



5th Sunday in Ordinary Time

By Mike Krejci

It was a year ago that I was in the hospital for the first time in my life. The minor surgery meant that I had to stay overnight. When it came time for the dressing change the next day, I thought that I was going to die from the intense pain. Of course my brief experience of pain was nothing compared to the chronic conditions or acute illnesses that so many people suffer each and every day. When you think of all the people in hospitals or nursing homes, and the countless others around the world who endure without any medical care, the enormity of suffering seems overwhelming.

It is no wonder then that in Jesus' time once the crowds had heard that He cured Simon's mother-in-law, they raced to bring to Him all who were ill or possessed by demons. If someone could alleviate the pain, cure the sick, and cast out demons this was definitely an opportunity of which to take advantage.

While modern medicine may help us with our physical illness and psychological pain, there is still a spiritual dimension to sickness that we should not ignore. Sickness separates us. It makes us question our faith. Illness strikes at our heart as well as our body. That is why the Church offers the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick for any who are ill. When we are sick, we are also alone. We need the support of the community of faith. And we need their prayers.

When a loved one is ill—or if you are sick yourself—don't hesitate to request the Sacrament of Anointing. If your illness confines you for a longer time, ask to receive Communion regularly to nurture you spiritually even as you seek to be strengthened physically. People sought out Jesus in this weekend's Gospel. When we or a loved one is ill, we can seek Him out today.

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Congratulations...

... to the 75 children who received their First Sacrament of Reconciliation these past two Saturdays. As the Prophet Isaiah wrote, "A little child shall lead them...." Let us follow the example of these children and avail ourselves of the graces of Confession.



SHARING THE WORD WITH YOUR CHILDREN

The Gospels contain lots of stories about what Jesus said and did. We know that He healed a blind man so that he could see again; He cured people who were suffering with the horrible disease of leprosy, and He healed a man who couldn't walk, to name just a few. Jesus always wanted to help those who were suffering, and He still does, so it is very important to pray to Him whenever you have a need.

But Jesus also did something else which is very important. He was a teacher, the best teacher that ever was. He taught us about God – He preached the "Good News." He told them (and still tells each one of us) that God loves us very much and wants to be close to us. He teaches that if we obey God's Commandments we will be happy and that sin separates us from God. He gave His own life so that we can be happy with God forever in heaven. Now, that is Good News!



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. - Mark 1:32-34

THOSE FOR WHOM WE PRAY

FOR THOSE IN NEED OF GOD'S HEALING, STRENGTH AND COMFORT, ESPECIALLY: Robbie * Josephine Kulowiec * Chase Hanlon * Charles and Faye Thibodeau, * Rita and Joe Howells, John DiNardo, and Matthew

FOR THE PROTECTION AND SAFE RETURN OF ALL THOSE SERVING IN THE ARMED FORCES, ESPECIALLY: Matthew Camarota, Brendan Cooney, Colin Gale, Kevin George, Alexandra Halchak, Jeffrey Issaeff, Ben Kupa, Don Lynch, Joe Milone, Michael Perry, Ryan Quintard, Steven Sands, Brian Stascavage, Denis Sullivan, Nicholas Visconti and Matt Volpe.

KIDZ-EYE VIEW



The SJ's 6th Graders on today's readings...

Alexis Struck – The common theme is that they are both about suffering. In one of them Jesus is healing all the sick people and taking demons out of their bodies, and the other is about Job and how he is in pain and misery.

Anna Oeser – What stands out to me is that in both readings people are sick and suffering. I think that if they let Jesus into their hearts then they wouldn't be in so much pain.

David Mercier – I think that when you are sick and always waking up to the same thing and life becomes a drudgery, don't feel like you aren't important. Just continue and go on with whatever life throws at you.

Ildiko Sandor – The life lesson that I see in this story is that you should be healed by the thought that others are happy.

Meghan Coyle – The common theme is that in the First Reading it is depressing and Job cannot find hope. In the Gospel Simon was very scared about his mother-in-law, but finds hope by praying.

Jake Guydan – The life lesson is that if you are depressed about something you have to pray to God instead of just complaining and dreading about it.

Julia Font – I learned that with God all things are possible and to never doubt Him.

Adriana Mercado – A life lesson I see is don't think your life is so hard when other people's lives are so much harder.

Madeline Tomanelli – Even if you are not happy at one point, Jesus will help heal you.

Jillian Fredette – My life lesson is don't be in misery. God will help you in whatever you are having troubles with.

Matthew Villanueva – I learned that you can't take life for granted. You only have limited years in your life.

Jake Stanley – The life lesson I learned was don't give up on life. There will be worse struggles in your path.

Julia Iannucci – What stands out to me is that in the First Reading Jesus is not there to help this man [Job] but He is there to help the other people in the Gospel Reading.

Dylan Gallagher – The life lesson I learned was that if someone is sick, help them.



Sunday, February 5, 2012 5th Sunday of Ordinary Time; World Day for Consecrated Life

Dear sisters and brothers: Thank you! Today we pray for and give thanks to the men and women who publicly profess to live the vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. Monks, hermits, contemplatives, and religious priests, sisters, and brothers represent the diversity of consecrated life recognized by the church. Those

who choose this life are committed to imitating Christ, engaging in His ministries of spreading the Good News, and showing that "the world can be transfigured with the spirit of the beatitudes" (Catechism 932). Their witness reminds all of us that our lives have purpose and meaning beyond this age, so we'd better choose how we live our present days wisely.

Today's readings: Job 7:1-4, 6-7; 1 Corinthians 9:16-19, 22-23; Mark 1:29-39 (74) – *"All this I do for the sake of the Gospel, so that I too may have a share in it."*

Monday, February 6

Paul Miki, martyr, and companions, martyrs *Keep the story alive*

Christianity came to Japan with the arrival of Saint Francis Xavier in 1549. In fewer than 50 years, however, all foreign missionaries had been expelled and 26 Christians were condemned to die, including Paul Miki, a Japanese-born Jesuit priest. The story does not end there. In the 1860s new missionaries to Japan were astonished to discover a hidden but thriving Christian community numbering in the tens of thousands. They had managed to pass along the faith informally for 200 years! Such is the power of the Christian narrative. What is your favorite story from the life of Jesus? Why? In what ways has it influenced your life? How can you pass it along?

Today's readings: 1 Kings 8:1-7, 9-13; Mark 6:53-56 (329) – *"As they were leaving the boat, people immediately recognized him."*

Tuesday, February 7

May God rest in peace!

Talk about holy sites: the Temple Mount, where King Solomon is said to have built Israel's First Temple around 3,000 years ago, has been considered a sacred location by at least four religious traditions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and even Roman paganism. Competing claims on the site, and on the area known as East Jerusalem where it is located, are a central element of Arab-Israeli conflict in the region. Surely we can find a way to bring lasting peace to the place where tradition says the Divine Presence rested after creating the world and then gathered the dust to form the first human beings. Add your voice to those calling for a negotiated peace in God's backyard.

Today's readings: 1 Kings 8:22-23, 27-30; Mark 7:1-13 (330) – *"May your eyes watch night and day over this temple."*

Wednesday, February 8

Don't be late to break-fast

With the season of Lent and its practice of fasting arriving in a couple of weeks, it's a little puzzling to remember that Jesus was a great breaker of fasts and violator of religious food rules—that was one thing that got Him into trouble with the authorities. His followers gathered grain on the Sabbath because they were starving. He ate with sinners and outcasts. He simply did not follow the rules, but for a purpose: to show how the rules should not control but rather serve to

ACTION ALERT: CONSCIENCE PROTECTION

The U.S. Health & Human Services Department (HHS) has issued a rule forcing nearly all private health plans to include coverage for all FDA-approved prescription contraceptive drugs and devices, as well as surgical sterilization. These are listed among "preventive services for women" that all health plans will have to cover without co-pays or other cost-sharing -- regardless of whether the insurer, the employer or other plan sponsor, *or even the woman herself* objects to such coverage. The ruling would forcibly include the vast majority of faith-based organizations, including Catholic hospitals, universities, and service organizations that help millions every year.

For additional information, see Bishop Lori's letter on the diocesan Web site – www.bridgeportdiocese.com – or go to the "Issues and Action" section of the U.S. Bishops' Web site at <http://uscceb.org>.

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bring a person into a more loving relationship with God and neighbor. What makes a person holy is not external observance but internal faith and love, which leads to right behavior.

Today's readings: 1 Kings 10:1-10; Mark 7:14-23 (331) – "Everything that goes into a person from outside cannot defile But what comes out of the man, that is what defiles."

**Thursday, February 9
What do you choose?**

Being chosen by God seems attractive, but God's choice is less entitlement to special favors and more being selected for a commission—given a job to do. Further, we find that God does not usually choose as we might. We find God picking, for example, David, the runt of the litter; Mary, an unknown girl from Nazareth; the sinner over the holy man. Try to be aware of how you make choices: how you will treat a troublesome fellow-worker or that driver who is tailgating or how scrupulously honest you will be. Like God, who chose you to be one in Christ, make decisions based not on the obvious but on what is inside the other—and who dwells within you.

Today's readings: 1 Kings 11:4-13; Mark 7:24-30 (332) – "When Solomon was old his wives had turned his heart to strange gods."

**Friday, February 10 – Scholastica, virgin
What's between your life's bookends?**

We know few facts about Saint Scholastica: She lived in Italy in the fifth and sixth centuries, was the sister of Saint Benedict, became a nun and a prioress, and helped found Benedictine monasticism. Yet, thanks to two brief comments by Saint Gregory the Great, we know volumes about how she lived her life. Of her childhood Gregory wrote: "She was devoted to God from a very early age," and a few paragraphs later he added that when she died "her soul ascended into heaven in the likeness of a dove." Though seemingly innocuous, these comments are like bookends of Scholastica's existence and give us a sense of the rich content of her biography. As you think about your life's journey, what do your bookends look like?

Today's readings: 1 Kings 11:29-32; 12:19; Mark 7:31-37 (333) – "He has done all things well."

**Saturday, February 11
Our Lady of Lourdes; World Day of the Sick
God is bigger than our needs**

In an hour of crisis it may be impossible to imagine that help will arrive in time, or that your great need might be met with sufficient comfort to make a difference. Yet Jesus once faced a hungry multitude and fed them with next to nothing—and no one went away in want. Today the Church remembers those who are sick: all who carry the cross of chronic problems like diabetes, AIDS, or mental illness as well as those struck with a diagnosis of an illness like cancer, heart disease, or stroke. We and our loved ones are not forgotten. Jesus comes to fulfill every need. And His mother Mary's arms are wide enough for all of us.

Today's readings: 1 Kings 12:26-32, 13:33-34; Mark 8:1-10 (334) – "They ate and were satisfied."



Word of Life

*For nurses and caregivers to family members:
that the Lord will increase their patience, gentleness,
and strength to continue witnessing to the dignity of
each person in their care; We pray to the Lord:*



Thank you to all who attended the Open House at Saint Joseph School last Sunday! We always enjoy showing off our school ... and were sure everyone enjoyed the high energy percussion performance by The Bucket Boys!

REGISTRATION IS ONGOING

We are currently registering in our Pre-K 3's & 4's, and K through 8th grade classes. If you were unable to come to Open House, please contact the school for more information regarding registration and programs: 203-775-2774. We look forward to meeting you!



Youth Group Upcoming Events

Sunday, February 12 – YG meeting after the 6:00 p.m. Mass to discuss the 2012 mission trip and a YG Mass.

Sunday, February 26 – YG meeting after the 6:00 p.m. Mass.
Both meetings will be in the Parish Center.

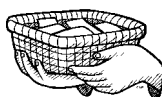


KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

Blood Drive – Feb. 19

The Knights of Columbus will sponsor a blood drive on Sunday, February 19, from 7:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in the St. Marguerite Bourgeoys Church Hall. You can register for an appointment after Mass this weekend and next, or call the Red Cross at 1-800-GIVE LIFE.

Our Gifts To God
And His Church



WEEKEND OF JANUARY 28-29, 2012

Sunday Offertory \$13,415.87
(Includes average EFT contributions of \$2,400)

JEFFREY FONT RECEIVES
MINISTRY OF READER



Saint Joseph parishioner **Jeff Font** received the Ministry of Reader during ceremonies at Saint Augustine Cathedral last Sunday, January 29. Jeff is in the Diocese of Bridgeport's Formation Program for the Permanent Diaconate, Class of 2015.

Reader and Acolyte are two ministries a man must receive prior to receiving the Sacrament of Holy Orders. They were two of four "minor orders" which existed in the Latin Roman Catholic Church prior to 1972. In that year, Pope Paul VI reduced the number of minor orders to two, and changed the designation to "ministry."

Please keep Jeff and his family in your prayers as he works to complete his studies.

Thanks from Morning Glory



What a haul! Clarence Bouie and Sierra Pepi pose with the Morning Glory van last Monday after loading it up with dozens of shopping bags full of breakfast fixin's – hot and cold cereals, pancake mix, syrup, fruit and juice – from a special food drive at St. Joe's. Morning Glory is a unit of Catholic Charities that provides a free and healthy breakfast Monday through Friday for the homeless and jobless out of the Dorothy Day Hospitality House in Danbury. Thanks and many blessings to all our parishioners and families who donated to the drive.



First Anniversary for
'Extreme Couponing'

Saturday January 22, 2011 is a day that will go down in the ministry history books of Saint Joseph Church. On that day, one year ago, a handful of people met after Saturday morning Mass to discuss a burning question. *Could extreme couponing work to supplement our food ministry program?* Well, the answer one full year later is a resounding YES!

The program took off like a rocket led by a young mother of two – **Kristin Mehall** – and a jet setting corporate executive – **Lori Blanchfield** – and her mom, **Liz Blanchfield**. They got to work teaching us the ins and outs of couponing and the various coupon sites such as Living Rich With Coupons. The program formed and morphed as we began to figure out what worked; what could be done better; how to get more people involved without stressing their work load. It was a dynamic process that now is a fine tuned machine that works because many persons to a little work.

We now have people who now bring in the coupon flyers every week. We have flyer organizers. We have people who collect the coupons and the weekly deals and go out to actually make the purchases and return them to the church. We have people who are in charge of ferreting out the best buys for the week, and we have people who transport the purchases to the Town of Brookfield Food Bank. Of course many of these people overlap in their positions and some do all of them but, thanks to these dedicated couponers the program has flourished beyond our wildest expectations.

Our estimated totals for the first year are: 8,000 items "purchased" with a retail value of \$18,700 ... for which we paid \$1,200, a 93% savings! *May God bless all of our extreme couponers and all our volunteers!*

YOUNG PARISHIONERS FETED AT DIOCESAN
'BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS'

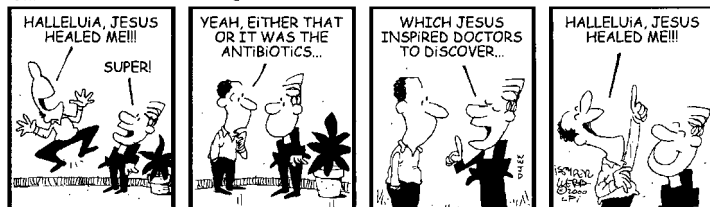


Saint Joseph's proudly congratulates three of our young parishioners for the awards they received at the annual Diocesan "Breakfast of Champions" on Thursday, January 29, at the Catholic Center in Bridgeport.

The Saint Thomas Aquinas Award – which recognizes Academic Achievement and Catholic Values – was presented to **Joey Collins** and **Taylor Guth**. The Saint Sebastian Award – recognizing Athletic and Scholastic Excellence – was presented to **Emily Fredette**. Taylor is a student at Saint Joseph School; Joey and Emily attend Immaculate High School.

The medals were blessed by **Bishop Lori** during the gathering. He and **Dr. Margaret Dames**, Superintendent of Schools for the Diocese of Bridgeport, then presented them as the students processed forward with their parents and pastors. Thirty-six students were presented the St. Thomas Aquinas Medal and three students received the St. Sebastian Medal.

5th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





Monday, February 6

6:45 a.m. – Ethel Henderson Taylor, req. by Janet Brolet

8:45 a.m. – Anne C. Johann, req. by the Johann family

Tuesday, February 7

6:45 a.m. – Susan Reese, req. by her Mom and brothers

8:45 a.m. – Judy Webb, req. by the Brewster schools

Wednesday, February 8

6:45 a.m. – Intentions of our parishioners

8:45 a.m. – Jane E. Cullen, req. by the Johann family

Thursday, February 9

6:45 a.m. – Esther Simo, req. by Maria Simo

8:45 a.m. – Adelaide Fox, req. by Lisa & Michael Corning

Friday, February 10

6:45 a.m. – Sonya Mebus, req. by Marsha & Bob Mebus

8:45 a.m. – Phyllis Germano, req. by Mr. & Mrs. John Gagliardi

Saturday, February 11

8:00 a.m. – Amelia Gregus, req. by the 55-Plus Club

5:00 p.m. – Richard Elston, req. by the Capanna family

Sunday, February 12 – 6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

7:30 a.m. – Intentions of the Kulowiec family

9:00 a.m. – Agnes Burns, req. by the Wheelock Family

11:00 a.m. – June Morgan, req. by the Gradt family

6:00 p.m. – Marie Muricchio, req. by the 55-Plus Club

SANCTUARY LAMP INTENTIONS

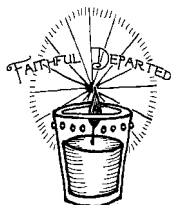
Our Sanctuary Lamp burns this week

In Memory of

Amelia Gregus,

Requested by her Family.

To request a sanctuary lamp memorial or intention, please call the Parish Office.



Dog for Sale

A guy is driving around the back woods of Montana and sees a sign in front of a broken down house: “Talking Dog For Sale.” He rings the bell and the owner appears and tells him the dog is in the backyard.

The guy goes into the backyard and sees a nice looking Labrador retriever sitting there. “You talk?” he asks.

“Yep,” the Lab replies.

After recovering from the shock of hearing a dog talk, the guy says, “So, what’s your story?”

The Lab looks up and says, “Well, I discovered that I could talk when I was pretty young. I wanted to help the government, so I contacted the CIA. In no time at all they had me jetting from country to country, sitting in rooms with spies and world leaders, because no one figured a dog would be eavesdropping. I was one of their most valuable spies for eight years running...”

“But the jetting around really tired me out, and I knew I wasn’t getting any younger so I decided to settle down. I signed up for a job at the airport to do some undercover security, wandering near suspicious characters and listening in. I uncovered some incredibly bad dealings and was awarded a batch of medals.

“After that, I got married, had a mess of puppies, and now I’m just retired.”

The guy is amazed. He goes back in and asks the owner what he wants for the dog.

“Ten dollars,” the owner says.

“Ten dollars!? This dog is amazing! Why on earth would you sell him so cheap?”

“Because he’s a NO-GOOD LYING MUTT! He’s never been out of the yard.”

PARISH MINISTRIES

Liturgy

Altar Servers – Mr. Patrick Jennings 203.740.7133

Choir Director/Organist – Mrs. Sarah Fay 203.775.1035, ext. 11

Organist – Mr. David Kendall 203.775.1035, ext. 11

Eucharistic Ministers/Lectors – Mike & Joanna Charecky . . 203.775.6612

Faith Formation and Sacraments

Religious Education (Grades 1-8), RCIA and other Sacramental

Preparation – Mrs. Andrea Woronick 203.775.1035, ext. 15

Scheduling Baptisms – Mrs. Rita Golaszewski 203.775.1035, ext. 10

Marriage Scheduling Prep – Deacon Peter Kuhn 203.775.1035, ext. 18

Prayer & Devotion

Men’s Retreat – Mr. Stephen McFarlin 203.740.2901

Legion of Mary – Ms. Kay Hurley 203.775.0165

Men of St. Joseph – Mr. Carl Monti 203.740.9544

Centering Prayer – Mrs. Michele Curnan 860.355.5216

Parish Councils and Administration

Pastoral Council – Mr. Bill Schappert, Chairman 203.775.1569

Finance Council – Mr. Bill Font, Chairman 203.775.2335

Youth Ministry 203.775.1035

SJS Home & School Association

Jean Ferrara, President 860.210.8119

Other Ministries & Organizations

8th Station Bereavement Ministry

Mrs. Mary Shaughnessy 203-775-9138

Mrs. Pat Tharrington 203-775-4836

Knights of Columbus – Craig Worster 203-240-1363

Mary-Martha Ministry – Mrs. Pat Font 203.775.2335

MOMS (Ministry of Mothers Sharing) – Mrs. Barb Roeder 203.740.9428

Outreach to Sick/Shut-In – Sr. Mary Ann Socha, CMGT. . . 203.794.1486

Schedule

Week of February 5 - 12, 2012

Saturday & Sunday – K of C Blood Drive Sign-up after Masses

Sunday – Coffee & Donuts – After 9:00 a.m. Mass – Parish Ctr.

Sunday – Holy Hour for the Unborn – 3:45 p.m. – Church

Monday-Friday – Rosary for Peace – 8:20 a.m. -- Church

Monday – Legion of Mary – 9:30 a.m. – Day Chapel

Tuesday – Coupon Ministry – 9:30 a.m. – Parish Center

Wednesday – K of C Mtg. – 7:00 p.m. – Parish Center

Thursday – Centering Prayer – 7:30 p.m. – Parish Center

Friday – MOMS Group – 9:30 a.m. – Parish Center

Saturday & Sunday – K of C Blood Drive Sign-up after Masses