

* Week of February 11, 2018 *

MONDAY

Jas 1:1-11 * Ps 119:67-68,71-72,75-76 * Mk 8:11-13

TUESDAY

8:00am Word/Communion

Jas 1:12-18 * Ps 94:12-15,18-19 * Mk 8:14-21

ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00am Mass

12:00pm Word & Ashes

7:00pm Mass

Jl 2:12-18 * Ps 51:3-6,12-14,17 * 2 Cor 5:20 - 6:2 * Mt 6:1-6,16-18

THURSDAY

8:00am Mass

Dt 30:15-20 * Ps 1:1-4,6 * Lk 9:22-25

FRIDAY

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Is 58:1-9 * Ps 51:3-6,18-19 * Mt 9:14-15

SATURDAY

4:30pm Mass

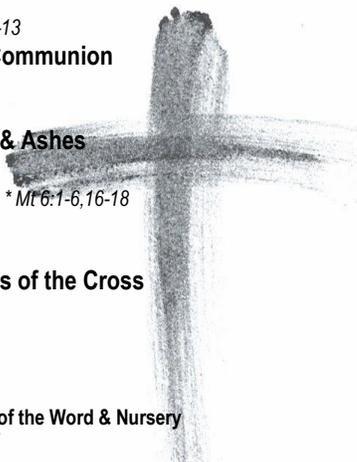
Is 58:9-14 * Ps 86:1-6 * Lk 5:27-32

SUNDAY

9:30am Mass

Children's Liturgy of the Word & Nursery

Gn 9:8-15 * Ps 25:4-9 * 1 Pt 3:18-22 * Mk 1:12-15



* Parish Activities *

Mon., Feb. 12	6:15pm Religious Education
	6:30pm Choir Practice
	6:30pm Bible Timeline
Tues., Feb. 13	10:00am Scripture Study
	6:30pm RCIA
Thur., Feb. 15	6:00pm PTO Meeting
	7:00pm School Committee Meeting
Sun., Feb. 18	1-3pm AACS K-3 rd grade basketball games
	6:00pm Youth Ministry

FASTING & ABSTINENCE

Ash Wednesday (February 14) and Good Friday (March 20) are days of fast and abstinence. All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence.

FASTING is to be observed by all 18 years of age and older who have not yet celebrated their 59th birthday. On a fast day one full meal is allowed. Two other meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids including milk and juices, are allowed.

ABSTINENCE is observed by all 14 years of age and older. On days of abstinence no meat is allowed. Note that when health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

Old palms: There are baskets at the church entrances that you can place last year's palms in to be burnt and used as ashes.

Thank You to all who contributed to the Souper Bowl Sunday collection! We raised \$896.08 for the East Side Soup Kitchen in Saginaw!

* Stewardship *

Weekly Target: \$11,538.47 * Offering: \$9,696.00

Monthly Target: \$50,000.00 * January Offering: \$40,623.37

YTD Target: \$350,000.00 * July-Jan. Offering: \$337,552.40

Children's Good Deeds: My Good Deed was...

...to shovel the driveway. ...I helped my dad do dishes.

...I helped clean up my house because it was messy.

* Education/Formation *

Family Talk Time Celebrating Sunday for Catholic Families. Sara McGinnis Lee
What does it mean to be clean on the inside versus the outside?

► **Reflecting on the Word:** The text presents a conundrum. Jesus clearly asks the leper to tell no one and yet he immediately tells everyone. It would seem if the leper were worthy of cleansing, then surely he would follow Jesus' command. Perhaps healing is not contingent upon our dutiful following of every command. Jesus realized that in our humanity we don't always live up to the gift of his love. Still, he gives his love freely, knowing that at times we will follow and at times we will disobey.

► **Living the Word:** Propose to the family that a room be chosen to clean. Family members should see this cleaning as a chance to change the space both physically and with intention. For instance, if you clean the kitchen, rearrange things to promote hospitality or a feeling of nourishment. Or if you clear out a closet, use the time to think about clearing out space in your life and what needs to be cleansed that you have hidden away. You might decide that the family cleans a room together or that each family member may pick a room for cleaning. Either way, see how this can be turned into a cleaning of both the inside and outside.

* Youth Ministry *

► **Youth Ministry:** All students who wish to participate in the *Shadow Stations of the Cross* on March 23, should attend our Youth Ministry sessions starting this weekend (February 11). High schoolers will also be discussing new ways to make Lent count and playing some games! Bring your smart phone or tablet!

► **Summer Mission Trip:** Mon., Feb. 12 is the final day to sign up for the summer mission trip, so be sure to get your forms in to the parish office! Contact Christine Sellnow with any questions at 662-6861.

* Auburn Area Catholic School *

► **AACS students** collected 135 food items last week for Catholic Schools Week, which will be donated to the St. Gabriel food pantry.

► **Thank You** for continuing to support our **BOX TOP** collection. Containers are located at the main entrance of church, and also down the school hallway. The Labels for Education program has been discontinued - we are no longer collecting these. Thank you to those who supported that program throughout the years.

NATIONAL MARRIAGE WEEK 2018 is February 7-14

What is the Catholic Church's teaching on Marriage?

The Catholic Church believes that marriage is an indissoluble, sacramental bond when contracted by two baptized persons who are free and capable of consenting to this union. Marriage is a covenant by which a man and a woman establish between themselves a partnership of the whole of life and love directed toward the good of the spouses and the procreation and education of children. The Church's teaching also respects a natural bond of marriage whenever one or both of the persons who marries is unbaptized. This is rooted in Jesus' teaching in the Gospels.

How should Catholics marry? Catholics are bound to be married in the presence of a Catholic priest or deacon and two witnesses. Catholics who marry outside the "canonical form" without the benefit of a dispensation, do so invalidly.

Can others besides Catholics receive the sacrament of Christian marriage? Yes. If both spouses are validly baptized and free to marry, then they confer the sacrament of marriage to one another through the exchange of consent.

How does the status of a marriage affect children? The Church understands that the status of children is not affected when they are born of a marriage that is later determined to be invalid. Children are a gift from God and entitled to the love and support of parents as well as the faith community. Parents may lead a Christian life by educating their children in the faith.

What should I do if I have a question regarding the validity of my marriage? Contact your parish priest who will explain the conditions required for a marriage to be contracted validly.

* From Father Tom's Desk *

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

Did you ever notice how time seems to slow down during the most meaningful moments of life? We may drive home without remembering a single portion of a 30-minute trek through traffic; someone accustomed to the kitchen may fix dinner hardly noticing the particulars she tends to in pre-heating, seasoning, chopping and putting a casserole in the oven. Yet, when we are standing at the bedside of a dying parent, attending the birth of a child or asking the question that will lead to a life-long decision, each second seems to have its own import as our feelings blend with sensual perceptions and create enduring memories. It is as if time's duration comes with variable thickness or weight.

When the leper came to Jesus, he was doing something forbidden. He must have been at least a little frightened. Instead of respecting the law that relegated him to the margins of society, he knelt down in front of Jesus as to one who not only had the power to help him, but who could also exercise the freedom to do what the law would not and could not do; to accept and heal rather than banish him.

According to Mark, the man's request stirred Jesus to his depths. Even before he could speak, his hand was reaching out, touching the man's spurned and suffering body, transforming it with tenderness. Then pronouncing the words that explained his gesture and made his will effective, Jesus said, "I do will it. Be made clean."

What gave this story its "thickness" was the man's vulnerable openness and honesty and Jesus' spontaneous tenderness. The man knew his own need like no one else, and he was willing to expose it. While society refused to countenance him, he found in Jesus someone who had no fear of contamination or mortality. The afflicted man's audacity met Jesus' utter freedom to love and that combination proclaimed the Gospel in the sight of the people.

Naming Our Need

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

It is a beautiful story. But, what does it tell those who do not suffer from leprosy? First of all, the story calls us to a recognition of all that we share with the leper. Since his condition was obvious, society ordered him to hide away from sight. We, on the other hand, are quite adept at hiding our weakness and the unsightly, sinful aspects of our life. Perhaps the worst of it is that we can hide them from ourselves, believing in the image we project rather than the truth of who we are. Our friend the one-time leper would remind us that Christ can only touch and heal what we bring before him; if we don't bring our genuine self, we will never truly encounter Christ. He might add that we never hear of Jesus reaching out and touching someone who was self-sufficient, but only those who knew they needed him.

Coming before God with a willingness to be nothing other than ourselves and to expose our need will take us into the realm of thick time. We may do that in private prayer, in sacrament or with a community. Mark told the story in a way that points out that the time and place do not matter. What is vital is the courage to place our truest self before God as well as the vulnerability to allow God to touch and transform us. Whether we ask for healing or forgiveness or inspiration, we can trust what Jesus said: "I do will it!"

The Leper as Scapegoat

Sr. Mary McGlone, Celebration

Leprosy is symbolic of everything we fear. It represents the loss of beauty, of bodily integrity and then relationships. As the reading from

Leviticus points out, someone with a visible skin disease was to be kept separate from the community. Thus, a "leper," someone who had a skin disease that could be as simple as acne or as vexatious as psoriasis or shingles, was not only miserable, but really relegated to exist in an atmosphere of the living dead because of their social isolation. People feared lepers because they reminded them of their own subjection to decay. Shunning the leper was, among other things, an unconscious social mechanism that protected the group from facing its own frailty and mortality. Sociologically the "lepers" were scapegoats: Isolating them seemed to offer protection against all that their condition symbolized.

When we allow ourselves to be conscious of the social tendency to find scapegoats to represent our guilt and suffer the consequences, this reading calls us to remember the counter-example of Christ. He continually reached out to people shunned by society and, at the same time, he frequently criticized those who rejected them as hypocrites who were often guiltier than the people they accused of sin. This can lead us to consider who the "lepers" in our society are and to further ask why we fear them and how they represent that which we reject in ourselves. If we would but follow Jesus in his outreach to the outcast, we would find that we not only do a better job of loving our neighbor, but that greater and honest self-acceptance will appear in our lives as well.

"May I always act for the glory of God."

February Wedding Anniversaries

40 years or more..... Patrick & Susan Duncel
Clarence & Ruth Boks
John & Jane Anne Berry
30 years or more..... Glen & Mary Tacey
10 years or more..... Ryan & Jessica Dallas
Less than 10 years..... Anthony & Tiffany Trevino



We thank you, O God, for the love You have implanted in our hearts. Bless our marriage, O God, with peace and happiness. Amen

* The Parish in the Community *

► **Catholic Family Services** is looking for a Guardianship Program Aide to answer the telephone, take messages, file & maintain proper documentation for clients. Position is part-time. Go to <https://saginaw.org/node/386> for details.

► **Bay County** maintains the **4-H Program** with support from MSU. The intent is to teach lifelong skills to young people, cause them to be proud of their accomplishments and submit a product to the annual Bay County Fair, based on their experience. Over the past couple of years the program has dwindled, in part, due to a lack of adult leaders to share their time and talents. The program only requires a Leader to form a group of at least 6 youth to be taught a craft, skill or trade for a minimum of 6 hours (cooking, guitar playing, scrap booking or agriculture or livestock). Persons willing to contribute to the youth of our community are asked to attend a 1-hour training session Thurs., Mar. 1, 6:30pm in the Ground Floor Conference Room of the Bay County Building. Contact Cynthia Luczak at 895-4283 or Holly Julian at 895-4026 for more info.

Amen Corner: By way of future plans – The architect is working on three-dimensional drawings. The Planning Group/Building Committee will be focusing on a summary statement about the proposed building project. After communicating that statement to all parishioners, the committees are recommending "to call the question," i.e. to determine parish support for the project. To that end they are recommending to the Parish Council we engage the services of a professional to indicate feasibility study to ascertain level of parish support. This would all come about probably in May. The decision will then be made as to what road is to be taken.

Fr. Tom