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HE CURED MANY WHO WERE SICK. - MK 1:34

5<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

# SUNDAY'S READINGS

## FIRST READING:

I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. (Jb 7:4)

## PSALM:

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147)  
Or Alleluia.

## SECOND READING:

I have become all things to all, to save at least some.  
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,  
so that I too may have a share in it. (1 Cor 9:22-23)

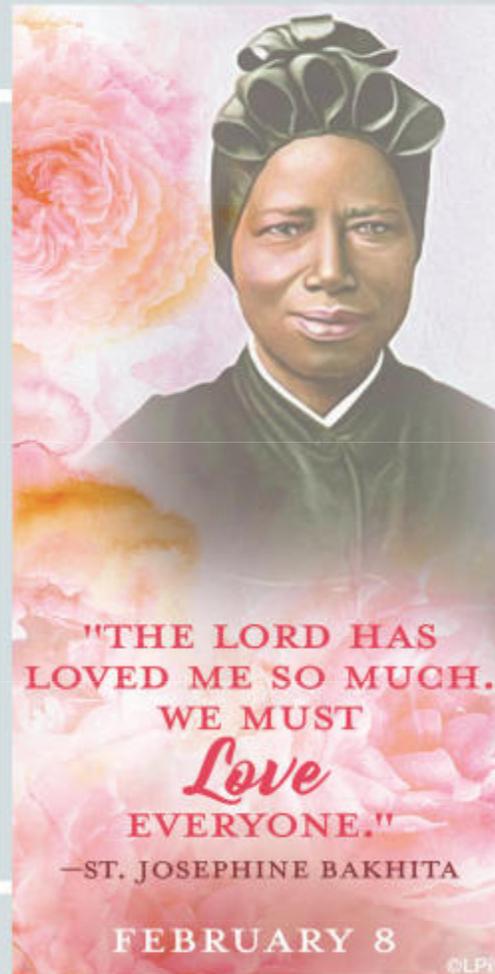
## GOSPEL:

He cured many who were sick with various diseases,  
and he drove out many demons,  
not permitting them to speak because they knew  
him. (Mk 1:34)

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## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
Monday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin  
Wednesday: St. Scholastica, Virgin  
Thursday: Our Lady of Lourdes  
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary  
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day;  
Valentine's Day



THE LORD  
HEALS THE  
*brokenhearted.*

PSALM 147



## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

We hear how Job struggled to find meaning and hope in his life. How does your faith help you get through difficult times in your life?

### SECOND READING

Paul speaks of his singular desire to preach the "gospel" (the Good News of Jesus Christ). When do you share the gospel message with others?

### GOSPEL READING

We learn that from the beginning of his public ministry Jesus was very purpose-driven: healing the sick and preaching the good news. How intentional is the practice of faith in your daily life?

## THE AUDACITY OF HOLINESS

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness "a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness."

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that "the fever left her and she waited on them." Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

## IS IT EVER OK TO LEAVE MASS BEFORE IT ENDS?

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

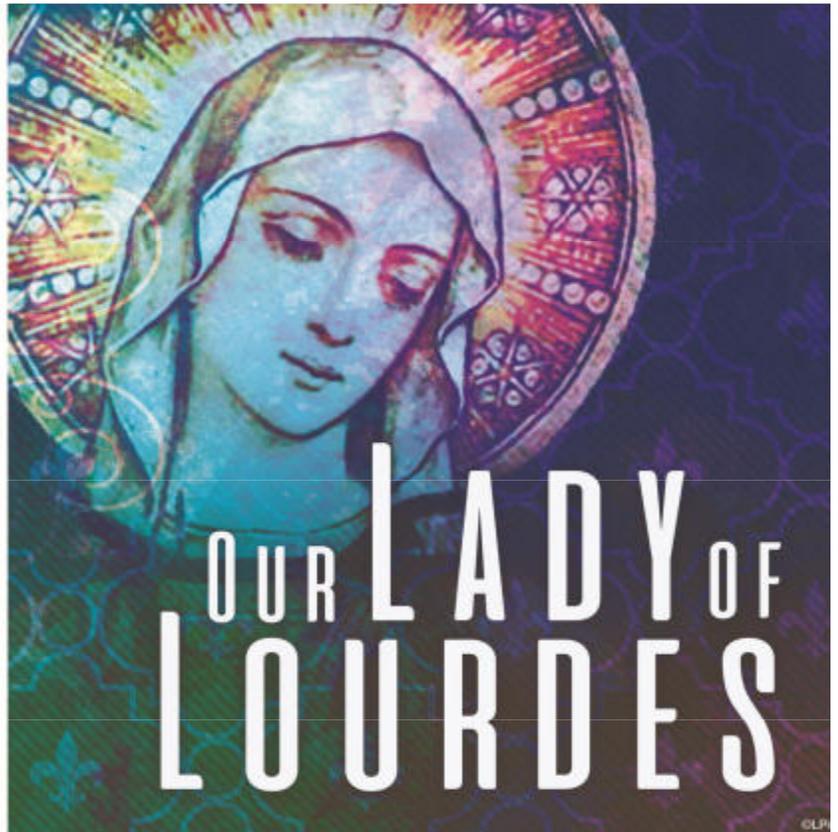
If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.



## LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it's intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God's healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises.

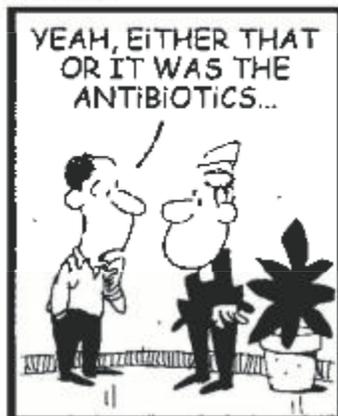


### PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

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### 5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery.

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely



miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or

trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

*When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34*

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## 3 EASY STEPS

### TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



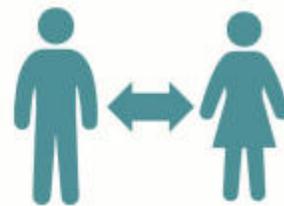
#### WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.



#### DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.



#### KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.

“

You were  
made for  
greatness.

Pope Benedict XVI

”

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# Kids Corner

READ THE  
GOSPEL &  
COLOR



Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her. He took hold of her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. She felt so good, she cooked them a nice meal to celebrate. Neighbors brought all of their sick loved ones to be cured. When we pray today, Jesus still comes to those who are sick and heals them. He cures through doctors, nurses, medicines, and machines.

## PRAYER

Lord, heal my family and friends who are sick today.

## MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will make get well cards for three sick people in our church.



*Invest just five minutes a day,  
and your faith will deepen and grow  
a day at a time.*

**Monday, Feb 08, 2021**

**Optional Memorial of Jerome Emiliani, Priest**

Who hasn't felt all alone before? Perhaps let down or left by a loved one. Perhaps in such dire straits that you thought even God abandoned you. Jerome Emiliani is the saint for those low points. He found God in ultimate isolation—prison. Once free, he became a priest and devoted himself to the abandoned of 16th-century Venice—especially orphans and prostitutes. When you feel stricken with an orphan spirit, remember that you are a beloved child of a loving Creator who will never let you go. Show that same love to those who need you most.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 1:1-19; Mark 6:53-56*

**Tuesday, Feb 09, 2021**

Gregory XV became pope by "popular acclaim" on this day in 1621—interesting, because he changed the tradition soon after. Instead, Gregory made the case for the first secret ballot when electing a pope. He also did other remarkable things, considering his papacy lasted barely two years. He established the first missionary organization of the Vatican, the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. And he canonized these beloved saints: Ignatius of Loyola, Teresa of Avila, Francis Xavier, and Philip Neri. Is there a change you've been meaning to make in your own practice of the faith? Begin today.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 1:20—2:4a;  
Mark 7:1-13*

**Wednesday, Feb 10, 2021  
Memorial of Scholastica, Virgin**

There are few details of Saint Scholastica's early life, but we do know that this sister of Benedict of Nursia entered religious life and lived in a women's monastery a few miles from her brother's in Monte Cassino. Perhaps the most enduring story about Scholastica is one that pits her will against her brother's when she begs him to extend their yearly visit and spend the night in prayer and conversation. Benedict resists, not wishing to break his own rule with a night away from home. Determined, Scholastica asks God for assistance, and a torrential rainstorm ensues that settles the matter in her favor—Benedict will spend the night. Never doubt that you are worthy to ask for God's help. Trust your heart to know what will draw you closer to God.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17;  
Mark 7:14-23*

**Thursday, Feb 11, 2021**

**Optional Memorial of Our Lady Of Lourdes**

Much of Jesus' ministry had to do with some form of healing, and today's memorial, Our Lady of Lourdes, recognizes Mary's 18 reported appearances in Lourdes, France, a place of pilgrimage known for healing powers. Millions of people a year travel to Lourdes in search of healing; many report spiritual peace and transformation, and a handful even report experiencing cures without medical explanation. Today is also World Day of the Sick. It's an ideal day to ask Mary to intercede on behalf of healing that we need—or that our friends and loved ones desire.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 2:18-25;  
Mark 7:24-30*

**Friday, Feb 12, 2021**

This day, falling between World Day of the Sick and Valentine's Day, brings thoughts of how many are left alone after COVID deaths. Advertisers are pushing candy, cards, and flowery bouquets, but the countercultural church also counsels that we pay kind attention to those who are grieving. Practical actions are often most helpful: not only shoveling a driveway or baking some bread, but also reaching out and just listening to whatever is on the grieving person's heart. Sometimes all a grieving person wants is to name the beloved and talk about them again. Being a good listener is a welcome gift.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:1-8; Mark 7:31-37 (333)*

**Saturday, Feb 13, 2021  
Optional Memorial of  
The Blessed Virgin Mary**

For more than a thousand years, the Catholic Church has dedicated most Saturdays to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The reason for choosing Saturday above all other days has been lost to antiquity. But according to tradition, Saturday has been set aside to celebrate the maternal example of Mary and witness to her dedicated discipleship as a woman of God and a follower of Jesus. The weekly memorial serves as a reminder that she is continuously present and operative in the life of the church. Reflect on how the Blessed Virgin Mary has been present and active in your life.

*TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 3:9-24;  
Mark 8:1-10*

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Scripture citations from the NAB Rev. Ed.

# February

febrero

## Mass Intentions

**Weekend of February 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup>**  
5<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

✘ Leighton Nickerson  
For the People of St Stevens

✘ Quinn & Hass Family

**Monday February 8<sup>th</sup>**

✘ Debi Furtaw Kerby

**Tuesday February 9<sup>th</sup>**

✘ David Westbrook

**Wednesday February 10<sup>th</sup>**

✘ Marc Pascual

**Thursday February 11<sup>th</sup>**

✘ Larry Byron

**Friday February 12<sup>th</sup>**

✘ Charles Juba Sr.

**Weekend of February 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>**  
6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

✘ Dorothy Topel  
For the People of St Stevens

✘ Carl D'Amato

# PARISH WEEKLY UPDATE

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We continue to pray that our COVID numbers will diminish and we will be able to resume public masses by the beginning of Lent. As we continue to stream masses and hope to open prior to Ash Wednesday, I would like to ask each of you to continue your faithfulness by:

## Prayer

### For our church family

Ask for God's direction in ways that you can reach out and serve others who may be in need at this uncertain and unsettling time. To borrow from another church, "We might need to do 'social distancing,' but we don't have to do 'soul distancing.'"

### For Fr. Enoch

Ask God for Father's safety in his travels and joy in his future ministry with his community in Nigeria.

### For our parish staff

## Giving

### Your time and talents

Our focus must be on all our church family members who need notes of encouragement or a friendly phone call to let them know of our faithfulness as we are all part of God's family.

### To our church, even when not attending in person

Our needs and services continue, so seek God's wisdom in your financial gifts. You can give online through *WeShare*®, mail, or by dropping your contributions in our drop box on the gates to our courtyard at the church.

## Be faithful

### By praising God in the Eucharist

Join me daily at 8am, Saturday at 4pm, and Sunday at 8am or 10am, as we offer the mass, giving thanks to God for the gift of our lives, praying for each other, and making a Spiritual Communion as a parish family. Masses streamed on our website:

<http://saintstevensparish.org>.

### By staying in God's Word

- + Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God believe also in me. (John 14: 1)
- + Rejoice in the Lord always; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4: 4, 6-7)
- + Humble yourselves, therefore, under the mighty hand of God so that at the proper time he may exalt you, casting all your anxieties on him, because he cares for you. (1 Peter 5: 6-7)

Blessings and Prayers, 



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