

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of February 11, 2024

Sunday:

Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 (7)/
1 Cor 10:31–11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Monday:

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

Tuesday:

Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19/
Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday:

Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Ps 51:3-4,
5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday:

Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/
Lk 9:22-25

Friday:

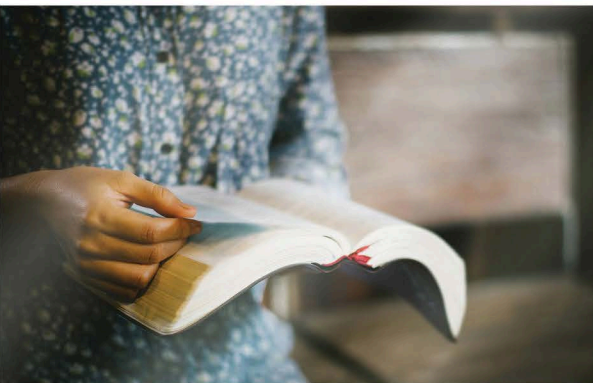
Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19/
Mt 9:14-15

Saturday:

Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6/Lk 5:27-32

Next Sunday:

Gn 9:8-15/Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 (see 10)/
1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Recently I had a skin rash, and it was awful. (Please don't tell anyone.) I am embarrassed to admit that I didn't handle it well. Complaining, whining, begging for sympathy, and crying were my responses to the merciless itching and burning. In the aftermath, a silver lining emerged. I feel a new heartfelt sympathy for all those vexed with chronic skin problems. If you've ever had a seemingly unending skin problem, you know how that sympathy flows up from deep inside.

This gut-level compassion is something like what the Gospel describes in Jesus when the sore-covered leper says, **“If you will it, you can make me clean.”** At this, just before the healing, Jesus was **“moved with compassion.”** The Greek word used here is strong and earthy, closer to “his bowels and guts trembled with the deepest emotions of sadness, pity, and love.” In Jesus, God heals our infirmities not from a divine distance but by learning what it *feels like* to be us. He acquires first-hand experience of what it costs us to be afflicted and still be faithful to God. He sympathizes with the burning, itching, and blistering of human existence in the deepest, first-hand way. To discover that is to touch Jesus' heart.

What in your life, right now, is breaking out like diseased skin? What is getting worse the more you try to soothe it? Perhaps only you feel it. Or maybe it's exposed to all. A bad habit, broken relationship, loneliness, fear of failure, self-hatred? Name it, and then find a way to bring it confidently to Jesus who will *feel what we are feeling*, and thereby heal us.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

Sin and Loneliness

When I was in high school, we read “The Metamorphosis” by Franz Kafka. It’s a depressing little novella about a man who (spoiler alert!) turns into a cockroach and dies of neglect, his family gradually ceasing to recognize the creature he has become.

“Never underestimate how badly human beings need touch,” our teacher told us. “Without each other, we curl up and die.”

Our need for communion with each other is written into our biology — breathing and heart rate of newborns regulates when they lie against the skin of their mothers, and we instinctively reach out to embrace someone who has been wounded. But it is also written into our souls. Consider the early days of the pandemic, and the emotional starvation we all experienced, prevented from gathering in groups to worship, to celebrate and to mourn. And when we did encounter other people, we kept a mutual distance. “I feel like a leper,” we grumbled to our families when we returned home, because we finally understood it: the real tragedy of leprosy is not pain and disfigurement. The real tragedy of leprosy is loneliness.

“If you wish, you can make me clean,” begged the leper as he knelt before Christ (Mark 1:40). He wasn’t begging for deliverance from pain and disfigurement. He was begging for deliverance from isolation.

“If you wish, you can make me clean,” we beg God in confession, not because we are physically withering and dying but because we are so desperate to once again be held in His embrace.

*“Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, ‘I do will it. Be made clean.’”
— Mark 1:41*

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What is the difference between a “Saint” and a “Blessed”?

Answer:

The process of proclaiming someone as a saint in the Catholic Church has evolved over the course of many centuries. In the beginning, those honored as saints were almost exclusively biblical figures or martyrs. However, after the legalization of Christianity in the fourth century, new holy women and men came to be honored as saints, and this was often done by popular acclaim or by the local bishop or abbot.

It was Pope Gregory IX (who was pope from 1227 to 1241) who officially proclaimed that only the pope had the authority to add someone to the official list (the “canon”) of saints. This is the meaning of the word “canonization.”

Today, the saint-making process includes several steps, including detailed studies of the person’s life and a recognition that they died as a martyr or lived a life of “heroic virtue.” Once someone is recognized as a martyr or if a miracle is attributed to their intercession, they will be beatified and honored as “Blessed.” This means that they can be celebrated by Catholics in a particular country or region or by the members of certain religious community. If another miracle occurs and is approved, then the “Blessed” is canonized and honored with the title “Saint,” meaning that they are now officially recognized as a universal model of holiness and an intercessor.

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

"As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."
(Lv 13:8)

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. (1Cor 10:31)

Gospel:

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."
The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.
(Mk 1:41-42)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

It was pity that moved the heart of Jesus to heal the leper. He worked this miracle because the leper, in his faith, boldly asked him to. Have that same courage in approaching God with your needs. Have that same faith in His power to heal.

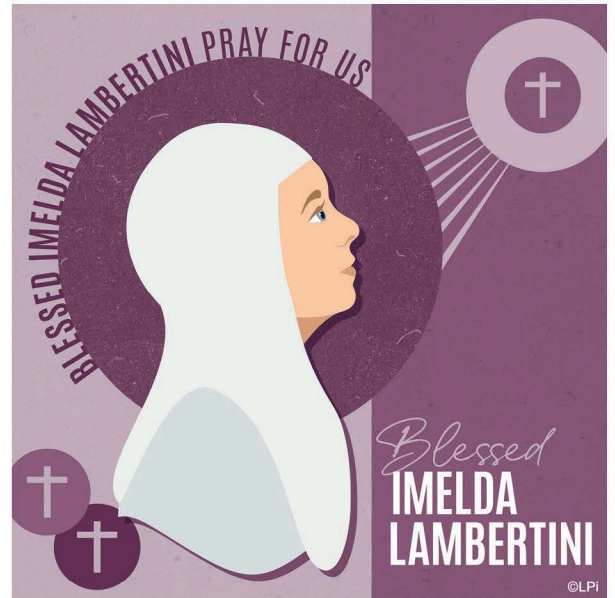
Observances for the week of February 11, 2024

Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, World Marriage Day

Wednesday: Ash Wednesday; Valentine's Day

Saturday: The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

Next Sunday: 1st Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

Blessed Imelda Lambertini was only 11 when she passed away. Despite this, her profound devotion to the Lord and the miraculous events surrounding her life have inspired generations to embrace the real presence of Christ in the Eucharist with childlike faith.

Prayer for Healing

Dear Jesus,
If you wish it, you can heal these wounds from my past. If you wish it, you can make me well again. I believe that you do will it. Heal me, in your name. Amen.

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

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

We hear how ancient Israel was concerned about purity laws and the spread of disease, such as leprosy. How do you support people in your life who are suffering from disease or isolation?

Second Reading

Paul encouraged the Corinthians to be selfless and kind to each other as a practical way of living out their faith. Is there a friend or co-worker who could benefit from your generosity toward them?

Gospel Reading

The healed leper disobeyed Jesus' command to remain silent and as a result, Jesus had to stay outside towns and in "deserted places." How do you deal with people in your life who disappoint or frustrate you?



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WHEN DID GOD'S LOVE FOR YOU BEGIN? WHEN HE BEGAN TO BE GOD. WHEN DID HE BEGIN TO BE GOD? NEVER, FOR HE HAS ALWAYS BEEN WITHOUT BEGINNING AND WITHOUT END, AND SO HE HAS ALWAYS LOVED YOU FROM ETERNITY.

BISHOP AND AUTHOR

- ST. FRANCIS DE SALES



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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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