



Bringing Outsiders In

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

As a child, were you teased, bullied, chosen last for a team? Did you feel apart from the in-crowd? If so, in various ways this treatment may have kept you from being fully engaged with the larger community, possibly continuing to scar you in even your grown-up world.

In 2021, the news media reported that a Louisiana cemetery refused burial for Darrell Semien because he was black. Though he had served his community as a deputy sheriff for fifteen years and had helped raise seventy-two foster children, none of that was of any significance. After the news broke, the cemetery quickly lifted its whites-only stipulation, but the damage had been done. In so many ways, we continue to exclude others from the human community, even in death.

Our Sunday Gospel tells of Jesus curing a leper, enabling the man to again become part of the community. Even more startling, by touching him, Jesus himself became “impure,” and thus isolated himself from the community, thereby switching roles with the man. Bringing others into community even at a cost to ourselves is divine. Such compassion is exemplified when people work to reform prisons, seek to integrate immigrants into national life, give voice to the voiceless, improve mental health care, strive to alleviate paralyzing poverty, and more. The world witnessed compassion at its finest during the COVID-19 pandemic when medical personnel worked to heal the sick, even at the cost of isolating themselves from their own families. Compassion toward those in need is holy. ●

Reflect

Who made you feel welcome when you felt locked out? Can you do the same for another?

A leper came to him [and kneeling down] begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.”

MARK 1:40



ST. MICHAEL'S PARISH

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Weekend Masses: Vigil: 5:00pm, Sunday: 10:00am

Baptisms: by appointment 3 weeks in advance

Weddings: by appointment 6 months in advance

www.facebook.com/stmichaelpaget & “LIKE” us | Diocesan Webpage: www.romancatholicbermuda.bm

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Mass Schedule & Intentions

We welcome our parishioners and visitors who have come to St. Michael's to worship this weekend. May you be blessed by your presence here today

MINISTRIES...

FEBRUARY 10/11th - THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Kathy Anderson EM: Alberta Canonnier
10:00AM Lector: LaVerne Lau EM: Pat Robinson
Collection: The DeFrias

FEBRUARY 17/18th - THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Lector: Alberta Canonnier EM: Kathy Anderson
10:00AM Lector: Cherry Ramdam EM: LaVerne Lau
Collection: Karen Marsh

MASS INTENTIONS...

FEBRUARY 10/11th - THE SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Veronica & Herman Tucker ++
10:00AM St. Michael's Parishioners & their Intentions

FEBRUARY 17/18th - THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM For the Souls in Purgatory
10:00AM The Deceased Parishioners of St. Michael's

*You are welcome to attend Morning Masses at
St. Theresa's - 7:30AM Mon.—Fri.*

St. Anthony's - 8:00AM Tues.—Fri. | St. Patrick's - 8:00AM Mon.—Fri.

**ST. THERESA'S 7:30am Masses are live streamed via the
Diocesan Website and their Facebook Page**



February 3/4th Collection: \$783.00
Votives: \$2.00 Poor Box (SVdeP): \$10.00

February 17/18 - Second Collection for Maintenance

ELECTRONIC CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE
to St. Michael's Church's
BNTB Account # 2000 6060 081824 100.

YOUR Weekly, monthly or quarterly transaction is appreciated.

*When making your online transaction, be sure to include your name and
"collection" as your memo on your banking transaction.*

**Thank you to those parishioners who continue to
answer our call for stewardship to St. Michael's.**

Bishop's Corner...

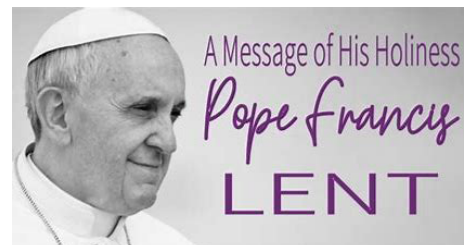


Dear Fellow-Catholics,

In his opening message for Lent 2024, Pope Francis said, "When our God reveals himself, his message is always one of freedom." Recalling the Exodus of the Hebrew people from Egypt, the Holy Father explains that our journey through the desert can be a season of grace, not an abstract journey, but a concrete path that involves seeing the world as it is and hearing the cries of our oppressed brothers and sisters.

The Pope reminds us that it is God who takes the initiative. He said, "Too often there remains within us an inexplicable longing for slavery, a desire to cling to idols that paralyze us, as Israel was paralyzed in the desert. Lent, however, is a season of grace, a time of conversion, where the desert can become a place where our freedom can mature in a personal decision not to fall back into slavery, where we find new criteria of justice and a community with which we can press forward on a road not yet taken."

He added that, "The Lenten journey involves a struggle. It is a time for action, but also a time to pause in prayer and to pause in the presence of a wounded brother or sister. Love of God and love of neighbour are one love." Pope Francis continued, explaining that "The contemplative dimension of Lent can help us release new energies to be more sensitive to one another; in the place of threats and enemies, we discover companions and fellow travelers."



Pope Francis concluded his Lenten message on a hopeful note: "To the extent that this Lent becomes a time of conversion, an anxious humanity will notice a burst of creativity, a flash of new hope." Calling on the faithful to "be ready to take risks," he invited them "to find the courage to see our world, not as in its death throes, but in a process of giving birth; not at the end, but at the beginning of a great new chapter of history." The Pope said, "Faith and charity take hope, this small child, by the hand. They teach her to walk, and at the same time, she leads them forward."

Full official text of the message can be found here:

<http://tinyurl.com/3pmrna3y>

Have a restful weekend and a blessed season of Lent!

Wes Jurkiewicz

Bishop Wes

**EVENTS that are to take place in
our Catholic community...**

- 14th of February, Wednesday: Ash Wednesday
- 17th of March, Sunday: St. Patrick's Parish Liturgical Feast
- 19th of March, Tuesday: St. Joseph's Parish Liturgical Feast
- 20th of March, Wednesday: 4:00pm - 6:00pm - Lenten Reconciliation Service at St. Michael's
- 21st of March, Thursday: 6:00pm - 8:00pm - Lenten Reconciliation Service at St. Theresa's
- 26th of March, Tuesday: 7:30pm - Chrism Mass at St. Theresa's

**MARK YOUR
CALENDAR!**



FIRST READING – Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

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 – Psalm 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.**

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.**

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

SECOND READING – 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

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

Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has arisen in our midst,
God has visited his people. *Lk 7:16*

Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL – Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to him and kneeling down begged him and said, "If you wish, you can make me clean." Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched the leper, 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.



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

Compassion means "to suffer-with-another." Jesus' heart manifests God's paternal compassion for (the leper), moving close to him and touching him. And this detail is very important. Jesus "stretched out his hand and touched him....

And immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean" (Mark 1:41-42). God's mercy overcomes every barrier....

ANGELUS, ROME, FEBRUARY 15, 2015

Dear Padre,

I am having a difficult time receiving Communion from a eucharistic minister who has been behaving in a manner that I don't consider moral. When I receive Communion from her, I feel like I am condoning her actions. Would it be wrong of me to go to a different person to receive Communion?

It seems unlikely that someone would assume you are condoning her actions by receiving Communion from her. We do not sin by receiving a sacrament from an unworthy person. What matters is how worthy we are to receive it. It might be wise to receive Communion from a different person if you are more concerned with this minister's behavior than you are with Jesus when you approach the sacrament.

It is not our task to expose and punish the sinner. If you look at the life of Jesus, you will see that he did everything possible

not to condemn sinners but to save them. We should take that as the model for our own lives. Try to find ways to encourage her to live a good life. Perhaps friendship would serve her better than a boycott of her Communion line.

When Jesus was presented with the woman caught in adultery, he did not pretend that it was right. Neither did he rush to condemn her. He looked for his opportunity to forgive and tell her to avoid sin. Use that as your example about how to treat the woman at church. ●



Around the Diocese . . . Our Parish News . . .

- **ST. PATRICK'S:** The Rosary takes place every Wednesday's morning at 10am. Everyone is welcome.
- **The 12:10pm Mass at St. Theresa's Cathedral** Please join us for Mass each Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. All are welcome.
- **LECTIO DIVINA takes place** every Monday evening at 7pm via Zoom. Franz Wohlmuth is the contact person, gwohlmuth@logic.bm. You will receive a Zoom link contact number along with the following Sunday readings. Monday evening meetings are led by Bishop Wes.
- **FILIPINO MASS** celebrated by Fr. Dandy at St. Joseph's the third (3rd) Saturday of each month at 11:00am, unless otherwise notified. *All are welcome.*
- **ST. THERESA'S GIFT SHOP:** The 2024 Catholic Calendar is available *Thank you for your continued patronage.*

The Catholic Company presents



5 ideas for Lenten penances
It's time to move beyond just giving up chocolate!

"What are you giving up for Lent?"


It's the question we are all asking each other right about now. And yes, giving up something we enjoy such as sweets, coffee, or our favorite TV show is a great start. These external penances are a necessary part of the season—and should be a part of our lives in some way throughout the year.

But what else can we do to actively cultivate virtue and really target our faults this Lent? How can we take our penances to the next level?



Here are 5 ideas that might prove a bit challenging—but try 'em out and you'll be enjoying some sweet spiritual fruit soon!

- 1. Mortify your will through the practice of obedience.**
Obedience takes different forms depending on our state in life. Those in religious life must obey their religious superiors, and children their parents. As lay adults, we can do it by cheerfully serving our spouse and children, fulfilling our assigned tasks at work, or simply allowing others to go first in the buffet line!
- 2. Attend especially to the tasks you don't like doing.** Padre Pio was once visited by the soul of a young friar who had



LENTEN SCHEDULE
ASH WEDNESDAY
February 14th - 7:30am and 7:30pm Masses with the distribution of Ashes
STATIONS OF THE CROSS
Friday February 16th, at 7:30pm with the Eucharist.
Each Friday evening at 7:30pm throughout Lent

Fr. Attilio has returned home. St. Michael's Sunday Mass will return to 10am as normal. Our thanks to Bishop Wes for celebrating the 5pm Vigil Mass these past three weeks.

FIRST HOLY COMMUNION classes continue in the hall each Sunday following the 10:00am Mass, in preparation for their celebration on Sunday, June 2nd.

Our February PPC monthly COFFEE SOCIAL will be postponed at this time. Illness and unexpected travel plans have caused this postponement.

Emmaus Bible Study is held Tuesdays at **3pm** in the Church sacristy.



ST. VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY

Our sincere thanks and appreciation for the generous donations received by the SVDP Society in 2023. We are humbled by and grateful for your generosity of spirit.

Your trust and support enabled the SVDP Society to provide several thousand meals to individuals and to assist many families through crisis situations at Christmas and throughout the year allowing us to play a small part in improving their quality of life.

Thank you and God bless you. - St. Vincent de Paul Committee

worked in the sacristy. The soul revealed that he suffered in purgatory because he'd been careless and negligent with his work. Complete every task meticulously, no matter how small and insignificant.

- 3. Embrace annoyances. Annoyances abound in this life.** Little flaws in other people especially provoke us to fixate on our aggravation. Very often the flaws are faults that we also are guilty of, but which we tolerate in ourselves. Over the next few weeks, when something in another person annoys you, examine yourself and discern how you, too, act or feel or think in that way.
- 4. Impose a strict watch on your tongue.** Innumerable, mundane complaints escape our mouths daily, fostering ingratitude—so guard your tongue and inspect what you want to say before speaking.
- 5. Check impulsive actions.** Be intentional in all that you do, asking yourself, "Do I really need to shoot off this text? Will this comment help anyone? Will I benefit from thoughtlessly popping snacks in my mouth?"