

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME ~ FEBRUARY 11, 2024

**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

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Donna Jackson, Janet Delorey, Cynthia Creamer, Calvin Harnish, Agnes Casey, Corrine Munroe, Gerry Parker, Gelly Parker, Paul Horne, Sr. Alma

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

WEEKEND MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 17 - Port Felix - 6:00 pm - ♥*For the Faithful*

Sunday, February 18 - Star of the Sea - 11:00 am - ♥*For the Faithful*

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS TIMES

Wednesday, February 14

- 2:00 p.m. St. Joseph Church, Port Felix - ♥*For the Faithful*

- 7:00 p.m. - Star of the Sea, Canso - ♥*For the Faithful*

What is Lent? Wednesday, February 14, 2024 - Thursday, March 28, 2024

Lent is a 40 day season of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving that begins on Ash Wednesday and ends at sundown on Holy Thursday. It's a period of preparation to celebrate the Lord's Resurrection at Easter. During Lent, we seek the Lord in prayer by reading Sacred Scripture; we serve by giving alms; and we practice self-control through fasting. We are called not only to abstain from luxuries during Lent, but to a true inner conversion of heart as we seek to follow Christ's will more faithfully. We recall the waters of baptism in which we were also baptized into Christ's death, died to sin and evil, and began new life in Christ. Many know of the tradition of abstaining from meat on Fridays during Lent, but we are also called to practice self-discipline and fast in other ways throughout the season. In addition, the giving of alms is one way to share God's gifts—not only through the distribution of money, but through the sharing of our time and talents. As St. John Chrysostom reminds us: "Not to enable the poor to share in our goods is to steal from them and deprive them of life. The goods we possess are not ours, but theirs." (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 2446). - USCCB

REFLECTION ON TODAY'S READINGS - *Jesus Healed The Leper*

Jesus cures a man of his leprosy. Leprosy is a skin disease that attacks the limbs. The disease causes one's fingers and toes to drop off, disfiguring and twisting the features to look disgusting. It is an infectious disease often contracted through bodily contact or sharing of vessels. Right from the time of Moses leprous patients were known to be quarantined, that is, medically set apart from the rest to avoid contagion. The Book of Leviticus (13) specifies how

leprous patients were to be handled. "As long as the disease lasts, he will be unclean; therefore, he must live away from others; he must live outside the camp" (Lev 13:46). Imagine how a leper feels: frustrated and dejected. Jesus cured the leper, and directed him to see a priest, for reintegration into society, but insisted on no publicity. Jesus not only grants the man his request, but he demonstrates the personal love, compassion, and tenderness of God in his physical touch. The man could not contain his joy, so he shared the news. Meanwhile, Jesus did not want to associate his messianic work with only miracles. For his mission would be won on the Cross. A search for miracles is not true religion. It is false. Also, no form of discrimination, be it for reasons of faith, race, gender, health, or whatever, honours God. What our fellow humans need is a helping hand. The Lord challenges us all to show mercy, forgiveness, and compassion to untouchables and outcasts around us, especially those we find it difficult to love. Just as the Lord is always ready to show us his mercy and love, are we ready to do the same?

STAR OF THE SEA NEWS

Property/Finance Committee - will meet Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 6:15 p.m.
Ministries Schedule, February 18

Lector - Juanita Dort

Cleaning - February 18 - 24 - Theresa & Eileen

WAYS & MEANS EVENTS

Events Calendar 2024 - is available in the entrance of the church. All help is appreciated! An important note: if you belong to other organizations, please share the calendar and consider the events that are already scheduled.

Tickets on Heat Certificate - are available from committee members, value is \$300.00, draw date is February 27.

Trivia Night is scheduled for Saturday, February 17 at 7:00 p.m. in Canso Hazel Hill Fire Hall. Preregistration is required. Pizza, chips and drinks will be available. Thank you

ST. AGNES NEWS

Bingo - Sundays at 7:00 p.m. in the parish hall

ST JOSEPH NEWS

Card Plays - continue Tuesdays, at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome

SUNDAY COLLECTIONS

No Masses

NOTES

Mass for Shut ins - Mass for Shut Ins airs Sunday mornings on the CTV channel and is available for viewing on demand on our Diocese of Antigonish YouTube Channel.

Jubilee Year 2025 Dec. 24, 2024 through Jan. 6, 2026. To prepare for the Jubilee Year 2025, Pope Francis has announced that we begin a Year of Prayer. It will be "a year dedicated to rediscovering the great value and absolute need for prayer in one's personal life, in the life of the Church, and in the world."

Love Trumps Laws

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 - On leprosy
- ▶ 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 - Imitation of Christ
- ▶ Mark 1:40-45 - Healing of a leper

When the leper came to Jesus to ask for healing, he must have already heard the news that Jesus had healed many people with all sorts of sicknesses. He seems certain Jesus has the power to help him too, so he boldly says what he is thinking. "If you wish, you can make me clean." Jesus has never met the man before, but he doesn't hesitate to show that he does wish for him to be cured.

In biblical times, leprosy referred to many kinds of skin problems. Some conditions were highly contagious, so laws kept those infected from coming into contact with the healthy population. However, as the First Reading from Leviticus stated, anyone with so much as a scab, sore, or skin blemish that could



I WANT TO BE HOLY LIKE YOU, BROTHER JOHN.

IT REQUIRES TAKING A SERIOUS LOOK AT YOURSELF.

I AM SERIOUSLY LOOKING.

OKAY, THEN PRAY WITH ME.

LORD, TAKE AWAY MY INIQUITIES, CLEANSE ME FROM MY SINS.

IS TOMATO SAUCE AN INIQUITY?

© Jean Denton flock.pastoralcenter.com

"If you wish, you can make me clean."

Sheepish Question:
If I asked, what would Jesus cleanse from me that I'm not seeing?

possibly be leprosy was condemned to a life outside of the community. Those unlucky enough to have imperfect skin were supposed to avoid physical contact with others and make it clear that they shouldn't be touched.

It took a lot of courage for a leper to come into town (remember, he was supposed to stay clear of others) and approach Jesus. According to the laws, Jesus should never have touched the man because that would have made Jesus automatically unclean too. However, Jesus refuses to play by the rules that doom some people to a life of loneliness and isolation. Instead, his pity and compassion ruled the day. Love trumped laws.

Questions of the Week

- 1 When have you seen someone act with courage and break an unjust law?
- 2 What laws, rules, or customs do you follow that Jesus might be inviting you to re-think?

Word of the Week • Copyright © 2020 Ann Naffziger. Published by the Pastoral Center / PastoralCenter.com. All rights reserved.