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"IF YOU WISH, YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN."

In today's gospel, a leper approaches Jesus and says, "If you wish, you can make me clean?" The leper does not ask Jesus a question: "Can you make me clean?" Or implore him for a favor: "Will you make me clean?" Perhaps this man has heard of the healings Jesus performed in Capernaum or maybe he had a sense of Jesus's closeness to God; in any case, this leper named Jesus as the one who possesses power over darkness.

Consider the broken and sinful places in our own lives and in the life of our community. What affliction might God be calling us to turn over to him and his infinite mercy. Do we have the faith to say to Jesus, "If you wish, you can make me clean?"

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT: (February 21) NOW IS THE TIME

After the ark comes the rainbow that bridges God's plan and human hopes. After the baptismal plunge into Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus says, "Now is the time for hope's fulfillment – repent and believe." Springtime Lent opens us to newness and possibility. The Holy Trinity patiently tends our hopes, nourishing us on the Eucharist. *Where do we set our hopes*? (Text, Philip J. Sandstorm, STD 1997, OCP, All rights reserved.)

Year of ST. JOSEPH

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Pope Francis spoke of St. Joseph as an intercessor, a support, and a guide in times of trouble. He turned his human vocation as the husband of Mary and guardian of Jesus into a total service of himself, his heart and all his abilities, a love placed at the service of Jesus who was growing into maturity in his home.

St. Joseph, lover of God's holy will, pray for us!

SANCTUARY LIGHT

February 14 – Harriet and Allan Kunz February 21 – Carl and Pat Mistler February 28 – Dale Tunny

MASS INTENTIONS

February 13 – Richard Wagner February 14 – Martha Ann Moorman February 20 – Bertha Wagner February 21 – Lucille Simon February 27 – Charles Simon February 28 – Ada Meister

1/26/21-2/8/21 PARISH SUPPORT

Sunday & Holy Day Collection	\$6144.00
Church in Latin America Collection	\$ 30.00
Propagation of the Faith Collection	\$ 10.00
Criterion Collection	\$ 100.00
Utilities Collection	\$ 200.00
Central & Eastern Europe Collection	\$ 45.00
Capital Improvement Donations	\$1110.00
Black & Native American Collection	\$ 50.00
Lenten Offering	\$ 105.00
Religious Ed Collection	\$ 490.00

Thank You For Your Faithful Giving!

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CELEBRATING LOVE

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio, 110, and Waldramina, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio's death, they were reportedly the world's oldest married couple. Their large family includes nine great-great-grandchildren!

Julio fell in love with his wife's beauty, her conversation and her big heart. Meanwhile, she found him "a poet with a young spirit." The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is "love + maturity + mutual respect," as well as patience, compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul's words, "Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth."

What better words to reflect upon as we celebrate another Valentine's Day!

<u>SECOND COLLECTION</u> – On the weekend of February 20-21, our Archdiocese will be taking up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. Please give as you are able.

<u>**THANK YOU**</u> – Words of gratitude: "Thank you for thinking of our little place for the holidays. It was such a trying time for all of us, and more so the residents. Your kindness is beyond appreciated. Thanks so much." (Silver Memories Health Care)

UNITED CATHOLIC APPEAL – WOW! YOU

DID IT! You surpassed your goal – Amount Pledged: \$13,783.00 – 101% of our goal! 71 of our households have pledged to this appeal.

Thank you – a wonderful way to express our gratitude for the grant money received from the Archdiocese.

ELEMENTARY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION -

Preschool through Grade 5 classes will be held on Wednesday, February 17 and 24, 6:45 PM.

Please Note: The children will be attending the Ash Wednesday Mass <u>in the parish hall</u> on February 17. Parents are encouraged to come to the church for this Mass.

On February 24, 7:00 PM, the children will receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

JUNIOR HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL RELIGIOUS

EDUCATION – Classes will be held on Sunday, February 21 and 28, 8:45 AM.

GOOD NEWS – On February 3, we signed a contract with General Restoration Corporation for \$217,382.00 for a complete tuckpointing of the church and a partial tuckpointing of the rectory. Because of the generous donations that we received during the Christmas season, we had enough funds to do both the church and rectory. This company was one of four that we contacted for an estimate. All estimates were reviewed by Eric Atkins, Director of Management Facilities for the Archdiocese, and he agreed with us that this company would perform an excellent job. The Parish Council and Finance Committee approved this project on January 14, 2021.

General Restoration plans to begin the work on March 1, 2021. It will take them approximately four months to complete. **BLOOD DRIVE** – Blood donors are still needed for our Community Blood Drive on Tuesday, Feb. 16. Call Arlene Gehl (812-852-4394) or go to www.hoxworth.org/groups/napoleon to schedule an appointment.

OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS – If you would like to send a "thinking of you" card to our college students, here are some addresses: Emma Spreckelson, 128 Wiggins St., Lafayette, IN 47906; Jane Spreckelson, 351 Northwestern Ave., Lafayette, IN 47906.

If any other youth would like to hear from us, please give us your address. We are praying for you.

<u>BLESSED</u> SACRAMENT – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament will be held on all Fridays during Lent.

WAY OF THE CROSS – Friday, February 19, 6:00 PM at St. Maurice.

<u>**RUMMAGE SALE**</u> – Our ladies are tentatively planning a rummage sale for this May. Any donations you have will be appreciated at that time.

HEALING SERVICE – Join Fr. Shaun Whittington for a Eucharistic Healing Prayer Service on Tuesday, February 16, at St. Nicholas Church in Sunman. Confessions begin at 6:30; praise & worship music at 6:45; and the service at 7:00 PM. Soaking Prayer will be offered. (Mask required to receive prayer.)

FISH FRY – Drive-Thru Fish Fry on Ash Wednesday at the K of C Hall in Batesville from 4:00 to 7:30 PM; Fish Dinner \$10 and Cheese Pizza Dinner \$5, and includes cole slaw, baked potato and green beans.

JOB OPPORTUNITY – Housekeeper for the Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg – Day Shift: Part-Time; 29 hours per week: every 9th Saturday; PTO benefits; Vision and Dental Benefits available.

If interested or for more details, contact S. Carolyn Hoff at 812-933-6465 or by email at <u>choff@oldenburgosf.com</u>.

<u>THE LORD'S LAUGHTER</u> – Headline in newspaper: "New Study of Obesity Looks for Larger Test Group." (via Rev. Paul Graves, The Joyful Noiseletter)



<u>A Time to Change</u>

The story is told of a man who was told by his doctor to give up red meat and so he stopped putting ketchup on his hamburgers! The season of Lent is all about making necessary changes in our life, not merely external changes, but sincere life-altering changes. Maybe for you it is about reducing stress, deepening relationships, focusing on prayer, giving up holding on to grudges. Maybe it is about... May Jesus bestow his grace of change upon you this Lenten season!

MASS FOR ASH WEDNESDAY: Wednesday, February 17, 7:00 PM. The children will be in the parish hall for the Mass so we will be able to accommodate more adults in church.

For the distribution of ashes, Fr. Bill will speak the words over all of us one time and then we will mark the foreheads of all who come forward to receive the ashes. Two parishioners will be in the middle of the aisle handing each person a coin. This coin will remind us of God's love for us and that we are called to love one another. PRAY THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS OUTSIDE THIS LENT!

LOCATIONS

All Saints - SJB Campus 25743 IN-1, Guilford, IN Oldenburg Convent 22143 Main Street, Oldenburg, IN St. Anthony of Padua 4773 Church Rd, Morris, IN St. Joseph 1357 E. Meiks Rd, Shelbyville, IN St. Lawrence 542 Walnut St, Lawrenceburg, IN

 Batesville Deanery

atesville Deanery Outdoor Stations of the Cross

FASTING AND ABSTINENCE: <u>Abstinence</u> from meat is to be observed by all Catholics fourteen years old and older on Ash Wednesday and on all the Fridays of Lent. <u>Fasting</u> means limiting oneself to one full meal on a given fast day. Catholics who are 18 years of age but not yet 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. On fast days, two additional meals are permitted but should not equal one full meal. Moreover, eating solid foods between meals on fast days is not permitted.

12 HOURS OF CONFESSIONS – EVERY FRIDAY THIS LENT

Each Friday during Lent, you can go to confession in the Batesville Deanery between 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

February 19 – St. Joseph – 228 E Hendricks, Shelbyville, IN 46176
February 26 – Camp RiverRidge – 6145 Harvey Branch Rd, Oldenburg, IN 47036
February 26 (9:00 – 1:00, 2:30 – 6:30) – St. Anthony, Morris – 4773 Church Rd, Morris, IN 47033
March 5 – All Saints, St. Martin campus – 8044 Yorkridge Rd., Guilford, IN 47022
March 12 – St. Mary's, Greensburg – 1331 E Hunter Robbins Way, Greensburg, IN 47240
March 19 – St. Joseph, Shelbyville – 228 E Hendricks, Shelbyville, IN 46176
March 26 – St. Lawrence, Lawrenceburg – 542 Walnut St, Lawrenceburg, IN 47025
March 26 (9:00 – 1:00, 2:30 – 6:30) – St. Louis, Batesville – 13 E St Louis PI, Batesville, IN 47006
April 2 (9:00 – Noon Only) – All Saints, St. Martin campus – 8044 Yorkridge Rd. Guilford, IN 47022
Additional Confession Times at St. Louis, Batesville – 13 E St Louis PI, Batesville, IN 47006:
Saturday, March 20 – 8:00 – 12:00 PM

Saturday, March 27 – 8:00 – 12:00 PM