

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

A leper came to him [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.
Then 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."
Mark 1:40-44

February 6th Collection

- Regular: \$3,026.25
- Parish Maintenance: \$307.00
- St. Vincent de Paul: \$100.00
- Mass Intentions: \$55.00
- St. Anne's (Candles): \$43.00
- Bricks: \$350.00
- Online 2/7-2/11: \$0.00

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 13, 2022



Bulletin printed in-house at:
Our Mother of Mercy Catholic Church
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Fort Worth, TX 76104
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ORDINARY TIME : February 13th Sixth Sunday

The **Gospel** is from St. Mark 1:40-45. We see both the divine power and the divine compassion of Jesus in this act of healing. The divine power was necessary in all instantaneous cures. Even if the diseases were curable, the ordinary process of nature took time to fight off the causes and to return to normality. Therefore, where there was an instantaneous recovery some power above nature, some supernatural cause brought it about. But where the disease was incurable, as real leprosy then was, to remove it by a simple word of command was more emphatically still the result of divine power. This divine power Jesus had, for he was himself divine, the Son of God.

His compassion for suffering humanity was, however, co-terminus with his power, it was also divine. It was out of compassion for the sad lot of the human race on earth that he descended to man's level, becoming man, equal to us in all things except sin, in order to suffer with us and for us. By his human sufferings he made an atonement, a satisfaction for all the sins of the world—a satisfaction which all mankind could never make—to his heavenly Father, and so obtained for us God's pardon. At the same time, 'by joining our human nature to his divine nature, he brought us into the divine orbit and made us adopted sons of God and heirs of the eternal life of the Blessed Trinity. Because this seems almost too good to be true, there are men who deny it or refuse to accept it. Such men make the mistake of measuring the infinite compassion of God with the limited yardstick of their own finite and puny compassion.

compassion! Thanks be to God, for Christ his Son, who came and dwelt amongst us! He put heaven and a share in the life of God within our reach; he has shown us how to attain them, giving in his Church and the sacraments, all the necessary aids. But we still need all of Christ's compassion if we are to get there. Because of our inclination to sin and because of the many times we unfortunately give in to that inclination, nothing but the mercy of God can save us from our own folly. However, that mercy is available, if only we ask for it. What we sinners need is the faith and confidence of the leper in today's gospel reading. He believed firmly in the power and the mercy of Jesus. "If you will, you can make me clean," was his approach to Jesus.

This should be our approach too, if we have the misfortune to fall into serious sin. Jesus does will and does want our salvation. His incarnation, and death on the cross, proves that. The fact that he left the power to forgive sins to his Church is another proof of both his will and desire to help us. "All power has been given to me in heaven and on earth," he stated. Part of that power which he left to his Church is in the sacrament of penance where the leprosy of sin can be washed away and the sinner restored to new and perfect spiritual health. What folly for any Christian then, to commit sin and isolate himself, like the unclean leper, from God. But it is greater folly still, to remain in this unclean state when the cure for his disease is so easily available to any sincere penitent.

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

Thanks be to God, for his infinite

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Office (817) 335-1695

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

Mass Schedule:
Monday-Friday — 7:00 a.m.
Saturday — 8:00 a.m.
Saturday — 5:00 p.m.
Sunday — 10:00 a.m.
Holy Day -- see bulletin

Confessions:
Wednesday 6:00 p.m. — 6:50 p.m.
Friday 9:00 a.m. — noon
Saturday 4:00 p.m. — 4:50 p.m.
Office Hours:
Wednesday, Thursday & Friday
10:00 a.m. — 3:00 p.m.

FATHER BART'S CORNER

**My sisters and brothers:
Seven Founders of the Orders of
Servites**

These seven men were the founders of the Servite Order, a community instituted for the special purpose of cultivating the spirit of penance and contemplating the passion of Christ and Mary's Seven Sorrows. Due to the spirit of humility cherished by the members of the Order, their accomplishments are not too widely known. But in the field of home missions great things are to their credit, and certainly they have benefited millions by arousing devotion to the Mother of Sorrows.

The Breviary tells us that in the midst of the party strife during the thirteenth century, God called seven men from the nobility of Florence. In the year 1233 they met and prayed together most fervently. The Blessed Mother appeared to each of them individually and urged them to begin a more perfect life. Disregarding birth and wealth, in sackcloth under shabby and well-worn clothing they withdrew to a small building in the country. It was September 8, selected so that they might begin to live a more holy life on the very day when the Mother of God began to live her holy life.

Soon after, when the seven were begging alms from door to door in the streets of Florence, they suddenly heard children's voices calling to them, "Servants of holy Mary." Among these children was St. Philip Benizi, then just five months old. Hereafter they were known by this name, first heard from the lips of children. In the course of time they retired into solitude on Monte Senario and gave themselves wholly to contemplation and penance. Leo XIII canonized the Holy Founders and introduced February 17 as the feast day in 1888.

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

With prayers and love,

Fr. Bart, S.V.D



WEEKLY SCHEDULE

☒☒☒	☒☒☒
Monday, February 14	Friday, February 18
Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.	Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.
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Tuesday, February 15	Adoration 8:00 a.m.—noon
Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.	Confessions 9:00 a.m.—noon
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Wednesday, February 16	Saturday, February 19
Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.	Live Stream Mass: 8:00 a.m.
Adoration 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.	Adoration 4:00 p.m.—5:00 p.m.
Confessions 6:00 p.m.—6:50 p.m.	Confessions 4:00 p.m.—4:50 p.m.
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Thursday, February 17	Sunday, February 20
Live Stream Mass: 7:00 a.m.	Live Stream Mass: 10:00 a.m.
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	Weekday Confessions thirty minutes before morning Mass.

Vocation View

Christ's resurrection makes our faith fruitful and our lives worthwhile. Be open to Jesus' great gift.

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

Weekly Readings

2/14—JAS 1:1-11; MK 8:11-13
2/15—JAS 1:12-18; MK 8:14-21
2/16—JAS 1:19-27; MK 8:22-26
2/17—JAS 2:1-9; MK 8:27-33
2/18—JAS 2:14-24 and 26; MK 8:34-9:1
2/19—JAS 3:1-10; MK 9:2-13
2/20—1 SM 26:2, 7-9, 12-13, 22-23; 1 COR 15:45-49; LK 6:27-38

PARISH CORNER

Black History Month

The Library of Congress, National Archives and Records Administration, National Endowment for the Humanities, National Gallery of Art, National Park Service, Smithsonian Institution and United States Holocaust Memorial Museum join in paying tribute to the generations of African Americans who struggled with adversity to achieve full citizenship in American society.

As a Harvard-trained historian, Carter G. Woodson, like W. E. B. Du Bois before him, believed that truth could not be denied and that reason would prevail over prejudice. His hopes to raise awareness of African American's contributions to civilization was realized when he and the organization he founded, the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), conceived and announced Negro History Week in 1925. The event was first celebrated during a week in February 1926 that encompassed the birthdays of both Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The response was overwhelming: Black history clubs sprang up; teachers demanded materials to instruct their pupils; and progressive whites, not simply white scholars and philanthropists, stepped forward to endorse the effort.

By the time of Woodson's death in 1950, Negro History Week had become a central part of African American life and substantial progress had been made in bringing more Americans to appreciate the celebration. At mid-century, mayors of cities nationwide issued proclamations noting Negro History Week. The Black Awakening of the 1960s dramatically expanded the consciousness of African Americans about the importance of black history, and the Civil Rights movement focused Americans of all colors on the subject of the contributions of African Americans to our history and culture.

In 1976, the nation's bicentennial the celebration was expanded to a month. President Gerald R. Ford urged Americans to "seize the opportunity to honor the too-often neglected accomplishments of black Americans in every area of endeavor throughout our history."

(Excerpt from an essay by Daryl Michael Scott, Howard University, for the Association for the Study of African American Life and History)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

St. Anne's Soul Food Dinner

Get your taste buds ready!!! It is time again for St. Anne's Soul Food Dinner. St. Anne's Altar Society will sell soul food dinners on Sunday, February 27th from the Parish Life Center, 11:30am --1:30pm or while supplies last. Dinners are \$10 each which will include 1 entrée , 2 sides, dinner roll and dessert. Dinners are carryout only. Call ahead to reserve your order at 682-231-3462 or email stannealtarsociety.omm@gmail.com. Flyers are available at the back of the church. Thank you for your support!

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Landscape Clean-up

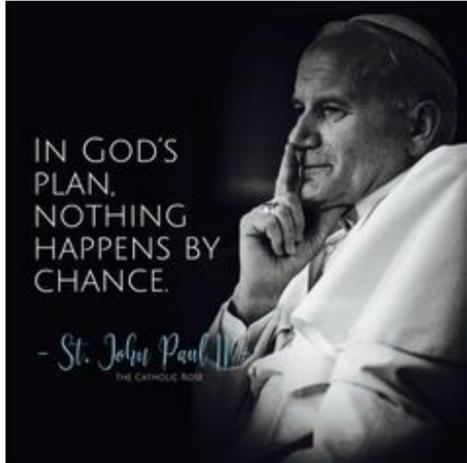
Next Saturday, February 19th we will have a landscaping clean-up starting at 9:00am. If you have the time and are interested in helping we would appreciate your help and support.

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Everyone involved in any ministry at any Catholic Church or school is required to attend a Safe and Sacred/ Environment class every 2 years. Please create a profile under Virtus.org. and then it will prompt you to sign up for a class. You can pick a location, time and date convenient to your schedule.

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CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH

THE LIFE OF PRAYER
THE LORD'S PRAYER

"Our Father!"

2792 Finally, if we pray the Our Father sincerely, we leave individualism behind, because the love that we receive frees us from it. the "our" at the beginning of the Lord's Prayer, like the "us" of the last four petitions, excludes no one. If we are to say it truthfully, our divisions and oppositions have to be overcome.⁵¹

2793 The baptized cannot pray to "our" Father without bringing before him all those for whom he gave his beloved Son. God's love has no bounds, neither should our prayer.⁵² Praying "our" Father opens to us the dimensions of his love revealed in Christ: praying with and for all who do not yet know him, so that Christ may "gather into one the children of God."⁵³ God's care for all men and for the whole of creation has inspired all the great practitioners of prayer; it should extend our prayer to the full breadth of love whenever we dare to say "our" Father.

"Who Art in Heaven"

2794 This biblical expression does not mean a place ("space"), but a way of being; it does not mean that God is distant, but majestic. Our Father is not "elsewhere": he transcends everything we can conceive of his holiness. It is precisely because he is thrice holy that he is so close to the humble and contrite heart.

"Our Father who art in heaven" is rightly understood to mean that God is in the hearts of the just, as in his holy temple. At the same time, it means that those who pray should desire the one they invoke to dwell in them.⁵⁴

"Heaven" could also be those who bear the image of the heavenly world, and in whom God dwells and tarries.⁵⁵

51 Cf. Mt 5:23-24; 6:14-15.
52 Cf. NA 5.
53 Jn 11:52.
54 St. Augustine, De serm. Dom. in monte 2, 5, 18; PL 34, 1277.
55 St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Catech. myst. 5:11; PG 33, 1117.

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