

From the Desk of Father Ed:

Dear Parishioners,

Once again, we are at the threshold of the holy Season of Lent, which begins this week on Ash Wednesday. The two days that the Church requires us to fast and at the same time abstain from meat are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

This Sunday is the 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time, which will end our Season of Ordinary Time until we complete the 40-days of Lent followed by the 50-days of the Easter Season. In our Gospel this weekend Jesus healed a man with leprosy. The man knelt down in front of Jesus and begged that He heal him. The man said, "if you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus was moved with pity and, "He stretched out His hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made Clean."

In Jesus' time Leprosy was a dreadful and often fatal skin disease. Jewish people with leprosy were ostracized from society and excluded from worshiping in the Temple. On one level Jesus performs a powerful healing miracle. On another level, leprosy symbolizes sinfulness, especially the sinfulness of humanity and the broken covenants between God and man. Sin, much like leprosy separates us from our brothers and sisters and fractures our relationship with God. Jesus' healing of the leper, points to His healing of humanity's sinfulness and broken covenants; He nails our sins to the Cross, gives us the new and everlasting covenant, and restores our relationship with one another and with God.

After Jesus healed the leper He told him to go and show himself to the Priest. The Jewish Priest was given the authority to allow an individual to return to worship in the Temple if they were healed of their skin disease. Jesus shows us His respect for the Priesthood by sending the healed man to the Priest to be examined.

As we draw near to the Season of Lent Jesus' words, "Go, show yourself to the Priest..." remind us of our need to receive Jesus' healing in the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The graces that Jesus won for us on the Cross are given to us in the Sacrament of Reconciliation; it is a healing sacrament and many people receive spiritual and physical healings through it. Let us begin this holy season of Lent by showing ourselves to the Priest, that is, by going to the Sacrament of Reconciliation...the sacrament which opens our souls to receive the many graces that our Lord wants to give us.

Parish Life:

This Sunday we are showing our fourth and last film of our current film festival in the parish hall at 2:00 pm. The theme for our four Sunday films is "Mary, the Mother of God." This Sunday we will be showing, "The Passion of The Christ". It is an "R" rated movie because of the graphic nature of the scenes of Jesus' horrific suffering and death. It is an ideal movie to help us prepare for the Season of Lent and to witness Jesus' Passion through the eyes of His Mother, Mary. There is no fee; there will be a short intermission with some light refreshments. Come and join us and enjoy the show and company.

Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us,
Father Ed,
Pastor