Christi simus, non nostri. + We belong to Christ, not ourselves.

February 14, 2021—Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

ST. COLUMBAN PARISH

506 First St. S, Yelm, WA 98597

Parish Office
360-458-3031
Hours: Monday—Thursday
9AM-12PM; 12:30-2PM
parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org
www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

Mass Schedule
Sunday: 10:30AM
Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM
Daily Mass: Wednesdays 9:00AM
Rosary is said 30min prior to each Mass

Sacraments
Anointing of the Sick: By Appointment
Confession: Fridays 4:00—5:00PM

Faith Formation
Offered Sundays before and after the 10:30AM Mass, depending on grade
RCIA: Tuesdays 6:30PM

Adult Education & Outreach
Contact the parish office for more information

Bible Study
Thursdays 6:30PM

Hispanic Prayer Group
Tuesdays 6:00PM

Rosary Prayer Group
Mondays 7:00PM

The church may be opened upon request during office hours for private prayer

ST. PETER MISSION

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589

Mission Office
360-264-2124
Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays
10:30AM – 2PM
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Mass Schedule
Sunday 8:00 AM
Rosary is said 30min prior to Mass

Sacraments
Confession: Sunday 7:30 -7:45AM
Anointing of the Sick: by Appt.

Adult Education & Outreach
Contact the mission office for more information

Bible Study Thursdays 10:00AM

MISSION STATEMENT - WE ARE A CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY THAT SEEKS TO PLACE GOD FIRST, TO KNOW HIM, AND TO GROW IN HOLINESS TOGETHER. WE STRIVE TO LIVE THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE EUCHARIST, IN OUR TEACHING AND WAY OF LIFE.

For emergency assistance contact the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 360-458-1904. Please leave your name, number, and details of your need.
Winter Clothes Closet Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00PM—8:00PM

Saint Columban Catholic Church

WELCOME! Please contact the office to register as a parishioner, for questions about any announcement, how to prepare for a sacrament, schedule a funeral or Mass Intention or to update your contact information.

PARISH OFFICE: **(360) 458-3031**

Fr. Dean Mbuzi, Ext.6 — *Priest Administrator* — frdean@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Patricia Selsor, Ext.2 — *Bookkeeper* — pat@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Katie Hennigan, Ext. 3 — *Faith Formation* — katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Chad Lucero, Ext.4 — *Youth Ministry & Confirmation* — chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Jennifer Langham Ext. 5 — *Liturgy & Admin Support* — jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Chris Bixby, — *Director of Music* — chrisb@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Steven Slater, St. Columban — *Custodian* — steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

ST. PETER OFFICE: **(360) 264-2124**

Gaby Makinster, — *St. Peter Admin* — gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org

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www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

Mass Intentions

Pray for all those affected by Covid-19 and for first responders and caregivers.

In Our Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands Joseph Waters, Jess & Jessica Nash, Maria Luisa Fregoso, Ray Wilson, Paul Hennigan, Lindy Parse and all those in harm's way.

Financial Stewardship

	St. Columban	St. Peter
Weekly Goal	$5,762	$712
February 7th	$2,419	$1,165

From a letter to the Corinthians by Saint Clement I, pope and martyr

Repent

Let us fix our attention on the blood of Christ and recognize how precious it is to God his Father, since it was shed for our salvation and brought the grace of repentance to all the world.

If we review the various ages of history, we will see that in every generation the Lord has *offered the opportunity of repentance* to any who were willing to turn to him. When Noah preached God's message of repentance, all who listened to him were saved. Jonah told the Ninevites they were going to be destroyed, but when they repented, their prayers gained God's forgiveness for their sins, and they were saved, even though they were not of God's people.

Under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, the ministers of God's grace have spoken of repentance; indeed, the Master of the whole universe himself spoke of repentance with an oath: *As I live, says the Lord, I do not wish the death of the sinner but his repentance.* He added this evidence of his goodness: *House of Israel, repent of your wickedness. Tell the sons of my people: If their sins should reach from earth to heaven, if they are brighter than scarlet and blacker than sackcloth, you need only turn to me with your whole heart and say, "Father", and I will listen to you as a holy people.*

In other words, God wanted all his beloved ones to have the opportunity to repent and he confirmed this desire by his own almighty will. That is why we should obey his sovereign and glorious will and prayerfully entreat his mercy and kindness. We should be suppliant before him and turn to his compassion, rejecting empty works and quarreling and jealousy which only lead to death.

Brothers, we should be humble in mind, putting aside all arrogance, pride and foolish anger. Rather, we should act in accordance with the Scriptures, as the Holy Spirit says: *The wise man must not glory in his wisdom nor the strong man in his strength nor the rich man in his riches. Rather, let him who glories glory in the Lord by seeking him and doing what is right and just.* Recall especially what the Lord Jesus said when he taught gentleness and forbearance. *Be merciful,* he said, *so that you may have mercy shown to you. Forgive, so that you may be forgiven. As you treat others, so you will be treated. As you give, so you will receive. As you judge, so you will be judged. As you are kind to others, so you will be treated kindly. The measure of your giving will be the measure of your receiving.*

Let these commandments and precepts strengthen us to live in humble obedience to his sacred words. As Scripture asks: *Whom shall I look upon with favor except the humble, peaceful man who trembles at my words?*

Sharing then in the heritage of so many vast and glorious achievements, let us hasten toward the goal of peace, set before us from the beginning. Let us keep our eyes firmly fixed on the Father and Creator of the whole universe, and hold fast to his splendid and transcendent gifts of peace and all his blessings.

Pax et bonum,
Fr. Dean.

SAINT COLUMBAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

SAINT PETER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston,

stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

For daily Mass readings and Event Calendar please see our Monthly Insert, found in the narthex and on our website.

Faith Formation

February 16th
The Sacrament of Confirmation

Tuesdays at 6:30PM in the Religious Ed Bldg. Rm. 103
Also available via Zoom

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

This past weekend 3 children in our Faith Formation program reported praying 105 prayers over the course of the week. Parents, please remember to have your children return their charts!

"You have given me your saving shield; your right hand has upheld me; your favor made me great."
-Psalm 18:36

Preparing for Lent

Ash Wednesday is right around the corner on February 17th. Check back here every week for suggestions on how your children can participate in a Lenten journey that will draw them closer to Christ.

During Advent we distributed baby bottles to collect money in support of the Washington State Prepares program.

The Knights of Columbus are happy to report that $1897 was raised to support those who choose life.
A HUGE thank you to everyone who participated!

If you missed the bottle drive and would still like to donate, please pick up a special Prepares envelope in the Narthex or stop by the Parish Office M-Th from 9-2.

All Masses will resume with modifications, see below for details

MASS RESERVATIONS

In obedience to the COVID Safety Guidelines from the Archdiocese, public Mass at our parish has resumed with the following safety measures in place.

- Masks will be required. Those with a medical exemption will be seated according to Archdiocesan guidelines.
- Attendance will be limited to 90 people per Mass at St. Columban and 40 people per Mass at St. Peter.
- The cry room at St. Columban is limited to one family per Mass and will be reserved on a first come-first served basis.

Reservations at St. Columban: call the parish office at 360-458-3031 ext. 5

Reservations at St. Peter: call the mission office at 360-264-2124

If you are unable to call during office hours, please leave your name, phone number, and how many will be in your party and we will call you back to confirm your reservation.

Please note that leaving a voicemail does not confirm your reservation

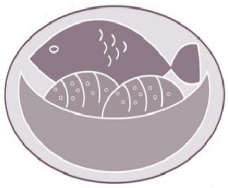
Important Things to Remember

- Only persons who are under the same reservation will be seated together.
- **Please arrive at least 20 minutes early for Mass.** You will be checked in by a Greeter and then seated by an Usher. Seating is first come, first – served.
- We recommend you bring your own missal with you for the readings as they will not be provided.
- Please do not sing along with the Cantor in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Bonus Bulletin Content!

To save on printing, some extra bulletin content will now be exclusively found in the online edition of our bulletin, which is also emailed weekly to parishioners.

Sign up at flocknote.com/saintcolumbanyelm or visit our website saintcolumbanyelm.org



In place of our customary Soup Suppers during Lent, we are accepting donations to St. Vincent de Paul.

Please mark your envelope "for SVDP" and place it in with the regular offering.

February 17	**ASH WEDNESDAY**
9:00AM	Mass @ St. Peter
7:00PM	Mass @ St. Columban
February 19	**Stations of the Cross**
6:00PM	Both locations
February 21	**Rite of Sending for RCIA**
10:30AM	St . Columban
February 24	**Rite of Election for RCIA**
7:00PM	St. Michael's in Olympia

3 Year Goal for St. Columban: $307, 368

As of: January 7, 2021

Total Pledged: $164,000 **53% of Goal**

Number of Families Participating: 292
Potential Share: $24,600

3 Year Goal for St. Peter: $54,327

As of: January 7, 2021

Total Pledged: $105,000 **193% of Goal**

Number of Families Participating: 45
Potential Share: $43,350

Thank You for Pledging Your Support!

Thanks to our advertisers listed on the back of this bulletin! They make this publication available to the Parish at no cost to us.

PRAYER

Friday Stations of the Cross

St. Columban

6PM in the Church

Good Friday: 3PM led by Fr. Dean

St. Peter

6PM in the Church

Good Friday: 3PM in the Church

Way of the Cross booklets will be checked out for you and your family to use during the entire season of Lent. Please remember to return your booklets after Stations of the Cross on Good Friday.

PENANCE

Confession

Fridays during Lent staring February 19th @ St. Columban
5:30PM to 6:30PM
(During Stations of the Cross)

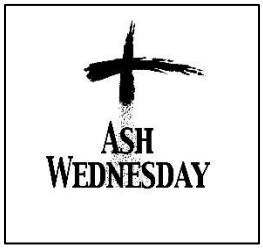
No Confession on Good Friday

Sundays @ St. Peter
7:30-7:45AM

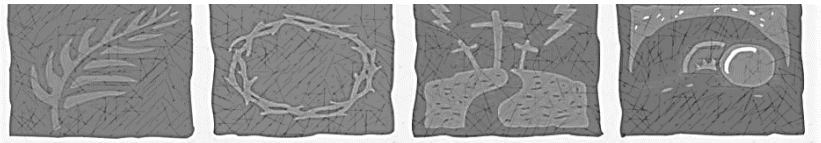
ALMSGIVING

We are accepting donations to St. Vincent de Paul this year in absence of our customary Soup Suppers.

Lenten Events & Easter Masses 2021



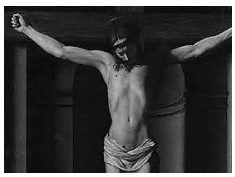
February 17th
9AM Mass @ St. Peter's
7PM Mass @ St. Columban
Ashes will be sprinkled on the head



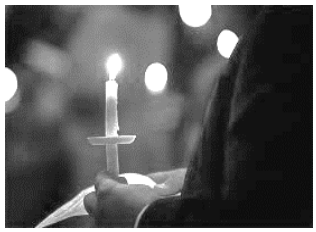
Holy Week Schedule

Sunday – April March 28th
8AM Mass @ St. Peter's
10:30AM Mass @ St. Columban

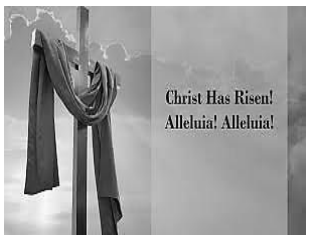
Holy Thursday – April 1st
7PM Mass @ St. Columban ***with Incense**



Good Friday – April 2nd
7PM Service @ St. Columban
With Veneration of the Cross



Easter Vigil – April 3rd
8PM Mass @ St. Columban
***with Incense**
Initiation & Baptism for RCIA Candidates



Easter Sunday– April 4th
8AM Mass @ St. Peter
10:30AM Mass @ St. Columban

Please visit our parish website for more information
saintcolumbanyelm.org

Cards of Comfort

The Women's Club will be collecting letters and notes of encouragement each month to be delivered to the residents at Rosemont Retirement Home and East Haven Villa here in Yelm.

Help us spread God's love to the most vulnerable and isolated in our community!

Drop off completed cards in the bin in the Narthex. Please be sure to bundle cards which are the same, so residents don't receive two of the same design when they are sorted.

God Bless You!

Praying for You!

God Loves You!

Peace Be With You!

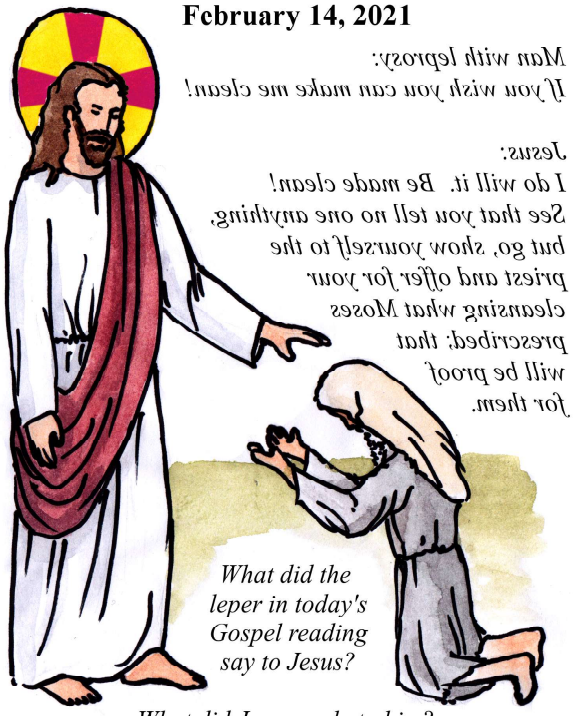
Happy Easter!

Sponsored by the

St. Columban Women's Club

The Kids' Bulletin

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 14, 2021



What did the leper in today's Gospel reading say to Jesus?

What did Jesus reply to him?
Look at this page in the mirror to find out!

Don't forget this Wednesday is Ash Wednesday!

Keeping a Secret

In today's Gospel reading, a poor man with leprosy asked Jesus to heal him. Our Lord was sorry for the leper and healed him. But then He told him not to tell anyone. Do you know what the man did?

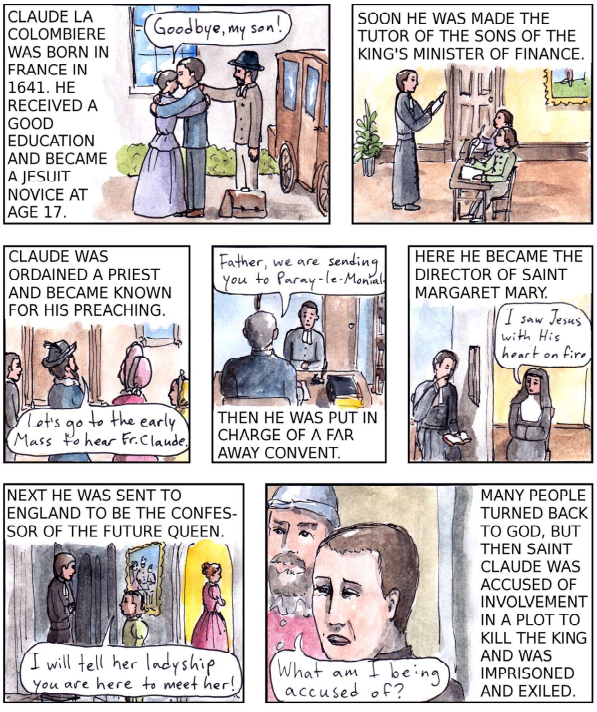
Well, he didn't keep the secret. He started to tell everyone what had happened. Soon Jesus couldn't walk into towns because there were such big crowds. He had to stay out in the deserted places so that there wouldn't be mobs in the towns.

Has anyone ever told you a secret? Do you find it hard to keep secrets? Once in a while somebody might tell you something that you will need to tell your parents, but usually you shouldn't tell anyone somebody else's secret. Before you tell something to your friends, always ask yourself if it's okay to share it with them. Will it make things hard for somebody else? Might you hurt someone's feelings? Think about how you would feel if someone told one of your secrets to their friends. And finally, always remember that the way you treat others is how you treat Jesus.

Answers to Cross-Word: across. 3.kept 6.leper 7.people 9.sternly 10.to 13.hand 15.made 16.go 17.whole 18.in 19.began down: 1.Jesus 2.begged 3.kneeling 4.tell 5.if 8.touched 11.be 12.proof 13.he 14.down 15.man

www.thekidsbulletin.com

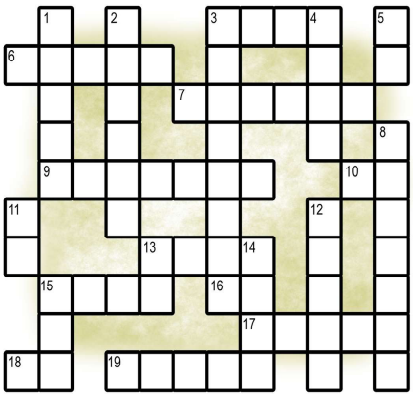
Saint Claude de la Colombiere
February 15



ST. CLAUDE DIED SHORTLY AFTER RETURNING TO FRANCE DUE TO HIS POOR HEALTH. HE HAD TRIED HARD TO LOVE GOD AS PERFECTLY AS HE COULD SO GOD CHOSE HIM TO HELP SPREAD DEVOTION TO HIS SACRED HEART. LIKE SAINT CLAUDE, WE SHOULD ALL LEARN TO APPRECIATE GOD'S LOVE FOR US.

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

The Leper Cross-Word



kneeling	if
touched	in
begged	to
people	be
sternly	he
Jesus	go
began	tell
whole	man
proof	kept
made	leper
down	hand

A _____(6a) came to Jesus and _____(3d) _____(14d) _____(2d) him and said, "___(5d) you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his _____(13a), _____(8d) him, and said to him, "I do will it. ___(11d) made clean." The leprosy left him immediately, and he was _____(15a) clean. Then, warning him _____(9a), he dismissed him at once.

He said to him, "See that you _____(4d) no one anything, but ___(16a), show yourself to the priest and offer what Moses prescribed; that will be _____(12d) for them."

The _____(15d) went away and _____(19a) to publicize the _____(17a) matter. ___(13d) spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for _____(1d) to enter a town openly. He remained outside ___(18a) deserted places, and _____(7a) _____(3a) coming ___(10a) him from everywhere.

Jesus Heals the Sick
February 14, 2021
6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

Jesus calls us to care for the sick — not just for their good, but for ours as well. Even if we feel healthy, all of us need the healing touch of Jesus.

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?
Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

In this weekend's readings, we hear about the way people were treated when they caught leprosy. They had to live apart from others to keep everyone else safe. Not only were they sick, but they were also left to suffer away from the community.

When Jesus heals the leper, he is doing more than just healing the body. He is also blessing him with the ability to return to his family and community.

A special note: This weekend marks the anniversary of At Home with Faith. We launched this weekly resource as a way to help families work around the limitations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us be thankful for the ways that God offers us healing during this time, so that we can continue to be together in spirit until we can all meet again.

Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Lepers must stay apart from the clean.

Psalm 32:1-2, 5,11

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away!

1 Corinthians 10:21-11:1

Seek the benefit of all.

Mark 1:40-45

Lord, if you wish you can make me clean!

For more resources, visit us online at:
https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Help your child become more aware of their need for healing:

- **Ask your child about different ways we can be sick.** See what comes to mind for them beyond just the coronavirus or the cold. Maybe they have a friend who was hurt in sports, or they know someone who suffers from a serious illness. Let them share observations.
- **Let them know about some illnesses are harder to see.** Tell them about how some people deal with conditions that are harder to see, like mental illness or addiction. Encourage them to see the connection between these forms of illness.
- **Ask if they have ideas about how to help those who suffer from being sick.** Let them explore ways.that we can support those who are sick. Encourage them to think about ways that we can make those who might feel excluded like the leper in the Gospel feel included in our community.
- **Encourage them to turn to Jesus for help when they feel sick in any way.** Let them know about how you yourself have prayed for help during times when you were sick, or when you prayed for someone else who was sick. Help them to see that Jesus is always caring for the sick in one way or another, even if it's hard for us to see.

Leprosy is not a very common illness today, but many other forms of sickness afflict us still. Sickness doesn't just cause pain. It takes away our ability to do what we want. It makes us feel powerless. It makes us feel separated from those who are well. It also reminds us that, one day, we will die.

Jesus didn't just heal the sick by himself. He also called the disciples to do the same. In healing the sick, we express our love for them and welcome them back to community. It also helps us remember that we are all in need of Jesus' healing.

Take a moment to talk with your children about different ways that humans can feel vulnerable because of things like mobility limitations, sickness, developmental disabilities, addiction, and others. Remind them that we need to be in solidarity with those who are vulnerable, knowing how we share the need for healing from Jesus.

St. Damien of Moloka'i

St. Damien of Moloka'i (Josef de Veuster) was a Belgian missionary who spent over 20 years living among the leprosy patients who were quarantined on the island of Moloka'i. Not only did he care for their spiritual needs as their pastor, he also built a community for them and tended to their physical injuries, until his death at the age of 49.

For more resources, visit us online at:

https://marriagefamilylife.seattlearchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith

FORMED®

PICK OF THE WEEK

February 14, 2021

WATCH

BELOVED—SESSION 1: DOES MARRIAGE MATTER?

Happy Feast of St. Valentine! This Valentine's Day, remind yourself of the beauty of the Sacrament of Marriage with the Beloved series, presented by the Augustine Institute.

LEARN

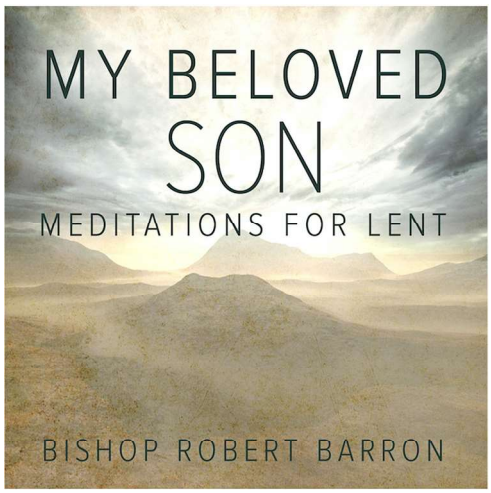
FORMED NOW! HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

Are you looking to take your spiritual life deeper this Lent? There's no better place to start than the Lord's Word. Join Dr. Gray and Dr. Giszczak as they explain how to study and devote yourself to Scripture!

LISTEN

MY BELOVED SON: MEDITATIONS FOR LENT BY BISHOP ROBERT BARRON

Lent is a season of discipline where we focus on prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In five riveting homilies, join Bishop Barron as he describes the spiritual disciplines we undertake during Lent.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.
To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.

PREPARES Appeal - February 13-14

What is PREPARES?

PREPARES–Pregnancy and Parenting Support -is a program initiated by the bishops of our state in 2014. It began as a conversation about how to live out our Catholic teachings about the value of all human life and the prerequisite to protect and help those in need. In other words, the bishops sought to "walk our talk" regarding the intrinsic connection of life and justice. PREPARES was devised as a parish-based program that would assist young, vulnerable families in need during the first five years of their child's life. The goal is that pregnant women and families without adequate resources can obtain essential resources through our parishes. Many parishes already had programs that assisted pregnant women and families and most now participate in the PREPARES program. Statewide, there are currently 167 parishes actively providing this ministry with the help of nearly 1000volunteers. Over 10,000 women and families have been helped over the past 6 years through the efforts of parish volunteers and PREPARES coordinators across the state.

See more of the FAQ and Learn more at www.preparesforlife.org

The Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

CNS file photo/Jon L. Hendricks

Today is World Marriage Day!

On this World Marriage Day, we thank our heavenly Father for the gift and blessing of marriage and the family. As we strive to live our particular vocations and respond to the Lord's grace in our lives, let's also consider how we might dedicate renewed prayer and attention to marriage and the family.

As a start, here are possible areas we might consider:

First, we begin with prayer: Let's remember to pray with and for marriages and families throughout our nation: for marriages in crisis, for families struggling with unemployment, for broken or wounded family relationships.

Second, let us reclaim Sunday as the Lord's Day, a day of rest when we can focus on being together as a family. The celebration of Holy Mass together is the first essential way to honor this day. But is there something more the Lord is inviting us to when we go back home? Set aside some time to pray a decade of the rosary, enjoy the outdoors together, play ball, eat dinner together, have a game night!

Ash Wednesday is February 17!

And third, let us remember that the Church is the family of God and a family of families. As a family, how can we share Christ with other married couples and families? Do we have any friends and family members who are struggling in their marriage, alone during this time of isolation, or particularly afflicted by this pandemic? When was the last time we checked on our elderly neighbors? Is there someone in the parish that we haven't seen in a while? How can we–as a family–reach out to those who are in need?

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Living the Faith

JOURNEY TO THE FOOT OF THE CROSS: *BISHOP RICKEN OFFERS 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER FOR LENT*

Bishop David L. Ricken of Green Bay, Wisconsin, former chairman of the Committee on Evangelization and Catechesis of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), offers "10 Things to Remember for Lent":

1. Remember the formula. The Church does a good job capturing certain truths with easy-to-remember lists and formulas: 10 Commandments, 7 sacraments, 3 persons in the Trinity. For Lent, the Church gives us almost a slogan—Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving—as the three things we need to work on during the season.

2. It's a time of prayer. Lent is essentially an act of prayer spread out over 40 days. As we pray, we go on a journey, one that hopefully brings us closer to Christ and leaves us changed by the encounter with him.

3. It's a time to fast. With the fasts of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, meatless Fridays, and our personal disciplines interspersed, Lent is the only time many Catholics these days actually fast. And maybe that's why it gets all the attention. "What are you giving up for Lent? Hot dogs? Beer? Jelly beans?" It's almost a game for some of us, but fasting is actually a form of penance, which helps us turn away from sin and toward Christ.

4. It's a time to work on discipline. The 40 days of Lent are also a good, set time to work on personal discipline in general. Instead of giving something up, it can be doing something positive. "I'm going to exercise more. I'm going to pray more. I'm going to be nicer to my family, friends, and coworkers."

5. It's about dying to yourself. The more serious side of Lenten discipline is that it's about more than self-control—it's about finding aspects of yourself that are less than Christ-like and letting them die. The suffering and death of Christ are foremost on our minds during Lent, and we join in these mysteries by suffering, dying with Christ and being resurrected in a purified form.

6.Don't do too much. It's tempting to make Lent some ambitious period of personal reinvention, but it's best to keep it simple and focused. There's a reason the Church works on these mysteries year after year. We spend our entire lives growing closer to God. Don't try to cram it all in one Lent. That's a recipe for failure.

7. Lent reminds us of our weakness. Of course, even when we set simple goals for ourselves during Lent, we still have trouble keeping them. When we fast, we realize we're all just one meal away from hunger. In both cases, Lent shows us our weakness. This can be painful, but recognizing how helpless we are makes us seek God's help with renewed urgency and sincerity.

8. Be patient with yourself. When we're confronted with our own weakness during Lent, the temptation is to get angry and frustrated. "What a bad person I am!" But that's the wrong lesson. God is calling us to be patient and to see ourselves as he does, with unconditional love.

9. Reach out in charity. As we experience weakness and suffering during Lent, we should be renewed in our compassion for those who are hungry, suffering, or otherwise in need. The third part of the Lenten formula is almsgiving. It's about more than throwing a few extra dollars in the collection plate; it's about reaching out to others and helping them without question as a way of sharing the experience of God's unconditional love.

10. Learn to love like Christ. Giving of ourselves in the midst of our suffering and self-denial brings us closer to loving like Christ, who suffered and poured himself out unconditionally on the Cross for all of us. Lent is a journey through the desert to the foot of the Cross on Good Friday, as we seek him out, ask his help, join in his suffering, and learn to love like him.

Catholic Current
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FACT OF FAITH

Why Ashes?

BY FR. LARRY RICE

For centuries, Catholic Christians have marked the beginning of the season of Lent by receiving ash on their foreheads on Ash Wednesday. This tradition has its roots in the Old Testament, where wearing ashes was a common sign of repentance for sins, and a sign of one's humility before God. Since Lent is a season of penitential renewal through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, it's appropriate that this ancient sign marks the beginning of the season.

The ashes themselves are usually made by burning the palm fronds from the previous year's Palm Sunday. This symbolically connects the beginning of Lent with its end, connecting our change of heart with Christ's passion, death, and resurrection.

Ashes are usually distributed as part of the Mass on Ash Wednesday, often after the homily. As people approach the priest or other minister, he presses the ashes to their foreheads, and speaks one of two phrases: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return," or "Repent and believe in the Gospel."

In many places, Ash Wednesday services are among the most popular of the whole year—a day that's not even a Holy Day of Obligation. Cynics have suggested that this is because people "get" something, as they do on Palm Sunday. But there's nothing particularly appealing about getting smudged with ashes. Perhaps, the appeal is the expression through a physical sign of a desire for interior conversion.

The Gospel for Ash Wednesday is a reminder that the real purpose of the season of Lent isn't to make public demonstrations of piety—even the wearing of ashes—but to seek conversion of heart.

Fr. Larry Rice is the former vocations director for the Paulist Fathers.

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Blessed Fra Angelico

DATES: 1400-1445
FEAST DAY: FEBRUARY 18

Fra Giovanni da Fiesole, known as Blessed Fra Angelico, was an early Renaissance painter. After joining the Dominicans in 1420, he began illustrating manuscripts and choir books, beginning each new work with a prayer. His religious altarpieces, paintings and frescoes exploited color for spatial and emotional effect. Fra Angelico, meaning "angelic brother," decorated an entire Florentine monastery and two Roman chapels. Notable works include his "Annunciation" and "Descent from the Cross." He declined an appointment as archbishop of Florence and was officially beatified by Pope John Paul II in 1982. Art students often leave written prayers near his tomb in the Church of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva in Rome. He is patron of artists.

CNS Photo

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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

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WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

SUN 2/14	Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31—11:1/Mk 1:40-45
MON 2/15	Gn 4:1-15, 25/Ps 50:1 and 8, 16bc-17, 20-21 [14a]/Mk 8:11-13
TUE 2/16	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10/Ps 29:1a and 2, 3ac-4, 3b and 9c-10 [11b]/Mk 8:14-21
WED 2/17	Jl 2:12-18/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
THR 2/18	Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [Ps 40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25
FRI 2/19	Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15
SAT 2/20	Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32
SUN 2/21	Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 [cf. 10]/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15

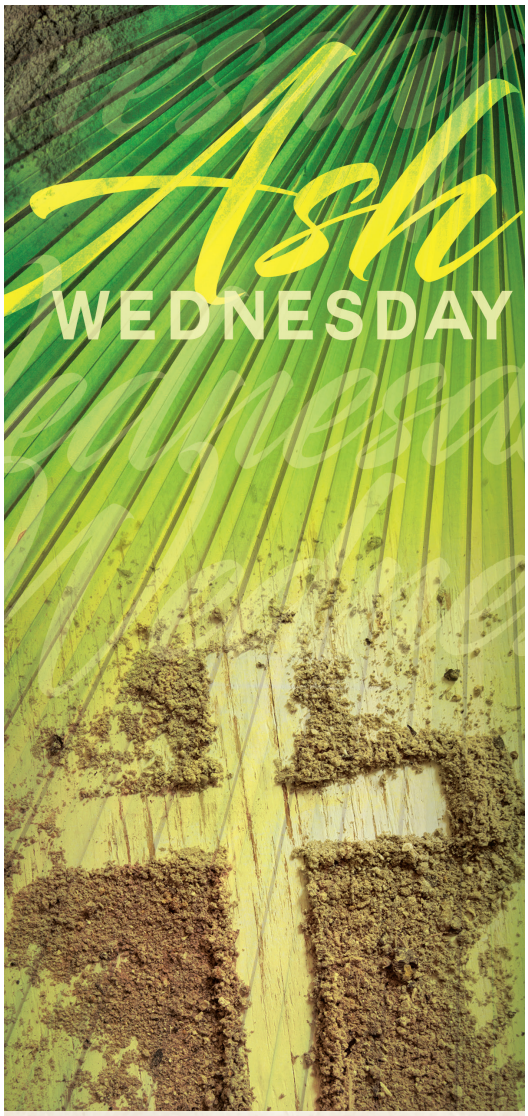
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2021

Sunday:	6th Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Valentine's Day
Monday:	Presidents' Day
Wednesday:	Ash Wednesday
Next Sunday:	1st Sunday of Lent

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

Everybody has a place at the table, and nobody deserves to feel inferior, unworthy, unwanted, or marginalized. It is not part of God's vision. Jesus came to heal, make things whole, set things right, and restore relationships. No one is to feel unwelcome or alienated from the community. Whether we like it or not, this message is at the core of the Gospel. It makes a lot of sense when you think about it. Perhaps this is why people kept coming from everywhere to listen to Jesus speak and to be in his presence. He made perfect sense. Most of us have no issue buying into this vision. We run into trouble, however, when we fall into the trap of privilege and power. We diverge from God's vision when the powerful begin to control who is entitled to wholeness and inclusion, and greed becomes a driving force. Prejudice and entitlement have no place in the kingdom of God, and even the most needy and hurting among us are worthy of the compassion Jesus desires to offer. There are no easy solutions to the world's dilemmas. But one thing is for certain, no one can be singled out, excluded or mistreated. Everyone matters.



"God is waiting for you."

—POPE FRANCIS

WORSHIP & MEDITATION

FIRST READING

He shall dwell apart, making his abode
outside the camp. (Lv 13:46)

PSALM

I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble,
and you fill me with the joy of salvation. (Ps 32)

SECOND READING

Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God. (1 Cor 10:31)

GOSPEL

The leprosy left him immediately,
and he was made clean. (Mk 1:42)

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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

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.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING to the Call

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

The Unfailing Goodness of God

I have always wondered why Jesus told the cleansed leper not to publicize how he had been healed by the Son of God. It's not that I can't understand why Jesus would want to keep the matter quiet — after all, he knew that as soon as people heard, he would be mobbed with requests for healings, and his movements restricted.

What gets me is the fact that Jesus simply must have realized the leper would not listen to him. Why give someone a command you know they will ignore? It's a complicated question, and when I reflect on it, I can't help but connect it to another equally complicated question: why does God, all-good and all-knowing, allow bad things to happen?

Yes, God is all-good and all-knowing. So when He gives us free will, He knows what we will do with it. However, He is also all-powerful. He can and will bring good from any situation, any tragedy, or even any instance where someone ignores Him.

Was it a sin for this leper to do other than what Jesus had said? That's a heavy question for a Sunday morning! But it's plain to see that, even though this man ignored Jesus' command, God still used his actions. How many were brought to Christ because of the news spread by this leper!

As someone trying to live out a stewardship way of life, what is God requesting of you right now?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!

WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

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?

Answer:

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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A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

- Mk 1:40-41

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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LITURGICAL LIFE

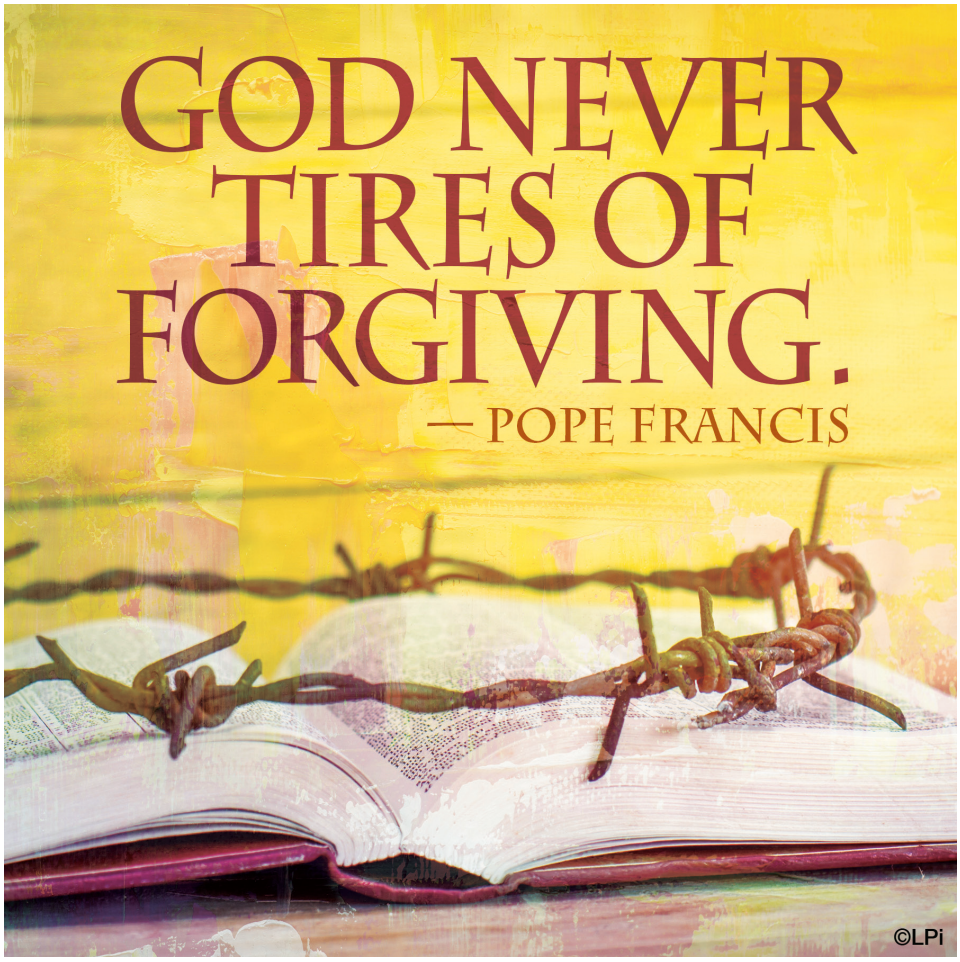
QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading:
Ancient Israel isolated those with leprosy fearing the disease would spread to others. In what way can this be seen as a form of compassion?

Second Reading:
Paul places a high value on avoiding unnecessary conflict. Why do you think this is an important virtue for a Christian?

Gospel:
The man healed of leprosy disobeyed Jesus' command not to share with others what had happened. Why do you think the man did so?



LITURGICAL LIFE

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.

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

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

SHARING THE GOSPEL

It is not fun to be sick. You miss your friends at school. You can't go outside to play. On top of being bored and lonely, you don't feel well at all. The man with leprosy in today's Gospel was sick a long, long time. He was really bored, lonely, and feeling awful. There was no medicine for leprosy. Jesus was the only one who could help him.

PRAYER

God, you have the power to heal. Help me to trust you, even when I'm sick.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Visit the sick. Make a card.
Take a treat to share.
Give them something to read.
Pray for them before you leave.
You will brighten their day.

KIDS CORNER

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

~~LEPROSY~~	WELL	GIFT
JESUS	WARNED	HEALED
POWER	SHOW	WALKED

M O S Y T E D A G U R
A L E P R O S Y E W A
N I U O A L I U D O M
S H O W F O E G I F T
E Y I E I J A O U H I
I W A R N E D I V E K
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