

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 11, 2018

Ash Wednesday Masses

8 am and noon at St. Peter
9:30 am and 6 pm at St. John

Betty Porterfield

Mary "Betty" Porterfield (Denise Freeman's mother) is now at the new Delhi Rehabilitation and Nursing Center, Fir Wing, Room 153. She would love visits if and when possible, and continued prayer.

Delhi Food Bank

Please bring a needed item or two when you attend Mass (or drop off at United Ministry on Mondays or Thursdays 1-3 pm): spaghetti sauce, tuna, cereal, soup, crackers, canned fruit and vegetables.

2017 Tax Statements

If you would like a statement of your 2017 offertory for your tax returns, please call the office.

March Marriage Encounter

He shall dwell apart, outside the camp."

As Jesus cured the leper, let the love of God heal and strengthen our marital bonds so we can live within our camp with joy: March 9-11 in Duxbury, Massachusetts. 518.279.3243 or wwmenyalb.org.

Only **3** weeks before the
2017 Bishop's Appeal closes!

Bishop's Appeal to Date

Deficits: St. John the Baptist: **\$8,712**
St. Peter's Church: **4,067**

St. John coffee hour next Sunday.

Black, Native American, & Latin American Missions

Next weekend is the collection for the Black, Native American, and Latin American Missions. For many in Latin America and Caribbean, rural terrain and a lack of ministers are obstacles to practicing their faith. Your help provides lay leadership training, catechesis, priestly and religious formation, as well as other programs to help share our faith with those who long to hear the Good News of Christ.

Your 2016 donations provided more than 115 grants totaling over two million dollars, which supported vocational programs such as seminarian formation, permanent deacons, religious men and women; more than 133 grants totaling 1.6 million dollars for laity, marriage, family life, and youth ministry programs; and more than 44 grants totaling over \$530,000 for evangelization and catechesis programs, mission outreach, social teaching projects, and campus ministry.

Rice Bowls

Rice Bowls are available offering opportunities for your family to engage daily in the spiritual pillars of Lent: prayer - fasting - almsgiving. Experience Lent as a family journey: you can eat simple, meatless meals each Friday using a recipe (in your rice bowl) from one of the highlighted countries while reading a story about the impact CRS rice bowls make there. The money saved with the simple meals can be placed in your rice bowl.

Total your monies and return the bowls to Church by April 8 with a check made out to your parish or you may give online: csrcicebowl.org/give.

Centering Prayer Silent Retreat for Men and Women

Pull away from the world for five special days by attending the "*Finding the Place of the Heart in Service of Transformation*" retreat February 16 to 21 at the Dominican Retreat and Conference Center (518.393.4169). The demands of our world are such that they pull at us from every side, catering to our egos. Only by repeatedly letting go of this identification can we continue to go deeper and deeper into our hearts. There, in that silence, we encounter the Divine One in a sacred place of healing and transformation.

Cost: \$425 (per diem \$65 - with overnight: \$90)

Marriage Moments Susan Vogt

This year Ash Wednesday and Valentine's Day are both on February 14. How might we reconcile these two seemingly opposite themes? The Ash Wednesday reading beckons you to "*Return to me with your whole heart.*" [Joa 2:12](#) The "me" can be God or the spirit of God within your beloved.

Family Perspective Bud Ozar

Family life is about decisions. The leper knew this when he said to Jesus, "*If You will, You can make me clean.*" Jesus knew this when He said, "*I do will it.*" Love is not an emotion. It is a decision to be with and for another person in "good times and bad" even when we don't feel like it.

Parenting Pointers Susan Vogt

February is Black History month but sensitivity to people of a race different from your own is bigger than just one color. Enrich your child's life by mixing with people of different races. If your children are old enough, try this Erasing Racism activity--[susanvogt.net/EnrichmentEx.htm#ErasingRacism].

Lectio Divina

Lepers were the most excluded people of society, avoided by all and were not allowed to take part in anything. Among the people of God whose defense of the gift of life was one of the most sacred duties, they thought that the exclusion of lepers was a divine duty because it was the only way to defend the community from contagion. Thus, in Israel, the leper felt impure and excluded not only by society, but even by God.

Mark's brings together Jesus' activities to describe His mission of proclamation of the Good News and to describe how the mission of the community should be:

Creating community -- The first thing that Jesus does is to call people to follow Him. A fundamental task of mission is to gather people around Jesus in order to create community.

Creating a critical conscience -- The first thing that people see is the difference between the teaching of Jesus and that of official religion.

Fighting the power of evil -- Jesus' first miracle is the driving out of an impure spirit. Part of mission is fighting the power of evil that destroys life and alienates people from themselves.

Restoring life through service -- Jesus heals Peter's mother-in-law, and she gets up and begins to serve. Part of mission is the care of the sick, so that they may be able to get up and once more serve others.

Welcoming the marginalized -- After the Sabbath, people bring to Jesus the sick and the possessed that He may heal them, and He heals them all. Part of mission is to welcome the marginalized.

Staying united with the Father through prayer--After a day of labor that extends far into the night, Jesus gets up quickly so that He may pray in a desert place. Part of mission is staying united with the source of the Good News, that is, the Father, through prayer.

Keeping up an awareness of mission -- The disciples were happy with the results and wanted Jesus to return. But He carried on with His journey. Part of mission is not to be content with results, but to keep alive an awareness of mission.

Reinstating the marginalized into human society--Jesus heals a leper and asks him to present himself to a priest so that he may be declared healed and may be able to live among people. Part of mission is reinstating the excluded to human society.

Order of Carmelites