

St John the Evangelist Catholic Church

Diocese of St Augustine, Interlachen, Florida

"We are a welcoming and embracing community centered on Jesus in the Eucharist."

February 11, 2018

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

God Loves a Joyful Giver

How wonderful to live where we live and how we live!

St. Augustine shares with us, "After his resurrection our Lord asked: *Peter do you love me?* And Peter replied: *I do love you.* The question and the answer were repeated three times. And each time the Lord added; *Feed my sheep.* In other words, if you want to show that you love me, then *feed my sheep.* What will you give me if you love me, since you look for everything to come from me? Now you know what you are to do if you love me; *Feed my sheep.*"

Jesus was suggesting to Peter that "feed my sheep," means to offer one's body to feed the sheep. "Take and eat, this is my Body." The covenant commitments we bring to the altar will cost us. But God will always give us so much more in ways we could never imagine.

Ready or not, here comes LENT! Ash Wednesday is this week. Mass with distribution of ashes will be:

St. Monica's @ 8 am & 7 pm

St. John's @ 6 pm

We celebrated the life of Margarite Seaney (88) & Delores Hannon (93) this Saturday. Let us be stewards of their lives and deaths. Delores was at the Christmas Vigil Mass and her daughter Sandie Comstock shared how her mother was radiant and mesmerized.

Stewardship is truly a way of life. I believe we are growing our gifts.

Have a most Blessed Week in God's love.

Love, joy, peace,

Father Ron +



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Pastoral Administrator: Joe Grasso

MASSES AND INTENTIONS

Sunday, Feb 11 - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

11:30 AM- Repose of Claire Fournier

Requested by Jim and Pat Dandeneau

2:00 PM - Repose of Francisca Davila & Maria Loreto

Requested by Reynaldo Cabrera

Monday Feb 12 - Weekday

8:00 AM - Word Service

Tuesday Feb 13 - Weekday

8:00 AM - Word Service

Wednesday, Feb 14 - Ash Wednesday

6:00 PM - Health and Well Being of Allison Widmeyer

Requested by Parishioners of St John

Thursday, Feb 15 - Thursday after Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM - Word Service

Friday, Feb 16 - Friday after Ash Wednesday

8:00 AM - Health & Well Being Carmen Concepcion

Requested by Parishioners of St John

1st Sunday in Lent - 02/18/2018

Altar Servers - Sienna - Chris

Reader - Maggie - Ed

EMHC - Bud - Camille - Steve - Meva

The Sanctuary Candle burns this week for Joe Richardson

Requested by Parishioners of St John

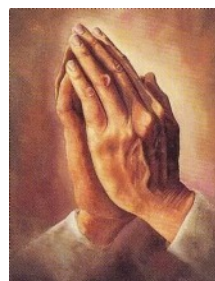


Let us pray this week for all families, who are mourning the death of a loved one. May all our departed find rest and peace in the Mercy of God.

Your Parish Support

Collections for 02/04/2018

Offertory	1918.00
Maintenance Fund	565.00
Respect Life	40.00
Total	\$2523.00



Please Remember in Your Prayers

All members of our parish who are not in perfect health: **Allison Widmeyer, Juliette Gioia, Carmen Concepcion, Allen Lucia, Roger Coutu, Susan Collins, Luisa Velazquez, and Barbara Hogue.** Note: Names on our prayer list are for individuals who are hospitalized, undergoing surgery, in hospice care, or dying.

Upcoming Events

Feb 14 - 9 AM Faith Sharing

Feb 14 - 4:30 PM Father Ron's bible study (**Canceled this week**)

Feb 14 -- 6:00 PM Ash Wednesday Mass

Mar 12 -- 7 PM Knights of Columbus

Stations of the Cross

Each Friday evening during the Season of Lent we will have the Stations of the Cross in the church at 6:00 PM. This will be followed by a Lenten meal of soup and bread. Please plan to attend.

Lenten Soup & Bread Schedule

Feb 16 - Cursillo Group

Feb 23 - Music/EMHC

Mar 02 - Counters/Outreach

Mar 09 - K of C

Mar 16 - Spanish Community

Mar 23 - SvDP/Altar Servers

Eucharistic Congress - A Two Day Lenten Retreat

The annual Eucharistic Congress, a two day event focusing on our unity found in the Eucharist, will be held on March 16-17 at the Prime Osborn Convention Center. There will be many speakers and opportunities for enrichment in your understanding of the Eucharist as source and summit of the Christian Life. There will be different sessions so that there is something for everyone: Spanish track, English Track, Young Adult Track, Youth Track and 2 Tracks for school aged children (Grades K-3 and Grades 4-6) For more information visit the www.dosafl.com website or the www.floridaeucharist.org website.

Welcome

We would like to give a warm welcome to our new parishioners, Michael F. Byrne and Mary Layton. Michael and Mary, we look forward to seeing you at Mass and our socials. So happy to have you with us.

Bereavement Group

St Monica's has decided to start a Bereavement Group and it has been suggested that it might be a good idea to start one here at St John's considering our sizable senior population. If you believe that a Bereavement Group might be a great addition for our parish, please call our office at 386-684-2528 and tell Joe Grasso.

Our Choir Needs Voices

We are in need of more Parishioners to join our choir. If you are interested, please call Joe Grasso in our parish office (386-684-2528).

"Into the Deep" with Father Ron

Father Ron's bible study class is canceled this week because of Ash Wednesday and the start of the Lenten Season.

Father Pablo's new cell phone number is: 386-559-4333.

Ash Wednesday



"At the beginning of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, ashes are blessed during Mass, after the homily. The blessed ashes are then "imposed" on the faithful as a sign of conversion, penance, fasting and human mortality. The ashes are blessed at least during the first Mass of the day, but they may also be imposed during all the Masses of the day, after the homily, and even outside the time of Mass to meet the needs of the faithful. Priests or deacons normally impart this sacramental, but instituted acolytes, other extraordinary ministers or designated lay people may be delegated to impart ashes, if the bishop judges that this is necessary. The ashes are made from the palms used at the previous Passion Sunday ceremonies."

— *Ceremonies of the Liturgical Year*, Msgr. Peter J. Elliott

St Vincent de Paul Society News



As outgoing President of St Vincent De Paul Society, I want to welcome and applaud Judy Surratt for accepting the leadership role of our conference in our 20th anniversary year. I want to thank all the Vincentians and volunteers (literally 100's) who have helped us help others. I want to especially thank those plank owners, Grace DiGiovanni, Phyllis Nelson, Judy Surratt, Anna Nicosia, Ed Ralosky, and 13 year member Meva Krecota. This past year we have positively affected 19,584 people with 187,153 pounds of food, \$17,181.00 of furniture and clothing and \$38,932.00 in financial assistance, for a grand total of \$1.51 million of in-kind services and supplies. None of this would have been possible without the sharing and caring of so many of you and others in our community. May God Bless You, Colonel Bud Surratt, Immediate Past President

Reflecting on the Gospel

"After many weeks we have come to the conclusion of the first chapter of the Gospel of Mark. What a whirlwind it has been. From the opening sentence announcing the Gospel of Jesus Christ, son of God, to John the Baptist, the calling of disciples, casting out demons, healing the sick, including Simon's mother-in-law, preaching in synagogues, and now concluding with the healing of someone with a skin disease, the story has been like riding a roller coaster. We reach new heights and move swiftly from episode to episode.

Though our English Bibles refer to the person cured as a "leper," the term means anyone with a skin disease. An entire chapter in the book of Leviticus (13) is dedicated to diagnosing and treating skin diseases, which were broadly categorized in the ancient world as "leprosy." Verses 45-46 of that chapter in Leviticus discuss how the person with the disease is to behave, namely, by crying "unclean, unclean" before approaching others, and living apart from the community for as long as the infection lasts.

So the healing performed by Jesus is not merely a healing of the skin disease, though it is certainly that. By telling the man to show himself to the priest, Jesus is, in effect, setting up the situation so the man will be brought back into community. Once the priest declares the infection gone, the afflicted person may return as a full-fledged member of the people, without having to cry out "unclean, unclean" as he goes about his business. It is for this reason, among others, that scholars and preachers say that Jesus' ministry was about inclusion. He ministered to those on the margins, or even outside of the community, like this person with a skin disease, and Jesus made them whole. Once whole, the excluded persons could be welcomed back.

Interestingly, even though Jesus warned the man sternly and ordered him not to tell anyone (aside from the priest), the cured man publicized the matter widely! And this publicity affected Jesus' ministry so that he was no longer able to enter towns openly. It's as though Jesus were being stalked by the ancient equivalent of the paparazzi. He was not even left alone in the "deserted places" outside the villages.

By the end of the first chapter of Mark the stage has been set. What will happen to this wonder-worker? Will his fame spread beyond the backwater of Galilee? Who else on the margins or outskirts of society will he embrace? What kind of whirlwind will this be?"

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Living the Paschal Mystery

"Sometimes the news is so good we can't keep it to ourselves. This might happen when someone is getting married, or having a baby, or is out of the hospital after a long illness. Our joy cannot be contained and so it was with the man afflicted with a skin disease. Even though Jesus himself told him to keep it quiet, that was simply not possible. He told everyone! The news spread throughout the region, and Jesus was left to live with the consequences. Why was the cured man so joyful? Not only because the affliction was cured, but now he was able to be restored to the community. No longer would he have to shout "unclean, unclean" before approaching anyone. Now he was whole and an integral part of the people.

Whom do we see excluded today? What is today's equivalent of an ancient skin condition? Are there groups or individuals who are effectively preceded with shouts of "unclean"? Jesus' desire is not merely to heal the man's skin, but to restore him to the group. In effect, the healing of the leper was as much for the community as it was for the leper. The community had rejected this person and would not accept him with that condition. If we want to like Jesus we can find those on the margins and bring them into the fold. We may not have the power to heal physical ailments, but we can certainly reach out to the marginalized and draw them close."

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Bulletin/Web Site Inputs

Your inputs to the bulletin and our web site are important to keep our parishioners informed. Please e-mail inputs to Jim Dandeneau at dandeneau32148@gmail.com or put them in the box in the office.

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