

PRAYER CORNER

Almighty God, as we ask your help
for our brothers and sisters who are ill,
we ask you to help us to be healing people in our time and place.
May your love touch others through us,
and may I help all people to live in peace.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St. Frances of Assisi

JESUS SPEAKS TO US

On leaving the synagogue he entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.
Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever. They immediately told him about her.
He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up. Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

Mark 1:29-31

January 31st Collection

Regular:	\$4,420.39
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Thank you so much
for your generosity and support
of our Parish.



OUR MOTHER OF MERCY

Historically African-American Catholic Church—all are welcome!

February 7, 2021



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**Our Mother of Mercy
Catholic Church**

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**THE FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME**

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 1:29-39. Surely the people of Capernaum saw enough that first day of Christ's public ministry among them to make them realize that this man from Nazareth who had come amongst them was no ordinary preacher, no ordinary rabbi, no ordinary man. They saw that he preached as one having authority; they saw that by a simple command he cast out demons and removed all bodily ailments. Yet though they were astonished and amazed at his power, their worldly outlook did not let them rise above their own small interests. Our Lord did not blame them or criticize them, he knew and fully understood their slowness of mind in regard to things spiritual, and he knew also that they would eventually give themselves wholeheartedly to his kingdom. While he was prepared to wait for the desired effects which his miracles and preaching would eventually have on them, he hastened the arrival of that day by praying to his heavenly Father to send the graces necessary for their conversion into their hearts.

When the four Apostles found him praying in a lonely place, they told him that all Capernaum was searching for him, but he knew why they were searching for him. They wanted to see more miracles and very likely they were hoping that he would stay on in Capernaum and the sick and the maimed from the whole of Galilee would be brought there for healing. This would increase their earthly business and prosperity. His answer to the Apostles, while not directly condemning this worldly outlook, shows that his mission had an entirely different objective. He had come on earth not to bring earthly

prosperity to any town or country but to bring spiritual salvation and blessing on all people. That very morning he began to carry out his mission and for the remaining two years or more he went from town to town preaching the kingdom of God.

We Christians of today have many advantages over the people of Capernaum of that day. They saw Christ with their bodily eyes as a man of power amongst them; we see him with the eyes of faith as he really was and is — the Son of God who came on earth as man in order to make us sons of God. We know who he really was and we know the full meaning of his mission. We have seen that mission completed amongst us by his death on the cross and his resurrection. By his death he conquered death for us; by his resurrection he opened the gates of heaven for us and led the way there for all who will follow him.

This is the good news Christ brought to our world. This is the meaning of Christianity; this is why we are Christians. We are members of Christ's kingdom on earth, so that when our life here ends we shall be members of his everlasting heavenly kingdom. How active and how effective is our Christian faith in our daily thoughts and deeds? In my daily dealings with my fellowmen would I be picked out as a Christian? Do I, by my words and deeds, prove to those with whom I live and work that I am convinced there is a future life after death, that reaching that life is the most important thing in this world for me, and that it is through living my short earthly life as a true Christian that I can earn that eternal life?

Excerpted from *The Sunday Readings* by Fr. Kevin O'Sullivan, O.F.M.

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In Loving Memory of
Larry & Olga Martinez,
One Day at a Time. ✝

Rev. Jerome Gaston LeDoux

February 26, 1930—January 7, 2019

THE CLAVER FAMILY
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Mass Schedule:

Monday-Friday — 7 a.m.

Saturday — 8 a.m.

Saturday — 5 p.m.

Sunday — 10 a.m.

Holy Day -- see bulletin

**Reconciliation
(Confession):**

Friday & Saturday Confessions
9:00 a.m. — noon

Office Hours:

Mon, Wed, & Fri
10 a.m. — 3 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER**My sisters and brothers:
Our Lady of Lourdes**

The many miracles which have been performed through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes prompted the Church to institute a special commemorative feast, the "Apparition of the Immaculate Virgin Mary." The Office gives the historical background. Four years after the promulgation of the dogma of the Immaculate Conception (1854), the Blessed Virgin appeared a number of times to a very poor and holy girl named Bernadette. The actual spot was in a grotto on the bank of the Gave River near Lourdes.

The Immaculate Conception had a youthful appearance and was clothed in a pure white gown and mantle, with an azure blue girdle. A golden rose adorned each of her bare feet. On her first apparition, February 11, 1858, the Blessed Virgin bade the girl make the sign of the Cross piously and say the rosary with her. Bernadette saw her take the rosary that was hanging from her arms into her hands. This was repeated in subsequent apparitions.

With childlike simplicity Bernadette once sprinkled holy water on the vision, fearing that it was a deception of the evil spirit; but the Blessed Virgin smiled pleasantly, and her face became even more lovely.

Finally on the feast of the Annunciation, the beautiful Lady announced her name, "I am the Immaculate Conception."

Excerpted from *The Church's Year of Grace*, Pius Parsch.

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D

WEEKLY SCHEDULE

Monday, February 8

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.

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Tuesday, February 9

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.

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Wednesday, February 10

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.

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Thursday, February 11

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.

Friday, February 12

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 7 a.m.

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Adoration: 8:00 a.m. — noon

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Saturday, February 13

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 8 a.m.

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Sunday, February 14

**Live Stream on
our Church Website**
Mass: 10 a.m.

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Vocation View

Christ raises up, from among our midst, those called to the Consecrated Life so that they might be unique signs of the Kingdom and "to be all things to all people." We pray for those who have left everything to follow Him.

**Divine Word Vocation Office 1
-800-553-3321
www.svdvocations.org**

Weekly Readings

2/8—GN 1:1-19; MK 6:53-56

2/9—GN 1:20-2:4a; MK 7:1-13;

2/10—GN 2:4b-9, 15-17;

MK 7:14-23

2/11—GN 2:18-25; MK 7:24-30

2/12—GN 3:1-8; MK 7:31-37

2/13—GN 3:9-24; MK 8:1-10

2/14—LV 13:1-2, 44-46;

1 COR 10:31-11:1; MK 1:40-45

PARISH CORNER**St. Josephine Bakhita**

For many years, Josephine Bakhita was a slave, but her spirit was always free and eventually that spirit prevailed. Josephine was kidnapped at the age of seven, sold into slavery and given the name Bakhita, which means fortunate. She was resold several times, finally in 1883 to Callisto Legnani, Italian consul in Khartoum, Sudan.

Two years later he took Josephine to Italy and gave her to his friend Augusto Michieli. Soon Bakhita became babysitter to Mimmina Michieli, whom she accompanied to Venice's Institute of the Catechumens, run by the Canossian Sisters. While Mimmina was being instructed, Josephine felt drawn to the Catholic Church. She was baptized and confirmed in 1890, taking the name Josephine.

When the Michielis returned from Africa and wanted to take Mimmina and Josephine back with them, the future saint refused to go. During the ensuing court case, the Canossian sisters and the patriarch of Venice intervened on Josephine's behalf. The judge concluded that since slavery was illegal in Italy, she had actually been free since 1885.

Josephine entered the Institute of Saint Magdalene of Canossa in 1893 and made her profession three years later. In 1902, she was transferred to the city of Schio (northeast of Verona). She soon became well loved by the children attending the sisters' school and the local citizens. She once said, "Be good, love the Lord, pray for those who do not know Him. What a great grace it is to know God!"

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ANNOUNCEMENTS**World Day of the Sick**

"A society is all the more human to the degree that it cares effectively for its most frail and suffering members, in a spirit of fraternal love." Pope Francis makes the point in his message for this year's World Day of the Sick.

In order to fight hypocrisy and self-idolatry, he says, Jesus asks us to "stop and listen, to establish a direct and personal relationship with others, to feel empathy and compassion, and to let their suffering become our own as we seek to serve them," the Pope says in the message, released by the Vatican on Tuesday. The Catholic Church marks the annual day on 11 February, the feast of Our Lady of Lourdes. Instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II on 13 May 1992, the first World Day of the Sick was marked the following year. The theme of this year's observance is, "You have but one teacher and you are all brothers" (Mt 23:8), which calls for "a trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick".

Pope Francis says that the annual day "is an opportunity to devote special attention to the sick and to those who provide them with assistance and care both in healthcare institutions and within families and communities." He expresses his spiritual closeness and the Church's loving concern for those suffering the coronavirus pandemic, especially the poor and the marginalized.

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"Rising very early before dawn, he left and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed...He told them, 'Let us go on to the nearby villages that I may preach there also. For this purpose have I come - MARK 1:35, 38

**CATECHISM OF THE
CATHOLIC CHURCH****PRAYER IN THE
CHRISTIAN LIFE****The prayer of the Virgin Mary**

2619 That is why the Canticum of Mary,⁹¹ the *Magnificat* (Latin) or *Megalynei* (Byzantine) is the song both of the Mother of God and of the Church; the song of the Daughter of Zion and of the new People of God; the song of thanksgiving for the fullness of graces poured out in the economy of salvation and the song of the "poor" whose hope is met by the fulfillment of the promises made to our ancestors, "to Abraham and to his posterity for ever."

IN BRIEF

2620 Jesus' filial prayer is the perfect model of prayer in the New Testament. Often done in solitude and in secret, the prayer of Jesus involves a loving adherence to the will of the Father even to the Cross and an absolute confidence in being heard.

2621 In his teaching, Jesus teaches his disciples to pray with a purified heart, with lively and persevering faith, with filial boldness. He calls them to vigilance and invites them to present their petitions to God in his name. Jesus Christ himself answers prayers addressed to him.

2622 The prayers of the Virgin Mary, in her Fiat and Magnificat, are characterized by the generous offering of her whole being in faith.

⁹¹ Cf. Lk 1:46-55

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That – just as Jesus rose early to pray – we, too, may find time in our day to be with God and to receive strength and nourishment from Him.