

Cycle B - Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time – Feb. 11, 2024

World Day of the Sick, Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes

“If only you will, you can cleanse me....”

OPENING PRAYER - (Psalm 32)

*Leader: Happy are those whose transgression is forgiven,
Whose sin is covered.*

All: Happy are those to whom the Lord imputes no iniquity and in whose spirit there is no deceit.

*Leader: Many are the torments of the wicked,
But steadfast love surrounds those who trust in the Lord.*

**All: Be glad in the Lord and rejoice, O righteous,
And shout for joy, all you upright in heart.**



SHARING THE WORD

First Reading -- Leviticus 13:1-2, 45-46

The people of Israel in ancient times (and at the time of Jesus) believed that skin diseases were a direct reflection of one's lack of moral purity, and thus were a punishment from God. Of all misfortunes which could befall a person, leprosy was considered to be the clearest indication of God's wrath.

1. What are the worst diseases a person can contract in our society – diseases which would make a person “unclean” – physically or otherwise?
2. How have you personally dealt with someone whom others considered “unclean?”
3. Reflect on how we all have a kind of “leprosy” – in what ways are you spiritually sick and in need of healing?

Second Reading – 1 Corinthians 10:23 – 11:1

All kinds of questions and dilemmas arise for the new Christian. This is as true today as it was in the time of the Corinthian communities. Paul's golden rule is summed up in verse 31: “Do everything for the glory of God.” Keep this in mind, he advises, and you will not offend anyone.

1. What dilemmas do we face in our society that complicate the expression of our Christian faith?
2. How can we help one another become more comfortable and self-assured in expressing our faith?
3. We live in a multi-cultural society yet this same society has little tolerance for anyone's faith, why is this and what can we do to build a multi-faith society where belief in God is celebrated in public?

Gospel -- Mark 1:40-45

In touching the leper, Jesus breaks the moral and religious taboos about lepers, and publicly welcomes this precious person back into the human community – for no one is beyond God’s loving touch.

1. Do you know anyone who feels beyond help, beyond God’s loving touch?
2. How can you reach out to the one who feels beyond help?
3. Where in our community can we defeat the evil one by tenaciously loving the so-called unlovable?

LIVING THE WORD

Which part of God’s Word today challenges me/us this coming week?

PRAYING THE WORD

Intercession: For those in our community who feel excluded from God’s love that they fear not what gives them life and that we never surrender anyone as a lost soul... We pray to the Lord.

Invite other intentions to pray together and then end with “Our Father...”

Closing Prayer:

Leader: *Healing God, We give thanks for your radical inclusiveness,
Even if this makes us feel uneasy at times.*

All: **Help us to grow ever deeper
into the image of your Son
who suffered and died
for lepers, thieves and prostitutes.**

**We celebrate his victory over
sin and death. Amen.**

Leader: Let us offer each other a sign of peace, a peace this world cannot give.