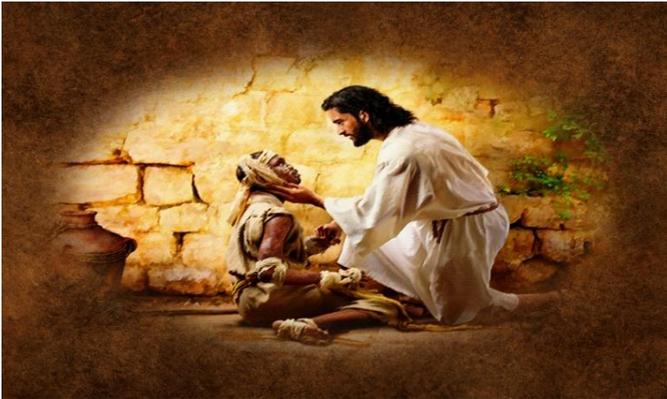


## WORD FOR THOUGHT

In Jesus' time, lepers were outcasts. Mandatory separation from nearly everyone was probably worse than the disease itself. It wasn't the lepers' fault; they simply had come in contact with a bacterium many centuries before antibiotics. No doubt some people increased the misery of lepers with taunting and name-calling. Many of these same people went to the synagogue and recited, "Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." That's still going on. Our society is full of bullies and those who make the lives of outcasts even more miserable...and then proclaim, "A Christian? Well, of course I'm a Christian. Unfortunately, their actions do not show the love that Christians are called to share with those on the margins. Jim Auer



## RESPECT LIFE CORNER

"He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp." In Leviticus, First Reading, isolation of those with leprosy was the solution to the widespread skin ailments in the Old Testament. As skin conditions threatened the practice of ritual purity and belonging, it was an ongoing concern. Today, what is it that isolates us from flourishing in the life that God has created for us? As it is Valentine's Day weekend, a nationally known Catholic psychologist recently cited anger and bitterness as the top problems in marriages today, over financial issues, or anything else. He talked about how important forgiveness is as an intervention and even a form of psychotherapy. He pointed out that it doesn't mean forgetting, but forgiving...a letting go of anger and setting oneself free from its trap and long-term harm. **Learn, Act, Connect and Pray**-Christ calls us to overcome obstacles and to love each other. Often it begins with a prayer for blessings on those who have hurt you. Reaching out for a conversation after the fact to discuss ways to reconcile and go forward in a "just relationship." In God's eyes, we are all worthy of his redemption and mercy. This Lenten season, consider praying the Rosary daily for peace among all people. Attending Mass and offering up the times you have struggled or been hurt. Through prayer and forgiveness, we find our way to the peace and joy Christ has instored for each one of us.

## STRUGGLE AND PRAYER

During hard times, we can bring our true emotions, concerns, and fears into prayer. Let it all at the feet of Jesus. Let His wisdom and love provide confidence and hope, even when our own emotions are in disarray. Struggling is normal and helpful to growing in faith. Standing before God in truth is a sign that we are in a right relationship with Him.

## SAINTS PETER AND PAUL SCHOOL

Pre-Registration for SPPCS is NOW OPEN for the 2021-2022 School Year. The links to registration for both our Early Learning Center and Kindergarten - 8th grade are on our website under Admission.

Spring Gala-Saturday, March 13<sup>th</sup>. This event will be 100% virtual. For info contact Audrey Brown at [abrown@sppswaterloo.com](mailto:abrown@sppswaterloo.com).

## GIBAULT HIGH SCHOOL

We invite 7<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> graders and students from other high schools to spend a day on our campus. Shadow visits are the perfect way to spend a day in the life of a Hawk. We also offer private tours of our campus for the whole family. Contact Kelly Day at [kday@gibaulthawks.com](mailto:kday@gibaulthawks.com) or 939-3883.

Be part of the Hawks' sport action with our live-streamed home games. Visit <http://bit.ly/GCHSYoutube> for live game feed and videos. For updated schedules go to <https://gibaulthawks.com/events/category/sports/>.

## ST. VINCENT DE PAUL ASSISTANCE-

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council's Night-Time Drop-In Center, continues to operate at full capacity every night, helping homeless men, women and children survive freezing temperatures and dangers of the city streets. COVID has provided additional challenges for SVDP staff and volunteers. We ask for your prayers for the Center and its clients and, if you are able, to help provide sack lunch items (individually packaged) for them: cookies, fruit cups, tuna and chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt, cereal, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, soup/pasta in a cup, bottled water. Items can be dropped off at the SVDP office, 8800 West Main Street, Belleville. Cash contributions are also appreciated. For additional information contact Joe Hubbard, 394-0126, or Pat Hogrebe, 799-8505. Thank you and God bless you for your generosity which enables this ministry to serve the very poorest among us.

## FEBRUARY IS HEART HEALTH MONTH!

Are you struggling with a recent heart disease diagnosis or depression/anxiety brought on by a heart disease? Red Bud Regional Senior Solutions is here to help. Call 282-5950...we would be happy to answer any questions you may have. Office hours are Monday-Friday, 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.

## Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

### First Reading

**Lv 13:1-2, 44-46**

A Reading from the Book of Leviticus

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

"The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, 'Unclean, unclean!' As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp."

### Responsorial Psalm

**Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11**

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile.

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, "I confess my faults to the LORD," and you took away the guilt of my sin.

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart.

**R. I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.**

### Second Reading

**1 Cor 10:31—11:1**

A Reading from the First Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

### Gospel Acclamation

**Lk 7:16**

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people.

**R. Alleluia, alleluia.**

### Gospel

**Mk 1:40-45**

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus 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.

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." The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.