

STAR OF THE SEA, CANSO - ST. AGNES, LITTLE DOVER
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL, QUEENSPORT - ST. JOSEPH'S, PORT FELIX
PASTOR: FR. JONATHAN NNAJIOFOR, 366-2927
CONGREGATION OF NOTRE DAME 358-2346

The complete text of this bulletin is also available on the parish's website at www.cansoparishes.org

TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ SEPTEMBER 1, 2024

WEEKEND MASS TIMES

Saturday, September 7 - 4:30 p.m. - St. Vincent de Paul - ♥*For the Faithful*

Saturday, September 7 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Joseph - †*Rita David*

Sunday, September 8 - 9:00 - St. Agnes Parish Hall - †*William "Junior" Peitzsche*

Sunday, September 8 - 11:00 a.m. - Star of the Sea, Canso - ♥*For the Faithful*

WEEKDAY SCHEDULE

Thursday, September 5 - 6:00 p.m. - St. Anthony's Chapel - ♥*For the Faithful*

COMMUNION CALLS - Available when requested, please contact the parish office.

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS: *The Primacy of the Human Heart*

In today's gospel passage, there are two schools of thought in evidence, each differing from the other in their analysis of what makes a man unclean. The first comprises the Pharisees and scribes. They maintain that defilement begins from without; something external is designated as unclean, and that goes into a person creates contamination. The progression is from outside to inside. The second school consisting of Jesus and his movement holds that contamination begins from the heart in the cultivation of evil thoughts, intentions, and imaginations. It begins from the inside out.

Citing some of the traditions of the Jews like the washing of the hands before meals and washing of cups and vessels, Jesus teaches a higher truth. A disposition of interior purity is what counts before God, External cleanliness, of course, is important. But more important than this is the interior purity. This is all the more needed in prayer and worship of God. Without a proper interior disposition, our prayers and worship are mere lip service and abominable to God. Jesus also recognizes that the source of all the evil in the world is from the human heart. Vices like fornication, theft, murder, adultery, avarice, wickedness, deceit, licentiousness, envy, slander, pride, and folly are what drive us to do evil things. They are the root cause of all the evil in the world and not just mere physical hygiene. Therefore, unless the heart is cleansed and purified, evil will continue to multiply. But once we are clean and pure, we will have a religion that is pure and undefiled before God, and we will be the doers of the word, and not just hearers only, as St James says. This will naturally set us apart in the society as a people whose God is so near and whose statutes and ordinances are so righteous (cf. Deut. 4:7-8).

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - Tuesday, September 3 at 6:15 p.m. We desperately need members for this committee.

Ministries Schedule, September 8

Lector - Harry Delorey

Cleaners - Sept 1 - 7 - Harry Delorey

Ways & Means

Regatta Prize Bingo - Profit - \$,1601.90

Chowder Luncheon - Profit - \$989.00

Cake Booth - Profit - \$2,345.00

A very special thank you is extended to all, you are very much appreciated! Committee members have done an excellent job coordinating these events.

Next Events -

September 24 - Club 100 draw
 Trivia Night scheduled for September 14

ST. JOSEPH NEWS *Please note* - We have finished painting the hall at a cost of \$11,00.00. We are asking for donations to help cover the cost. All donations would be greatly appreciated. Thank your for your support!

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS - THANK YOU!

Star of the Sea (25)	690.00
Winter Fuel (2)	20.00
St. Agnes (15)	235.00
Loose	10.00
St. Joseph (18)	222.00
Loose	25.00
Donation	40.00
St. Vincent de Paul (6)	95.00
Loose	5.00

September 1: World Day of Prayer for the Care of Creation - "Hope and Act with Creation" is this year's theme.

"In our hopeful and persevering expectation of the glorious return of Jesus, the Holy Spirit keeps us, the community of believers, vigilant; he continually guides us and calls us to conversion, to a change in lifestyle in order to resist the degradation of our environment and to engagement in that social critique which is above all a witness to the real possibility of change," Pope Francis writes in his message.

September 1, 2024 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year B

It's Not About the Germs

This Week's Readings at Mass

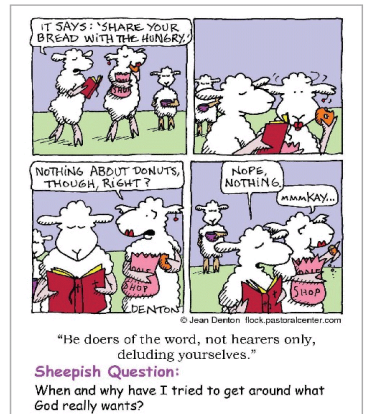
- ▶ Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-8 - Advantages of fidelity
- ▶ James 1:17-18, 21b-22, 27 - Response to God's gift
- ▶ Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 - Jesus and the Pharisees

Once again in the Gospel reading, some Pharisees protest how Jesus and his disciples go about their daily lives. Sometimes they protest who Jesus hangs out with; other times they take offense at who he dines with; still other times they are scandalized by his words of healing or forgiveness. Today they complain to Jesus that his disciples aren't washing their hands before they eat.

Especially since the advent of COVID-19, we know the importance of washing hands to slow or halt the spread of disease. In Biblical times, the practice of cleansing hands and purifying cups, jugs, kettles, and beds was about making things holy—set apart. Jews understood themselves as the chosen ones, set apart from the surrounding peoples, so they followed elaborate rules to keep themselves and their possessions clean, "holy," or set apart. They had strict laws for purifying themselves and their things if they became dirty or defiled in any way.

The Pharisees believed that eating with sinners would "contaminate" them. Of course, that didn't stop Jesus. The Pharisees followed laws that disallowed touching a leper, a menstruating woman, or a dead body because lepers were unclean, blood was unclean, and dead bodies were *definitely* unclean. Jesus broke all of these rules, as well.

In this passage, the Pharisees are critical because the disciples didn't wash their hands after coming from the marketplace where they



would have come into contact with plenty of unclean people and objects. Once again, Jesus calls them back to the spirit of the law, not the letter of the law, reminding them not to focus on the externals but to pay more attention to their interior lives.

Questions of the Week

- 1 What are some religious rules, laws, or customs that can sometimes be broken to honor the spirit of the law?
- 2 Putting aside external rules, what might God be inviting you to change internally to be more like Jesus and less like the Pharisees?

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