



FOR THIS PURPOSE HAVE I COME

THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
FEBRUARY 6/7, 2021

Back in the time of Jesus, if there was something troubling you, it pretty much came down to one of three things: You were either a leper, you had a “fever,” or you were possessed by an unclean spirit. Fast forwarding 2,000 years, not only have we made great strides in medical science, but life has certainly gotten a lot more complicated:

Abuse. Addiction. Ageism. Anxiety. Bigotry.
Body Shaming. Broken Homes. Bullying.
Cancer. Depression. Disease. Divorce.
Domestic Violence. Eating Disorders. Fear.
Hatred. Helplessness. Homelessness.
Homophobia. Hopelessness. Infidelity.
Insecurity. Jealousy. Loneliness. Mental Illness.
Miscarriages. PTSD. Racism. Regret. Sadness.

Sexism. Sickness. Suicide. Terrorism. Torture.
Unemployment. Xenophobia. *(And that's just
naming a few in alphabetical order.)*

If people were flocking to Jesus to be healed back then, shouldn't we all be doing the same now **more than ever?** Not discrediting a trip to the doctor, but what have we got to lose by offering our prayer to the Lord? What is wrong in seeking healing, help, comfort, and care from the God that created and loves us?

Our readings this weekend can pretty much be used to describe 2020 & 2021 in a nutshell. However, let's not lose hope that our Lord is always here to comfort and heal us physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually.

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FROM THE DIOCESE

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, ashes should not be imposed on a person's forehead in the usual manner. Instead, the European custom of sprinkling ashes on the crown of a person's head should be employed.

We have had a year filled with different ways of living and praying. There are fewer people in church. No water in the front. Less singing. Communion primarily in the hand. No coffee and doughnuts on the way home. Yet we still pray.

Instead of giving ashes as a cross on the forehead—unsafe in this COVID time—we can still receive them by sprinkling on the top of the head (permitted by our ritual rules).

Sprinkling ashes on the crown of the head recalls the biblical method of putting on sackcloth and ashes as a sign of penance: “Now on the twenty-fourth day of this month the people of Israel were assembled with fasting and in sackcloth, and with earth upon their heads” (Neh 9:1).

We will look a little cleaner. We can still repent, and believe in the Gospel. We will still bear ashes home to begin our lenten practices, borne of our hearts.

-Sr. Regina Murphy, SSMN
Chancellor



A COVID-19 PRAYER

For all who have contracted coronavirus, we pray for care and healing. For those who are particularly vulnerable, we pray for safety and protection. For our brothers and sisters around the world, we pray for shared solidarity. Father, during this time may your Church be a sign of hope, comfort and love to all. Grant peace. Grant comfort. Grant healing. Be with us, Lord. Amen.

THE 5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading

Jb 7:1-4, 6-7

Job spoke, saying: Is not man's life on earth a drudgery? Are not his days those of hirelings? He is a slave who longs for the shade, a hireling who waits for his wages. So I have been assigned months of misery, and troubled nights have been allotted to me. If in bed I say, "When shall I arise?" then the night drags on; I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle; they come to an end without hope. Remember that my life is like the wind; I shall not see happiness again.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 147:1-2, 3-4, 5-6

R/. Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted.

Praise the LORD, for he is good; sing praise to our God, for he is gracious; it is fitting to praise him. The LORD rebuilds Jerusalem; the dispersed of Israel he gathers. **R/.**

He heals the brokenhearted and binds up their wounds.

He tells the number of the stars; he calls each by name. **R/.**

Great is our Lord and mighty in power; to his wisdom there is no limit.

The LORD sustains the lowly; the wicked he casts to the ground. **R/.**

Second Reading

1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-23

Brothers and sisters: If I preach the gospel, this is no reason for me to boast, for an obligation has been imposed on me, and woe to me if I do not preach it! If I do so willingly, I have a recompense, but if unwillingly, then I have been entrusted with a stewardship. What then is my recompense? That, when I preach, I offer the gospel free of charge so as not to make full use of my right in the gospel. Although I am free in regard to all, I have made myself a slave to all so as to win over as many as possible. To the weak I became weak, to win over the weak. 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.

The word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

Gospel

Mk 1:29-39

On leaving the synagogue Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John. Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her. He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them. 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. Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed. Simon and those who were with him pursued him and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you." He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come." So he went into their synagogues, preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord.

R/. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

DISCIPLES STAY IN THE KNOW

REMEMBERING THE CHILDREN

Harvest House Bottles for Babies Campaign begins February 13th, 2021. As in past years, parishioners are invited to take a baby bottle home, fill it with loose change, and return it by March 21/21. Bottle returns can be placed in the collection basket during weekend Masses. The monetary donations collected in the baby bottles will benefit the baby ministry at Harvest House. Thank you in advance for being so generous with this ministry, especially during this global pandemic.

DRIVE-BY FISH FRY

It's "o-fish-al"! We're offering a drive-by fish fry!

WHAT: DRIVE-THRU BWs BBQ Fish Fry DINNER (PRE-SALE ONLY). Includes: Beer battered haddock, potato salad and coleslaw, lemon wedge, rye bread & butter, tartar sauce.

WHEN: Friday, February 26, 2021

TIME: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

WHERE: St. Amrbose Site (Okell St. side)
COST: \$15

Mail a check into the parish office, stop by during business hours, or order right online on our parish website via WeShare ('Donate Online' button).

PARISH TRANSITION PRAYER

God, giver of every good gift, look graciously on Our Lady of Charity parish and guide us during our time of transition. We pray we will be saying "Welcome" to a new Pastor soon and ask that you bless our parish with a Priest whose presence will be a grace both for him and for us. We are filled with faith, energized by the power of your love and united in the mission entrusted to us. We need your grace to be receptive to this change and view it as an invitation to conversion and growth. We pray this in the name of your Son and Our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Our Lady of Charity, pray for us.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

First Friday of every month.

Immediately following the 8:00am Daily Mass till 9:30am.

Come spend some time with the Lord as he is exposed on the altar. Various devotions will be offered, with Benediction to follow.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday, February 17th, 2021

Lent will be here before we know it! (Look at the inside cover for info about distribution of ashes.)
Our Ash Wednesday Mass schedule is as follows:

8:00am - St. Ambrose Site

Noon - St. Ambrose Site

5:30pm - St. Ambrose Site

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday

4:00pm (St. Ambrose Site)

Sunday

8:30am (St. Ambrose Site)

10:00am (St. Ambrose Site)

11:30am (St. Ambrose Site)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday - Thursday, 8:30am - 4:30pm

Currently by appointment only.

(Office will be closed 12:00pm - 12:30pm for lunch)

Friday, closed

(716) 822-5962

Please consider remembering our parish community in your will.

Temporary Administrator

Fr. Robert Mock

Parochial Vicar

Fr. Martin Gallagher
Fr.Gallagher@olcp.org

Deacons

Deacon Tim Maloney
Deacon Steve Schumer

Business Manager

Elaine Williams
E.Williams@olcp.org

Director of Music & Worship

Brian Meyer
music@olcp.org

Administrative Assistant

Diana Deck
d.deck@olcp.org

SBCS at NDA Principal

Tristan D'Angelo
824-0726

Sacramental Preparation

Maureen Brown
Kathleen Mulqueen

Weekend/Weekday Help

Fr. Richard (Duke) Zajac
Fr. Robert (Bob) Hora

Prayer Link

768-4022

DISCIPLES STAY ACTIVE

COMMUNITY DINNERS

If you are interested or would like some more information please contact the parish office at 822-5962 or Mary Anne at 822-1837. Thank you!

Sponsors for the coming weeks include:

February 12: St. Vincent de Paul

February 19: Volunteers Needed (Meatless)

February 26: Liturgy Committee

March 5: Social Action Committee

WEATHER UPDATE

Please note: If Buffalo Public Schools are closed due to hazardous winter weather, there will be NO Daily Mass that day. Please stay safe.

CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS

We're Baack! Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court Msgr. Nelson H. Baker #1043 will resume meeting on **Monday, February 8th at 6:30pm** in the cafeteria of OLV Elementary. Updates on state convention and other court activities will be shared with the membership. Fundraising during a pandemic will be a main topic, so we can continue supporting our charities, national and local! Plans for a retreat during Lent will be discussed. All women 18 and over are welcome to attend. Come see what we are about.

MORE UPON THIS ROCK FUNDING!

I am pleased to inform you that the Upon This Rock office has deposited your Jan. 31, 2021 disbursement of \$9,475.00 into the designated bank account in support of your parish case element(s). This makes your total disbursements to date \$128,984.93.

Richard Suchan, Executive Director, Foundation of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo

Remember our case elements?

1.) Community Gardens – we continue to have our community gardens at our St. Ambrose site. They are currently yielding produce that is being shared with our Community Dinners, as well as parishioners that would like fresh produce. The gardens are funded by our Upon this Rock money that is given back to us.

2.) Ministry Enhancement – we have been able to use the funds from Upon this Rock for several upgrades to materials and resources for our parish ministry. Attendance at ministry conferences has proven very helpful and has provided much in the way of helping our ministries stay up to date with what is happening in our church.

3.) Discipleship Training and Evangelization – Our Discipleship program is committed to bringing our families closer to Jesus by helping them realize their role as disciples. The resources our program provides to our families are only the best and help us to build the domestic church at home. In the coming year when there is much uncertainty about how to teach the faith in our world amidst the COVID pandemic, our Upon this Rock resources will certainly help to make our Discipleship program transitioning much easier.

** PLEASE NOTE: IMPORTANT **

Good News: The restoration work at our Holy Family site is now continuing! Due to the amount of scaffolding that will be up, the fumes from paint removal, and the repairing of the Lift-a-vator, **ALL MASSES WILL BE AT THE ST. AMBROSE SITE AT THEIR NORMAL TIMES until further notice.** Our goal is to have everything completed by Easter. Stay tuned to Facebook for updates.



SAVE THE DATES



• **Ash Wednesday** •

Wednesday, February 17th

8:00am - St. Ambrose Site, 12:00pm - St. Ambrose Site,

5:30pm - St. Ambrose Site

• **Drive-Up Fish Fry Dinner** •

Friday, February 26th: 4:00pm - 6:00pm (St. Ambrose Site)

Includes: Beer battered haddock, potato salad and coleslaw, lemon wedge, rye bread and butter, tartar sauce. Cost: \$15 (PRE-SALE ONLY)

FUN FACT:

Thanks to all who brought in their old, dried palms! Interested in watching them become our ashes for Ash Wednesday? Stay tuned for a special Facebook Live event where we will burn them in preparation for the Lenten season!

DISCIPLES PRAY TOGETHER

PRE-BAPTISM SESSION

Before your child's Baptism, parents must virtually attend a Pre-Baptismal instruction class. The next session will be on **Tuesday, March 2nd at 6:30pm** via Zoom. Please call the office (822-5962) to register. **Parents, remember you must have letters of recommendation from the godparents before the Baptism date can be set.**

DISCIPLESHIP NEWS

Discipleship Families: Letters were mailed out 2 weeks go with information about our Discipleship gathering for February. Class will be on **Monday Feb. 8th**. Check-in starts at 6:15 pm at St. Ambrose. Class will be from 6:30 - 7:30pm. **Masks required.** Zoom class starts at 6:30pm. You will be able to log in a few minutes earlier. Check our parish website for the Zoom link under the 'Discipleship' tab.

NEW PARISH ENVELOPES

Envelopes are still available to pick up at the Parish Office (260 Okell St.) during business hours. If you are unable to pick them up during this time, simply call the office and we will leave them in the unlocked vestibule. Thank you for your understanding, and thank you for continuing to support our parish!

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DEAD

Let us remember all those who have gone before us:
+Nicholas DeAngelis, +Antonio Petricca
 May they rest in peace.

PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK

"MASTER, THE ONE YOU LOVE IS ILL." (JOHN 11:1-2)

Irene Andrzejewski, Irene Barrett, Louise Beamish, Teresa Beamish, Ann Alvira-Buchnowski, Patricia Cajak, Maureen Canney, Cheryl Clontz, Patricia Colern, Caroline Dominesey, Dottie Eberle, Brigid Evans, Vara Jones, Linda Kurcz, Madisyn Ledder, Janet Murray, Karen O'Neill, Mary Pilon, Maryann Rigby, Sandy Riley, Jane Rozek, Mary Sands, June Stebbins, Ruth White

Daniel Barry, Michael Beyers, Leon Bolick, Owen Chase, Eric Crawford, Vincent Crawford, Frank Czapezyk, Francis Davis, Larry Deskiewicz, Richard Dinnocenzo, Paul Fitzpatrick, Jason Florea, John Godwin, Eric G., Trooper Joseph Gallagher, Emmett Jakubowski, Rob Karr, Pat Kuhn, Robert Maggio, George Rodriguez, Josean Rodriguez, The family of Coach Frank Rossi, Jeremiah Smith, Jim Sweeney

If you have anyone you would like added to the sick list, please contact the Parish Office.

MASS INTENTIONS

Sat. / Sun., Feb. 6/7 - 5th Sun. in Ord. Time

- SA • 4:00pm
Christine Lycett (req. by Marie O'Brien)
- SA • 8:30am
Elizabeth McNamara (req. by her family)
- SA • 10:00am
Mrs. Nguyen Nguyen (req. by her family)
- SA • 11:30am
Cheryl Fisher (req. by the Choir)

Mon., Feb. 8 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **Jack Driscoll** (Birth. Wishes, req. by 'Coffee Crew')

Tues., Feb. 9 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **MaryLou Malone** (req. by Mary Alice Walz)

Wed., Feb. 10 - St. Scholastica, Virgin

- SA • 8:00am - **Martha Prendergast** (Anniv. Rem., req. by Katherine Hammersmith)

Thurs., Feb. 11 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **People of the Parish** (req. by Fr. Mock)

Fri., Feb. 12 - Weekday in Ordinary Time

- SA • 8:00am - **Anne Lynch** (req. by the Sciarrino Family)

Sat. / Sun., Feb. 13/14 - 6th Sun. in Ord. Time

- SA • 4:00pm
William Walz (Anniv. Rem., req. by his family)
- SA • 8:30am
Helen Driscoll Grandy (Anniv. Rem., req. by Jack Driscoll)
- SA • 10:00am
Susann Lloyd (req. by her family)
- SA • 11:30am
Robert Griffin (Anniv. Rem., req. by his family)

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

Any high school students interested in being confirmed in the fall of 2021 must register no later than Feb. 15th. Registration forms can be picked up in the vestibule at St. Ambrose office. They need to be completed and returned no later than February 15th.

They can be dropped in the collection (in an envelope) at either church or dropped in the mail slot at the parish office (just inside the door) attention to: Maureen Brown. The first class will be held on Mon. Feb. 22nd beginning at 6:30pm. Masks must be worn by all who attend.

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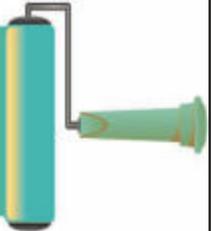
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