HIS WORD TODAY

Jesus was moved with pity

“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.’”

This week, we begin the season of Lent, a time of renewal and repentance. We have a tendency to approach this time from a traditional posture. Ashes, meatless Fridays and Stations of the Cross. All are part of our practice and tradition.

Wait a minute. Picture the lonely leper, ill and isolated, but with firm faith and determination, violating the rules imposed through Moses, approaching Jesus, seeking much needed help. I am he!

Consider for a moment what it took for him to act. He was desperate, knowing the reality of His condition. He spoke ‘If you wish...’ He heard the will of Jesus, felt His compassion, was touched by the healer. I am he!

May I seriously consider how to begin Lent this year and live renewal and repentance with the leper to be healed, cleansed and enlivened. Lent is God’s gift to me this year.

MASSE INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

- **Saturday/Sunday, February 10/11**
  - 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time
  - 5 p.m. † Mavie Mehaffey
  - 8 a.m. † James Bernardo
  - 9:30 a.m. † Nancy Bruno
  - 11 a.m. † Maureen Urbaniak
- **Monday, February 12**
  - 7 p.m. † Ralph Migallo
- **Tuesday, February 13**
  - 7 p.m. † Robert Capanna
- **Wednesday, February 14 Ash Wednesday**
  - 9 a.m. Mass with Ashes
  - 7 p.m. Mass with Ashes
- **Thursday, February 15**
  - 7 p.m. † Warren Crane
- **Thursday, February 16**
  - 7 p.m. † Kathleen Beenders
- **Saturday/Sunday, February 17/18**
  - 1st Sunday of Lent
    - 5 p.m. † James & Phyllis Vones
    - 8 a.m. † Philomeana & Rocco Scardapane
    - 9:30 a.m. † Charlie Bruton
    - 11 a.m. † Thomas Renart

THIS WEEK’S ACTIVITIES

- **Tuesday, February 13**
  - Adult Choir (7:45 p.m.) Church
- **Thursday, February 15**
  - Pro-Life Adoration (7:30 p.m.) Chapel
- **Friday, February 16**
  - Stations of the Cross (1 p.m.) Church
- **Saturday, February 17**
  - Monthly Food for Families Collection
- **Sunday, February 18**
  - Monthly Food for Families Collection
  - The New Corinthians (7 p.m.) Rectory
  - Recitation of the Rosary (after 9:30 a.m. mass)/ Chapel
  - Hospitality Sunday (after masses) Church Hall

Offertory Collection for 1/28/18: $4,835.
Offertory Collection for 2/4/18: $5,967.
February 11, 2018  6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

**SCRIPTURE READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13  
**Tuesday:** Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21  
**Wednesday:** Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20—6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18  
**Thursday:** Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25  
**Friday:** Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15  
**Saturday:** Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32

**PARISH AND DIOCESAN ACTIVITIES**

**NEXT WEEKEND’S SCRIPTURE READINGS**

**1st SUNDAY OF LENT**

**First Reading:** Genesis 9:8-15  
God made a promise to Noah that he would never again devastate the entire planet with a flood. He also told Noah that the symbol of this promise would be a rainbow in the clouds.

**Second Reading:** 1 Peter 3:18-22  
This letter from Peter reminds all people that Christ died for us so that we might be led to God. We have been saved by our baptism; not a physical cleansing, but a promise to continually strive to obey God.

**Gospel:** Mark 1:12-15  
Mark briefly tells of Jesus’ stay in the desert, where he was tested by Satan. He did not give in to temptation, but reappeared in Galilee to proclaim the good news.

**PARISH AND DIOCESAN ACTIVITIES**

**Food for Families**  
Next weekend is our monthly Food for Families Collection. Please place your non-perishable food items in the vestibule of the church. The Knights of Columbus will also donate $100 to the pantry for each 500 pounds of food collected. Thank you for your generosity!

**CATHOLIC PRESS MONTH**  
You may place your Catholic Press envelope, from your offertory packet, in the first collection basket any time during the month of February. Make checks payable to St. Joseph Church and make a notation on the bottom left for Catholic Press Month.

**2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal**  
**Lighting a Fire in the Heart of Our World**  
Twenty-four percent – $1.7 million dollars – of the funds raised by the 2018 Bishop’s Annual Appeal is earmarked for Catholic Charities, Diocese of Metuchen. Through more than 100 programs, Catholic Charities serves those most in need of our assistance. If you have yet to make your pledge to this year’s Bishop’s Annual Appeal, you will have the opportunity to do so the weekend of February 24/25. Envelopes will be available on the vestibule shelf. Help us reach our target of 100% participation. Every gift, no matter the size, is important and greatly appreciated.

**HELP WANTED:** The St. Joseph’s choir is welcoming new members to join us during the month of February. Rehearsals are on Tuesday evenings after mass, at approximately 7:45 p.m. The choir sings on Sunday mornings at the 11:00 a.m. mass. Any questions, please contact Dee Savare at dsavare@hotmail.com or at 908-638-4336.

**WRITTEN ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FOR 2017 CONTRIBUTIONS**

If you would like a 2017 written acknowledgment for your contributions, you may request this statement in one of the following ways: Complete the information below and place it in the collection basket, mail this form to the Rectory, or send your request via email to sjchbcc@comcast.net.

Name ____________________________
Address ___________________________