



SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2021

5TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



St. Francis Xavier Parish

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SUNDAY'S READINGS

FIRST READING:

I am filled with restlessness until the dawn. (Jb 7:4)

PSALM:

Praise the Lord, who heals the brokenhearted. (Ps 147)
Or Alleluia.

SECOND READING:

I have become all things to all, to save at least some.
All this I do for the sake of the gospel,
so that I too may have a share in it. (1 Cor 9:22-23)

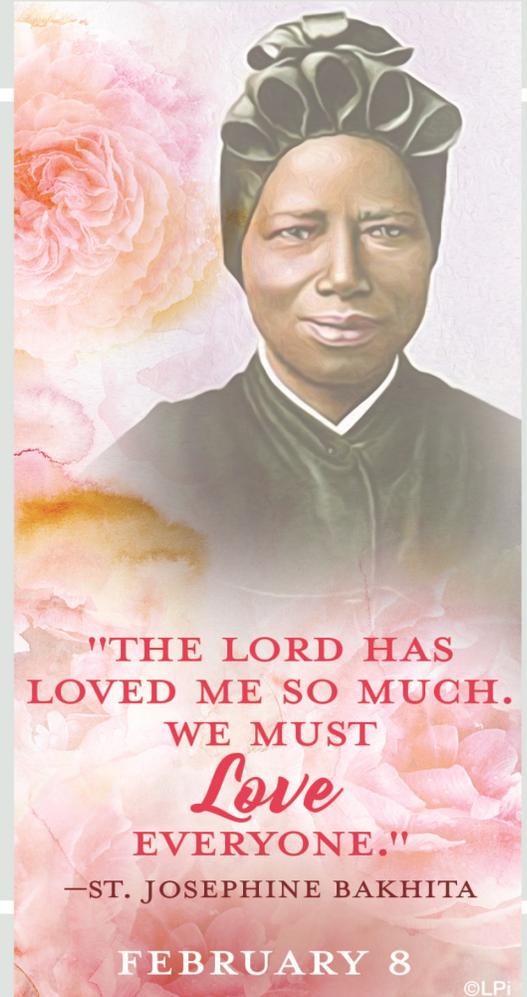
GOSPEL:

He cured many who were sick with various diseases,
and he drove out many demons,
not permitting them to speak because they knew
him. (Mk 1:34)

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OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7, 2021

Sunday: 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Monday: St. Jerome Emiliani; St. Josephine Bakhita, Virgin
Wednesday: St. Scholastica, Virgin
Thursday: Our Lady of Lourdes - World Day of the Sick
Saturday: Blessed Virgin Mary
Next Sunday: 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Valentine's Day



REFLECT

FIRST READING

We hear how Job struggled to find meaning and hope in his life. How does your faith help you get through difficult times in your life?

SECOND READING

Paul speaks of his singular desire to preach the "gospel" (the Good News of Jesus Christ). When do you share the gospel message with others?

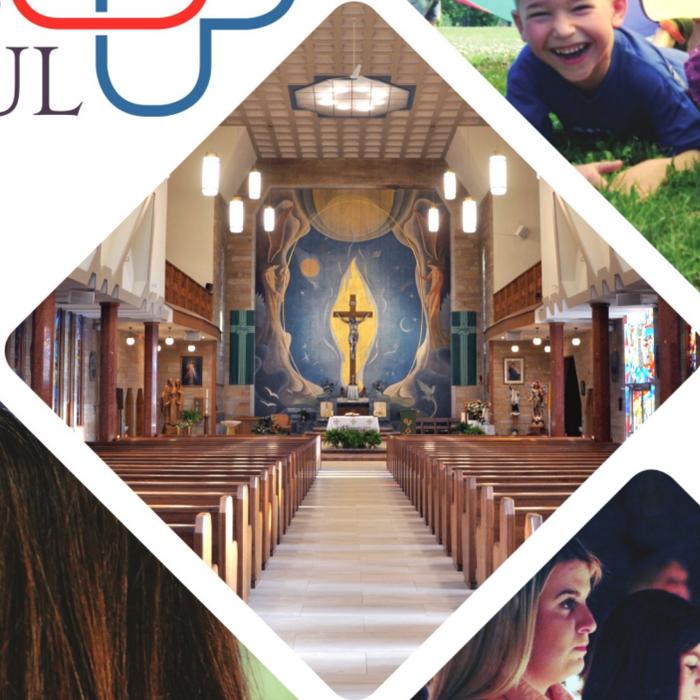
GOSPEL READING

We learn that from the beginning of his public ministry Jesus was very purpose-driven: healing the sick and preaching the good news. How intentional is the practice of faith in your daily life?

Weekly Schedule

Date	Celebration - Time	Diocese of Hamilton Prayer Calendar
<p>Monday, February 8:</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 1.1-19 Gospel: Mark 6.53-56</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) Mass – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Brian Quigley, M.C.C.J.</p>
<p>Tuesday, February 9:</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 1.20 – 2.4a Gospel: Mark 7.1-13</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) Mass – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Tim Theriault</p>
<p>Wednesday, February 10:</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 2.4b-9, 15-17 Gospel: Mark 7.14-23</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) Mass – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Missionaries</p>
<p>Thursday, February 11:</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 2.18-25 Gospel: Mark 7.24-30</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) Mass – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Murray McDermott, C.R.</p>
<p>Friday, February 12:</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 3.1-8 Gospel: Mark 7.31-37</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) Mass – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Raphael Ma, C.R.</p>
<p>Saturday, February 13:</p> <p>1st Reading: Genesis 3.9-24 Gospel: Mark 8.1-10</p>	<p>Rosary – 8:30 AM (livestreamed) Mass – 9:00 AM (livestreamed) Chaplet – 3:00 PM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Rev. Mussie A. Keflezghi, M.C.C.J.</p>
<p>Sunday, February 14:</p> <p>1st Reading: Leviticus 13.1-2, 45-46 2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 10.31 – 11.1 Gospel: Mark 1.40-45</p>	<p>Rosary – 9:30 AM (livestreamed) Mass – 10:00 AM (livestreamed)</p>	<p>Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time</p>

ONE
HEART,
ONE SOUL



**Saint Francis Xavier
Parish**

THE AUDACITY OF HOLINESS

Do you know a holy person? I'm not talking about piety — that's important, too, in its own way. But right now, I'm speaking of holiness.

St. Therese of Lisieux called holiness “a disposition of the heart that makes us humble and little in the arms of God, aware of our weakness, and confident — in the most audacious way — in His Fatherly goodness.”

The holy person sees a storm on the horizon of life, and rather than give themselves over to fear and despair (natural and understandable reactions), regards the gathering winds as an opportunity to rely more fully on God. The holy person takes a bad situation and sanctifies it with charity and understanding that defies our fallen human nature.

Peter's mother-in-law was still in the throes of a fever when Jesus grasped her hand. It wasn't until she took his hand and allowed him to help her up that “the fever left her and she waited on them.” Before the fever could leave her, she had to commit to holiness — to put her trust in him in a most audacious way. She had to find it within herself to lift her weakened hand to grasp his — and as soon as she did, she was rewarded. Her bodily health restored, she gave thanks, and attended to his needs.

God's hand is always outstretched to us. Will we take it, even if the fever of sin and pride and worldly concerns rages in our souls? Will we muster the strength? Will we be audacious enough to have confidence in His Fatherly goodness?

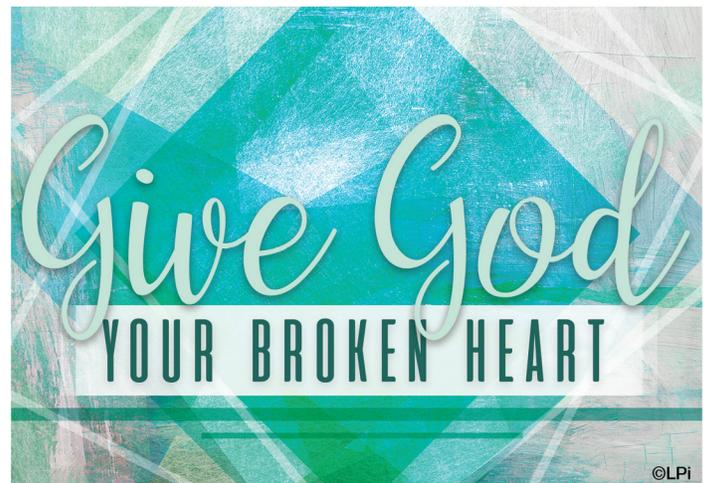
—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

IS IT EVER OK TO LEAVE MASS BEFORE IT ENDS?

This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is “no,” but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to “Go forth” during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass.



Weekly Online Lenten Retreat for Youth and Families

Sunday Evenings in Lent from 7:00-8:00pm on Zoom

Each meeting has a different theme and will include a video, reflection time, conversation, an activity resource, and a prayer ritual (different each time) related to the theme.

Content will be geared to students in Grades 3 and up.

Feel free to attend as many or as few meetings as you would like.

Weekly Themes:

Feb 21: Making Your Lent Meaningful

Feb 28: Prayer

Mar 7: Fasting

Mar 14: Almsgiving

Mar 21: Repentance

Mar 28: Holy Week

Please email Wes at wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com if you would like to be added to the contact list to receive the weekly Zoom invite!

This Lent, our Youth Ministry community will be hosting a weekly online retreat for students and families!

Please see the poster above for all the details.

Hoping you'll be able to join in on this journey of faith and fellowship through the beautiful season of Lent!



THINKfast is our annual social justice event for youth! Participants fast from solid foods for 24 hours while exploring a particular social justice issue, and how they can make a difference, through games, simulation activities, videos, group discussions, and prayer. This year, the focus is on how the lives our brothers and sisters in the Global South are impacted by the scarcity of water and by private companies taking control of water resources.

THINKfast 2021 will be held online using Zoom.

Age Group: Grade 5 and up
Students in Grade 8 and older have the option of participating as leaders.

Dates and Times:
Session 1: Friday, March 5 from 7:00pm – 9:30pm
Session 2: Saturday, March 6 from 10:00am – 12:30pm
Session 3: Saturday, March 6 from 3:00pm – 5:00pm

Cost to participate: \$10

Registration deadline: Friday, February 26

You can visit <https://saintfxstoneycreek.com/thinkfast-2021/> to download the registration form!

YOUTH MINISTRY FEBRUARY PRAYER SERVICE

February Prayer Night

Sunday, February 7 from 7:00-7:30pm on Zoom

I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you.

~ Ephesians 1:18

You're invited to join in this Sunday evening from 7:00-7:30pm for our monthly prayer night. All are welcome!

This time we'll be using a beautiful form of prayer known as Visio Divina, where we pray with and meditate on a sacred image, opening ourselves up to what God is saying to us through it.

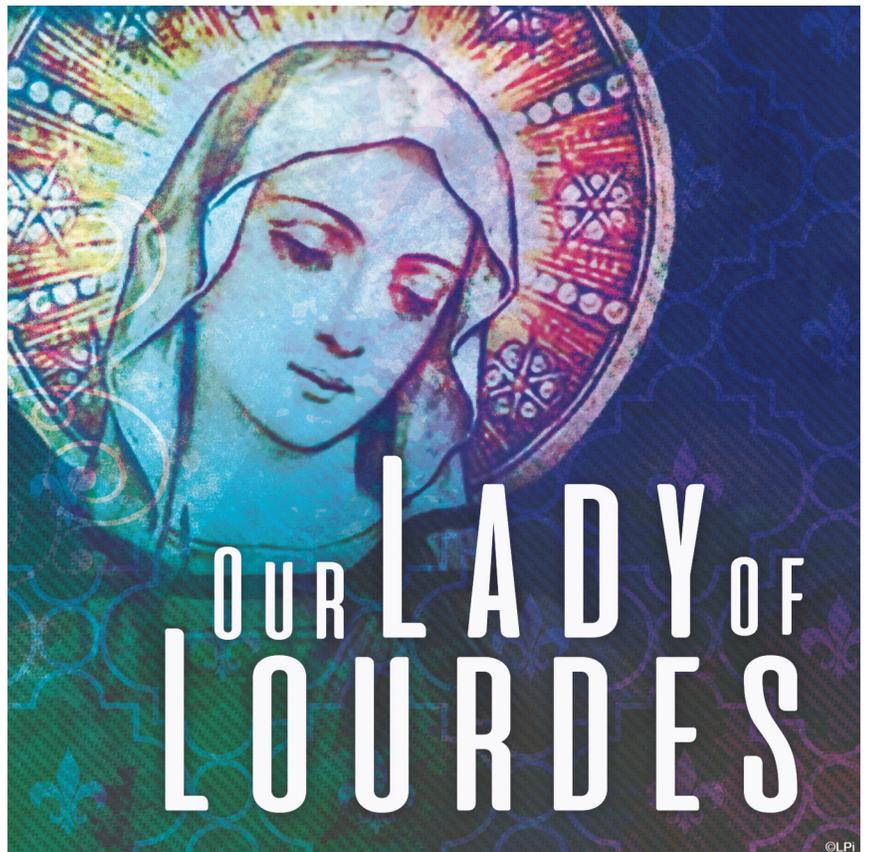
If you are not currently on the Zoom invite contact list and would like to participate, please email Wes at wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com.

Hope to see you Sunday night!

LIVE THE LITURGY

INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it's intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God's healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises.

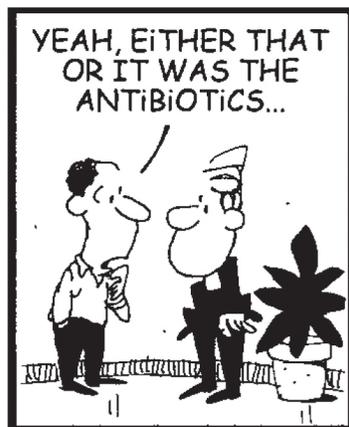


PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support at this time. Thank you!



5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





Come and join us virtually on our journey in exploring the healing sacrament of Reconciliation.

FORGIVEN explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, FORGIVEN communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

The FORGIVEN program study will be held via Zoom on Tuesday evenings from 7:00pm – 8:30pm for five weeks during the season of Lent on the following dates and explore the following session topics:

Week 1.	February 23 rd	Where are You?
Week 2.	March 02 nd	An Encounter with Mercy
Week 3.	March 09 th	Embraced in Mercy
Week 4.	March 16 th	Biblical Foundations
Week 5.	March 23 rd	Answering Common Questions About Confession

To register for the FORGIVEN program study, contact Marianne by phone at 905-870-6554 or by email at mariannegruric@cogeco.ca

A workbook is available for this session at a cost of \$15.00 (tax incl.) – workbooks will be available on a first come first serve basis.

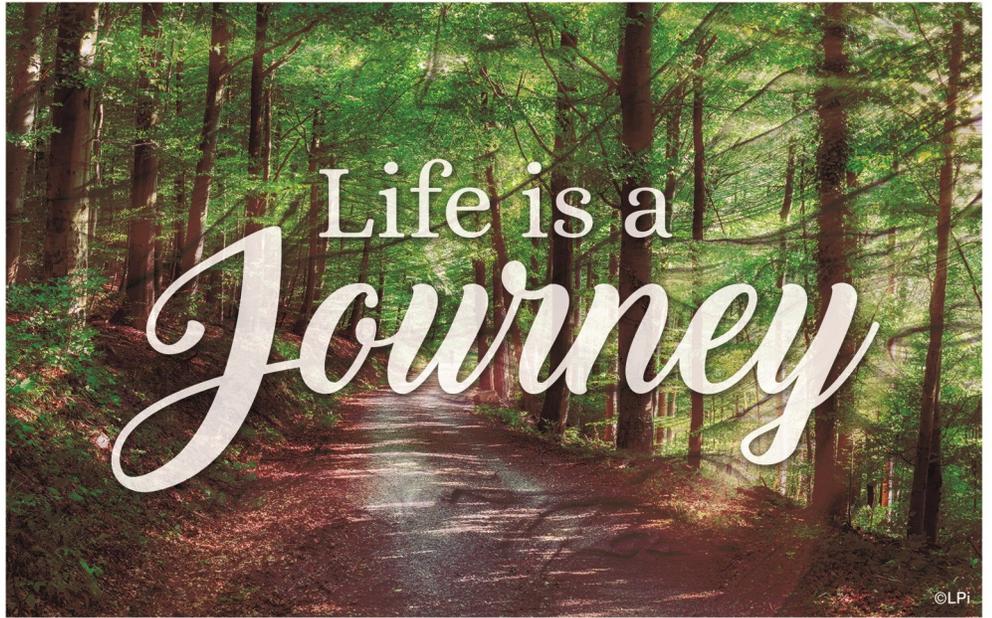
Consider making this your personal commitment during Lent - to deepen your understanding of the mercy and love of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

If I only knew then what I know now, how different life would be. This sentiment, expressed in myriad ways, is found on every human being's lips at one point or another. Life may have brought us to a vulnerable place where we see some of the poor choices we made and the effects they are having. Perhaps we fell into some destructive and dysfunctional relationships or behaviors and are finding how they held us captive. Our zeal and passion for life may have drifted away and we are waking up to the reasons apathy has taken hold. Life can be hard. In fact, some would describe their lives as a drudgery. They walk through each day with an anxious unsettledness, wondering when their restlessness will cease. There is a temptation to believe that what I see is all I will get. Mortality and hopelessness await the dawn. If I could only have known what would come in the future, I could have made better choices and avoided all of this misery!

Really? While we can certainly give into weakness, sin, impulsiveness, and idiosyncrasies that cause us to stumble over ourselves, life is really a journey. If we don't make the mistake of wallowing in the mire of self-pity and realize the new life God is calling us to, then there are thrills, adventures, surprises, and soul-searching graces we can surely



miss. We are not tethered to our past nor are we bound to the ills life can bring upon us. We are never hopeless or helpless. The problem is that our myopic vision only allows us to see the misery and misfortune that is before us, not the potential that can come from choosing healthier and more life-giving options. Jesus came that we might have fullness of life. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet.

We need to allow God into our pain and heal our past. We have to wrestle with our histories, agonize and search and cry out for the Divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. Job could not see how his story would end or

trust the guidance of the God who called him. We live in that same blindness and suffer from the same lack of confidence. Once we allow ourselves to be touched by God's healing power, we begin to see that all of the pieces of our lives are necessary parts of a greater whole. Along the way of our lives, God uses our omissions and failures to create new things and possibilities. When doors close, others open and we can be amazed by the joyful and unexpected surprises we receive. Once we know the power of God's creative, healing, life-giving, forgiving, and dynamic presence, it is no wonder we want to put ourselves at the service of others and show them what life can be.

When it was evening, after sunset, they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons. The whole town was gathered at the door. He cured many who were sick with various diseases, and he drove out many demons, not permitting them to speak because they knew him. - Mk 1:32-34

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“When the devil reminds you of your past, remind him of his future.”

St. Teresa of Avila

World Day of the Sick - February 11

“The commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with 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. Let us strive to achieve this goal so that no one will feel alone, excluded, or abandoned.”

Message of His Holiness Pope Francis for the 29th World Day of The Sick



Illness lays bare our human vulnerabilities, which is the exact place God meets us. Let us pray for God's healing presence in all the world's ailments.

For the sick and those impacted by coronavirus,
For those who share in the sufferings of the sick,
For those bound by injustice,
For our fragile environment,
For our own hardheartedness,
God of wholeness and hope, heal your people.

AMEN.

MESSAGE OF HIS HOLINESS POPE FRANCIS

FOR THE XXIX WORLD DAY OF THE SICK

11 February 2021

“You have but one teacher and you are all brothers” (Mt 23:8).

A trust-based relationship to guide care for the sick

Dear brothers and sisters,

The celebration of the XXIX World Day of the Sick on 11 February 2021, the liturgical memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Lourdes, 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. We think in particular of those who have suffered, and continue to suffer, the effects of the worldwide coronavirus pandemic. To all, and especially to the poor and the marginalized, I express my spiritual closeness and assure them of the Church’s loving concern.

1. The theme of this Day is drawn from the Gospel passage in which Jesus criticizes the hypocrisy of those who fail to practise what they preach (cf. *Mt 23:1-12*). When our faith is reduced to empty words, unconcerned with the lives and needs of others, the creed we profess proves inconsistent with the life we lead. The danger is real. That is why Jesus uses strong language about the peril of falling into self-idolatry. He tells us: “*You have but one teacher and you are all brothers*” (v. 8).

Jesus’ criticism of those who “preach but do not practise” (v. 3) is helpful always and everywhere, since none of us is immune to the grave evil of hypocrisy, which prevents us from flourishing as children of the one Father, called to live universal fraternity.

Before the needs of our brothers and sisters, Jesus asks us to respond in a way completely contrary to such hypocrisy. He 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 (cf. *Lk 10:30-35*).

2. The experience of sickness makes us realize our own vulnerability and our innate need of others. It makes us feel all the more clearly that we are creatures dependent on God. When we are ill, fear and even bewilderment can grip our minds and hearts; we find ourselves powerless, since our health does not depend on our abilities or life’s incessant worries (cf. *Mt 6:27*).

Sickness raises the question of life’s meaning, which we bring before God in faith. In seeking a new and deeper direction in our lives, we may not find an immediate answer. Nor are our relatives and friends always able to help us in this demanding quest.

The biblical figure of Job is emblematic in this regard. Job’s wife and friends do not accompany him in his misfortune; instead, they blame him and only aggravate his solitude and distress.

Job feels forlorn and misunderstood. Yet for all his extreme frailty, he rejects hypocrisy and chooses the path of honesty towards God and others. He cries out to God so insistently that God finally answers him and allows him to glimpse a new horizon. He confirms that Job's suffering is not a punishment or a state of separation from God, much less as sign of God's indifference. Job's heart, wounded and healed, then makes this vibrant and touching confession to the Lord: "I had heard of you by word of mouth, but now my eye has seen you" (42:5).

3. Sickness always has more than one face: it has the face of all the sick, but also those who feel ignored, excluded and prey to social injustices that deny their fundamental rights (cf. *Fratelli Tutti*, 22). The current pandemic has exacerbated inequalities in our healthcare systems and exposed inefficiencies in the care of the sick. Elderly, weak and vulnerable people are not always granted access to care, or in an equitable manner. This is the result of political decisions, resource management and greater or lesser commitment on the part of those holding positions of responsibility. Investing resources in the care and assistance of the sick is a priority linked to the fundamental principle that health is a primary common good. Yet the pandemic has also highlighted the dedication and generosity of healthcare personnel, volunteers, support staff, priests, men and women religious, all of whom have helped, treated, comforted and served so many of the sick and their families with professionalism, self-giving, responsibility and love of neighbour. A silent multitude of men and women, they chose not to look the other way but to share the suffering of patients, whom they saw as neighbours and members of our one human family.

Such closeness is a precious balm that provides support and consolation to the sick in their suffering. As Christians, we experience that closeness as a sign of the love of Jesus Christ, the *Good Samaritan*, who draws near with compassion to every man and woman wounded by sin. United to Christ by the working of the Holy Spirit, we are called to be merciful like the Father and to love in particular our frail, infirm and suffering brothers and sisters (cf. *Jn* 13:34-35). We experience this closeness not only as individuals but also as a community. Indeed, fraternal love in Christ generates a community of healing, a community that leaves no one behind, a community that is inclusive and welcoming, especially to those most in need.

Here I wish to mention the importance of fraternal solidarity, which is expressed concretely in service and can take a variety of forms, all directed at supporting our neighbours. "Serving means caring ... for the vulnerable of our families, our society, our people" (*Homily in Havana*, 20 September 2015). In this outreach, all are "called to set aside their own wishes and desires, their pursuit of power, before the concrete gaze of those who are most vulnerable... Service always looks to their faces, touches their flesh, senses their closeness and even, in some cases, 'suffers' that closeness and tries to help them. Service is never ideological, for we do not serve ideas, we serve people" (ibid.).

4. If a therapy is to be effective, it must have a relational aspect, for this enables a holistic approach to the patient. Emphasizing this aspect can help doctors, nurses, professionals and volunteers to feel responsible for accompanying patients on a path of healing grounded in a trusting interpersonal relationship (cf. *New Charter for Health Care Workers* [2016], 4). This creates a covenant between those in need of care and those who provide that care, a covenant based on mutual trust and respect, openness and availability. This will help to overcome defensive attitudes, respect the dignity of the sick, safeguard the professionalism of healthcare workers and foster a good relationship with the families of patients.

Such a relationship with the sick can find an unfailing source of motivation and strength in the *charity of Christ*, as shown by the witness of those men and women who down the millennia have grown in holiness through service to the infirm. For the mystery of Christ's death and resurrection is

the source of the love capable of giving full meaning to the experience of patients and caregivers alike. The Gospel frequently makes this clear by showing that Jesus heals not by magic but as the result of *an encounter, an interpersonal relationship*, in which God's gift finds a response in the faith of those who accept it. As Jesus often repeats: "Your faith has saved you".

5. Dear brothers and sisters, the commandment of love that Jesus left to his disciples is also kept in our relationship with 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. Let us strive to achieve this goal, so that no one will feel alone, excluded or abandoned.

To Mary, Mother of Mercy and Health of the Infirm, I entrust the sick, healthcare workers and all those who generously assist our suffering brothers and sisters. From the Grotto of Lourdes and her many other shrines throughout the world, may she sustain our faith and hope, and help us care for one another with fraternal love. To each and all, I cordially impart my blessing.

Rome, Saint John Lateran, 20 December 2020,
Fourth Sunday of Advent

FRANCIS

3 EASY STEPS

TO KEEPING YOURSELF & OTHERS HEALTHY!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



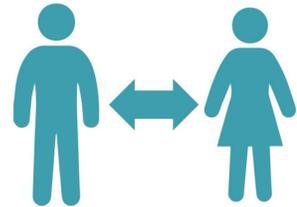
WASH YOUR HANDS

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.



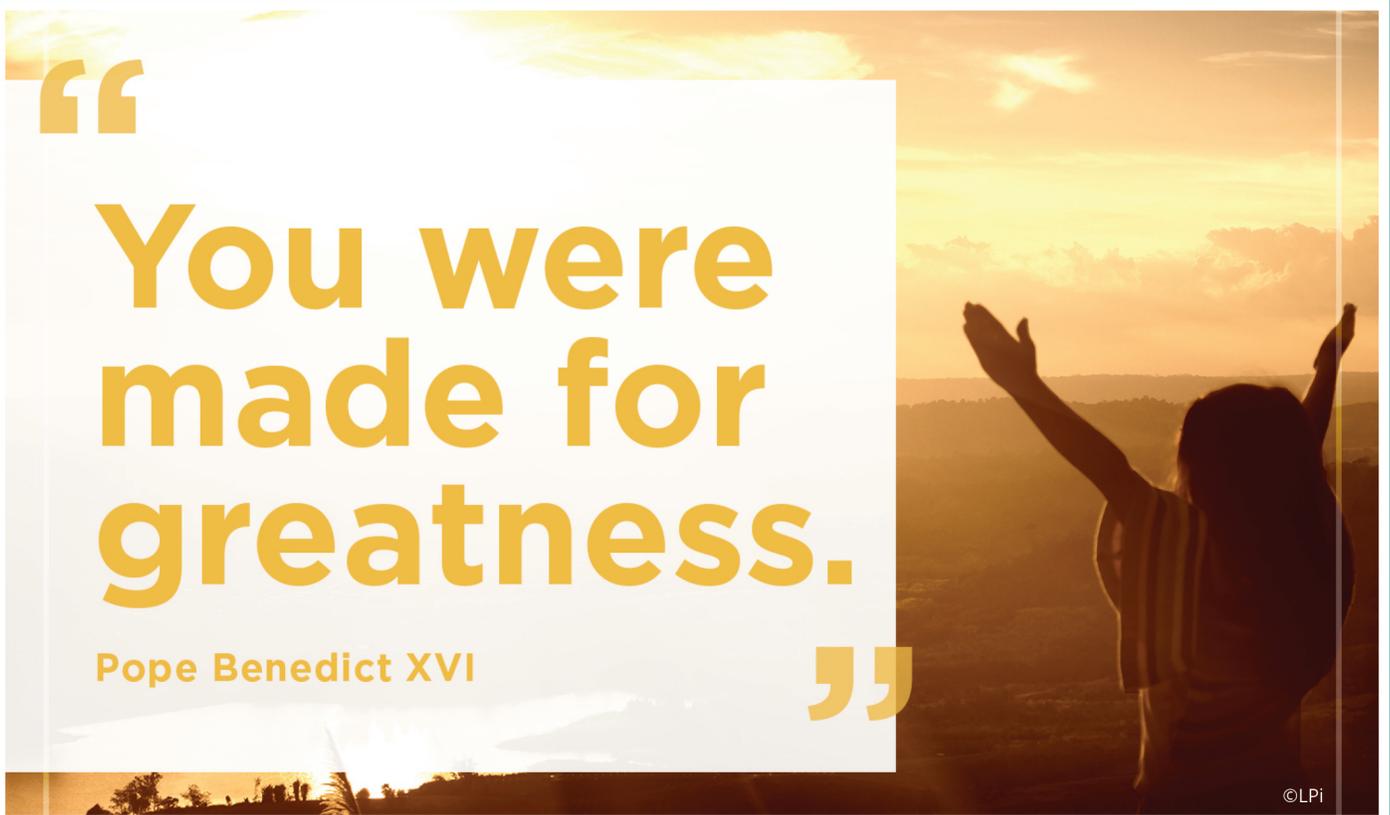
DON'T TOUCH YOUR FACE

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.



KEEP YOUR DISTANCE

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



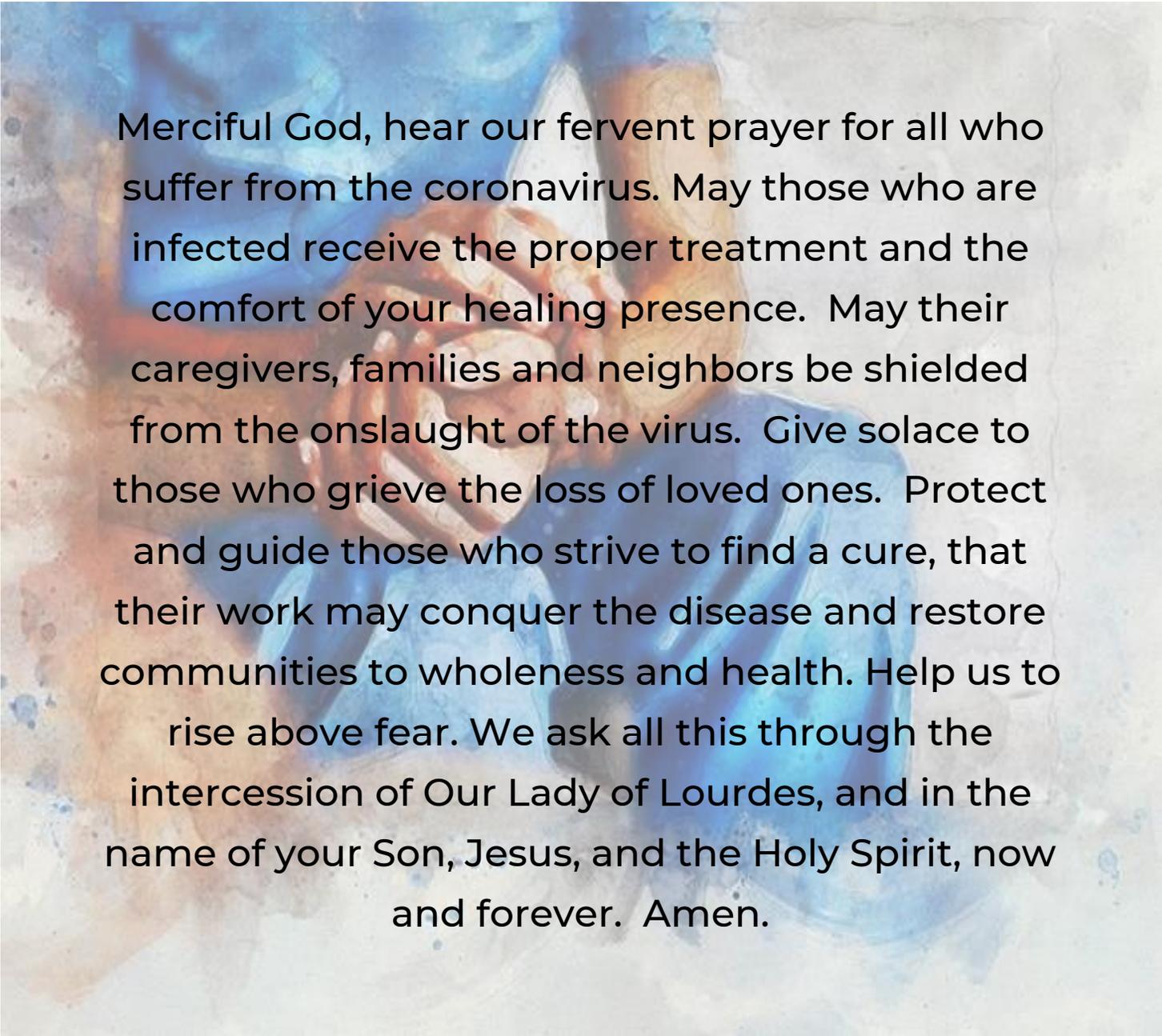
Pope Benedict XVI

©LPI

A Prayer for Persons Suffering from the Coronavirus

You shall not fear the terror of the night
nor the arrow that flies by day,
nor the pestilence that roams in darkness,
nor the plague that ravages at noon.

Ps 91:5-6



Merciful God, hear our fervent prayer for all who suffer from the coronavirus. May those who are infected receive the proper treatment and the comfort of your healing presence. May their caregivers, families and neighbors be shielded from the onslaught of the virus. Give solace to those who grieve the loss of loved ones. Protect and guide those who strive to find a cure, that their work may conquer the disease and restore communities to wholeness and health. Help us to rise above fear. We ask all this through the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, and in the name of your Son, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.

Kids Corner

READ THE
GOSPEL &
COLOR



Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her. He took hold of her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. She felt so good, she cooked them a nice meal to celebrate. Neighbors brought all of their sick loved ones to be cured. When we pray today, Jesus still comes to those who are sick and heals them. He cures through doctors, nurses, medicines, and machines.

PRAYER

Lord, heal my family and friends who are sick today.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

I will make get well cards for three sick people in our church.

Dear Friends,

We are now in the month of February which welcomes us with cold weather that will stay with us a bit longer, or so the weather forecast indicates. Even Father Claude has become used to the colder climate as he now runs in short sleeves around the house (just kidding).

In the Church's calendar we celebrate the Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time this weekend, and as the thumbnail for the livestream indicates (I try whenever it is possible to use a painting, or drawing in this case, to show a reference to the upcoming Gospel reading), this Sunday we reflect on the Gospel passage that speaks about the healing of the mother-in-law of Peter, as well as the healing of many others.

“In the gospel, God's remembrance of and compassion for suffering humanity comes most tangibly and radically in the healing presence of Jesus. From the religious service in the synagogue Jesus moves immediately into the house of Simon and Andrew, accompanied by James and John, disciples who are having a busy apprenticeship. In the healing of Simon's mother-in-law we have a vignette of the mission of Jesus, the free man, who cares nothing for taboos that prohibited the touching of a woman not one's wife, and especially on the Sabbath. Jesus has healed the tormented man in the synagogue, and he will make no discrimination between male and female, even though to hold the hand of the sick woman could earn him the accusation of ritual uncleanness. Compassion has a more urgent hold on Jesus, and his raising of her is by the same power that God will manifest in raising Jesus from the dead. The response of Simon's mother-in-law to

her healing is to serve (*diēkonei*, which the Lectionary translates as “she waited on them”) Jesus and his companions. The last use of this word in Mark's gospel is in Mark 15:41, and here it is again with reference to women who followed and served him, so framing the mission of Jesus from its beginning to his death with the service of women. It is a reminder, too, that all who have experienced the healing power of Jesus, in the flesh and in the Spirit, should respond with service of others.

Even though Jesus did not subject himself to Sabbath restraints, the crowds wait until “after sunset” when the Sabbath was over to bring those who are sick in body and mind to him. Jesus responds to the universal longing for wholeness and healing, vanquishing the reign of evil, yet commanding the evil spirits not to speak of him because not until his death will his true messianic identity be revealed. Before that, such a revelation, especially by the proclamation of the formerly possessed, could be manipulated by Jesus's enemies into false charges of his being on the side of the kingdom of evil (see Mark 3:22-27).

The one to whom Jesus is first accountable, however, is not the sick or possessed person, not Simon or his companions. Jesus's life is above all directed to God who is acting in him and through him, so early the next morning he seeks a place where he can be alone with God in prayer. Simon and some of his companions are described not as Jesus's “followers,” but as those who “pursue” Jesus. There is a note of accusation and misunderstanding in Simon's words: “Everyone is looking for you” (including us!). There is no

appreciation of Jesus's own need to search for his God in prayer. What Jesus has heard in his prayer is the call to proclaim the reigning presence of God in other towns, to move on from the enthusiastic reception of yesterday, because that is why he came. How often are we tempted to stay with the "yesterdays" of success and acclamation and hesitate to go forward to the largely unknown "tomorrows" to which God is calling us? And how important is prayer in our discernment of God's call?" (Living Liturgy 2021)

We are still awaiting any news from the provincial government regarding when we will be allowed to reopen our churches as of the time that I am posting this message. As soon as we know something, we will make a post on our website and Facebook page.

Please remember in your prayers Ada Savelli, Josephine Zabukovec, Nicola DeVincentis, and Victoria Luscombe (sister of our parishioner Claude Luscombe), who all passed away this week. And please pray for those who are grieving the loss of their loved ones. Eternal rest, grant unto them O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them. May they rest in peace.

Thank-you to all those who have been continuing to support the parish financially during this lockdown. Please know that you can bring your donation envelopes to the parish office and put them through the mail slot in the office door at any time. You can also send your donation in by mail, or donate online on the Donate tab of our website. We are encouraging our parishioners to consider pre-authorized giving going forward as their means of supporting the parish. If you are interested, the form for

pre-authorized giving can also be downloaded from the Donate tab on our website.

The season of Lent begins in less than two weeks, starting with Ash Wednesday on February 17. You are invited to take part in the new online Bible study entitled "FORGIVEN", which explores the Sacrament of Reconciliation. For more information please see the parish bulletin.

There are also two youth ministry events coming up during the Lenten season:

- Weekly online retreat for youth, teens, and families (7:00-8:00pm over Zoom on each Sunday of Lent)
- THINKfast (annual social justice event for students in Grade 5 and up) – held online this year

Please see this weekend's bulletin or the youth ministry page of our website for more information on both events.

We also has print copies of daily Lenten devotions for both teens and families available which can be mailed out to anyone who would like one. Feel free to contact her at wmoga@hamiltondiocese.com to make arrangements.

Please join us online for Sunday Mass at 10:00am on the parish YouTube channel. The Rosary will be prayed at 9:30am.

God bless and have a great weekend,
Fr. Mariusz

MASS INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY 8 TO FEBRUARY 14, 2021

DATE	MASS INTENTION	REQUESTED BY
Monday , February 8:	Patrick Doyle Silvia Malvestuto	Frank & Frances Florio Anthony & Massima Salciccioli & Family
Tuesday , February 9:	Victoria Luscombe In thanksgiving to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for being instrumental in bringing sinners to conversion	Claude & Carol Luscombe Janina Pasadyn
Wednesday , February 10:	MULTI-INTENTIONAL In Thanksgiving to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary Maria Gebska Jan Orzel Special Intentions	Ewa Nimcz Marcin Pasadyn and Family Kazimierz Pyrda
Thursday , February 11:	Serafina Bracco God's blessing for Grazyna and Bozena and their Families	Maryanne and Rudy Jelovich Halina Kwasniewski
Friday , February 12:	Giuseppe Giacoboni God's blessing for Grazyna and Bozena and their Families	Bruna Giacoboni Halina Kwasniewski
Saturday , February 13:	In thanksgiving to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for being instrumental in bringing sinners to conversion Genovefa Kulak	Janina Pasadyn Marek Kulak
Sunday , February 14: 10:00 am Mass	MULTI-INTENTIONAL Maria Gabriele Genovefa Kulak David & Sophie Colterman Tarcisio Reginato Baldassare Lupo Clemente & Redenta Massignani Giuseppina Fuca Martin Thien Phu Nguyen Ezio Carniti Dina & Antonio Paolone Emanuele Centofanti Vincent Perera Mass for the People of the Parish (Missa Pro Populo)	Joe & Clida Di Giovanni Marek Kulak Louise Kunkel Annamaria Reginato & Family Anthony & Massima Salciccioli & Family Annamaria Reginato Frank Fuca Kim Le-Butler Josie Bozzo & Josie Marini Paolone Children Mary Ann Centofanti The Family