

Dear Parishioners, Alumni, Friends and Religious Education Families,

Jesus is a man of deep feeling. He cannot look at another human being or at a difficult or painful human situation without being moved. And what makes him so different is that these movements of compassion cause him to act, to step across the acceptable social boundary and do something unthinkable, for example, touching someone with leprosy as he does in Sunday's Gospel. Not only was Jesus not afraid of getting the disease himself, he was not afraid of being condemned by his own religious leaders. He reaches out to embrace this leper and give him comfort. And so we have to ask ourselves: What kinds of experiences cause us to have the same kinds of feelings as Jesus? And what keeps us from acting in order to help or heal or reconcile? What keeps us from being the first to reach out, the first to apologize, the first to realize another person's point of view? Jesus does this over and over again, and he's asking us to do the same thing. When your heart is moved to compassion, ask yourself what you are being called to do. Put yourself in someone else's shoes, feel what they are feeling and think about what Jesus might do or say. And then respond in the very best way that you can.

This weekend, the Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Fr. Russel Murray presides and preaches at the Saturday 6 PM Mass and I will celebrate the 10:30 AM Mass on Sunday morning. Fr. Ed Dougherty is the celebrant for the 11 AM Mass in the Marymount Chapel, with the Tesfamichael Araya/Fava Family and Gabriella Spadaro providing hospitality. And for the 9 AM Sunday Mass we welcome our new Paulist Interim Vice Rector, Father Brad Schoeberle, who will be with us for the next two months. Fr. Brad is the oldest of seven children, was ordained on May 27, 2000, most recently served as pastor of St. Luke University Parish in Allendale, Michigan. Last Fall, Fr. Brad spent two months walking the Camino to Santiago de Compostela in northern Spain.

I need help with filing, correspondence, creating detailed manuals for future staff and sacramental record updating. So far only one person has volunteered. I have 17 separate projects. If I can get another 33 volunteers to pair up, we can get these done during Lent. If you can give two or three hours a week or every two weeks or once a month, contact me today and we'll set up a time. And don't forget the Library Used Book Sale which begins on Wednesday, February 7, 3-6 PM, with a Farewell to Head Librarian Tonia White and a welcome to her successor, Sally Richards My next Walking Tour is this Thursday, February 8, when we visit the Exarchic Monastery of Santa Maria in Grottaferrata. I need to know if you are going by 12 noon Tuesday. I am trying to organize carpools, but we may need to use public transportation. I am also making reservations at a local restaurant for lunch after the tour, so I need to know numbers. We will depart at 9:15 or 9.30 depending on the numbers.

In 9 days it will be Ash Wednesday, and we will begin the great Season of Lent, a period of penance, but also a time of spiritual growth and opportunity as we prepare for Easter. On Ash Wednesday, February 14, our Masses are at 12 Noon and 6 PM. The distribution of ashes will be at both Masses. Saturday, February 10, is the date for our monthly visit to the Caritas Food Kitchen on Colle Oppio. We work from 11 AM until 2 PM and assist in feeding 400 homeless men. If you can help, email Sr. Nancy at [nancy.celaschi@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.celaschi@gmail.com). Please enjoy the remaining days of Carnevale or Mardi Gras wherever you are. Ciao for now, Father Greg