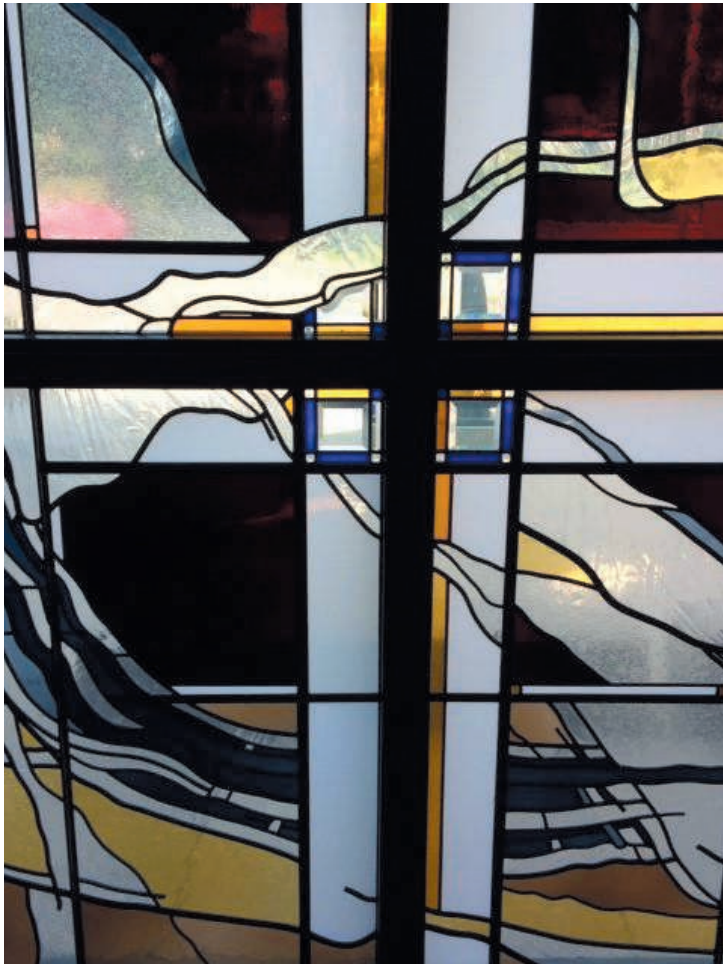




Church of St. Matthew

A Catholic community that is a visible expression of God's love



February 11, 2018
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

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All emails are

@st-matts.org

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frbobbkellyop

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Deacon Gregg Sroder

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srannebecker

Jill Kilzer, Music Ministry

jillkilzer

Steve Kowal, Maintenance Engineer

skowal

John Riehle, Administrator

jriehle

Linda Rivera, Parish Secretary

lrivera

Church - 510 Hall Avenue

Parish Center - 490 Hall Avenue

St. Paul, MN 55107

651-224-9793

Fax 651.222.2688

Website: st-matts.org

FACEBOOK: www.facebook.com/churchofstmatthew

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Friday 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Sacraments

Please contact the Parish Office regarding Baptism, Marriage, First Communion and Confirmation information.

Bulletin

Announcements are due on Monday by 10:00 a.m. for the next Sunday's bulletin. *Items received after 10:00 a.m. will appear in the following week's bulletin.*

Liturgy Schedule

Monday, Wednesday & Friday 8:00 a.m.

Saturday - 4:00 p.m.

Sunday - 10:00 a.m.

Reconciliation

Saturday 3:00 p.m. - 3:40 p.m.

and by appointment

Prayer Line

Hope 651.457.0228 Cathy 651.455.5473

Readings for the Week of February 11, 2018

Sunday: Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/Ps 32:1-2, 5, 11 [7]/1 Cor 10:31-11:1/Mk 1:40-45

Monday: Jas 1:1-11/Ps 119:67, 68, 71, 72, 75, 76 [77a]/Mk 8:11-13

Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18/Ps 94:12-13a, 14-15, 18-19 [12a]/Mk 8:14-21

Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20-6:2/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17 [cf. 3a]/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

Thursday: Dt 30:15-20/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6 [40:5a]/Lk 9:22-25

Friday: Is 58:1-9a/Ps 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 18-19 [19b]/Mt 9:14-15

Saturday: Is 58:9b-14/Ps 86:1-2, 3-4, 5-6 [11ab]/Lk 5:27-32

YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN!



One of the pastoral ministry resources to which I subscribe is called, *Celebrations* which is a *National Catholic Reporter* publication. Because in a number of ways it is a valuable resource, I contacted Denise Simeone, the Editor-in-Chief, and asked her for permission to include all or parts of articles in our Sunday Bulletin. Denise graciously gave her permission and this weekend I am happy to share with you a commentary on the gospel entitled "You Can Make Me Clean" written by Sr. Mary McGlone, CSJ.

Did you ever notice how time seems to slow down during the most meaningful moments of life? We may drive home without remembering a single portion of a 30-minute trek through traffic; someone accustomed to the kitchen may fix dinner hardly noticing the particulars she tends to in pre-heating, seasoning, chopping and putting a casserole in the oven. Yet, when we are standing at the bedside of a dying parent, attending the birth of a child or asking the question that will lead to a life-long decision, each second seems to have its own import as our feelings blend with sensual perceptions and create enduring memories. It is as if time's duration comes with variable thickness or weight.

Mark tells the story of Jesus and the man with leprosy with moment-enhancing emotion. Perhaps it is because Jesus had just told his disciples that going out among the people was the very reason for which he had come. Perhaps Mark knew the man in question and had reminisced about the story with him. Maybe it was just that Mark had discovered that the time of Jesus' life overflowed with moments of profound meaning and Mark dedicated himself to communicating them. For whatever motive, Mark tells this story in evocative detail.

When the leper came to Jesus, he was doing something forbidden. He must have been at least a little frightened. Instead of respecting the law that relegated him to the margins of society, he knelt down in front of Jesus as to one who not only had the power to help him, but who could also exercise the freedom to do what the law would not and could not do: to accept and heal rather than banish him.

Speaking with the audacity of someone who has no other options, the man summoned Jesus to reveal what he was all about: "If you wish, you can make me clean." The man had no question about whether Jesus could accomplish the feat, only whether Jesus wanted to do so, whether he would choose it as part of the mission for which he had come.

According to Mark, the man's request stirred Jesus to his depths. Even before he could speak, his hand was reaching out, touching the man's spurned and suffering body, transforming it with tenderness. Then pronouncing the words that explained his gesture and made his will effective, Jesus said, "I do will it. Be made clean."

With that, Jesus commissioned the healed man as the first apostle to the leaders of the Jews: "Go, show yourself to the priest ... offer what Moses prescribed; that will be proof." Whether the man got to the priests, we do not know, but he did not follow Jesus' order to keep quiet with others. His story made Jesus the man of the moment and took away any hope of anonymity. If he did not go to the towns, they came to him.

What gave this story its "thickness" was the man's vulnerable openness and honesty and Jesus' spontaneous tenderness. The man knew his own need like no one else, and he was willing to expose it. While society refused to countenance him, he found in Jesus someone who had no fear of contamination or mortality. The afflicted man's audacity met Jesus' utter freedom to love and that combination proclaimed the Gospel in the sight of the people.

It is a beautiful story. But, what does it tell those who do not suffer from leprosy? First of all, the story calls us to a recognition of all that we share with the leper. Since his condition was obvious, society ordered him to hide away from sight. We, on the other hand, are quite adept at hiding our weakness and the unsightly, sinful aspects of our life. Perhaps the worst of it is that we can hide them from ourselves, believing in the image we project rather than the truth of who we are. Our friend the one-time leper would remind us that Christ can only touch and heal what we bring before him; if we don't bring our genuine self, we will never truly encounter Christ. He might add that we never hear of Jesus reaching out and touching someone who was self-sufficient, but only those who knew they needed him.

Coming before God with a willingness to be nothing other than ourselves and to expose our need will take us into the realm of thick time. We may do that in private prayer, in sacrament or with a community. Mark told the story in a way that points out that the time and place do not matter. What is vital is the courage to place our truest self before God as well as the vulnerability to allow God to touch and transform us. Whether we ask for healing or forgiveness or inspiration, we can trust what Jesus said: "I do will it!"

May God's will be done!

www.CelebrationsPublications.org, |47:2)

News and Events

BELLS OF SAINT MATTHEW

The bells at Saint Matthew will ring on February 14th for Mariah and Nathan Ostile and on February 15th for Rob Romero.

METROPOLITAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA - THIS SUNDAY

On Sunday, February 11th at 3:00 p.m. the orchestra will present a one hour family friendly concert of "The Music of Heroes". Come hear the music from Star Wars, Harry Potter and Superman. Enjoy the sounds and adventure of Pirates of the Caribbean and so much more. *The concert is free, donations are gladly accepted.*

THANK YOU NEIGHBOR

On January 20th & 21st our parish collected 314 pounds of non-perishable food for the food shelf at Neighborhood House. Through your generous monthly donations you help to feed many of our friends and neighbors who might otherwise have little to eat. Thank you St. Matthew's parishioners, our next collection is next weekend February 17th and 18th.

BLAZING FORWARD

Save Sunday, April 15th at the 10:00 am Mass for a big celebration. It will mark the 50th anniversary of the church fire that destroyed our brick and mortar church. The good news is that in spite of the fire, we have always been "Blazing Forward" which is our theme for the event. In addition to sharing the stories from the church fire, we will be celebrating Father Steve Adrian's 76th birthday. He will be here to blow all those candles out on his cake!

WOMEN OF SAINT MATT'S

You are invited to attend the February 13th Rosary Society meeting. Katie Ritchie, who created the icon of Saint Matthew which hangs in the back of church, will be discussing her process for creating icons. The meeting begins at 6:45 pm. The program will begin at 7:00 pm. Come and learn more about icons and enjoy the good food and company.

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, February 10

4:00 pm Raymond Galep†

Sunday, February 11

10:00 am Our Parish

Consolation & Jovito Guiwan†

Monday, February 12

8:00 am Deacon John Murphy

Wednesday, February 14

8:00 am Living & Deceased Rosary/CCW Members

Friday, February 15

8:00 am Marina Galep†

Saturday, February 3

4:00 pm Pam, Robert Sr. & Lucille Stickler†

Sunday, February 4

10:00 am Our Parish

Gerry Garvey†

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Saturday, February 10

4:00 pm Mass

Sunday, February 11

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

3:00 pm Metropolitan Symphony Orchestra C

Monday, February 12

8:00 am Mass

Monday, Feb. 12-Thursday, Feb 15

5:00 - 6:00 pm Loaves & Fishes SH

Tuesday, February 13

6:45 pm Rosary/CCW Meeting SH

Wednesday, February 14

8:00 am Ash Wednesday Mass C

8:00 am - 5:30 pm St. Mary's Clinic PC

9:30 am Mass COS

6:30 pm Faith Formation

7:00 pm Ash Wednesday Mass C

8:00 pm Men's Club Meeting SH

Thursday, February 15

Friday, February 16

8:00 am Mass

4:00 pm Stations of the Cross C

4:30 - 7:30 Fish Fry SH

Saturday, February 17 - Food Collection

4:00 pm Mass


Sunday, February 18 - Food Collection

9:00 am Choir Practice

10:00 am Mass

11:00 am Coffee Sunday

Children's Corner



Ash
Wednesday

MASSES

8:00 a.m. Mass

9:30 a.m. Mass at Community of Saints

7:00 p.m. Mass

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Every Friday of Lent at 4:00 p.m.

WEEKLY CONTRIBUTIONS 02-04-2018			
Parish		School	\$ 279
Envelopes/Cash	\$ 3,502		
Electronic Giving	\$ 202		
Vigil Lights	\$ 23		
Fuel	\$ 35		
Memorial Mass	\$ 96		
Rent	\$ 450		
Stipends	\$ 250		
Total	\$ 4,558	Total	\$ 279
Thank You		Thank You	

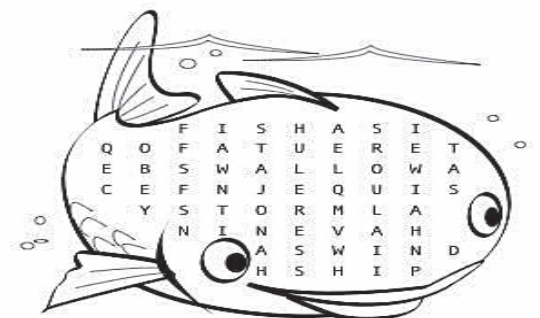
PLEASE REMEMBER

The Church of St. Matthew in a charitable will, trust, or gift annuity.

Jonah and the Big Fish

Word Search

Find the words on the list that are hidden in the puzzle. The words can be left to right, up and down, or diagonally.



FISH
JONAH
NINEVAH

OBEY
SEA
SHIP

STORM
SWALLOW
WIND

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