poder de Jesús. Jesús entonces ordena al hombre para cumplir la ley de Moisés, mostrando a sí mismo "al sacerdote," pero en cambio el hombre "comenzó a dar a conocer todo el asunto," por lo que es "imposible que Jesús entre en una ciudad abierta."

Para reflexionar: ¿Quiénes son los leprosos de hoy, y cómo los puedo ver? ¿Por qué algunas obras buenas no son anunciadas?

Vía crucis "Estaciones de la Cruz"

Febrero 20, 27, y Marzo 6, 13, 20 y 27

8:00 p.m. en Español