

The Work of the People
The Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

This coming Wednesday is Ash Wednesday, the day on which we commit ourselves to some form of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving (doing good) for this Lenten Season. Please pray over this decision so that you may be able to make an honest and realistic commitment. This Sunday is Commitment Sunday for both our Lenten commitment and our commitment to all those in need in the Diocese of Erie through the Catholic Services Appeal.

In the reading from the Book of Leviticus, we hear of the leper: "he shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp." It was a terrible fate for people to be cast out from the community. This story sets the scene for us to hear of Jesus' cure of the leper in the Gospel.

In today's second reading, Paul tells the Corinthians what kind of example they should be. They should do everything for the glory of God and avoid things that would cause offense.

Today's medical science has classified leprosy as a single skin condition, also known as Hansen's disease. In Jesus' time, though, leprosy was a term that referred to multiple skin disorders. The leper should not have been anywhere near Jesus nor close enough to speak with him. He broke the law. Yet Jesus did not shun the man. Instead, he listened when the man approached him. Then Jesus broke the law by touching the man. By breaking that law, Jesus showed his disciples and followers that God does not shun those whom society does. We are not to shut anyone out from the community of the people of God.

Our reflection for this Sunday is from Sr. Miriam Pollard, OCSO, who is a sister of Santa Rita Abbey in Sonoita, Arizona.

Good grief, what is more antithetic to the notion of glory than a withered and ravaged human body? A withered and ravaged human life. What was left for the leprous man when he discovered the rash on his body, the first faint warnings of future devastation and isolation?

Until one day, hope knocked at the door of his heart. He heard people speak of a prophet, a healer, someone who could make a body whole again. Could he snatch at this hope? Was it for him? This man, Jesus, this prophet, did he care about the castoffs of his world?

He would try. He would make his way through that crowd, ringing the bell, seeing the people shrink away, knowing that they wanted nothing of him but distance, knowing they would feel only relief if he should waste into death from his disease.

"Lord!" His croak of a voice calls from a safe distance. "Lord, if you want to . . ." Meaning: *Lord, if you care enough. Do you care? Do I matter enough for you*

to squander your power on me?

"You can make me clean." *That is not the issue. I know you can do it. Whether you want to do it for me is the question. "You can make me clean if you think I am worth your trouble."*

Jesus walks to him. The man looks up at the Lord, and what does he see? Dare he hope?

He sees the glory of God in human eyes. He sees deep, deep wells of understanding and compassion. His heart is **throbbing. He locks onto the gaze of Jesus. He feels – incredibly – the hand of Jesus on his head. The hand on his leprous head.**

"I do want to. Be made clean." *Look, I give you back a place, a family, respectability. I give you back the give-and-take of love. I give you back yourself.*

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Jas. 1:1-11/Mk. 8:11-13
 Tuesday: Jas. 1:12-18/Mk 8:14-21
 Wednesday: Jl. 2:12-18/2 Cor. 5:20; 6:2/Mt. 6:1-6, 16-18
 Thursday: Dt. 30:15-20/Lk. 9:22-25
 Friday: Is. 58:1-9a/Mt. 9:14-15
 Saturday: Is. 58:9b-14/Lk. 5:27-32
 Sunday: Gn. 9:8-15/1 Pt. 3:18-22/Mk. 1:12-15

ASH WEDNESDAY February 14, 2024

5:00 pm - Mass at St. Bernadette Mission
 7:00 pm - Mass at St. Anthony of Padua

LENTEN DEVOTIONS

Stations of the Cross and Benediction
 6:00 pm

St. Anthony of Padua
 Tuesday, February 20
 Tuesday, March 5
 Tuesday, March 19

St. Bernadette Mission
 Tuesday, February 27
 Tuesday, March 12
 Tuesday, March 26

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

- All Saints Parish, Waterford - Feb. 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$5 for children under 12, toddlers free. Serving from 4:30 pm - 7:00 pm.
- Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro - Feb. 16, 23, March 1, 8, 15, 22. Donation \$12. Serving 4:30 pm until sold out.
- Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Erie - Feb. 23, March 8, 22. Cost is \$15 for adults, \$7 for children. Serving from 4pm - 7 pm.

WORSHIP

Monday, February 12
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of
 David & Christine Ochs family

Tuesday, February 13
 8:00 am + Stephanie Ann Metzler (Judy Metzler)

Wednesday, February 14 - ASH WEDNESDAY
 5:00 pm + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 John Weagraff (John & Cindy Weber)

7:00 pm + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Gerald Peters (Maureen Peters)

Thursday, February 15
 8:00 am + Norma Adams (Diane Polensky)

Friday, February 16
 8:00 am + Liv. & Dec. Members of PNA Lodge 1540

Saturday, February 17
 4:30 pm + Lawrence Richardson (Elizabeth Richardson)

Sunday, February 18
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 James Rasavage (Carol)

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 13
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena

Saturday, February 17
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession

Sunday, February 18
 AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Before Mass - Confession
 AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 After Mass - Confession
 10:30 am - Faith Formation Classes

Monday, February 19
 5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

LENTE BIBLE STUDY "Bad Girls of the Bible"

*Every Thursday from 9:00 am - 10:00 am
 Starts February 15th and ends March 21st
 Class meets in St. Anthony of Padua Parish Center
 Kitchen
 For more information, call
 Sue Parkin 814 450-2346*

CHICKEN & BISCUIT DINNER

On Monday, February 19 a Chicken & Biscuit Dinner will be served in St. Anthony of Padua Parish Center starting at 5:00 pm. Dinner includes chicken & biscuits, mashed potatoes, vegetable, apple sauce and slice of cake. Cost is \$7 and takeouts are available.

SACRAMENT OF PENANCE

5:00 PM

St. Anthony of Padua
 Tuesday, February 20
 Tuesday, March 5
 Tuesday, March 19

St. Bernadette Mission
 Tuesday, February 27
 Tuesday, March 12
 Tuesday, March 26

LENTE LUNCHES

*All are on Wednesday and begin
 at 12:00 Noon*

— Cambridge Springs —

*February 14 - Christian Missionary Church
 February 21 - First United Methodist Church
 February 28 - St. Paul Lutheran Church
 March 6 - Presbyterian Church
 March 13 - St. Anthony of Padua
 March 20 - First Church of God
 March 27 - First Baptist Church*

— Saegertown —

*February 21 - First United Methodist
 February 28 - Twelve Apostles Church
 March 6 - St. Bernadette Mission
 March 13 - First United Methodist
 March 20 - Twelve Apostles Church*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Fr. Mark Nowak who celebrated Saturday, February 10th. Our parishes wish you good health, happiness and peace.

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,082.00
Maintenance	395.00
Catholic Communications	10.00
Ash Wednesday	50.00
Candles	45.00
TOTAL	\$1,582.00

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$2,368.27
Maintenance	831.00
Reimbursement Charge	20.00
Reimbursement ISF	115.00
Initial Offering	35.00
Faith Communication	30.00
Solemnity of Mary	10.00
Candles	107.00
TOTAL	\$3,516.27

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
