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February 11, 2024  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

**LITURGICAL SCHEDULES AND INTENTIONS:**

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m. – For All People      Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m. – For the Parish      Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m. – Larry Yarber

**SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:** 20 minutes before Mass

**STEWARDSHIP FROM LAST WEEK:**

Envelopes \$1,857.75; Loose \$189.48; Candles \$18; Mtce. \$135; Mass Stipend \$80; Blk & Indian \$20; Cemetery \$25; 2024 Quilt Raffle \$260; Trivia \$9,664 – Thank You

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS FOR NEXT WEEK:**

	<b>Ash Wednesday, Feb 14<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Saturday, February 17<sup>th</sup>, 5:00 p.m.</b>	<b>Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 a.m.</b>
<b>Lector:</b>	Carol Reiter	Pat Vogel	Morgan Gauch
<b>Minister: Body of Christ</b>	Volunteers	Barb Jany & Joan Killebrew	Margie Bahan & Mary Anne Hopper
<b>Minister: Blood of Christ</b>		Susan Halt & David Mueth	Sandi Gerdes & Diane Mueller
<b>Servers:</b>			Noah Huffman & Lennox Kibbon
<b>Crossbearer:</b>			Lydia Huffman

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

Today’s readings from the Book of Leviticus and the Gospel of Mark give attention to a disease identified as leprosy. A bit of background can be quite helpful in understanding these texts.

First, what the Scriptures refer to as “leprosy” (tzaraat in the Old Testament and lepra in the New Testament) should not be understood as synonymous with the illness of this name today. The word leprosy seems to have been a generic term used to refer to a variety of skin conditions, one of which might have been leprosy (Hansen’s disease). Second, specific laws were designated for the purpose of restricting the spread of communicable illnesses, with skin diseases being among them. While these laws may sound harsh to us today, they are best understood as safeguarding the well-being of the community.

Third, in addition to making a person unclean, which resulted in isolation from the community, leprosy was often associated with sin. In our passage from Mark, we hear that a leper approached Jesus and said: “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Jesus wasted no time in responding. He touched the man! This was unheard of! He touched a leper! Jesus then said to the leper, “I do will it. Be made clean.” And immediately the leprosy left the man. Jesus then instructs the man to follow the prescriptions of the Law. Interestingly, within the next thirty-four verses of Mark, in five episodes, some consider Jesus as one who does not uphold the Law but violates it.

**2024 QUILT RAFFLE**

Our winner of the January quilt was Jan Mueller. If you haven’t turned in your tickets for the 2024 Quilt Raffle, please turn them in so that you will be entered in the remaining 11 drawings.

**ST. VINCENT DE PAUL NEEDS YOUR HELP AGAIN!**

The Society of St. Vincent de Paul Belleville Council reports record numbers of people staying at its Night-Time Center and 300+ people per day coming for meals at Cosgrove’s Kitchen. With these increased numbers, there is an urgent need for food. We humbly ask for your prayers for SVDP and its clients and, if you are able, your donation of food (all kinds) that will be cooked and served at the soup kitchen and/or individually packaged food items (cookies, fruit cups, tuna and chicken snack packs, chips, crackers, cheese sticks, yogurt, cereal, instant oatmeal, Pop Tarts, breakfast bars, soup or pasta in a cup) to distribute at the Over-Nite Center.

**St. Michael’s Prayer Chain** – To request that someone be added to the Prayer Chain contact Karen Mueller at 473-3401. The person will be on the “prayer chain” for one (1) month, unless the person that requested the prayers asks for longer.

**St. Michael’s Annual “Trivia Night”**

Thank you to ALL who helped in any way in supporting our Annual Trivia Night last Saturday—those who donated the items/baskets for the Basket Raffle, wine for the Wine Pull, Round Sponsors, the workers, Barb Jany and Crew, and especially those who attended. Because of all you we had another successful evening—our income was \$10,664. The proceeds will benefit the Church Improvement Fund.

**ASH WEDNESDAY MASSES**

St. Michael’s – 6:00 pm  
St. John’s – Smithton Noon and 7:30 p.m.

**STATIONS**

Stations will be held at St. Michael’s on Wednesday, February 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.



**THE 2024 CATHOLIC SERVICE AND MINISTRY APPEAL**  
**Serve the Lord with gladness – Psalm 100**

This weekend our parish, along with all other parishes in the diocese, will conduct our Catholic Service and Ministry Appeal. The CSMA provides a convenient way for all of us, no matter what our time limitations, to take an active role in the mission of our diocesan Church. Please be as generous as you are able.

**MESSENGER SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL**

The Messenger Newspaper Subscription Renewal was last weekend, but you can still renew or subscribe. Please stay connected with your Diocese through a subscription to The Messenger Catholic Newspaper. Payments can be made via your Messenger envelope or by credit card on-line at [www.bellevillemessenger.org](http://www.bellevillemessenger.org) and click SUBSCRIBE. The cost for a 1-year subscription is \$30 for printed, home-delivery, \$25 for digital access and \$35 for both. **Please make check payable to THE MESSENGER.**

**ST. MICHAEL MEN’S EUCHRE TOURNAMENT**

The Euchre Tournament sponsored by the Men’s Club will be Saturday, February 24, at 7:00 pm, Doors open at 6:00 pm. All you can drink beer and soda; all you can eat fried chicken (at the end of las round). If you have any questions, please contact Rich Kreher 618-341-4904.

**LENTEN REGULATIONS**

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.

**LEARN MORE ABOUT BECOMING A PRIEST**

Bishop Michael McGovern will host a St. Andrew Dinner for young men interested in learning more about the Catholic priesthood on Sunday, March 10. The dinner will be held at Gibault Catholic High School, Waterloo. Young men ages 14-32 are invited to attend; parent or guardians are also welcome to join us. For more information, or to RSVP, contact Judy Hoffmann at 618-722-5003, or email to [jhoffmann@diobelle.org](mailto:jhoffmann@diobelle.org).

**GIBAULT NEWS**

Your 7<sup>th</sup>, 8<sup>th</sup>, or current high school student can spend the day at Gibault as a Shadow Visitor. Shadows will be matched with a current student with similar interests and together, they’ll attend classes, meet teachers, enjoy lunch and more! For information go to: <https://bit.ly/GCHSInquire>.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS!**

**CATHOLIC URBAN PROGRAM:** St. Michael’s January collection; Towels and washcloths (for bath and kitchen) – Thank you!  
**St. Augustine’s Super Bowl Bingo – TODAY** – February 11<sup>th</sup>. Dinner served 10:30 – 1 pm, Bingo begins at 1:30