



*Founded in 1894 our parish is served by the Mercedarian Friars
Father Michael Rock, O. de M., pastor
Father Scottston Brentwood, O. de M., associate pastor*



OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH

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SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2021

6TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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. - Mk 1:44-45b

The Church, as a voice of the Gospel, proclaims the sacredness of all human life. Everyone created by God is fashioned in God's image and has Divine DNA at the center of their soul. God never leaves what God creates but always remains intimately bound to what he has given form. Everyone has a place and because they have received the gift of Divine Blessing, nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, unclean or marginalized. Even the most broken of souls has a place. We, the Body of Christ, have the privilege and responsibility to give voice to the voiceless. The cries of the little one in his or her mother's womb are just as sacred as the cries of one who is homeless and hungry. The migrant deserves our attention as much as the forgotten elderly and even the prisoner, with a heart hardened by anger and resentment, deserves respect and dignity.

The Gospel of Life is often hard to swallow, and we would rather keep those we consider unclean, different or unfixable in a place by themselves. It is hard to see them with us, but they deserve to be. There is far too much violence in this world and the result of that violence is the assault on human life. Many are forced to leave the place they call home in search of safer ground, finding few if any along the way who will help them. How different today's Gospel story would be if Jesus gave in to what was politically correct at that time. The leper would have been turned away and a soul, already beaten down by disease and fear, would have experienced an even deeper wound. Jesus wouldn't have captured much attention from anyone, nor would he have mirrored the Father's compassion and love.



Where do we stand with all of this? Do we at least understand that God's vision is often in conflict with the vision put forth in our world and even the one we advance ourselves? There is no doubt that it is incredibly challenging to find a place for everyone at the table. This challenge is compounded when the systems of operation and structure that are so ingrained in us affirm power and privilege rather than inclusivity and justice. Everything really goes askew when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement raise their ugly heads and we find ourselves with quite a mess. It's time to admit that things have been a mess for a very long time. The mess needs to be healed, not by erasing it but by allowing God to touch it and make it whole. We need to bring God back to the center of life where God belongs. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But, knowing that wholeness, healing, and dignity are worthy pursuits, we can more confidently labor to achieve God's vision.

Readings for the Week of February 14, 2021

- Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11/
1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45
- Monday: Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21/Mk 8:11-13
- Tuesday: Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10/Mk 8:14-21
- Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/ Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
- Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 9:22-25
- Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/Mt 9:14-15
- Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32
- Next Sunday: Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9/1 Pt 3:18-22/
Mk 1:12-15



Sunday, February 14

- 8:00am Pro Populo
- 9:30am Barbara Janssen
- 11:30am +Guerino and Carmelo DiDiodoro
- 8:00pm Miraglia Family

Monday, February 15

- 8:30am +George Oberdorf

Tuesday, February 16

- 8:30am +Rejanne Kersaint

Ash Wednesday, February 17

- 7:00am The Trice Children
- 8:30am +Deceased of the Kady Family
- 12:00pm +Graziano and Angela Fabiano
- 6:30pm +Grace Burns
- 8:00pm +All Souls in Purgatory

Thursday, February 18

- 8:30am +Richette Kersaint

Friday, February 19

- 8:30am +Carnez Kersaint

Saturday, February 20

- 8:30am +Grace Burns
- 4:00pm +Vincent and Anna Carbone; and
Anthony DiSante

Sunday, February 21

- 8:00am +Raymond J. Marchak, Sr.
- 9:30am Anh Linh
- 11:30am +Karen McWilliams
- 8:00pm Pro Populo



World Marriage Day (WMD) honors husband and wife as the foundation of the family – the basic unit of society. It salutes the beauty of their faithfulness, sacrifice, and joy in daily married life.



HISTORY

The idea of celebrating marriage began in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, in 1981, when couples encouraged the mayor, the governor, and the Bishop to proclaim St. Valentine's Day as "We Believe in Marriage Day." The event was so successful, the idea was presented to and adopted by Worldwide Marriage Encounter's National Leadership.

By 1982, 43 governors officially proclaimed the day, and celebrations spread to U.S. military bases in several foreign countries. In 1983, the name was changed to "World Marriage Day," designated to be celebrated each year on the second Sunday in February. In 1993, his Holiness, Pope John Paul II, imparted his Apostolic Blessings on World Marriage Day.

Father, we thank you for your tremendous gift of the Sacrament of Marriage. Help us to witness to its glory by a life of growing intimacy. Teach us the beauty of forgiveness so we may become more and more One in Heart, Mind, and Body. Strengthen our dialogue and help us become living signs of your love. Make us grow more in love with the Church so we may renew the Body of Christ. Make us a sign of unity in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Brother. Amen. ~



DURING LENT

Daily Confessions

Monday through Friday

from 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Saturday and Sunday

from 2:30 to 4:00 pm

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday in Lent at 6:30 pm

Zoom Bible Study—Wednesday Evenings

Info in next weeks bulletin

Lenten Disciplines of Fasting & Abstinence

Catholics in good health ages 18 to 59 are required to fast and to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

Fasting consists of eating only one meal, with the possibility of two smaller snacks that do not add up to a single full meal.

Catholics age 14 and older are to abstain from meat on all Fridays in Lent.

ETERNAL REST GRANT UNTO THEM

Please remember the souls of the faithfully departed.

REMEMBER OUR SICK

Dorothy Hardy, Kurt Mohammed, Patricia Nicholson, Colin Ramberan, Avery Lofton, Eugene Colombaro, Monica Ramberan, Margaret Davis, Kaela Davis, Yosan Gabriel, Daisy Gray, Jenell Sifontis, Cathy Norman, Sabrina Freeman, Leslie Wade, Esmond Family, Aileen Regan, Sarah and Michael Regan, Kelly Regan, Scott Stierheim, Sr. Mary Charles, A.S.S.P., Mecca Taylor, Melissa Becker, Christian Lasty, Lisa Becker, Debbie Everett, Nigel Simon, Donald Graham, Jean Hargraves, Marci Wade, Mary Frances Doran, Maureen Doran Hendrix, Melissa Potts, Cayla Wade, Theresa Gilliam, Suzanne Dupre, Indramattie Somwaru, John Bricker, Alina Simon, Carmelina Desiderio, Graham Family, Carol Howe, Samantha Johnson, Christopher Murrin, Holly, Damon, and Stephen Anthony, Charles Epps, Ramona Wade

The Sanctuary Lamp intention is:

For All Souls in Purgatory

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We offer to anyone who may wish to 'donate' for the following "Memorials":

For personal intentions;

For your beloved dead; and/or For the living

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church - \$15.00 per week

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

CATHOLIC LIFE EXPLAINED

In today's digital world, do we really need to be face-to-face with a priest to confess our sins? Would Facetime or Zoom ever be allowed?

The question of whether or not Catholics can celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation virtually (*via social media, by phone, or in some other way*) is a question that has actually been around for several years. The recent COVID-19 pandemic brought the question back in a new way, especially as many parishes were forced to introduce a sort of "social distanced" confession, with the sacrament being celebrated outdoors.

In reflecting on this question, however, there are a couple points that we want to keep in mind. First, as the Code of Canon Law observes in different places, the faithful have a right to the sacraments of the Church and the Church's ministers have a responsibility to make them accessible. At the same time, however, we always have to be sure that we respect the nature of the sacraments themselves.

Although modern forms of technology and communication can help us in our work of evangelization catechesis, the Pontifical Council for Social Communication has reminded us that, "Virtual reality is no substitute for the Real Presence of Christ in the Eucharist, the sacramental reality of the other sacraments, and shared worship in a flesh and blood human community. There are no sacraments on the internet" (*The Church and the Internet, no. 9*).

Although our encounters with others on the internet and via social media can be considered "real" in one sense, in the sacraments we encounter Christ in a personal and ecclesial way. It is never just a private experience but is always grounded in the life of the Church and this means that it must truly be personal, including the contact between the confessor and the penitent. While the convenience or ease of online celebrations might be appealing for many reasons, at heart, we always want to keep in mind the fullness of the Church's tradition and the meaning of the sacraments.



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