

# St. Mary's Catholic Church

5<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday

February 7, 2021

Dear Brother and Sisters:

Eventually, most of us will have to face and struggle with some sort of **demon** in our life. Traumatic experiences, emotional disasters, sinful temptations, life-altering changes, and shattered dreams trap us, enslave us, cripple, and wound us deeply. Tragedies in our lives can **possess** us; causing us to stumble and fall into an empty void of darkness. The **demons** in our life can leave us feeling alone and forgotten because they drain us of our hope and life. **Demons** can set us back and force us to surrender to them rather than confront them. The **demons** of anger, bitterness, envy, fear, hatred, hurt, inadequacy, jealousy, misfortune, prejudice, resentment, sadness, and weariness can suddenly overwhelm us at any moment, causing us to destroy our lives and the lives of others. We need the gifts of healing and forgiveness to chase away our **demons** and reclaim our lives. Healing and forgiveness are necessary for us so that we can restore our relationship with God, family, friends, and even with our selves. God's mercy and grace provides that healing and forgiveness that we all need in facing our **demons**. God's amazing grace enables us to drive out those **demons** that divide our families and communities, severs our relationships, and renders our spirits in hopelessness and despair. God's amazing grace empowers us to cast out the **demons** that isolate us, that mire us in fear, worries, and selfishness, and blind us to the love of God that is within us and within those around us.

Today's Scripture readings re-affirm the fact that **demons** exist in our lives and in our world. However, more importantly, our readings **reassure** us that our God **does** provide us with His love and healing power to cast out those **demons**.

In today's first reading, Job bemoans his fate and misfortune as he wrestles with the **demons** of anger, anxiety, depression, drudgery, frustration, hopelessness, loneliness, and misery. Job bemoans the harshness of his life situation and he blames God for his hardships and sufferings. We can almost hear him saying: "What's the point of this life anyway?" as he is convinced that there is nothing more for him to live for. Job feels that he is without hope, his days are short and he will never experience happiness again. But despite his **demons**, tribulations, and sufferings, Job remains faithful and obedient to God's will. Ultimately, God does grace Job with a healing power to confront and conquer his **demons** and sufferings. God restores Job's fortunes, rewarding him with twice as much as before. Job's message for us is that we too must endure our **demons**, hardships, and sufferings in this life and remain faithful and obedient to God.

*Continued...*

## Weekend Masses

Sat Feb 6	4:00 p.m	Rhonda Staley
Sun Feb 7	8:00 a.m.	For our Parish
Sun Feb 7	10:00 a.m	Larry + Imogene Mathewson
Sat Feb 13	4:00 p.m	Jim Alt + Kathy Sehlhorst
Sun Feb 14	8:00 a.m.	Ethan Leiber
Sun Feb 14	10:00 a.m	Bill Koch

## SUNDAY COLLECTION

Adults	\$779.00	Loose \$60.00
	Total	\$839.00
	20 envelopes returned = 10%	



*Thank you for your generosity!  
Thank you also to those who give  
electronically!!*

## Assignments for February 13 & 14, 2021

**Money Counters: Tonya Meyer, Barb Galvan**  
**4:00 p.m.**

**Cantor:**  
**Ushers:** Dave and Shirley Siefker  
**Lector:** Jason Swartzlander  
**E.M.:** Jeanne Parinello  
**Servers:** Evan Grothause

**8:00 a.m.**

**Cantor:** Katie Hohenbrink  
**Ushers:** *Volunteer*  
**Lector:** *Volunteer*  
**E.M.:** *Volunteer*  
**Server:** *Volunteer*

**10:00 a.m.**

**Cantor:** Katie Hohenbrink  
**Ushers:** Mike and Rhonda Maag  
**Lectors:** Anna Schroeder  
**E.M.:** Jim Tabler  
**Servers:** Ethan Hoffman

## **Readings for February 14, 2021** **6<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Sunday**

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Leviticus 13:1 – 2, 44 – 46  
2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:31 – 11:1  
Gospel Reading: Mark 1:40 – 45



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## **Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession**

is a three-week study that explores the grace and healing offered in Confession and shows how this sacrament of mercy reveals the depth and bounty of God's love. By looking at God's revelation of his mercy in Scripture and making a step-by-step examination of the Rite itself, Forgiven communicates God's invitation to each one of us to come experience his indescribable love in the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

<https://watch.formed.org/forgiven>

**Session 1:** Where are You? - *February 20-21*

**Session 2:** An Encounter with Mercy - *March 6 - 7*

**Session 3:** Embraced in Mercy: The Rite Explained  
- *March 20 - 21*

Also, check out "Forgiven - For Children: How to Make a Great Confession"

**The Serra Club of Lima Area**, which exists to promote vocations to the priesthood and religious life, will have their next meeting on Thursday, February 11 at St. Charles Church. Guests are welcome either in person or via live stream ([www.stcharleslima.org](http://www.stcharleslima.org)). Mass will begin at 6:30PM followed immediately by the program. This month's program speaker will be Kathy Dickson, Director of Vocational Discernment at Methodist Theological School of Ohio, speaking on "Vocational Discernment for Life." Social distancing practices will be in place. No reservations are required. If any questions, call Kathy McGraw 419-303-0339