
SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

FEBRUARY 14, 2021



HISTORY OF INNOCULATIONS

The enslaved man who was named Onesimus by his owner, Cotton Mather, a Puritan church minister, is believed to have been born in Africa in the late 17th century. He eventually landed in Boston in 1706 – a “gift” from Mather’s congregation.

According to several online sources, including history.com, when a smallpox epidemic hit the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1721, Onesimus told Mather about a centuries-old African tradition of extracting material from an infected person and scratching it into the skin of an uninfected person to make that person immune. An impressed Mather convinced Dr. Zabdiel Boylston to experiment with the controversial procedure, and although they received death threats, more than 240 people were inoculated.

Onesimus’ traditional African practice was also used to inoculate American Revolutionary War soldiers - and is credited with introducing the concept of vaccines.

A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE

We are continuing to share recommended resources for insight into the current issues of social justice from a Biblical/Church perspective.

And so we invite you to prayerfully consider the New York Times piece: “Isn’t 400 years enough? The failure to appreciate Black history leaves our nation incomplete.”

<https://www.nytimes.com/2021/02/10/opinion/black-history-month.html?referringSource=articleShare>

MASS INTENTIONS

- 5 p.m.: Jean Simmons, the Visco Family,
Grace McDonough and Janet Beardsley
10 a.m.: Charles Saleski, Gail Pearson,
Eileen Carson and Oswaldo Rivero

LAST WEEK’S MASS ATTENDANCE

- 5 p.m. Saturday, January 16: **50**
10 a.m. Sunday, January 10: **36** in the church;
0 in the hall

TURN TO THE DIVINE PHYSICIAN

You are in the doctor’s exam room, perched on the side of the examination table, awaiting the doctor’s return. When he does so, the doctor brings another one with him. Their combined verdict is clear: “Cancer.”

Because you’ve been a patient of this man’s for many years, you know of his special concern for you. You inherently know how much he would rather be saying something else.

That’s how it could be for any one of us. We dread the sudden imposition of isolation this may bring. Most family and friends take on a serious air when around us, so we are grateful for those who can still share a laugh. And when we are alone, we try to remember that - instead of holding a pity party.

This was part of the plight of the unnamed leper who met Jesus on that long-ago day. Jesus knew the pain of that man’s condition, but the social strictures Leviticus

demanding in those days were that he live apart from family and friends and shout out to everybody “Unclean! Unclean!” Still, Jesus will make all the difference.



Mark’s description that Jesus was “moved with pity,” is a tepid rendition of the original Greek word used here which is “*embrimesamenos*.” That word actually means “strong emotions that boil over and find expression in groaning.” That was the depth of the healing love in Our Lord’s great heart that day.

This weekend finds us in the vestibule, so to speak, of Lent. We can easily acknowledge our need of repentance at any time, but Lent is a special season for this. Think of it as a retreat or at least as a time to zero in on the “leprosy” of sin that infects our souls regularly. How supportive, consoling and hopeful it is to know that God sent us His son as an emissary who could be so concerned for our healing as to *groan* over us! I believe that prompted Jesus to say on another occasion: “Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will refresh you.”

In Lent, we’re all, figuratively speaking, in the office of the Divine Physician, the Healer of Souls. Tell him your condition, and then listen attentively. And don’t be like this man who consulted with his doctor: “I have a terrible problem,” he confided. “I’ve been carousing and misbehaving. It’s been happening more and more frequently, and my conscience is beginning to trouble me very deeply. Can you give me something?”

The doctor replied “Oh, I see. You want me to give you something to strengthen your willpower?” “No,” the patient protested. That’s not it. I don’t want to strengthen my willpower. I want you to give me something to weaken my conscience.”

Have a good Lent!

God love you and give you His peace,
- **Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**

Dear Lord, |

So far today, am I doing all right.



I have not gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, nasty, selfish, or self-indulgent. I have not whined, complained, cursed, or eaten any chocolate. I have charged nothing on my credit card.

But I will be getting out of bed in a minute, and I think that I will really need your help then.

God bless

ASH WEDNESDAY

This Wednesday, February 17, is Ash Wednesday. Mass with distribution of ashes will be celebrated at 9 a.m. and 7 p.m. Distribution of ashes *only* will take place for an hour after each Mass, approximately 9:30-10:30 a.m. and 7:30-8:30 p.m.



Fr. Sean, Deacon Carl and Deacon Michael will utilize a one-use-only, six-inch swab to safely apply the ashes without personal contact.

LENTEN BOOK CLUB

The Book Club's selection for Lent is Amy-Jill Levine's "Entering the Passion of Jesus: A Beginners Guide to Holy Week." Zoom discussions will take place 10-11:15 a.m. Tuesdays, February 23 to March 30.

The book studies six events that occur during the Passion account and reflects on the risks that Jesus took: reputation, anger, challenge, rejection, loss of friends and temptation. What risks have we taken in our own Christian experience?

Email Deacon Carl at carloc@yahoo.com for info.



the **CARDINAL'S**
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
Sharing God's Gifts

From supporting needy parishes and religious education to charitable outreach and COVID-19 relief, your generosity makes a difference. As of February 5, \$5,010.00 toward our goal of \$43,000 has been received/pledged by 21 families. Thank you.

Visit www.cardinalsappeal.org/donate to make your gift today

TREASURER'S REPORT

January 31-February 7: Totaled \$ 6,866.86

Envelopes: \$ 2,683.00 – Online: \$ 4,183.86

Thank you!

AT THE SHRINE

- A special segment of "Carmelite Wednesdays" will take place from 10-11 a.m. this Wednesday, February 17. "In the Desert with Mary" will be presented by Fr. Paul Denault. Freewill offering.
- Fr. Tim Ennis will lead a journey with the Gospel of Luke in "Luke for Lent" from 9:30-11 a.m. on Friday, February 19, followed by Mass and Stations of the Cross. Fee is \$15.

For more information about these events at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown, including how to register and/or participate via virtual livestream attendance, call Carol Bezak, Shrine director, at 343-1879.



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

Are you as smart as our Youth Ministry kids? We'll see: What is the above a photograph of?

At last week's meeting, each participant zoomed in on an ordinary object, the identity of which the others tried to guess. This photo was shared by Chris Worthington, the youth minister – and the kids guessed correctly almost immediately: A flashlight.

So how did you do?

The group, however, was stumped by the close-ups of a keyboard and computer mouse – even after given some verbal clues. But ballet pointe shoes, shiny leggings, a guinea pig and even the mystery machine from "Scooby Doo" were among those solved.

Some of the Scriptures then shared:

Ephesians 4:32 - Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as Christ God forgave you.

Jeremiah 29:11 - "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

Jeremiah 17:14 - Heal me, Lord, and I will be healed; save me and I will be saved, for you are the one I praise.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

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