

# Welcome to OUR LADY OF THE MIRACULOUS MEDAL CHURCH



**12175 Stringfellow Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922**  
**(239) 283-0456**

## **Fr. Jacek Mazur, Pastor**

Fr.Jacek@olmm.org

## **Rev. Mr. William "Bill" Beck, Deacon**

deaconbill@comcast.net

## **Parish Secretary—Donna Wallis**

donna.wallis@olmm.org

## **Bookkeeper—Diane Gleason**

diane.gleason@olmm.org

## **Parish Office Hours**

9:00 am—1:00 pm Monday—Friday

**www.miraculousmedalch.org**

**Email: office@olmm.org**

**Knights of Columbus**—Contact Luis Ramos  
(239) 560-6380

**Baptisms**—Parents must meet with the Pastor for instructions and a date for the ceremony\*

**Marriages**—Couples must see the Pastor at least six months before the intended wedding date\*

**Visits to the Sick**—Please call the Parish Office

**Religious Education**—Sundays, Sept.-May from 9:30 to 11 am. Pre-K through secondary grades

**RCIA**— (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults) - Please contact the Pastor for more information

**New Parishioners**—Registration forms are located in the entrance of the Church, at the Parish Office and on our website

**Bereavement Support Group**—No meetings scheduled at this time

**\*Registered parishioners only**

## **MASS SCHEDULE**

- ♦ **Daily Mass** Monday—Friday 8:30 am
- ♦ **Saturday Vigil** 4:30 pm—Year Round
- ♦ **Sunday Masses**
- ♦ **•September through May**  
8:30 am & 10:30 am
- ♦ **•June through August**  
9:30 am
- ♦ **Spanish Mass**  
5:00 pm Sunday—Year Round
- ♦ **Holy Days of Obligation** 8:30 am & 6:30 pm  
+ + + + +
- ♦ **Confessions** Fridays after the 8:30 am Mass,  
Saturdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm or by appointment
- ♦ **Rosary** A half hour prior to daily Mass.  
Wednesdays the Rosary is dedicated for the protection of our area against disasters. Rosary begins 45 minutes before the first Sunday Mass
- ♦ **Miraculous Medal Novena** Monday following the 8:30 am Mass
- ♦ **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** First Friday of every month beginning at 9:00 am concluding with a brief prayer service and Benediction at Noon
- ♦ **Chaplet of Divine Mercy** First Fridays after the opening of Adoration

**FEBRUARY 11, 2018—SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**



## Mass Intentions for the Week

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- Mon. Feb 12** +Fred Long  
8:30 am Requested by Jan Long
- Tues. Feb 13** +Phyllis Richard  
8:30 am Requested by Jim Richard
- Weds. Feb 14** +Theresa Long  
8:30 am Requested by Jan Long  
6:00 pm **Members of the Parish**
- Thrs. Feb 15** **Jeannie McKenna's Intentions**  
8:30 am Requested by Vickin Jaunich
- Fri. Feb 16** **Fran Ostrander**  
8:30 am Requested by Toni Anfinson
- Sat. Feb 17** +Pat Auge  
4:30 pm Requested by Rodger & Hilda Sharp  
+Victor Zawadski (1 yr)  
Requested by Donna Zawadski
- Sun. Feb 18** +James Lewellyn  
8:30 am Requested by Marylea Lewellyn  
10:30 am +Rose Fendrock  
Requested by the Bourgeois Family

## This Week

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- Monday, Feb 12, 2018**  
• Lincoln's Birthday
- Tuesday, Feb 13, 2018**  
• Fat Tuesday/Mardi Gras
- Wednesday, Feb 14, 2018**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY**  
• Masses at 8:30 am & 6:00 pm  
• Choir Practice—5:15 pm  
• **Valentine's Day**
- Thursday, Feb 15, 2018**  
•
- Friday, Feb 16, 2018**  
• Stations of the Cross—5:00 pm
- Saturday, Feb 17, 2018**  
**RUMMAGE SALE**  
• Vigil Mass at 4:30 pm
- Sunday, Feb 18, 2018**  
• Masses at 8:30 & 10:30 am  
and 5:00 pm (Spanish)  
• **NO COFFEE SOCIAL**  
• **NO RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**
- Monday, Feb 19, 2018**  
• Presidents' Day—Office Closed



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## Fridays at 5:00 pm During Lent

## Stations of the Cross

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## Weekly Collections

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**WEEKEND OF JANUARY 27-28, 2018**

**ATTENDANCE —786**

**OFFERTORY—\$6,184.00**

**SECOND COLLECTION—\$ N/A**

*Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal Church is sustained by the generosity of our parishioners through their selfless offering of time, talent and treasure. Thank you and God Bless!*



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## PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY

**FORMED.org**  
THE CATHOLIC FAITH.  
ON DEMAND.

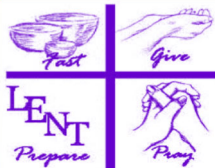
**THE BEST CATHOLIC CONTENT  
ALL IN ONE PLACE**

**Log in using our Parish  
Code: VNXDV7**



Rose Adams, Tony Ambrose, Carmen & Nilsa Aponte, Joe Arcuri, Glenn Armani, Helen Armani, Babies Laya & Landon, Nora Baker, Barbara Basgall, Jacob Basilotto, Patricia Benson, Peter & Peggy

Bercik, Wally Bermingham, Angela Biondello, Ami Blachowiak, Patricia Blackwell, Rev. Jim Bok, OFM & Mary Gate of Heaven Parish, Negril; Katy Boylan, Peggy Brick, Dolores Brown, Betty Bulifant, Tom Cabot, Chuck Cabot, Patricia Clemens, Larry DiOrion, Don & Wanda Eck, Wendy Edwards, Aiden Foley, Connor Foley, Michael Fontaine, Justin Fiesta, Leo Hage, Sandy Harrison, Jan Hartman, Harry Haskins, Shawn Heeter, Pete & Alice Herber, Eddie Holloway, Sally Hooper, George & Betty Hoyt, Dave & Carol Humme, JoAnn Ippolito, Everette & Nancy James, Stephanie Jefferson, Diane Jezek, Stan Jock, Arlis Kelly, Jim Kirk, Ken & Ginny Kloiber, Kent Krabill, Zal Kutar, John Lambrecht, Ginny LeClaire, Vito Licari, Anne Lintner, Edward Lodema, Eric Marinelli, Catherine Mazzola, Patti McBride, Jim McCaffrey, Kennedy McCaffrey, Cindy McClure, Kenneth McCurdy, Patty McGlone, Rick McKenna, Jr., Gloria McKeown, Connor McKinnon, Veronica Moran, Gema Moreno, Wes Morris, Regina Mulherin, Rosario Munoz, Ruth Nayard, Elizabeth Nomorosa, Bernadette Nyka, Danny O'Herron, Jack O'Neill, Max & Mila Perez, Tyler Peryea, John Pitale, Shirley Porter, Joe & Catherine Porthouse, Greg Printy, Kristin Ramsey, Tina Reichenwallner, Elly Rode, Jimmy Rosso, John & Janet Rovaldi, Heather Sallstrom Sanchez, Malte Sallstrom, Clarence Schuetz, Paul Sepczynski, Donnie Sheetz, Ann Speitel, Colleen Sullivan, Pat Tweed, Pamela Vadas, Gus Ventimiglia, Melanie Voris, Robert Wallace, Ben Wesorick, Mary Wilcox, Norman Willebrandt, Glen-na Wolshlager



## REGULATIONS ON FASTING AND ABSTINENCE

**FASTING:** To be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday by all Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 years (inclusive). On a fast day, one full meal is allowed. Two smaller meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids are allowed. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection (USCCB).

**ABSTINENCE:** Abstinence from meat is to be observed by all Catholics who are 14 years of age and older on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all Fridays during Lent.

**FASTING, ALMSGIVING AND PRAYER** are the three traditional disciplines of Lent. The faithful and catechumens should undertake these practices seriously in a spirit of penance and of preparation for baptism or of renewal of baptism at Easter.

**NOTE:** *If a person is unable to observe the above regulations due to ill health or other serious reasons, they are urged to practice other forms of self denial that are suitable to their condition.*



## 2018 DIOCESE OF VENICE SCRIPTURE CONFERENCE

# WORD OF GOD

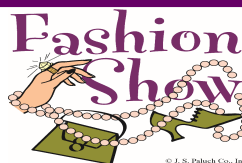
FRIDAY MARCH 16

10AM-3PM (DOORS OPEN AT 9AM)

OUR LADY OF LOURDES, VENICE

\$15 REGISTER AT:

[DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG/OFFICES/EVANGELIZATION/CONFERENCES/SCRIPTURE-CONFERENCE/](http://DIOCESEOFVENICE.ORG/OFFICES/EVANGELIZATION/CONFERENCES/SCRIPTURE-CONFERENCE/)



OLMM Ladies' Guild presents  
its Annual Fashion Show on  
Tuesday, March 20, 2018.  
*More details to come!*

## PARISH CALENDAR

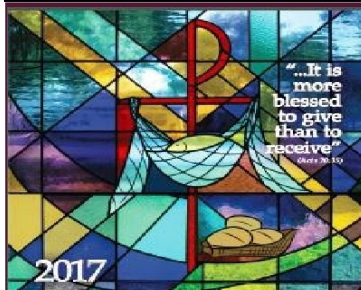
February 14—Ash Wednesday  
February 17-18—Rummage Sale  
March 11—Confirmation-OLMM 10:30 am  
March 17—St. Patty's Day  
March 20—Ladies' Guild Monthly Gathering  
Spring Luncheon/Fashion Show  
March 30—Good Friday  
April 1—Easter  
April 10—Ladies' Guild Facilitators' Meeting  
May 6—First Communion 8:30 am Mass  
May 13—Mother's Day  
May 28—Memorial Day  
June 17—Father's Day  
July 1—Fr. Jacek's 50th Birthday Brunch—10:30 am

## OLMM 2017 CFA YEAR END

|                    |                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| Parish Goal        | \$85,000.00           |
| Pledged            | \$90,144.76           |
| Total Paid         | \$88,609.76           |
| <b>Balance Due</b> | <b>\$ (3,609.76)*</b> |

\*Amount was incorrect in the  
2/4/18 bulletin

**THANK YOU FOR  
YOUR GENEROSITY**



## RUMMAGE SALE

Monday, February 12th, is your last day to drop off donations for the Rummage Sale Saturday, February 17th from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm, & Sunday, February 18th from 9:30 am to noon. Donations of home baked cookies and/or bars goods should be dropped off at the Parish Life Center on Friday, February 16th from 9:00 am to Noon. This will be another banner year for our largest fundraiser. Thank you for all your help and donations!



*The fresh cut flowers  
decorating our Altar this weekend  
were donated by Greg & Lucy  
Lambrecht in celebration of their  
48th Wedding Anniversary*

## PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR DECEASED

Alice Ambrose, Sal Anastasio, Ed Anderson, Pat Auge, Mary Lou Beck, Roger Bolduc, Al Doerman, Jo Ann Grabenstetter, Gerry Green, Mary Hagan, Daniel Higgins, Helen Holfelner, Lil Honc, Pat Jock, James Kennedy, Dr. Lou Mauney, Kathryn McGuineas, Leo Miller, Maureen Murphy, Jim O'Neill, Volker Oelze, Fred "Fritz" Schoenbaechler, Jeanette Smith, Muriel Urrico, Victor Zawadski

*"Eternal rest grant unto them Oh Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they Rest in Peace."*



## St. Katharine Drexel Church 2018 Feast Day Celebration

Feast Day 2018 is a 3-day celebration beginning on Friday, March 2 with a concert performed by the SKD Choir. Saturday, March 3rd continues the celebration at a Dinner Dance (BYOB). Sunday, March 4th is the festival from 1-4pm. Chow down on the BEST food in town cooked and served by SKD parishioners. For the kids there will be the exciting ZORB ride, a bounce house, games and more. We will have music and a photo booth for you to enjoy. There are incredible Baskets to bid on at our Basket Bonanza. The drawing of the winners names will be held on Sunday, March 4th @ 4:30 p.m. and the winner must be present in order to win. (No contribution necessary but we depend on your help). Also this year come join us for 90 minutes of BUNCO. Cape Coral SWAT Team and K9s will be there with an incredible demonstration. For information, contact **Lora McCann @ 239-560-9673** or [lmccann198@gmail.com](mailto:lmccann198@gmail.com).



DIocese OF VENICE IN FLORIDA  
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

February 2018

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

During the time of communist reign in many Central and Eastern European countries, practicing the faith became illegal and people were forced to hide and secretly share the truths of the Gospel. After decades of oppression and persecution, Catholics still struggle to rebuild not only their physical places of worship but also their church ministries and communities.

The country of Albania, nestled north of Greece on the Adriatic Sea, suffered greatly under communist rule. In the capital of Tirana, the Church is continuing to restore not only its structures but also the spirituality of the faithful after years of suffering. After communism, the congregation of sisters known as the Company of Mary Our Lady opened a school that now serves over 700 children. With your support the youth are educated and are now thriving.

The Diocese of Venice will be taking up a Collection on Ash Wednesday, February 14, 2018 for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe (CCEE). Your generosity helps the religious communities teach children and equips Parishes to provide a space to build peaceful communities. Please give generously to the CCEE Collection for the future of the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. May God continue to bless you for the good you do!

I take this opportunity to extend to you my continued consideration as well as my prayers on this Ash Wednesday, as we begin our Lenten Journey.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Frank J. Dewane*

+ Frank J. Dewane  
Bishop of the Diocese of  
Venice in Florida

1000 Pinebrook Road • Venice, FL 34285 • 941-484-9543 • [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org) • Fax 941-488-2561

### Couples Celebrating Marriage

All couples celebrating 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50, or more than 50 years of marriage are invited by Bishop Frank J. Dewane to an Anniversary Mass in their honor. The Anniversary Mass will be celebrated in two locations: 11:00 a.m., Saturday, **February 17** at Epiphany Cathedral in Venice, and 10:00 a.m., Saturday, **March 10** at St. Leo the Great Parish in Bonita Springs.

**Contact the Parish Office to register**

**Save the Date** - Our Mother's House Wine Tasting, Auction and Dinner Dance is 5:30 p.m., Thursday, February 22 at the Venice Community Center in Venice. All proceeds will benefit Our Mother's House, a program of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. which is committed to helping homeless mothers and their children achieve self-sufficiency. The evening will include a wine tasting, auctions, dinner, and dancing. Tickets are \$80 a person. For information and tickets visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) or call 941-485-6264 or email [ourmothershouse@ccdis1.org](mailto:ourmothershouse@ccdis1.org).

**Mark Your Calendar** - Boots and Bandannas Fiesta will be held at 6:00 p.m., Saturday, February 24 at the Kingsway Country Club in Port Charlotte. All proceeds will benefit the programs and services of Catholic Charities, Diocese of Venice, Inc. in DeSoto County which include immigration and family reunification services, prevention and support services, after-school tutoring programs, and farm worker housing enrichment and educational services. The evening will include a cocktail hour, auctions, dinner, and dancing to live country music. Tickets are \$75 a person. For information and tickets visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) or call 863-494-1068 or email [arcadiapqi@embarqmail.com](mailto:arcadiapqi@embarqmail.com).

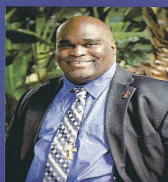
**Honoring Our Veterans** - The Venice Veterans Salute is 2:00 p.m., Sunday, March 4 at the Venice Community Center in Venice. The event is a salute to United States military veterans and features Glenn Leonard presenting "Hitsville Live!" The show will be an authentic revue with the Temptations lead singer performing all the hits of favorite Motown acts. The fundraiser also will include food and drinks for purchase, dancing, an auction, and military displays. All proceeds will benefit programs and services of Catholic Charities that assist veterans. For information and tickets visit [www.catholiccharitiesdov.org](http://www.catholiccharitiesdov.org) or call 941-355-4680, ext. 301 or email [nmuth@ccdis1.org](mailto:nmuth@ccdis1.org).

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DIocese OF VENICE

## Men's Conference

February 24, 2018



**Deacon Harold Burke-Sivers** - known around the world as the "Dynamic Deacon" - is a powerful and passionate preacher of the Good News, whose no-nonsense approach to living and proclaiming the Catholic faith is sure to challenge and inspire those who hear him. He travels the globe speaking to everyone of all ages who desire to know Jesus intimately and enjoy a deeper personal relationship with Him.



**Patrick Coffin** is the host of The Patrick Coffin Show: an independent, listener supported podcast that features weekly interviews with A-list influencers and outliers in the effort to recover the Judeo-Christian roots of the culture. Patrick is the Canadian-born former host of Catholic Answers Live, and he has raving fans around the world. He injects these fascinating interviews with his own distinctive blend of depth and levity.



**Bob Rice** desires to share the love of God using every talent with which he has been blessed. He's an internationally known speaker, acclaimed musician, inspirational teacher, and innovative writer. He is an associate professor of Catechetics and the director of the Masters of Arts in Catechetics and Evangelization at Franciscan University of Steubenville.

9 AM - 3 PM. Cost: Pre-registration: Adults \$20, Students \$5.

At the Door: Adults \$30, Students \$10.

Sponsored by the Diocese of Venice.

For more information, call 941-484-9543 or email [evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:evangelization@dioceseofvenice.org) [www.dioceseofvenice.org/mens](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org/mens)



SI TÚ  
QUIERES,  
PUEDES  
CURARME



## 11 de febrero de 2018 • Sexto Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

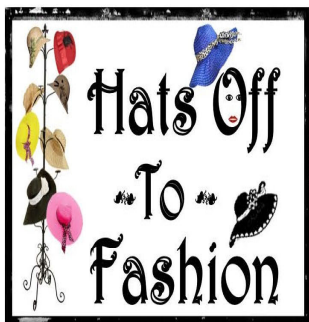
El leproso que había sido marginado fue sanado. Él de pronto ya era libre para interactuar con otras personas, para vivir con su familia, para regocijarse en la compañía de amigos. Él encontró la sanación, el amor misericordioso de Cristo y descubrió una nueva vida. Ese que lo sanó, Jesús, fue hecho para quedarse fuera de los pueblos y aldeas a los que iba, rodeado por personas que necesitaban esa caricia de sanación. El amor de Jesús es más grande que cualquier cosa que nos moleste. Él mira con compasión a aquellos que estás quebrantados, partiéndose a sí mismos por el bien de los demás. Jesús se pone a sí mismo en el lugar de aquellas personas necesitadas. Aquellas que están marginadas de la vida o de la comunidad de fe están estrechamente unidas a la mirada del Señor. Aquellas personas que están enfermas se les asegura el cuidado de Dios y su compasión. Aquellas que están débiles encuentran fuerzas en Cristo, quien está listo para atender las necesidades de las personas heridas, perdidas y cuyas vidas están hechas pedazos.

### ACTÚA EN FE, ACTÚA CON FE

¿De que maneras estás aislado, herido o quebrantado? ¿Alguien te juzga injustamente? ¿Hay circunstancias que están fuera de tu control o que te indiquen de qué manera debes llevar tu vida? El Señor espera que lo llames, que clames con fe. ¿Conoces el cuidado compasivo, sanador y amoroso de Dios que te tiene, en la oración, los sacramentos, o la atención a los demás? Da testimonio del poderoso amor de Dios por medio de las actitudes y palabras, tus acciones e interacciones con los demás. Imita a Cristo. Se misericordioso con las demás personas. Se una presencia sanadora cuando las relaciones se rompan. ¿Has encontrado el amor de Dios en tu vida? Da testimonio de este amor en el hogar, trabajo, parroquia y el mundo. Da gloria a Dios como tu acto de fe.

Lecturas de hoy: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46; Sal 32 (31):1-2, 5, 11; 1 Cor 10:31 — 11:1; Mc 1:40-45

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**Saint Katharine Drexel Council of Catholic Women** Invite you to our Fashion Show. Fashions by Chico's, a delicious lunch, fantastic raffle prizes await you Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup> at Palmetto Pine Country Club in Cape Coral at 11:30am. Call Jule (616)-481-0392 or Thelma (239)-458-

0834. Reserve your seat or table at only \$30 per person. Don't delay, we sell out early. Bring your friends for an enjoyable afternoon! All donations go to CCW Scholarship Program and local charities.

### Know Your Immigration Rights Conozca Sus Derechos de Inmigración

La Conferencia Estado Unidos de Obispos Católicos (USCCB) ha proporcionado un video en español y en inglés sobre los derechos de los inmigrantes. Por favor vaya a [www.dioceseofvenice.org](http://www.dioceseofvenice.org) y haga clic en el banner "Conozca Sus Derechos" para ver los videos.

#### V Encuentro, Sesiones del Decanato Norte

La Oficina del Apostolado Hispano de la Diócesis de Venice organiza una serie de sesiones por decanatos para continuar el proceso del V Encuentro. Los fieles del Decanato Centro están invitados a participar a la siguiente reunión que se realizará en: Epiphany Cathedral, 350 Tampa Avenue West, Venice, Martes 25 de Julio, 6:30 p.m., La alegría de ser discípulos misioneros. Información: [pastoralhispana@dioceseofvenice.org](mailto:pastoralhispana@dioceseofvenice.org).

## FEBRUARY 11, 2018 SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

**Ya sea que comas o  
bebas, o lo que sea  
que hagas, haz todo  
para la gloria de Di-  
os.- 1 Corintios 10:31**

### GIVE GOD THE GLORY

A curious feature of the first half of Mark's Gospel is the pattern of Jesus working a miracle, then telling the recipient of the miracle to keep still about it. Many theories have been offered: Mark is setting the stage for the great "secret" revealed when Peter will proclaim Jesus the Messiah at Caesarea Philippi; more skeptical commentators offer that Jesus, fully aware of human nature, knew that the way to spread the news was to tell people to keep it secret. The insight into this secret-keeping that serves us well, however, is that Jesus was initiating his public ministry according to the pattern that Paul describes. He was doing it for the glory of God—not for his own benefit, but for that of all. Paul would later write in Philippians that Jesus "humbled" himself to become like us. And we see this humility at work in today's healing of the leper. Jesus is trying to reveal the presence of God's reign among the people, not so that he himself might receive the glory, but so that God would be glorified through him. Imitating this pattern, which Paul encourages the Jewish and Greek Christian factions in Corinth to do, still serves us well today.

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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — The leper will dwell apart, making an abode outside the camp (Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46).

**Psalms** — I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation (Psalm 32).

**Second Reading** — Do everything for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1).

**Gospel** — The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean (Mark 1:40-45).

The English translation of the Psalm Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981, 1997, International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Jas 1:1-11; Ps 119:67-68, 71-72, 75-76; Mk 8:11-13

**Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18; Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19; Mk 8:14-21

**Weds:** Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 – 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25

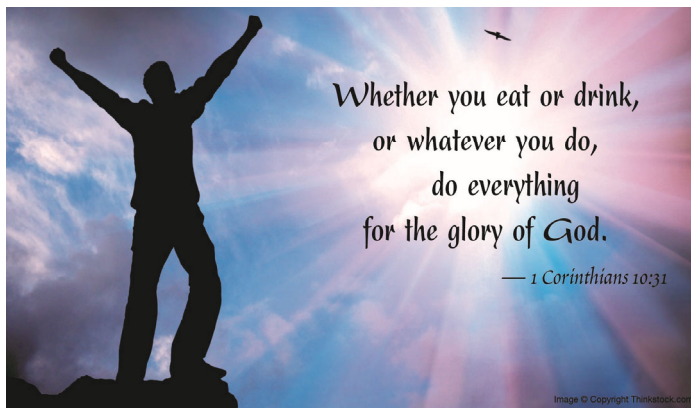
**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15

**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32

**Sunday:** Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

### A BOOK TO READ

There is a great difference between the eager person who wants to read a book and the tired person who wants a book to read.—G. K. Chesterton



### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

**Sunday:** Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; World Day of the Sick

**Monday:** Lincoln's Birthday

**Tuesday:** Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday

**Wednesday:** Ash Wednesday; Valentine's Day; Fast and Abstinence

**Friday:** Abstinence; Chinese New Year 4716

**Saturday:** The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today's Gospel centers on the plight of a leper and Jesus' response of healing. In Hawaii, the bacterium that causes leprosy probably entered from China in the mid-1800s, and the native islanders were susceptible to the dreaded disease. In 1866, the government literally dumped the sufferers on a remote and virtually inaccessible island peninsula with towering cliffs. Thrown off ships into the sea, the sick people were told to swim for the beach and head for caves, and for seven years the only supplies were similarly cast into the sea to drift ashore. It was then, 1873, that a thirty-three-year-old Belgian priest, Damien de Veuster, went voluntarily to Kalaupapa. Before long, he cajoled the government into funding his mission and its hospital, built a village with proper homes and sanitation, and recruited Mother Marianne Cope to bring sisters from Syracuse, New York, to nurse the sick. Damien, who eventually died of leprosy, has been canonized, and Mother Marianne as well.

Although leprosy has been curable since the 1940s, today a few patients remain in their lifelong home, now a national historic site. The peninsula is still utterly isolated from the outside world, and the speed limit for the few cars there is 5 mph since there's nowhere to go! The hospital is still well-staffed and equipped, but access is regulated and visitors must take an official tour, often involving a descent down the cliffs by "Molakai mule." There are few places on earth that evoke the healing power of Jesus, or our call to follow the Healer, more than Damien's beloved island mission.

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



**If you need a statement for  
2017 tax purposes, please con-  
tact the Parish Office and we  
can print and mail one or e-  
mail it to you.**

### TELEVISED MASS TO THE HOMEBOUND

WFTX-TV FOX 4 – Sundays at 10:30 am

Donations may be sent to: T

V Mass, 1000 Pinebrook Road, Venice, FL 34285.

For questions call 941-486-4714



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**Shall We Gather**

by Jerry Galipeau

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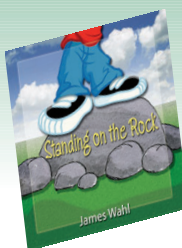


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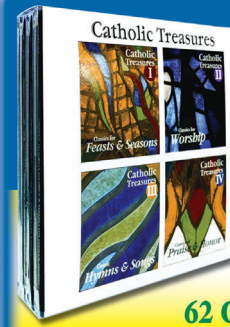
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