

NOTES FROM FR. SEÁN

February 14, 2021

In Today's Gospel

In the ancient world, leprosy was a particularly difficult disease. Not only did people with leprosy suffer the effects of the disease, but they also suffered rejection and isolation from the community. As we saw in the first reading, those with leprosy had to cry out, "Unclean, Unclean!" as they walked down the street, allowing everyone to avoid them. They were not even allowed to worship in the Temple.

One of the worst aspects of COVID-19 is the isolation that it causes. We must all wear masks, and, even though we do not have to shout out "Unclean, Unclean," we do have to stay 6 feet apart regardless.

Fortunately, although some cannot come to the church to worship, modern technology gives us the ability to join in worship from home. In today's gospel, Jesus did more than just heal a man with a disease. He restored that man to communion with God's people. Even as we suffer through COVID-19, let us find ways to restore our communion with one another.

World Marriage Sunday

Today, we celebrate World Marriage Sunday. Throughout Scripture, the image of marriage is used to describe the relationship between God and his people. When a husband and wife enter marriage, the unbreakable union between one man and one woman, they form a covenant with God and with each other. Today we honor that covenant. Congratulations to all of you men and women who have dedicated your lives to each other and who continue to grow in a life of love and holiness in your marriage and in your family.

Fish Fry

Last year, we had to cut short our Fish Fry due to the pandemic. This year, we are bringing back the Fish Fry. Because of the pandemic, things will be a little bit different this year. *We will not have dine-in service.* Meals will need to be ordered ahead of time and brought out to your car once you arrive.

In an effort to limit the number of people needed to prepare the food, we have simplified our menu this year. For our first Fish Fry, on February 19th, the menu will be limited to fried fish and french fries. Coleslaw, green beans, and baked potatoes will still be available at no additional charge. As we gain experience, we may increase our menu offerings in the future.

For more information or to place your order, go to www.stmarywayne.org.

Universal Dispensation

For nearly a year now, we have been living with COVID-19. In that time, we have seen the public celebration of the Mass suspended for more than two months and many of us are still unable to attend Mass due to concerns about the pandemic. Because of this, Archbishop Vigneron has given a series of universal dispensations from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass.

With the current dispensation set to expire on February 17th, the Archbishop has once again extended the dispensation. The dispensation has been extended to March 13th. The Archbishop has made it clear that he does not intend to extend the universal dispensation beyond March 13th.

With the expiration of the universal dispensation, there will still be those who cannot, or should not, attend Mass. These people will still be dispensed from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. (Continued)

Even with the expiration of the universal dispensation, the following people still have no obligation to attend Mass:
1) If you are sick or have a compromised immune system, or if you care for someone who is sick or has a compromised immune system. 2) If you may have recently been exposed to someone who tested positive. 3) If you are pregnant. 4) If you are over 65. 5) If, through no fault of your own, you do not have the ability to get to Mass. or 6) If you have a significant fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.

For additional information, please go to www.aod.org/comehometohope. Although I look forward to seeing you back in church, we will continue to livestream the 11:30 and 2:00 Masses for those of whom it is not yet safe to return to Mass.

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