

The Courage to Heal

Leprosy was a highly contagious skin disease that led to certain death for anyone who caught it in Jesus' time. For good reason the Jewish law demanded that a leper live set apart and scream out as he walked along to keep everyone at a safe distance. Imagine the pitiful scene of everyone discreetly but purposefully moving away at the sound of someone screaming, "Unclean, unclean!"

Yet the leper doesn't scream to keep Jesus away. He walks right up to our Lord and confesses his faith in Jesus' power to heal him of this incurable bacteria. He humbly admits his contagious illness and places himself before Jesus. And unlike anyone else might do, Jesus doesn't run away, he walks toward him. He does the unthinkable. He touches him!

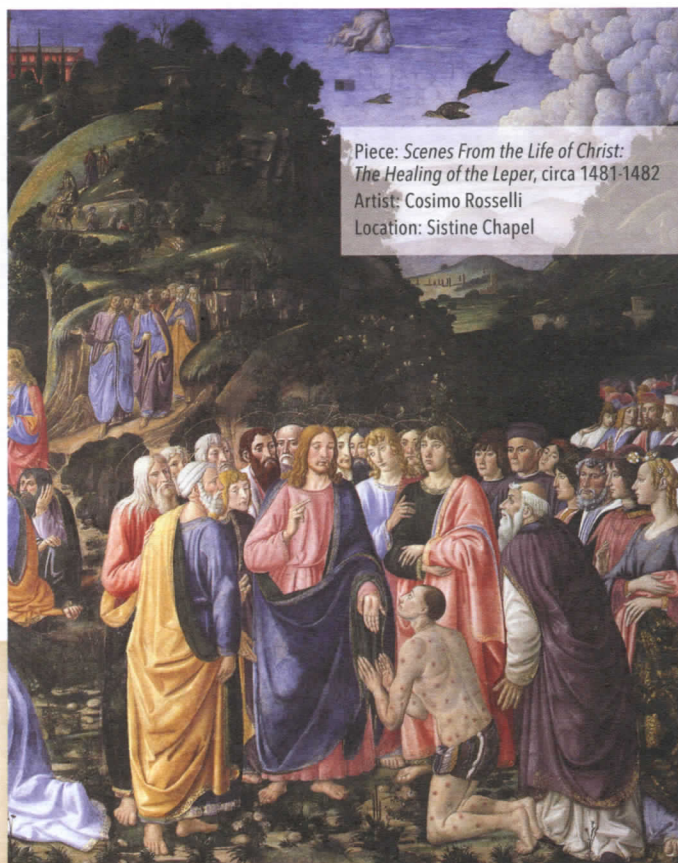
We need not be ashamed of our deadly sin that eats away at our heart and cripples our ability to love. Go to Jesus, expose it to him, and let his loving touch transform you.

The terrible disease of leprosy was still a major problem well into the nineteenth century when St. Damian, a Belgian missionary, went to the Hawaiian Island of Molokai to serve as parish priest to all

the lepers quarantined on that island. Not fearing to touch them, he cared for them for many years until, as expected, he contracted the disease and died of it.

This is what it means to be a Christian! Be like Jesus. Be not afraid of your wounds or those of others, no matter how repellent, and give of yourself to care for them.

—Fr. Mark Haydu, LC



Piece: Scenes From the Life of Christ:
The Healing of the Leper, circa 1481-1482
Artist: Cosimo Rosselli
Location: Sistine Chapel

For Reflection

How at peace am I with my own wounds, sins, and imperfections?

Am I mature and free enough to ask for help and also reach out and help others in their moral or physical suffering?

*"If you wish, you can make me clean."
...[Jesus] said to him, "I do will it. Be made clean."
(Mark 1:40-41)*

THE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY OF CYCLONE—MARAK

St. Joseph, Cyclone & Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak

Pastor: Rev. George Thirumangalam CMI

Mailing address: 20120 FM 485, Burlington, TX 76519.....**Phone** 254-985-2280

Email: cyclone.marak@gmail.com **Website:** marakchurch.org

Masses: Cyclone: Sat. 5:30PM & Sun. 8:15AM; Weekdays: Tue, Thurs & Friday: 7AM

Marak: Sundays: 10:15AM and Wednesday 6PM(unless otherwise stated)

The Sacraments:

Baptism: On Sundays after Mass. Please contact the pastor for scheduling a meeting with him; a preparation program may be needed. Parents must be registered parishioners of St. Joseph, Cyclone or Sts. Cyril & Methodius, Marak.

Confessions: Before Mass on the weekend and anytime by appointment.

Marriage: Couples planning to be married should contact the pastor at least six months in advance before you set the date of the wedding. Completion of required paperwork and a preparation program needed.

February 11, 2018: Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

In the Old Testament, leprosy is depicted as punishment for disobedience of God's commands. Considered "unclean"—unfit to worship or live with the Israelites, lepers are considered "stillborn," the living dead. Indeed, the requirements imposed on lepers in today's First Reading—rent garments, shaven head, covered beard—are signs of death, penance, and mourning. So there's more to the story in today's Gospel than a miraculous healing.



When Elisha, invoking God's name, healed the leper, Naaman, it proved there was a prophet in Israel. Today's healing reveals Jesus as far more than a great prophet—He is God visiting His people. Only God can cure leprosy and cleanse from sin and only God has the power to bring about what He wills. The Gospel scene has an almost sacramental quality about it.

Jesus stretches out His hand—as God, by His outstretched arm, performed mighty deeds to save the Israelites. His ritual sign is accompanied by a divine word ("Be made clean"). And, like God's word in creation ("Let there be"), Jesus' word "does" what He commands.

The same thing happens when we show ourselves to the priest in the sacrament of penance. On our knees like the leper, we confess our sins to the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm. And through the outstretched arm and divine word spoken by His priest, the Lord takes away the guilt of our sin. Like the leper we should rejoice in the Lord and spread the good news of His mercy. We should testify to our healing by living changed lives. As Paul says in today's Epistle, we should do even the smallest things for the glory of God and that others may be saved.

Saint of the Week—The Seven Holy Founders of the Servite Order February 17: The Founders of Servites were seven young men with one vision—to "be of one mind and one heart" through common prayer, works of charity, and a special devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. Living in 13th Century Florence, the Founders of the Order of Servites were inspired to abandon their homes and businesses to seek a life of prayerful seclusion, eventually establishing themselves on Monte Senario, called the "sounding mountain". These Friar Servants of Mary paid homage to Mary by living a humble and simple life. Their lifestyle drew young men from all over, which ultimately led to their establishment as a religious order. In the 18th century, a holy woman by the name of Juliana Falconieri was attracted to the lives of the seven holy founders and decided to consecrate her life to God, laying the foundation for the Servite Sisters.

Ministries for Sunday, February 18

Rosary: Lynne Hornung

Ushers: Ash Wed.— Mike Fulton & Carl Hubnik

Altar Servers: Ash Wed.—Chase & Cade Hubnik

Eucharistic Minister—Ash Wed.—Merlene Slavik

Offertory: Ash Wed.—Glenn Laurence Family

Lector: Ash Wed.—Kelly Laurence

Ushers: Sunday—Buster Junek & Clay Barton

Altar Servers: Sunday—REP

Eucharistic Minister : Sunday—Albert Michalka

Lector: Sunday—Rhonda Gelner

Offertory: Sunday—Adolph & Dorothy Vansa

Sanctuary Light: 2/5—2/11: Frank Sr. & Annie Plachy by Lynne Hornung

Prayer Chain...Continue to pray for all those in need of prayer especially for Dorothy Vaculin , Raymond Johech and Sharon Cartwell (friend of Bram Younts). Pray for Vocations & more priests. Prayers are powerful and God answers prayers.

Contact Ethel Marak—254-697-2565 or email—emmarak@juno.com , to be put on the prayer chain.

MARAK MASSES—FEBRUARY 11—18, 2018

Date	Time	Intentions
Today— 2/11	10:15am	Living & Deceased Members of Hubnik & Sipula Families by Rudy & Liz Tepera
2/14 – Wed.	5:30pm	Lisa Hanel by Cindy Strmiska
2/18 - Sunday	10:15am	Deceased Members of Henry Litzman Sr. & Frank Plachy Families by Lynne Hornung

CYCLONE MASSES - FEBRUARY 11—18, 2018

	Time	Intentions
Today – 2/11	8:15am	Larry Posvar by Carla & Kyle Kacir
2/13 – Tuesday	7:00am	Lucy Mihatsch by Howard & Connie Hall
2/14—Wednesday	7:00pm	Larry Posvar by Kyle & Carla Kacir
2/15—Thursday	7:00am	Della Green by Charlie & Jackie Green
2/16 - Friday	7:00am	Marvin Wilde by Dorothy Wilde
2/17 – Sat. Vigil	5:30pm	Vicki Collins (health) by Jackie & Charlie Green
2/18— Sunday	8:15am	Marvin Wilde by Bill & Lucille Stock

Stewardship: 2/4 -Regular Offering—\$1,570.00 Building Fund: \$383.00 Thank you for your generosity!

UPCOMING EVENTS AND INFORMATION

- **Parish Social & Pot Luck—**Mon. Feb. 12th—6-9PM—Marak Hall
- **Reminder: Cleaning Fees, Altar Society Dues & Bereavement Fees—**Made payable to St. Ann's Altar Society
- **Sts. Cyril & Methodius Patron Saint Celebration Dinner—**Sunday, February 18th after Mass—Chicken & Sausage will be furnished—Please bring sides for meal. Everyone is invited to celebrate this special day.
- **For Sale: 2000 John Deere 4300 SST with John Deere loader and belly mower—**794 hours—viewing of tractor by appointment only. All bids must be signed by bidder and received by April 1st. We reserve the right to accept or reject any or all bids. Send bids or make appointments to Dennis Marek— 768 CR 116 Rogers, Texas 76569 or call 254-541-6351.
- **KC meeting—**February 20th—7:30pm
- **The Texas State Council of Knights of Columbus is sponsoring an Educational GRANT Program.** This is not a scholarship. It is a GRANT. Due **MARCH 1ST**. If you have any questions, Call Charlie Castillo at 254-541-2961. Application forms are in the church Entrance.
- **ALL FRIDAYS of LENT—Beginning Feb. 16—**Westphalia KC's will have plates to go of Fried Shrimp, Fried Fish, beans, slaw and French fries. 3:30pm to 7:15pm. Plates can be picked up in the drive thru lane behind the parish hall.
- **February 21—**Killeen/Temple Deanery meeting—Christ the King Catholic Church—Belton—10:00am

Bulletin Information: MARAK: Patsy Gaines (254-482-0570) - **CYCLONE:** Nancy Posvar (254-869-2511)

Bulletin deadline : Please call or e-mail info for the bulletin by Wednesday before the weekend!

Calendar

Monday

February 12

Weekday

Jas 1:1-11

Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday

February 13

Weekday

Jas 1:12-18

Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday

February 14

Ash Wednesday

Jl 2:12-18

2 Cor 5:20-6:2

Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday

February 15

Thursday after

Ash Wednesday

Dt 30:15-20

Lk 9:22-25

Friday

February 16

Friday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:1-9a

Mt 9:14-15

Saturday

February 17

Saturday after

Ash Wednesday

Is 58:9b-14

Lk 5:27-32

Sunday

February 18

First Sunday
of Lent

Gn 9:8-15

1 Pt 3:18-22

Mk 1:12-15

Dear Padre,

Why is church often packed on Ash Wednesday, even though it is not a holy day of obligation?

Indeed, pastoral experience corroborates your observation. Holy days of obligation draw well—but it's standing-room only on Ash Wednesday. There's something undeniably elemental about the ugly smudge of ashes on the forehead. People wear it without embarrassment or shame. It is as if to say, "I'm Catholic and proud of it."

Ash Wednesday is unique because it signals the beginning of Lent, the Church's special time of confession and renewal in preparation for Easter. It is what Christians are all about—people who have died with Christ in the waters of baptism in order to rise with him to a new life. We renew our

baptismal commitment to be his people in the world. As we recall and celebrate Christ's passage through death to life, we renew our own death to old sinful ways to rise and live with recaptured vigor.

The symbols of Ash Wednesday touch us powerfully. When we hear, "Remember, you are dust and to dust you shall return," we are reminded of our vulnerability and dependence on God. Despite our mechanisms of power, ultimately, like dust in the wind, we can be whisked away in an instant and brought to our knees.

At the same time, we are called to scale the spiritual heights to turn away from sin and be faithful to the gospel, affirming that we are a people with an enduring destiny and a sacred mission in the world. Together we get our ashes and turn back to the Lord.

Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org

From *Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask*, © 2003 Liguori Publications



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A Word From Pope Francis

[Jesus says] he is the real instrument of the Father's mercy, who goes to encounter everyone, bringing consolation and salvation, and, in doing so, he manifests God's justice. The blind, the lame, the lepers, the deaf regain their dignity and are no longer excluded because of their disease.

—General Audience, September 7, 2016