



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 28

February 7, 2021

Dates to Remember

- February 6: 4:00 PM Mass
- February 7: 9:00 AM Mass
- Please see our parish website for reservation information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

Food for Thought

At this moment too, Jesus is walking ahead of us. He is always before us. He goes ahead of us and leads the way. This is the source of our confidence and our joy: to be his disciples, to remain with him, to walk behind him, to follow him. So let us allow Jesus to call us to himself. And let us listen to him, with the joy that comes from receiving his word together, from letting ourselves be taught by that word and by the Holy Spirit, and to become ever more of one heart and soul, gathered around him. The Church needs your courage, to proclaim the Gospel at all times, both in season and out of season, and to bear witness to the truth.

— Pope Francis

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Mark 1: 29-39

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Mark.

On leaving the synagogue

Jesus entered the house of Simon and Andrew with James and John.

Simon's mother-in-law lay sick with a fever.

They immediately told him about her.

He approached, grasped her hand, and helped her up.

Then the fever left her and she waited on them.

When it was evening, after sunset,

they brought to him all who were ill or possessed by demons.

The whole town was gathered at the door.

He cured many who were sick with various diseases,

and he drove out many demons,

not permitting them to speak because they knew him.

Rising very early before dawn, he left

and went off to a deserted place, where he prayed.

Simon and those who were with him pursued him

and on finding him said, "Everyone is looking for you."

He told them, "Let us go on to the nearby villages

that I may preach there also.

For this purpose have I come."

So he went into their synagogues,

preaching and driving out demons throughout the whole of Galilee.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

World Day of the Sick

Instituted by Pope Saint John Paul II in 1992, February 11 is observed as World Day of the Sick, a day to remember and pray for those who are suffering from illness and for their caregivers.

This observance takes place on the feast day of Our Lady of Lourdes, which commemorates the appearance of our Blessed Mother to a young girl named Bernadette Soubirous in the town of Lourdes in southeastern France on February 11, 1858. At the Blessed Mother's request, a chapel was built at the site of her appearance and a spring of water began to flow that continues to this day. Over 5,000 cures have been recorded at Lourdes, although only about seventy have been officially declared as miraculous. Each year, over 2 million people travel to Lourdes to seek healing and cures.

During this time when so many have fallen ill to COVID-19, let us pray to Our Lady of Lourdes on her feast day for all people who suffer from any illness and for all caregivers and medical personnel who continue to work tirelessly to bring healing and restored health to those they care for each day.

Sunday Gospel Connection: February 7, 2021

The Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B

Mark 1: 29-39

Gospel Background: Today we continue to read from Mark's Gospel, learning more about the ministry of Jesus. Jesus cured Simon's mother-in-law, and she immediately began to serve Jesus and his disciples. Jesus also cured many others who were brought to him, healing their illnesses and driving out demons. As we will see throughout Mark's Gospel, Jesus did not permit the demons to speak because they knew his identity and would have revealed it to those who were present.



On the morning after this busy day, Jesus retreated in prayer, but was pursued by Simon and others who brought news that many people were looking for him. At this point in Mark's Gospel, we begin to see a distinct role for the inner circle of Jesus' disciples—they act as intermediaries between Jesus and the people. Jesus reports to his disciples that they need to leave Capernaum to preach in other places.

Today's Gospel completes a picture of Jesus' ministry: preaching, curing the sick, driving out demons, and then moving on to continue this work in another place. Mark's Gospel tells us that Jesus did this throughout Galilee.

Jesus' compassion and healing of the sick is a sign of the Kingdom of God. The Church continues to extend Christ's healing presence to others in its ministry to the sick. In the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick, the Church prays for spiritual and physical healing, forgiveness of sins, and comfort for those who are suffering from illness.

In today's Gospel we also notice the importance of prayer in Jesus' daily life. Jesus rose early in the morning, removed himself from the crowds, and went to a deserted place to pray. When the disciples found him, he told them that it was time to move on. We believe that in his prayers Jesus found guidance and direction from God. We also bring our decision-making to God in prayer, asking for his guidance and direction in our lives.

Family Connection: We know from last week's Gospel that Jesus gathered and prayed with the community in the synagogue. Today we learn that Jesus also took the time to pray alone. Following the example of Jesus, we also pray together with our community, and we take the time to pray alone. Our children observe our prayer with others. We might want to take the opportunity to talk with them about our private prayer, however, so that through our example, they may learn to make private prayer an important part of their daily lives.

Gather as a family and talk about the ways in which your family prays together (at Mass, grace before meals, bedtime prayers). Invite each member of the family to talk about his or her private prayer: When do you pray? Where do you pray? How do you pray? What do you pray for?

Jesus modeled for us a life of prayer. Read together today's Gospel, Mark 1:29-39. Talk about this Gospel with your family. Ask questions such as the following: What do you think Jesus was praying about in today's Gospel? What guidance have you received from God in prayer? Conclude by asking God to bless our times of prayer so that we can know and follow God's ways. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/fifth-sunday-of-ordinary-time-b-sunday-connection/>

LOYOLA PRESS.
A JESUIT MINISTRY