

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**February 14, 2021**

FAMILY PERSPECTIVE. In today's Gospel, we hear how Jesus touches the leper who is considered impure and unclean due to his skin infection. The Gospel story is a story of mercy, acceptance, compassion and empathy. Jesus is "moved with pity" at the plight of the leper. Even though it broke the Jewish law of his time, Jesus reaches out to him and touches him. How as Christians do we treat our family members with mercy and acceptance and compassion? Throughout his life, Jesus seeks out those who are on the margins. How do we respond to those in our family who are on the margins of society or those who are shunned because we consider them unclean and unworthy?

ASH WEDNESDAY. This Wednesday, February 17, we begin the holy penitential season of Lent, a time for personal reflection on our relationship with God and with others, a time to return to the Lord with humble and contrite hearts, a time to remember that our bodies are dust and will return to dust, but our souls will come before the presence of God where we will be judged for what we have done and what we have failed to do. Ashes will be distributed during Mass. This year, because of COVID, following the ancient tradition of the Church, ashes will be sprinkled on the head rather than marking the forehead with a cross.

FAST AND ABSTINENCE. During Lent, Ash Wednesday and all Fridays are days of abstinence from meat and all meat products, including soups made from meat stock for everyone age 14 and older. Sorry, no senior citizen exceptions!! Meat is considered the flesh of any warm blooded animal, which includes poultry. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of strict fast for those 18 years of age to 59 years of age. Fasting means only one regular meal during the day, with lesser portions for the other two meals, and no snacking in between meals.

LENTEN DEVOTIONS. During Lent we will pray the Stations of the Cross in English on Fridays at 6:30 p.m. and in Slovenian on Sundays at 2:00 p.m., followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. We will also have Eucharist Adoration on Thursdays from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. On Fridays of Lent, we will have Mass at 7:00 p.m., following Stations of the Cross. There will be a Holy Hour after Mass concluding with Night Prayer, Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Make an extra Lenten sacrifice and join us in praying these devotions.

LAST CHANCE FOR 50/50 SPLIT THE POT WINTER RAFFLE! There are still a number of tickets available by the church entrance by the priest's sacristy and also in the rectory office. Raffle drawing will be on Tuesday evening, February 16th. At present time, the value of the pot is \$5,240.

Last Sunday's Offering: \$4,308**Initial Offering: \$450**

Church Needs: \$200 from Don & Donna Liechty; \$100 in memory of Ivanka Volčjak from John & Mary Ann Semen; \$20 in memory of Ivanka Volčjak from Ellen & Rose Mary O'Connor; \$20 in memory of Dušan Maršič from Elizabeth Small; \$50 in memory of Eleanore Lonchar from Ralph & Beverly Edwards; \$25 in memory of Marica Lavriša from Cirila Grajciar; \$20 in memory of Ivanka Volčjak from Ursula Stepec; \$20 in memory of Ivanka Volčjak from Victor Stepec.

The following in memory of Dorothy Hodnichak: \$100 from Roseann Hudock, \$100 from Alexander & Joyce Paszly, \$25 from Alicia Ciliberto, \$500 from Hodnichak Family, \$25 from Donna & Merle Sweeney; \$30 from Keith & Carol Miller, \$50 from Karen Lewis, \$15 from Veronica Petric, \$20 from Florian & Pat Osredkar.

Your generosity to the Parish is appreciated!

FROM ASHES TO REBIRTH. In our funeral liturgies we are reminded that life changes; life does not come to an end. The fires that have left so many forests in ashes, have also released an energy for new life. Emerging from the fire and ashes, we see a new beginning, new growth, a new springtime. During Lent we immerse ourselves in the fire of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving to burn away the old growth of our sins of selfishness, laziness and pride. We put new roots into the rich soil of the Scriptures; we nourish and water the new growth with the grace of the Sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Confession and Eucharist. Just as the intensity of fire burns off what is dry and lifeless and brings forth new life, we can't afford to be lukewarm in our commitment to this special time of rebirth if we are truly seeking a clean heart and renewed spirit. May Lent this year be fervent. May Easter be filled with the joyful hope of new and renewed spiritual life.

ANNUAL CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL. Next weekend in all the parishes of the diocese, we will have our in-pew commitment for Catholic Charities. This Year's theme is LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR. St. Mary's goal is \$34,377. Many of you may have already received a request from Bishop Malesic through the mail. Please be very generous in your support. Thousands of people are literally depending on you to be a good and caring neighbor.

PARISH COUNCIL MEETING will be on Tuesday, February 16th beginning at 6:30 p.m. in the Slovenian Room. We will be serving a rice, blood and garlic sausage dinner to council members and then have our 50/50 Split the Pot Winter Raffle drawing. A reminder that the raffle tickets should all be turned in to the rectory office by 12 noon on Tuesday, February 16th. Council will also discuss the possibility of upcoming events and other questions and concerns about parish life.

Today's Psalm Response:**"I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation."**

Masses for the Week of February 15-21, 2021

Monday:	(2/15) WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Fr. John Robbins, CSB (George Rozman)
Tuesday:	(2/16) WEEKDAY
7:45 a.m.	Eleanore Lonchar (30 Day)
Wednesday:	(2/17) ASH WEDNESDAY
7:45 a.m.	Millie Senger (Carol Bischof)
7:00 p.m.	Viktor Tominec
Thursday:	(2/18) THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
7:45 a.m.	Roy Sankovic
Friday:	(2/19) FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
7:45 a.m.	Frances Coberly (Ivanka Matic)
7:00 p.m.	Poor Souls
Saturday:	(2/20) SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY
7:45 a.m.	Adolf Tomc (Terezija Ferkulj)
5:00 p.m.	Jennie Koenig (Koenig Family)
Sunday:	(2/21) FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
8:00 a.m.	Mary Jane Slomkowski (Linda & Rick Smigla)
10:00 a.m.	Merela & Bobič Families (Margie Tarasco)
12:00 noon	Parishioners

Please Pray for Our Sick: Rev. William Jerse, Paul Frate, Robert Menart, Terezija Zelko, Tom McNulty, Mladen & Dušanka Lengel, Zdravko Novak, Brenda Prebevsek, Camilla Brown.

IZ PEPELA V PREPOROD. V naši pogrebni liturgiji smo opomnjeni da življenje se spremeni; življenje se ne uniči. Ogenj, ki je pustil veliko gozdov v pepelu so tudi izpustili energijo za novo življenje. Priti iz ognja in pepela, vidimo novi začetek, novo rast, novo pomlad. Med Postom se mi zatopimo v ogenj posta, molitve in miloščine, da zažgemo staro rast naših grehov sebičnosti, lenobe, ponosa. Mi posadimo nove korenine v rodovitno zemljo Sv. Pisma; mi hranimo in zalivamo to novo rast z milostjo Zakramentov, posebno Zakramentov spovedi in Evharistije. Prav tako kot jakost ognja zažge kar je suho in brez življenja in zbudi novo življenje, mi ne moremo si privoščiti biti mlačni v naši obveznosti temu času preporoda, če resnično iščemo čisto srce in obnovljeni duh. Naj Post to leto bo goreč. Naj Velika noč bo polna z radostnim upanjem in novega obnovljenega duhovnega življenja.

ZADNJA PRILIKA ZA 50/50 SREČKE ZIMSKEGA ŽREBANJA. Še vedno imamo srečke v cerkveni veži pri zakristiji in tudi v župnišču. Žrebanje bo na Pustni torek 16. februarja. Do sedaj je vrednost \$5,240.

DANES JE 6. NAVADNA NEDELJA.

DRUŽINSKA PERSPEKTIVA. V današnjem Evangeliju slišimo kako se Jezus dotakne gobavca, ki je smatran za nečistega, zaradi njegove kožne infekcije. Evangelijeva pripoved je pripoved usmiljenja, sprejema, sočutja in čustvenosti. Jezus je "ganjen s sočutjem" na žalostno stanje gobavca. Četudi prelomi judovsko postavbo njegovega časa, Jezus stegne roko in se ga dotakne. Kako mi kot kristjani ravnamo z našimi družinskimi člani z usmiljenjem, sprejemanjem in sočutjem? Skozi njegovo življenje, Jezus išče tiste, ki so na robu. Kako mi odgovarjamo tistim v naši družini, ki so na robu družbe ali tistim, ki se jih izogibamo zato ker jih smatramo za nečiste in nevredne?

PEPELNIČNA SREDA. To sredo 17. februarja začnemo, sveti spokorni čas Posta; čas za osebno premišljevanje na naš odnos z Bogom in drugimi, čas vrniti se k Gospodu s ponižnim in skesanim srcem, čas spomniti se, da naša telesa so prah in se v prah vrnejo, toda naše duše bodo šle pred navzočnost Boga, kjer bomo sojeni za kar smo slabega storili in dobrega opustili. Pepel bo razdeljen med mašo. Letos, zaradi COVID, bom sledili starodavno tradicijo Cerkve, in pepel bo posujen na glavo namesto zaznamovan na čelo s križem.

POST IN ZDRŽEK. V Postnem času, Pepelnična sredo in vsi petki v Postu so dnevi zdržka od mesa in vseh mesnih izdelkov, tudi juhe narejene z mesom za vse od 14 leta in starejše. Oprostite! Nič upokojenskih izjem! Meso se smatra od vsake tople krvne živali, tudi kokoši. Pepelnica in Veliki petek sta dneva strogega posta za vse od 18 leta do 59 leta. Postiti se, pomeni samo eden navaden obrok čez dan z manjšo porcijo za ostala dva in nič med obroki.

POSTNE POBOŽNOSTI. Križev pot bomo molili angleško vsak petek v Postu ob 6:30 zvečer in slovensko vsako nedeljo ob 2:00 uri popoldan z blagoslovom. Ob petkih v Postu bo maša ob 7:00 zvečer po Križevem potu. Po maši bo Sv. ura z večerno molitvijo, litanijami Srca Jezusovega in blagoslov. Naredite postno žrtvico, da se nam pridružite v molitvi teh pobožnostih.

SESTANEK PASTORALNEGA SVETA, bo v torek 16. februarja ob 6:30 zvečer. Servirali bomo večerjo s riževim in krvavimi klobasami ter pečenicami, članom pastoralnega sveta. Po večerji bo 50/50 zimsko žrebanje. V opomin, da srečke morajo biti vrnjene v župnišče do 12:00 opoldan v torek 16. februarja. Svet bo tudi razpravljal o možnosti prihodnjih dogotkov in zadev o življenju župnije.

KAMPANJA KATOLIŠKE DOBRODELNOSTI. Naslednji vikend v vseh župnijah škofije bomo imeli v klopih obveznost za Katoliško dobrodelnost. Letos je tema "Ljubi svojega bližnjega." Marije vnebovzete cilj je \$34.377. Veliko vas je verjetno prejelo prošnjo po pošti od škofa Malešiča. Prosimo, bodite radodarni v vaši podpori. Na tisoče ljudi so dobesedno odvisni na vas, da bi bili dober in skrben sosed.

**ODPEV DANAŠNJGA PSALMA JE:
GOSPOD, TI SI MOJE ZAVETJE.**