

FEBRUARY 7, 2021
FIFTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

Reflection from Fr. Bernard Doré

Today's Readings speak of human sufferings and invite us to take all our sufferings and pains to God who loves us and cares for us and is ready to help us always.

In the First Reading, we have Job. Job has usually been depicted as a model of patience in adversity. But this picture is not wholly accurate: Job complained bitterly about the tragedies of his life, and today, we hear him in a very pessimistic mood, moaning about life's apparent emptiness.

In the Second Reading, St. Paul tells how he has made himself all things to all people in order to bring them The Good News of Salvation.

The Gospel shows that Jesus' Purpose was to free man from everything that stands in the way of genuine freedom: sickness, malice and even death itself. Jesus continues his work as the Savior, by freeing Simon's mother-in law from illness and freeing possessed persons from the power of evil.

Secondly we also see the fact that in the midst of all his activities of teaching and healing, Christ always finds it necessary to escape to a lonely place to pray. In prayer, Jesus expresses his intimacy with His Father and draws strength from Him to be able to continue His mission. We find Jesus praying alone and in the silence of the morning.

This attitude of Jesus in praying reminds us of the importance of prayer in our daily Christian life. Prayer opens up the door of communication and intimacy to the Father. In prayer, we can raise to our Father in Heaven our everyday concerns, sufferings, pains and all our struggles in life, and also express our sincere gratitude for the many blessings that He continues to give us. In prayer, we can find all the strength and consolation, meaning for all our sufferings and pains. God allows sufferings in our daily lives for our own salvation and sanctification.

Let us accept all our sufferings with faith and unite them with the sufferings of Christ for our own salvation and sanctification and for the salvation of the whole world. Like Jesus let us seek God in prayer. In the silence of our hearts in prayer, God speaks the loudest.

**Praise the lord, who heals
the brokenhearted.**

Psalm 147



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OFFICE HOURS	9:00 AM – 2:00 PM (MON, WED, THU, FRI)
WEEKDAY MASSES	9:00 AM (MON, WED, FRI)
SATURDAY VIGIL MASS	5:00 PM
SUNDAY MASSES	8:00 AM 10:00 AM

ST. PAUL'S UPCOMING SCHEDULE

Saturday	February 6
9:30—11 AM	Food Closet Open
5:00 PM	Mass:

Sunday	February 7
8:00 AM	Mass:
9:15 AM	Rosary
10:00 AM	Mass: Ferdinand Fernandez (RIP)

Monday	February 8
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Deceased Members of Frois Family
7:00 PM	Knights of Columbus Meeting

Wednesday	February 10
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Wodziak & Tarsa Families

Friday	February 12
8:35 AM	Rosary
9:00 AM	Mass: Souls in Purgatory

NEXT WEEKEND'S MASS INTENTIONS

5:00 PM	Open for your Intentions
8:00 AM	Open for your Intentions
10:00 AM	Mass: Norma Gannon (RIP)

PLEASE CONSIDER COMMEMORATING
A LOVED ONE AT THE EUCHARIST



For over a thousand years the Church has used this 40-day period of Lent to prepare ourselves for the celebration of Easter and renew our relationship with God. It is a time for struggling against the compulsions and demands of our material lives and creating more opportunities to grow spiritually through God's grace, which is God's own life in us.

Take advantage of these ways in which we can meet God's mercy this Lent at our parish:

Ash Wednesday

February 17 is Ash Wednesday. The Masses will be celebrated at 7 AM, 9 AM & 7 PM. To "rub" ashes on the forehead in the form of a cross has been suspended for this year in light of the pandemic. So the ashes will be distributed by "sprinkling" them on each person's head. If you are not comfortable about this form, you are not required to receive them.

Daily Mass & Rosary

Daily Mass will be celebrated from Monday through Friday at 9 AM. The Rosary will also be prayed before Mass starting at 8:35 AM.

Stations of the Cross

This traditional Lenten devotion will be prayed every Friday at 9:30 AM.

Fasting During Lent

As a sign of regret for sin and rededication to God, Catholics observe two simple obligations about fasting during Lent: First, if we are 14 years or older, (and in good health), we don't eat meat on Ash Wednesday and the Fridays of Lent. Second, those of us who are between the ages of 18 and 59 have the special obligation to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday: we eat only one full meal that day and take no solid foods between meals. That means our other regular meals are of much smaller portions, with no snacking in between.

(But remember, health issues excuse a person from these obligations.)

February Birthdays

Happy Birthday to all parishioners with a birthday in the month of February. May your birthday be touched with His presence, and your heart be filled with His love and joy!

Food Closet Ministry

This month we are in need of **Canned Soups, and Chef Boyardee Spaghetti-O's. And also Plastic Bags.** The Food Closet is open every other Saturday morning 9:30- 11 AM

Rhode Island Catholic Subscription

In March 2020, COVID-19 changed everything and your diocesan newspaper responded immediately moving all publishing online to the RI Catholic website, TheRICatholic.com. Now more than ever, your diocesan newspaper depends on its faith readers to continue its 145 year mission of bringing the good news. Please subscribe or renew online or see newspaper for more info.

Help with Altar Flowers

St. Paul's is looking for volunteers to help once a month with altar flowers. Call the office for more details.

End of Year Statements

2020 End of Year Statements were mailed out this week. Please let us know if you haven't received one or if there are any discrepancies. Thank you.

Support St. Paul's

Set up a reoccurring donation (or make a gift at anytime) using our secure, online giving tool by ParishSOFT.

Visit our website at stpaulsfoster.org, and click the "Donate Now" button.

Thank you!

Second Collection—February 6/7

This weekend's second collection will be used to help with cost of **utilities.**

GIFTS RECEIVED

Offertory Collection - January 30/31

\$2,517.00

Church in Latin America - January 30/31

\$ 260.00

Thank you for your support!

Living the Liturgy

Inspiration for the week

Have you ever wondered what life would be like if you could see the future and know how things turn out? While it's intriguing to ponder what life would be like if we possessed this knowledge, actually knowing could easily rob us of the thrill, adventure, and soul-searching graces of our journey. Like Job, life does not always leave us on a happy note. Life experience can bring us face-to-face with our mortality and leave us with a profound sense of helplessness. We do not see the wholeness and fulfillment that will one day come and cannot grasp the certainty that a resolution to our plight will come our way. We need to learn how to reach for Jesus' hand and let him help us to our feet. Living a life of faith means realizing that we are not here to figure out life on our own. In order to drink deeply of what life presents us, we have to wrestle in the depths of our souls, agonize and search, possibly reach the lowest point of desperation, and cry out for the divine healing we need to restore our faith, hope, and love. It is no wonder that those who are touched by God's healing power want to then serve others and show them the deeper waters that can be explored. Knowing too much can rob us of joyful surprises.

KIDS CORNER

Sharing the Gospel

Simon Peter's mother-in-law was sick in bed with a fever. Jesus went to her. He took hold of her hand and helped her up. The fever left her. She felt so good, she cooked them a nice meal to celebrate. Neighbors brought all of their sick loved ones to be cured. When we pray today, Jesus still comes to those who are sick and heals them. He cures through doctors, nurses, medicines, and machines.

Prayer

Lord, heal my family and friends who are sick today.

Mission for the Week

I will make get well cards for three sick people in our church.