

# Mass Intentions FOR THE WEEK



**February 15 - 21, 2021**

## **Monday, February 15**

8:30 am + Letty & Santiago D'Souza

## **Tuesday, February 16**

8:30 am + Rosaria Gaspar

## **Wednesday, February 17**

8:30 am + Alberto Poblette

## **Thursday, February 18**

8:30 am: Birthday blessings Daniel Char

## **Friday, February 19**

8:30 am: Community of Prince of Peace

## **Saturday, February 20**

8:30 am + Jack, Gladys & David Dias

**Sunday, February 21** Thanksgiving from Gerry DaSilva

## *Something to Reflect upon.....*

*Jesus cures a person with leprosy, who reports his cure to everyone. (Mark 1:40-45)*



In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been

available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.



Let us pray!

**For those who are sick members of our parish and those who love and minister to them.**

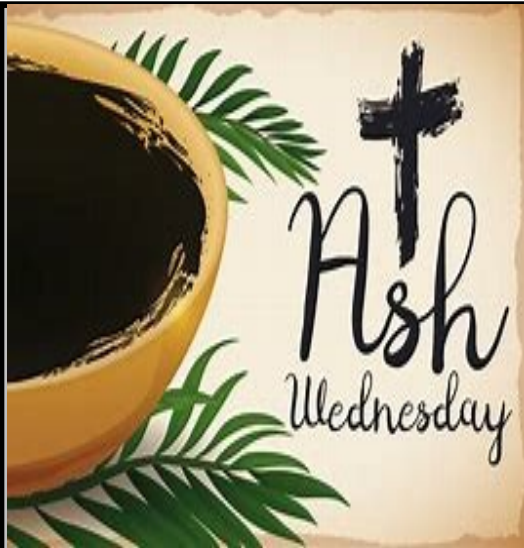
HELP YOUR PARISH

DONATE

during COVID-19

**DONATION ONLINE:** Consider switching your support of the parish to Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG forms are available in the parish office and through parish website) or credit card, or single monthly donation through the "DONATE now" button at : [www.archtoronto.org](http://www.archtoronto.org). Please call the parish office for information at 416-291-9422

February 14, 2021



PLEASE JOIN US  
FOR  
HOLY COMMUNION SERVICES  
AND DISTRIBUTION OF ASHES  
on  
Wednesday, February 17th, 2021

**Holy Communion services and Distribution of Ashes**

9:30am/ 10:am/ 10:30am/ 11:00 am/ 11:30am  
5:00pm/ 5:30pm/ 6:00pm/ 6:30pm/ 7:00pm

Please book your spot online at: [prince-ofpeacesc.archtoronto.org](http://prince-ofpeacesc.archtoronto.org)

**Please note that only 8 people allowed for each service.**

**DAY of  
FASTING  
and ABSTINENCE**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence.

For members of the Latin Catholic Church, the norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal. The norms concerning abstinence from meat are binding upon members of the Latin Catholic Church from age 14 onwards.

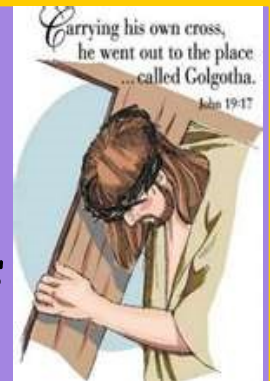
If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily his Resurrection.

**What do you do for Lent?**  
**Few Suggestions:**

Daily Prayers, Holy Rosary, reading the Scriptures, Daily Masses online, Charitable acts, Sacrament of Confession and Visiting the Blessed Sacraments.

**PRAYER-FASTING-ALMS  
GIVING  
+ + +**

PLEASE JOIN US  
EVERY FRIDAY  
AT 7:00 PM  
FOR VIRTUAL  
STATIONS OF THE CROSS



[www.olaassumptiontoronto@archtoronto.org](mailto:www.olaassumptiontoronto@archtoronto.org)

**Yes!**  
WE'RE **OPEN**

The Church is open  
Monday —Friday from  
9 am to 12 noon

**10 people at a time**

**LENT**  
Pray + Fast + Give