

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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**WELCOME!**

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### ASH WEDNESDAY 2/17

10:30 am Mass - Bilingual  
(English & Vietnamese)

6:00 pm Mass (Vietnamese)

### SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

### SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30pm Adoration  
6:00pm Mass

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30pm – 4:50pm  
Sunday 8:00am – 8:20am  
Also by Appointment

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

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### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed  
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

Donation	\$2,787.00
Donation Online	\$1,957.00
Maintenance Fund	\$5.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Children's Donation	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$4,749.00</b>

**\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE!\*\*\*** You will receive a new tax donation letter with the correct total. The previous letter contained a system error, please accept our apologies.

#### SPECIAL PREPARES COLLECTION February 13 & 14, 2021

Support PREPARES by donating to the **OPEN YOUR HEART VALENTINE APPEAL.**  
[www.preparesforlife.org/donate](http://www.preparesforlife.org/donate)

**PREPARES**  
Pregnancy & Parenting Support

PREPARES provides pregnancy & parenting support to mothers and fathers who have chosen life, from pregnancy to their child's fifth birthday.

*Statewide Bishops' Valentine Appeal*  
100% of your donation will go directly to serve families in need thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Knights of Columbus Council #676.

[www.preparesforlife.org](http://www.preparesforlife.org)

#### NEXT WEEK: February 20 & 21

This collection will fund essential pastoral work for communities and help faith formation and sacramental needs.  
[www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions)



#### Sunday Readings

#### 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Job 7: 1-4; 1 Corinthians 9: 16-23

Mark 1: 29-39



The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Mark 1: 42

## Christ Came to Save, Not Condemn

Leprosy was one of the most feared (and most frequently encountered) diseases in ancient times.

- The bacterial skin infection started small, almost imperceptibly, but it soon spread.
- It rotted the victim's extremities (fingers, nose, lips...) and gave off a thoroughly disgusting smell.
- As explained in today's First Reading, lepers were excluded from society and left to die a slow, painful, humiliating death. They were prohibited by law from coming within 100 yards of healthy people; this is why they had to shout, "Unclean, unclean!"
- To come into contact with a leper was to make oneself unclean, since their disease, so it was believed, was a sign of God's punishment.

Theologians and spiritual writers have always seen in this Old Testament conception of leprosy a symbol of sin.

- Sin is a kind of spiritual leprosy. It disfigures our souls and spreads into every corner of our lives. It destroys us and destroys our ability to relate to other people. It cuts us off from the purpose of our life and our role in human society and human history.
- Just as leprosy starts small but spreads and grows, so one sin, one betrayal of our conscience or one compromise with Church teaching can easily become a spark that starts a spiritual forest fire.

And so, when Jesus reaches out and touches this leper, and heals him, it is much more than just another miracle. It is a revelation of Christ's entire mission.

- He is the Redeemer, the Savior; he is the one who comes into this fallen, sin-infected world and, with the power of his mercy and grace, cleanses it and gives it a new start.
- And he does the same thing with each one of our lives, as often as we need it.

Jesus came, and he still comes, not to condemn, but to save.

### Coming Up to Jesus in the Eucharist

There is [another] detail about this encounter that we should not overlook.

- St Mark tells us that the leper "came to Jesus," close enough to kneel in front of him. Why would he do that when everyone knew that the law required him to keep his distance? Something about Jesus must have inspired confidence.
- The leper must have sensed that Jesus would not be repulsed by his disgusting disease. And the leper was right. Jesus smiled at him, as we can tell from his choice of words ("I do will it."), touched him, and healed him - something no one else could do or would do.

Is that how we think of Jesus? Do we have that kind of confidence in Jesus?

- Jesus has chosen to stay as close to us as he was to that leper, by giving us the Eucharist. In every Catholic Church, Jesus is truly present in the Tabernacle, body, blood, soul, and divinity, as the little red sanctuary lamp reminds us. When we drive by a Catholic Church, Jesus is calling to our hearts just as he called out to the heart of this leper.
- He won't force his way into our hearts, but he is always inviting us into his heart. He is inviting us to come up close to him, kneel down in front of him, and pour out all our miseries, hardships, confusions, and needs, praying the same beautiful prayer that this leper prayed: "Lord, if you wish, you can make me clean, you can give me strength, you can give me light."

And when we do that, do you think he will be less generous with us than he was with this poor leper? I don't think so. But if you doubt me, try it out yourself this week. You won't be disappointed.



## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### 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)

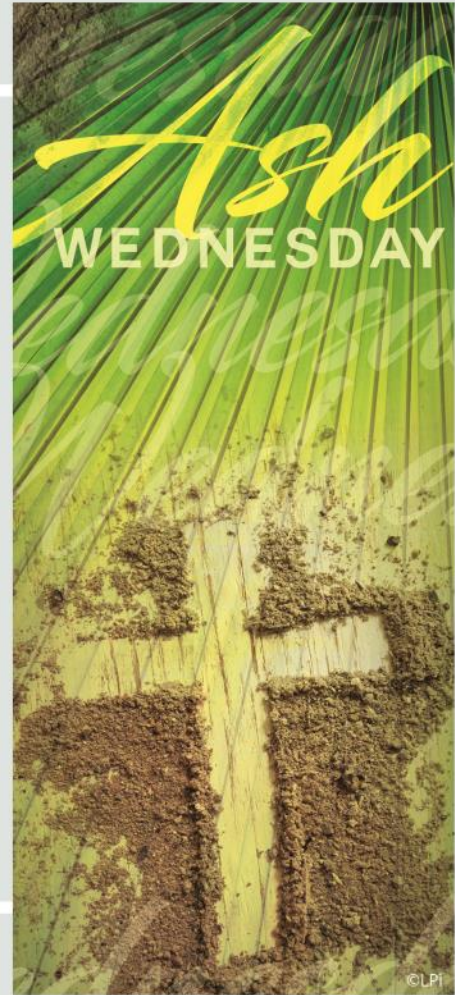
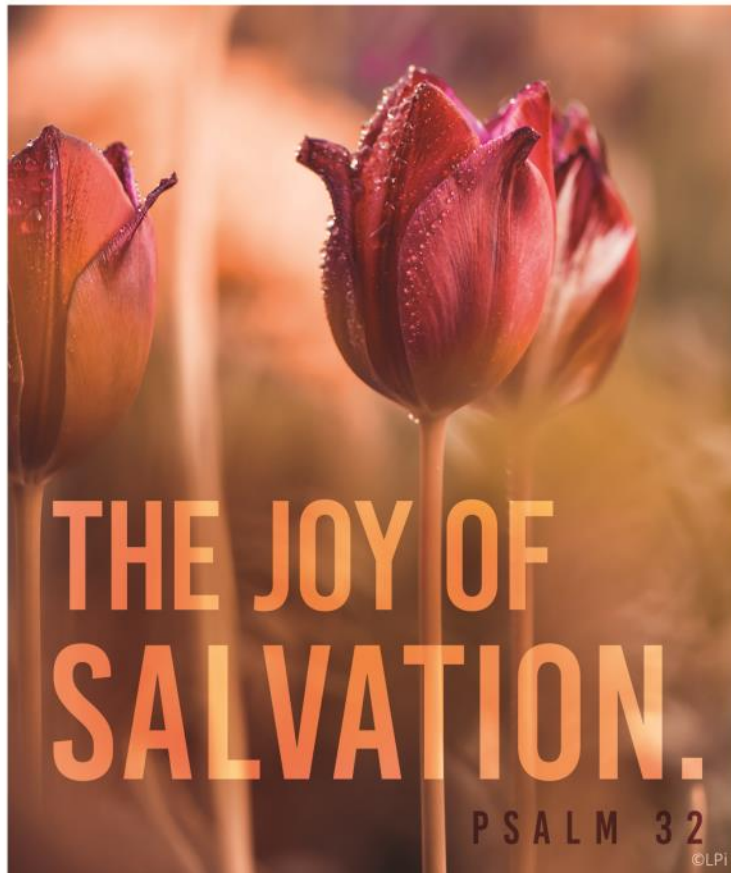
### GOSPEL:

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

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### 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



## REFLECT

### 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 READING

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