

St. John the Baptist Catholic Church

Father Bill Fisher, Pastor

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time - February 14, 2021

World Marriage Sunday

On Sunday - Valentine's Day - the Church promotes marriage and family through World Marriage Sunday 2021.

The Gospel tells a story about Jesus curing the leper and the Church uses this account to help us understand the importance of love.

"The act of Jesus actually touching a leper would have shocked those around him. Love reaches out and touches others. Jesus touches this man, regardless of the risk of being ostracized himself. True love does not count the cost. Jesus gives all for all, unreservedly because his love knows no limits." (Source: National Marriage Week resource from the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.)

Each of us is part of a family. Love connects us in the family of the God.

The Church reminds us to pray for marriage and families; to reclaim Sundays to focus on togetherness; and to reach beyond our family to help those around us who might be in need.

Our Parish Family

Welcome back, Phyllis!

We are happy to hear that our church secretary, Phyllis Hampton, is on the mend. She was under the weather and even spent a few days in the hospital.

Through it all, she continued to monitor parish phone calls and inquiries. Phyllis was able to take care of church business with a little help from her friends.

Feel free to send a note or card - the Hampton's address is in your parish directory.

Our online community

We have used Facebook and Instagram for several years to share information about our annual festival and other church activities. This has no cost to the church - only volunteer time.

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, our presence on social media has helped our community stay connected with Catholic liturgy and news of friends.

Here are a few fun facts: our Facebook page has 876 followers and Instagram is nearing 300.

Typical Facebook posts reach about 300 people. However, our Christmas Eve Midnight Mass reached 5,300 people.



A Prayer for Ash Wednesday

"But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."

Matthew 6:6

Ash Wednesday Services

The season of Lent begins this week with Ash Wednesday. You may attend Holy Mass on Feb. 17 and receive ashes at several churches near Strawberry Hill.

- 8 a.m. - St. Peter's Cathedral
- 8:15 a.m. - All Saints Parish
- 10 a.m. - St. John the Baptist
- 12:05 p.m. - St. Mary-St. Anthony
- 5:30 p.m. - Holy Family Church
- 7 p.m. - St. Mary-St. Anthony (Spanish)

Ashes will be sprinkled on the head by the priest.

Weekly Collections

February 7, 2021

Envelopes:	\$	4,035
Maintenance:	\$	870
Candles:	\$	54
Easter Flowers	\$	10
Central/Eastern Europe	\$	15
Black & Indian Mission	\$	15



First Reading

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

"The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!'

As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

Readings - Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (bible.usccb.org)

February 14, 2021

*Picture: Jesus Heals a Leper, stained glass window
Quaker City Glass Company, Philadelphia, 1912*

Responsorial Psalm

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

Second Reading

Brothers and sisters, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God.

Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved.

Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Alleluia

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia..

Gospel

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean."

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."

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

Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, "See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them."

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.