

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time



It was a year ago that I was in the hospital for the first time in my life. The minor surgery meant that I had to stay overnight. When it came time for the dressing change the next day, I thought that I was going to die from the intense pain. Of course my brief experience of pain was nothing compared to the chronic conditions or acute illnesses that so many people suffer each and every day. When you think of all the people in hospitals or nursing homes, and the countless others around the world who endure without any medical care, the enormity of suffering seems overwhelming.

It is no wonder then that in Jesus' time once the crowds had heard that he cured Simon's mother-in-law, they raced to bring to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. If someone could alleviate the pain, cure the sick, and cast out demons this was definitely an opportunity of which to take advantage.

While modern medicine may help us with our physical illness and psychological pain, there is still a spiritual dimension to sickness that we should not ignore. Sickness separates us. It makes us question our faith. Illness strikes at our heart as well as our body. That is why the church offers the sacrament of the anointing of the sick for any who are ill. When we are sick, we are also alone. We need the support of the community of faith. And we need their prayers.

When a loved one is ill-or if you are sick yourself-don't hesitate to request the sacrament of anointing. If your illness confines you for a longer time, ask to receive Communion regularly to nurture you spiritually even as you seek to be strengthened physically. People sought out Jesus in this weekend's Gospel. When we or a loved one is ill, we can seek him out today.

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IN OUR HOMILY TODAY - The readings today touch on the reality of suffering and healing. The following of Christ, as he said, will bring us face to face with the cross. We ask the Lord to give us the strength that we will need to follow him. Next Week: As Jesus heals the leper in today's Gospel, so Jesus can heal us from the damaging effects of sin in our lives.

ST. JOSEPH'S CHURCH

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Alice Koester & Janet George

REST IN PEACE:

Antoinette Szczesny (Rev. Walter Szczesny Mom)

GENERATIONS OF FAITH

Living as Catholics

"Our 2012 year: "Prayer"

February's theme:

'Praying through Lent/Easter'

February's Sessions:

Saturday, February 11th ● 9:30am- 12:00pm

Sunday, February 12th ● 5:00-7:30pm

Monday, February 13th ● 6:00-8:30pm



11TH GRADE CONFIRMATION STUDENT SESSIONS BEGIN'S THIS WEEK:

Our first class is Tuesday, February 7th at 7:00pm in the Parish Hall. Classes will continue on Tuesday, Feb. 28th, and Mondays March 5th, 12th, 26th, and April 2nd.

THANK YOU to Mrs. Cathy Levesque and Mrs. Kim Kegler for volunteering to lead our students through these sessions and this part of their spiritual journey!

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES: Confirmation students if you need service hours, be sure to check out our website for opportunities. Recently added - our upcoming Mardi Gras party and Father/Son Breakfast.

OUR CONFIRMATION STUDENTS...THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH...THE 'ROCKS OF OUR FAITH':

This week, our 11th grade students are beginning their direct preparation to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation this spring. In the vestibule, please find a basket of special rocks, with our Confirmation students' names on them. Please take one home, hold it in your hands, and pray for them as they prepare to receive the Holy Spirit and fully live their Catholic faith - building on the solid foundation of our church.

Important: All rocks should be returned to the vestibule by **Sunday, April 1st**. They will be given to the students on their Confirmation day as a symbol of the prayerfulness and support of St. Joseph's faith community.



Lancaster Opera House Play and Dinner

will be held on Sunday, February 19th. Reservations for the outing will be taken in the vestibule of the church after each mass on the weekends. We have contracted a limited amount of reduced pricing for this event. The outing will consist of an afternoon live stage performance of Agatha Christie's play *And Then There Were None* (previously known as *Ten Little Indians*) and a full buffet dinner at Elma Towne Grille after the performance (a cash bar will be available). The cost is \$68 per couple or \$34 per person. For additional information contact Aimee McCann (592-7240) or Mary Ann Posluszny (941-9462).

TELEVISED SUNDAY MASS! A televised Sunday Mass is now airing on ABC Family from 6:30 am to 7:00 am each Sunday morning. THE SUNDAY MASS is produced by the Passionist Fathers and Brothers out of New York City and is available nationally on local affiliates. Too early for you? Tape it, Tivo it, or watch it online. For more information consult the website at www.TheSundayMass.org.

LITURGY COMMITTEE MEETING: Monday, Feb 6th at 7:00 PM in the rectory.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING: Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 PM in the Parish Hall.



BASKETS FOR PALMS: There will be baskets at the entrance of the church for last year's palms. They will be burned to provide ashes for Ash Wednesday (Feb 22nd)

POLAND 2012: Join Fr. Peter on the 2012 spring pilgrimage to Poland from May 20-30, 2012. The trip will include Warsaw, Czestochowa, Krakow, Wadowice and Zakopane. This pilgrimage will include Mass at several significant shrine and churches, daily breakfasts, centrally located hotels, 5 dinners, 3 lunches, guides, flights, ground transportation and entrance fees. The cost is \$3,280.00 per person based on double occupancy. A detailed itinerary is available at www.BlessedJJPIIParish.org or by calling the parish office at (716)627-2910. The reservation deadline has a final extension to February 10th, 2012.



*Mass Schedule
&
Intentions
for the Week*

- Monday, February 6th
8:00am For All Parishioners
- Tuesday, February 7th
8:00am Henry Bartels (Jack & Janet Bryant)
- Wednesday, February 8th
8:00am Mother's Day Intentions
- Thursday, February 9th
8:00am No Masses
- Friday, February 10th
8:00am All Souls
- Saturday, February 11th
5:00pm Mother's Day Intentions
- Sunday, February 12th
8:00am Father's Day Int for Jesse Palumbo
10:30am Father's Day Intentions

Altar Server Schedule

- Saturday, February 11th
5:00pm Jakob Rickettson & Jacob LoVullo
- Sunday, February 12th
8:00am Shea Moltrup & Abigail Jusiak
10:30am Alyssa & Sara Andrzejewski

Eucharistic Minister Schedule

- Saturday, February 11th
5:00pm D. Henry, C. Kramer & G. Spyche
- Sunday, February 12th
8:00am A. & D. Folaron, M. Kasprzyk, & A. McCann
10:30am R. & T. Painter, & B. Wagner

Lector Schedule

- Saturday, February 11th
5:00pm Ed Russell
- Sunday, February 12th
8:00am John Hilton
10:30am Kathleen Gray

Sacristan Schedule

- Sat/Sun February 11th - 12th
•5pm K. Orlando •8am L. Ruminski •10:30am M. Poslusny



Gift to God: \$2803.00 Regular Collection, \$45.00, Education & \$87.00, Catholic Relief Fund

Counters for February 12th: Team A