**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

 **Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said I do will it.**

 **Mass Schedule and Intentions**

**Saturday, February 10, 5:00 p.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, February 11, 9:30 a.m. Mass + For the Soul of John Carroll by his Family**

**For world peace, the sick and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**11:00 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Monday, February 12, No Mass**

**Tuesday, February 13, No Mass**

**Ash Wednesday, February 14, 7:00 p.m. Mass (**with the imposition of ashes)

**Thursday, February 15, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Friday, February 16, 8:30 a.m. Mass**

**Stations of the Cross, 6:30 p.m.**

**Saturday, February 17, 5:00 p.m. Mass**

**For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**Sunday, February 18, 9:30 a.m. Mass – First Sunday of Lent**

**11:00 a.m. Mass - For world peace, the poor and the Parishioners of St. Peter’s**

**SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME REFLECTION: This weekend, we continue to read from the opening chapter of the Gospel of Mark, and once again we are told about a healing worked by Jesus. This time it is the healing of a leper. In his desperation the leper violates the rules about keeping away from people. The reaction of Jesus mirrors the compassion of God. When our text says that Jesus 'felt sorry for him' this points to the deep compassion of the loving God. What is perhaps most remarkable about this miracle is that 'Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him'. Our first reading from the Book of Leviticus tells how lepers used to be taken to a priest and formally declared to be 'unclean'. They were banished and had to live apart. This was still the practice in Jesus' day. Jesus' attitude is completely different. He is not afraid to violate the law by reaching out and touching the leper. In this way Jesus challenges the rules about what is 'clean', and what is 'unclean'. In this miracle story it is by his touch and a simple word of command that Jesus heals the man. Perhaps surprisingly Jesus then orders the healed man to comply with the law by going to a priest and making a thanksgiving offering for his recovery. Jesus orders the man to tell nobody about his healing. This is a rather curious feature of the gospel, which shows that Jesus did not want popularity and was anxious that his work should not be misunderstood. But in his enthusiasm at being healed the man proclaims the word everywhere. The gospel ends with the irony that, while the leper rejoins society, Jesus the healer stays outside 'in places where nobody lived'. What does Jesus' acceptance of the leper teach us? How do we try to reach out to those who are rejected by society? Let us pray for a spirit of compassion and understanding. Let us share the healed man's enthusiasm to make known the goodness of God.**

**SYNODAL SHARING**: **“The Church of God is convoked in synod.” Synodality is not just a process we can do for specific topics. We should consider doing it for all topics. We should allow synodality to wrap us in its arms and help guide us in our journey of faith and community. This Lenten season, let’s consider using synodality in our approach in prayer, connection, almsgiving, fasting, forgiveness and confession. How can we be always more synodal in our interactions as a parish?**

**Welcome!** **…. we extend a warm St. Peter’s Welcome to Father Jonathan Madueke, Father Michal Kruszewski and Deacon Thomas Stephenson, our newly Interim pastoral team appointed by diocese until further notice.**

**Special Collection - Diocesan & Missionary Works: The special collection for Diocesan & Missionary Works is held annually on the 1st Sunday of Lent (February 18th, 2024). It allows for the Archbishop to respond generously to the many requests for support that he receives from those in need. Moreover, it allows the Archbishop to provide financial support to local, national or international ministries, organizations, or projects that are advancing the Kingdom of God: through efforts in evangelization and discipleship, and giving witness to Christ through their spiritual and corporal works of mercy. To give to this cause, we invite you to use the special envelopes already included in your box of envelopes. If you do not have giving envelopes, you may use the envelopes in your pew by indicating “special collection” and the date. Thank you for your generosity!**

**ASH WEDNESDAY 2024: Ash Wednesday is this coming Wednesday, February 14, 2024 and marks the start of Lent. A special Mass with the imposition of Ashes for the parish community will be held 7:00 pm here at St. Peter’s. All are invited to attend. Please note that there will be No 8:00 a.m. Mass celebrated on that morning.**

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS**: **Starting this coming Friday and** **each Friday evening during Lent at 6:30 pm. Come and join Father Jonathan here at the parish , as we walk through the fourteen stations to experience this powerful way to contemplate, and enter into, the mystery of Jesus’ gift of himself to us.**

**QUO VADIS?** **Where are you going? Is the Lord calling you to serve him as a priest? Join other men discerning the priesthood for monthly formation, fellowship, and Eucharistic Adoration. The next session will be held on February 15 at the new Café des Tours, located in the basement of Notre Dame Cathedral in Ottawa. To join the Quo Vadis email list or for more information, contact Fr. Connor O’Hara, the Vocations Director for the diocese, at** **vocations@ottawacornwall.ca**

**“40 Items for 40 Days” Food Drive: During Lent, we invite parishioners to collect one non-perishable food item each day for our neighbors in need. International foods and baby foods/formulae welcome. Thank you for filling our Feed the Poor Grocery Cart! Food donations go to the Heron Road Emergency Food Centre. St Vincent de Paul for the Poor envelopes are available in the church entrance for money donations. We are all God’s instruments; through Christ, may we continue to serve the poor with open and loving hearts.**

**2023 INCOME TAX RECEIPTS:** **The income tax receipts for 2023 are available for pick up today in the main entrance area of the church. Please note they are in alphabetical order for your convenience. God bless you for your continued support of our Parish.**

**Collection – February 3 – 4, 2024: Envelopes: $1,890.00, Loose: $345.45, St. Vincent de Paul: $150.00; Vigil Lights: $69.00; Initial Offering: $60.00; Clergy Support: $430.00; New Year: $20.00; Diocesan and Ministerial: $5.00; Grand Total: $2,969.45. THANK YOU for your generosity and support.**

**SACRAMENTS: REGISTRATION PREPARATION FOR THE SACRAMENTS OF FIRST RECONCILIATION, FIRST HOLY COMMUNION AND CONFIRMATION IS NOW OPEN. Parents who wish to have their child(ren) prepare for any of these Sacraments are asked to visit the parish office to pick up a registration form after Mass or call the parish. Please note that your child must be a Baptised Catholic in order to receive the sacrament of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. It is important that you bring a copy (not original) of your child’s Catholic Baptismal certificate with you.**

**Cursillo 3-Day Weekend:** **The Ottawa Cursillo Movement is holding its next Women’s Weekend from April 25 - 28 at Centre de L’Amour in Plantagenet. This Church movement promotes Catholic ideals, fellowship, and spiritual growth in daily living. Cost is $280 per person (this covers all meals and private accommodations). For more information** [**https://ottawacursillo.ca**](https://ottawacursillo.ca)**.**

**Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass – Registration Form**: **For couples of the Archdiocese who are celebrating 20, 25, 30, 40, 50, 60 and 60+ years of marriage in 2024. The English Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass will be celebrated at Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica on Sunday, April 14, 2:30 pm. Info & link to the online registration form: https://en.archoc.ca/anniversary-mass. Please register before April on the diocese website.**

**Social Action Committee:** **“Please support your fellow brothers and sisters in need by donating non-perishable foods.  Financial donations are also welcome.  Please use the provided envelopes and place in the collection basket." Proverbs 22:9: "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor."**

**Sunday Morning Smile:** **A wife phones her husband, panting and breathless. “Where are you?” she moaned. “I’m at the pub. Why?” he replied. She answers, “I think the baby’s coming!” He says, “Well, he won’t get in. Sure, he’s underage!”**

**WORLD DAY OF THE SICK: “It is not good that man should be alone” In his message for the World Day of the Sick (Feb. 11), sub-titled ‘caring for the sick by caring for relationships’, Pope Francis reminds us of the fundamental importance of human relationships in the process of healing and comforting the sick. God endowed us with vital relationships, and loneliness, the result of sin, can lead to suffering and isolation. The Pope urges us to care for relationships with compassion and tenderness, recalling the example of how the Good Samaritan approached his neighbour. The Holy Father also stresses that the sick, the fragile, and the poor must be at the heart of the Church and at the centre of our pastoral concerns. [https://www.cccb.ca/]**