

**FEBRUARY 19, 2012: Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**



He said to the paralytic, "I say to you, rise, pick up your mat, and go home." He rose, picked up his mat at once, and went away in the sight of everyone. They were all astounded and glorified God, saying, "We have never seen anything like this." — *Mt 9:1-12*

**LITURGY**

**MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS**

**Sunday, February 19 (Is 43:18-19, 21-22, 24b-25/2 Cor 1:18-22/Mk 2:1-12)**

8:00 am- For our Parish Family  
10:30 am- Mass of Thanksgiving – Lester & Dorothy Sicko's 52<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary

**Monday, February 20 (Jas 3:13-18/Mk 9:14-29)**

7:00 am- Don Peterson  
10:00 am- Louis P. Mikulenska (H'ville Rehab)

**Tuesday, February 21, St. Peter Damian, Bishop & Doctor of the Church (Jas 4:1-10/Mk 9:30-37)**

7:00 am- Mary Butschek

**Wednesday, February 22, Ash Wednesday (Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20--6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18) Fast & Abstinence**

6:45 am- Leon Klekar, Sr.  
8:05 am- Living & deceased members of Catholic Financial Life  
12:05 pm- Leon Bujnoch  
6:15 pm- Eugene Mucala (CCD Mass)

**Thursday, February 23, St. Polycarp, Bishop & Martyr (Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25)**

7:00 am- Lawrence & Ruth Grubert  
10:00 am- Henrietta Janak (Stevens)

**Friday, February 24 (Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15) Abstinence**

7:00 am- Joe E. & Mary Smolik  
8:05 am- Gilbert Butschek  
12:05 pm- Living & deceased members of George & Apolena Bujnoch Family  
6:00 pm- Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, February 25 (Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32)**

5:30 pm- John D. Henneke

**Sunday, February 26 (Gn 9:8-15/1 Pt 3:18-22/Mk 1:12-15)**

8:00 am- Louis R. Kallus & Carolyn Steffek  
10:30 am- Mary & Floyd Simmons & Floyd, Jr.  
5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Bulletin Sponsor: Charles & Doloris Leopold

Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Raymond B. Steffek in memory of Joe R. & Emilie Steffek Family.

Vigil Light: Special intention for employment.

Our Gift to God: Env.-\$5,123; Loose-\$973; Childrens-\$37

Anniversaries:

Leo & Evelyn Hoffer	62 years	Feb. 21
Lester & Dorothy Sicko	52 years	Feb. 21
Robert & Patricia Kessler	45 years	Feb. 25

Catholic Daughters members, please mail your \$20 dues for 2012 to Anita Steffek, 549 C R 186, Hallettsville.

**Perpetual Adoration** - Adorer needed on Thursdays at 12:00 midnight. Please call Charlene Bradbury 798-3224.

**CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

**MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20**

-Rosary & Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., Church.  
-Cantor/Organist Practice (Lent & Easter music), 6:15 pm.  
-Adult Choir Practice (Lent & Easter music), 7:00 pm.  
-Catholic Daughters Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Family Center.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21**

-Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.  
-Adult Education Class, 7:00-8:30 p.m., Family Center.  
-Serra Club Meeting, 7:00 p.m., Jalisco's Café.  
-K.C. Officer's Meeting, 7:30 p.m., K.C. Hall.

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22**

-CCD: Grades K-12<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-7:15 p.m.  
-No English Second Language Class.

**FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24**

-Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m., Church.

**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26**

-Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m., Rectory. Please call the Rectory in advance to register.  
-Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass

**Among our sick:** Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Doug Blumberg, Dan & Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Anita Bohuslav, Paul Najvar, Irene Bordovsky, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, Red Kahane, Theresa (Alvin) Steffek, Liz Woytek, Hank & Marion Morris, Angela Hermes, Chris Layton, Wade Amsden, Vernell Bozka, Denise DeBord, Frank, Patrick & Robben Nemeck, Geneva Strmiska, Bea Heinzl, Brenda Bludau, Lois Dornak, Patricia Schlageter, LaNora Konvicka, Bobby Lee Drozd, Anne Mae Technik, nursing home residents & the home-bound.

Please pray for the repose of the souls of *Henrie Mae Patek* of our parish family; *Victor Pustka*, brother of Helen Motal; *Alois J. Bittner*, father of Rita Chase; *Ed Butschek*, brother of John Butschek; and, *Joyce Schneider*, mother of Bruce Schneider. *May they and all the faithful departed rest in the peace of Christ.*

Pro-life speaker Abby Johnson is coming to share her conversion story on Monday, February 27 at 7:00 p.m. in the church. Abby was a pro-abortion employee of Planned Parenthood until she had a conversion and is now a prominent advocate of the pro-life cause. She will also be speaking with the high school students of Sacred Heart School on Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. in the church. Everyone is invited to these talks.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry to benefit K.C. Charities, **Friday, February 24**, KC Hall. Drive thru 5:00-6:30 pm. Inside hall 5:00-7:00 pm. Tickets \$8 each & for sale at Hoffer's, Radio Station, Rectory & K.C. Hall. Workers are needed! Please call Ricky Steffek.

***From the Desk of Father John***

Lent is the penitential season of the Church's year. It begins on Ash Wednesday and ends with the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. Lent has six Sundays. The sixth is called Passion or Palm Sunday and marks the beginning of Holy Week.

The Easter Triduum begins with the evening Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday. It commemorates the Lord's passion and death on Good Friday, reaches its high point at the Easter Vigil and ends with evening prayer on Easter Sunday. Then the joyful Easter Season of 50 days begins.

Traditionally, the Lenten season is a time of penance throughout the Catholic Church. Lent is a season in which prayer, the reception of the sacraments, charity and almsgiving are emphasized. Fast and abstinence are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. All the Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat.

During the weekdays of Lent there is no obligation to fast. However, voluntary acts of self-denial are recommended.

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence from meat. There is a limit of one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59 inclusive.

All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence. All who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

After they have received their First Holy Communion, Catholics are bound by the obligation of receiving Holy Communion at least once a year. This precept should be fulfilled during the Easter Season. Catholics are also bound to confess serious (mortal) sins at least once a year, but this is not limited to the Lenten/Easter Season.

**Sacred Heart Catholic School News  
Office 798-4251**

**2012-13 School Year Registration Feb. 1 – March 13**

Registration fee \$100 per student if paid by March 13 and \$150 per student if paid after March 13. The 2012-13 budget is in development stage, so please register your child/children as soon as possible. Limited tuition assistance is available for those persons who qualify. Come by the school office for a tuition assistance application, which must be completed by May 2 and must include a copy of your 2011 W-2 Forms. All information provided will be strictly confidential.

**Catholic Life Insurance Catholic Schools Sweepstakes**

*We are excited to announce that our Sweepstakes ticket sales totaled 7,054 tickets for a net profit of \$35,270. Thank you to everyone who supported our school by selling and buying Sweepstakes tickets. Special thanks to Catholic Life Insurance for sponsoring the Sweepstakes.*

Gabriel Project Meeting, Feb. 25, Holy Family Church, Victoria, 9-11 am. RSVP by Feb. 24 to Barbara 649-1612.

**Religious Education (CCD) ~~ Office 798-3124  
Angela McConnell, Coordinator**

**Feb. 22:** Ash Wednesday Parish Mass 6:15 p.m., 10<sup>th</sup> Grade participate.

**Feb. 29:** Penance Service for 9<sup>th</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> Grades.

**40 Days for Life – Houston:** The Confirmation students of Sacred Heart Parish will be traveling to Planned Parenthood abortion clinic in Houston on March 3 to participate in the campaign "40 Days for Life" to pray for an end to abortion and for the protection of unborn babies. We will have Mass at Sacred Heart at 8:00 am that morning and then leave for Houston. If you are interested in going, please call Fr. Tommy to sign up. Seats on the bus are extremely limited. Car-pooling may have to be arranged.

**Registration for NEW Altar Servers being accepted now:** Sacred Heart Parish is accepting applications from boys and girls of the parish to become an altar server for the parish. The requirements to be a server are as follows:  
1. Must be a baptized or professed member of the Catholic faith. 2. Must have already received First Holy Communion. 3. Must be currently enrolled in at least the 4<sup>th</sup> grade. 4. Must be a parishioner of Sacred Heart Church. 5. Must be mature enough to understand and carry out the responsibilities of the altar server with attention and reverence. 6. Must have the support of one's parents or legal guardian. The blue registration forms are available on the table in the narthex of the church. Forms are due to Fr. Tommy by Friday, March 9, 2012.

**A new policy for booking Mass Intentions has been adopted in order to allow for more people to book weekend Masses.** When booking Masses you will be able to book one weekend Mass and one weekday Mass. This policy also applies when booking separate Masses for different people. You will need to choose which Mass to book on the weekend, and then book the remaining Masses on weekdays. *Your understanding and consideration in adhering to this policy will be appreciated.*

For those who have joined a *Disciples on the Journey* group, the resource books are now available at the Rectory for \$2.50 each.

**Catholic Men's Conference –** Today's man faces many challenges and is in search of good for himself, his family and his future. Come to the San Antonio Catholic Men's Conference for men of all ages on **March 23-24** at **St. Matthew Church** on Wurzbach Road. The Conference will focus on Catholic Relationships, the Holy Spirit, the Eucharist, Spiritual Combat and Sexual Integrity for men today and will offer powerful speakers, meals, Mass with Bishop Oscar Cantu and much more! Call the Pilgrim Center of Hope (210-521-3377) for a brochure or check out the website [www.CMCSanAntonio.com](http://www.CMCSanAntonio.com). Online registration is available.

**7th Sunday in Ordinary Time** – It's astonishing to some people that we Catholics will spend time talking to a priest about our deepest faults. Confession of sins and being assured of God's forgiveness is not something that everyone readily understands. But when we take the time to really acknowledge our sinfulness, to admit to ourselves, to God, and to another person (the priest) what we have done wrong, we can experience the healing that comes from the confession of our sins.



The Gospel today explicitly reminds us that the forgiveness of sins is connected to healing. When we confess our sins, make an act of contrition, and receive absolution we are healed in that sacrament. The

paralyzed man who was dropped through the roof in front of Jesus by his friends had his sins forgiven. Much to the astonishment of the crowd, the paralytic got up, rolled up his mat, and walked out the door. It was that easy.

There is a lot of misconception about the sacrament of penance. Once a person gets over the hurdle of fear or shame though, it really is as easy as the actions of the paralyzed man. There was a lot of work on the part of others to get him in front of Jesus. They had to carry him there, open the roof, and lower him down. And before we go to confession, there is some work we have to do. We have to examine our conscience, and be willing to be honest with ourselves and with God. But after that it's easy. We sit down, tell the priest our sins, receive a penance, pray a prayer of contrition, receive absolution, and then go on our way.

It is the work of reconciliation that takes much longer, sometimes even a lifetime. Because sin fractures relationships, confession really is the easy part. It is what we do afterwards to heal the wounds that is the most demanding. It is a good thing Lent begins on Wednesday!  
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**FR. JOHN PETERS' SEMINARY BURSE #5** – In memory of **Henry Jalufka**: Jimmy & Barbara Haenel-\$25.

**SACRED HEART CCD PROGRAM** – In memory of **Lawrence Grubert, Sr. & Frank Matula**: Terry & Trina Patek-\$30. In memory of **Chris Jares**: Marvin & Susan Bujnoch-\$20; Martha Sitka-\$10. In memory of **Caroline Polasek**: Harvey Jahn-\$50. In memory of **Emmerlin Dworsky**: Mary & Leonard Sklar-\$15; Perry & Roxanne Deem Family-\$5.

**SACRED HEART CHURCH MUSIC FUND** – In memory of **Mrs. Kemper (Patricia) Williams, Jr. (\$25), Chris Jares (\$20), Emmerlin Dworsky (\$25), & Josephine Janak (\$20)**: Bob Kubena.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL LIBRARY** – In memory of **Emmerlin Dworsky**: Ronnie & Katie Steffek-\$20; Charles & Geralyn Klimitchek-\$20; Donald & Norma Skelton-\$10; Kevin & Brenda Etzler Family-\$15.

**SACRED HEART CHURCH ENDOWMENT FUND** – In memory of **Frank Matula**: James & Carol Konvicka-\$15; Bill & Margaret Bludau-\$20. In memory of **Charles Motal**: Franklin Billimek-\$10. In memory of **Anita Kallus**: Gene Renger-\$25; Judy Renger-\$35; Peoples State Bank-\$10; City of Hallettsville-\$25. In memory of **Caroline Polasek**: Lillian Haas-\$15; Roloff, Hnatek & Co.-\$25; William & JoAnn Zapalac-\$15. In memory of **Dominic Konvicka**: Jerry & Gail Tesch-\$10; Peoples State Bank-\$10. In memory of **Lawrence Grubert, Sr.**: Joshua & Ashley Grahmann-\$1,000; Bill & Margaret Bludau-\$25. In memory of **John Lell, Daniel Wick & Betty Jean Hemmi**: Peoples State Bank-\$30. In memory of **Gilbert Butschek & David Kostelnik**: Larry & Doris Grubert-\$20. In memory of **Daniel Wick**: Lillie & Bennie Kouba-\$20; Art & C.J., Brian & Kat, Melissa & Reggie-\$75; Marty & Karen Steffek-\$10; Charles & Dorothy Jansky-\$10; Dorothy Kouba-\$10. In memory of **Chris Jares**: Brent Bujnoch Family-\$20; Gene & Bettye Bujnoch-\$20; Dennis & Gerardette Haas-\$15; Kenneth & Joyce Hanzel-\$10; Glenn & Mary Ann Janca-\$25; Betty J. Janak-\$20; George & Nancy Migl-\$15; Johnnie & Alene Steffek-\$5; Robert & Leona Steffek-\$20. In memory of **Emogene Kahanek**: Leon Kahanek, III-\$25. In memory of **Emmerlin Dworsky**: Patrick Tobola-\$25; Wink & Ida Bludau-\$20; Robert & Marie Tobola-\$10; Margaret Smolik-\$10; Lawrence & Laura Henke-\$10; Ricky & Barbara Steffek-\$10.

**SACRED HEART CHURCH FLOWER FUND** – In memory of **Daniel Wick**: Harvey & Doyleen Drozd-\$10.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL ENDOWMENT FUND** – In memory of **Anita Kallus**: Robert & Barbara Grahmann-\$10. In memory of **Daniel Wick**: Gene & Carol Janecka-\$20; Allen & Jeanette Hoelscher-\$15. In honor of **Dennis Matula's 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday & Retirement**: Stan & Mary Hall-\$65. In memory of **Caroline Polasek**: Sherry Hale-\$10. In memory of **Frank Matula**: Jason & Kathy Grafe-\$20; Lori Najvar-\$20. In memory of **Chris Jares**: Tommy & Evelyn Dornak-\$10; Robert & Dianne Mertz-\$30. In memory of **Lawrence Grubert, Sr. (\$50) & Dr. Michael Moore (\$20)**: Marcus & Marjorie Grahmann. In memory of **Emmerlin Dworsky**: Ramona, Alex & Sabrina Bludau-\$20; Charles, Frances & Lana Franta-\$10; Robert & Louise Pesek-\$20; Herbert & Georgie Etzler-\$20; Roman, Miranda & Garrett Henke-\$20; Edward & Jean Wick-\$20; Anthony & Sammie Grahmann-\$20; Lillie Sitka-\$5; Donna Wagner-\$10; Vickie Wagner-\$10; Sharon Janak-\$10; Donnie & Mary Jo Bludau-\$10; Darryl & Cheryl Steffek-\$10.

**SACRED HEART SCHOOL ALUMNI FUND** – In memory of **Anita Kallus**: Bob & Carol Franks-\$10. In memory of **Emmerlin Dworsky**: Mark Hermes Family-\$20.

## The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

### TODAY

Isaiah 43:18–19, 21–22, 24B–25

2 Corinthians 1:18–22

Mark 2:1–12

### MONDAY

Mark 9:14–29

*"All things can be done for the one who believes."*

### TUESDAY

Mark 9:30–37

*"The Son of Man is to be betrayed . . ."*

### WEDNESDAY

Matthew 6:1–6, 16–18

*"Beware of practicing your piety before others . . ."*

### THURSDAY

Luke 9:22–25

*"The Son of Man must undergo great suffering . . ."*

### FRIDAY

Matthew 9:14–15

*"The wedding guests cannot mourn . . ."*

### SATURDAY

Luke 5:27–32

*"Those who are well have no need of a physician . . ."*

## Failure and Faith

As we move toward the penitential season of Lent, the readings for today focus on our failings. Yet, we are consoled by the fact that something 'new' is happening in our midst.

Just as the prophet Isaiah gave hope to the Israelites, we need hope in our day. Paul reminds us that hope in God is never in vain because God will always bestow mercy upon us.

As the Gospel story of the paralytic and his four friends floats through my mind, I cannot help but think of the verse to a song that says, "He ain't heavy, he's my brother."

The crowd made it impossible for the friends to get inside the door of the home to meet Jesus face-to-face. But all five men must have heard about Jesus and already they had faith in his power to heal. With ingenuity and perseverance, they created an opening in the thatched roof to lower their paralyzed friend into the very room where Jesus stood teaching.

Jesus, admiring their faith, first pronounced that the man was forgiven of all his sins. Some of the scribes looked on with astonishment and disbelief. They accused Jesus of blasphemy, "Who can forgive sins but God alone?"

To prove his authority as the Son of Man, Jesus healed the man of his paralysis and instructed him to get up, take his mat, and go home.

While the crowd praised God's power in Jesus, the stage was set for the future charge of blasphemy by the religious leaders at Jesus' trial.



## The Faith of the Church

When the human heart is burdened and heavy with guilt, God's desire is to give us a new heart through the grace of conversion. With the help of the Spirit, we are given the strength to seek and trust in God's merciful forgiveness so that we might have a fresh and new start in our relationship with him (Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church* 1432).



## Questions of the Week

Jesus' pronouncement of forgiveness was startling to those present. The scribes believed that only God could forgive sin. Thus, the link between Jesus and God is established early in the Gospel of Mark.

### Adults

*Do I truly believe that God forgives my sins and imperfections?*

### Children

*When have I made a big mistake and asked God to forgive me?*

## Responding to God's Word . . .

God not only forgives our sins, misdeeds, and imperfections, he uses them for good. The tale of the Chinese water bearer illustrates the depths of Divine mercy.

The wise water bearer carried two clay pots each day to get water from the stream. One pot had a crack in it, delivering only a half full pot of water. The other pot was perfect and always delivered a full pot of water.

After two years, the cracked pot perceived itself as a failure. But the water carrier pointed out to the pot that flowers blossomed on the side of the road. He had planted seeds when

he noticed the crack in the pot, and the water that trickled out caused them to grow and flourish. "Without your being the way you are, there would not be this beauty," explained the water bearer.

We all have unique cracks and flaws that make our lives interesting, cause our growth, and ground us in God's mercy. Instead of being paralyzed by our defects, we are set free knowing that spiritual growth most often occurs through our imperfections.

God works goodness out of our imperfections when we surrender and accept that we are all cracked pots.

## SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

**In the home.** Create a simple "Examination of Conscience" to be used frequently during the upcoming Lenten Season.

**In the workplace or in school.** Look around for a friend or coworker who is struggling and offer concrete help, listening and sharing your faith.

**In the community.** In your parish or neighborhood, write a note to reconcile with someone who you need to forgive.



### Meditation Moment

Isiah Thomas of the Detroit Pistons was picked for the NBA All Star team 10 years in a row. In an interview with *You* magazine, he talked about his faith: "My mom's faith has definitely influenced mine. . . . Whenever I'm down . . . I remember that her favorite saying is 'You make one step and the Lord will make two. He'll work the wonder for you.' It always reminds me to get up . . . and move on."

#### For reflection . . .

*Whose faith has influenced me most in my life? When I get down on life, what helps me most "to get up . . . and move on"?*

WHEN WE DO WHAT WE CAN,  
GOD WILL DO WHAT WE CAN'T.

E. C. MCKENZIE

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

### Your Healing Mercy

Heal me  
in soul and body,  
O Lord. Through your  
continual act of redemption,  
save me from my sins and my  
misdirected words and actions.  
Gather me into the fold of your  
mercy that I might learn how to  
forgive myself. Teach me the ways  
of mercy toward others. In your  
constant love, you have poured out  
goodness and grace, that I might  
grow into the person you desire.  
Grant me the faith to truly  
believe that you are always  
creating something  
new in my life.  
Amen.

Carry this thought in your  
heart as a guide for your faith  
journey this week.

We know that all things  
work together for good for  
those who love God . . .

Romans 8:28

### Profile in Faith

#### The Paralyzed Man

The Gospels of Mark and Matthew include this story of faith. The paralyzed man had to depend upon the graciousness of friends to transport him on a pallet to appear before Jesus. Jesus extolled the men for their faith. Freed from sin, no longer paralyzed, the man was healed in body and spirit.

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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas  
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