

## February 11th, 2018 Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time

A common experience of human illness—no matter how serious—is isolation. A simple cold or the flu can cut us off from other people. A common experience of healing comes when the human touch of another shatters our isolation: the touch of professional healers or the embrace of friends.

Mark's Gospel knows this human experience. In today's story, Mark shows Jesus reaching across a huge cultural barrier to touch and heal a leper. For Mark, this story is one of many that identify the mission of Jesus as a struggle against evil, manifested partly in human sickness and suffering. Sickness doesn't mean the sick person has necessarily sinned—rather illness is part of the evil that Jesus is battling.

The story of the healing of the leper is full of emotion. We sense God's power at work. The man is invited to re-connect with the community, signaling the end of his isolation through a ritual visit to the priests. The power at work in Jesus cannot be kept secret. Word spreads far and wide.

How have you or I become isolated from the community of believers? How is Jesus calling us to re-connect? At Sunday Eucharist we're invited to lay aside our isolation, and to witness to one another what Christ has done for us.

Fr. Greg Friedman, O.F.M.

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### **World Day of the Sick** **February 11th**

The ministry of Jesus to the sick is central to the life of the Church. February 11<sup>th</sup> (Memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes) highlights the healing ministry of the Church. It reminds us that service to the sick and suffering cannot be neglected. It recognizes the great efforts of doctors, nurses, health care institutions and pastoral care givers to restore health to those afflicted with illness and disease.



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### **Season of Lent**

Lent is the yearly celebration by the Church of its corporate conversion in Jesus Christ. It prepares us for Easter as we recall our baptism and do penance in preparation for the greatest feast of the year.

During Lent, it is especially important to be aware of the social consequences of sin as well as the fact that the heart of the virtue of penance is hatred of sin as an offence against God. We are encouraged to pray and do penance and be merciful.

### **Ash Wednesday – February 14<sup>th</sup>**

*Day of Fasting and Abstinence from Meat*

**9 am School Mass with Ashes**

**7 pm Mass with Ashes**

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### **Fridays During Lent**

**Mass at 9 am**

- **7 pm Stations of the Cross**
- **7:30 pm Mass**

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### **Prayer for Lent**

Lord Jesus, we pray throughout the season of Lent that you will open our minds and stir our hearts to follow you more faithfully. We know that you died for us when we were still sinners, and we know we are sinners still. But you have given us a longing to be the people you want us to be: faithful, hope-filled and loving. Help us to make the most of these forty days marked by fasting, prayer and almsgiving so that we might draw near to you and give you greater glory. Amen.

### Used Book Sale

The **Grade 5 class at IC** will be hosting a used book sale on **Saturday, February 18th**. The sale will be held after each morning Mass at **10 am** and **12 pm**. We would love for everyone to stop by the sale and help support our school! We are also looking for donations of gently used books if you would like to clean out your bookshelves. Any donations of books can be dropped off at the school office. Thank you for your support!

### **Knights of Columbus Pancake Breakfast Sunday Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>**

#### St. Vincent de Paul Soup/Sandwich Preparation

Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup> at 9:40 am preparing sandwich and soup ingredients and  
Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 9:40 am making soup and sandwiches in the Church hall.

### Prince George Pro Life

The Prince George Pro Life Society's Annual General Meeting and Elections will be held on **Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>**, at **7 pm** in the Lower Church Hall at Sacred Heart Cathedral. This is an opportunity to learn more about the Pro Life Society's mission of educating those in our community to the sanctity and value of every human life, of those born and unborn.



### Important Change

The bank has asked us to let our parishioners know to make their cheques payable to **RCEC – Immaculate Conception**. When you are making cheques payable to the Diocesan Appeal please make them out to RCEC – Diocesan Appeal.

### Vocation Live-In

On the weekend of **February 16<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**, there will be a Vocation Live-In for boys or young men interested in the priesthood or the consecrated life, at the Seminary of Christ the King, Mission, BC. For more information call 604-826-8715 or see our Website: <http://www.sck.ca/>

### Noon-Hour Series Gospel Reflections of Lent

**Mondays, February 19, 26 March 5, 12, and 26<sup>th</sup>**

**12 noon to 1:30 pm in St Mary's St. Eugene Room**

As we journey with Jesus from the desert to the empty tomb, Sisters Irene Baker and Dorothy Ryan will facilitate reflection, discussion, and prayer on the Lenten gospels. Light refreshments will be served.

PLEASE REGISTER at St. Mary's Parish office by:

e-mail: [stmarys.parish@shawcable.com](mailto:stmarys.parish@shawcable.com) or

phone: 250-564-4097

### Morning of Reflection for Women

The morning event includes two presentations, time to pray and share together and a luncheon. The theme is ***Called by Name: Authentic Personhood in Christ*** on **Sat. Feb. 24<sup>th</sup>**.

The day begins with Mass at 7:30am (optional) in the Domano Chapel. Registration is at 8:30 am and it goes from 9 am to 1 pm at the Domano Renewal Centre (Emmaus). The fee is \$30 (includes a luncheon) and \$5 per child for childcare.

### Wanted

The Order of the Eastern Star is collecting stamps and postcards with ½" border. The proceeds from the sale of these items are used to provide cancer dressings to those patients in need, free of charge. Please place your items in the small black basket on the table in the church foyer.

