

ST MARY'S PARISH

Weekly Bulletin



ST. MARY'S CATHOLIC CHURCH, 956 GIBSONS WAY, GIBSONS, BC V0N 1V7

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Welcome to St. Mary's.
Visitors are always welcome. If you're looking for a new parish to call home, we would love to have you join our family.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Office	Mercy Campbell	604-886-2447	parish.stmarygibsons@rcav.org
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Sunday Bulletin	Dan Tsuji	604-989-7474	dan@dantsuji.com

MASS SCHEDULE

Sat Vigil Mass 6:00PM
Sun 11:30AM
Wed & Fri 11:30AM
CONFESSION - 30 minutes before every Mass

Sunday Reflection by Fr. Vincent



People with leprosy were deemed to be untouchables in ancient Jewish society for at least three reasons. Physically, their skin diseases were thought to be contagious. Socially, they were forced to live in isolation outside the ordinary boundaries of neighborhood and community. Spiritually, they were considered “unclean” according to Levitical law (Lev. 13–14). In short, lepers were separated from the very individuals, communities, and rituals that might have brought healing and compassion into their lives. The fact that Jesus not only heals this leper, as today’s Gospel recounts (Mark 1.40–45), but actually touches this “untouchable” is highly significant.



An Irish Jesuit priest, who was also medical doctor, told this story. When he first met Tessa, a 14-year old girl who had just come into their remote mission hospital in the Amazon with a very serious and very rare infection of the brain called cavernous sinus thrombosis. This occurs when an infection enters the blood vessels directly inside the brain, cutting off the blood supply to the eyes.

And often people who get it die because it’s a very serious infection. And even if they don’t die, they are seriously and permanently brain damaged. Well, they managed to stop Tessa from dying. But she was completely blind. And they were all afraid that this would be permanent. According to the books they looked up, once this happens, it usually is permanent. But they put her on all the treatment they could think of and hoped for the best. And for once, the best happened. Almost miraculously, she began to recover and every day, when he went to see her on the ward round, she would be able to see just a little better. Until, after about six weeks, her sight was almost completely back to normal.

He doesn’t think he’s ever felt so proud of himself. So one day on the big weekly grand ward round, with all the doctors and nurses and students standing round, he asked her how it felt to be able to see again when all of them had thought she was going to be blind for life. She thought for a little while and then she said she felt a bit sorry. “Sorry?! How do you mean ‘Sorry?!’” Surprised—and a

little disappointed—and rather regretting having asked the question in public—he asked her why? She said—because she wanted people to go on treating her like they had when she was blind. She explained—when she was blind, whenever people came to her, they would touch her—just to let her know they were there. And they would touch her with great gentleness and love. That hadn’t happened to her before. And she liked that. And now that she could see again, she didn’t want them to stop doing that.



He came to understand that he hadn’t been the one to heal her entirely. While he administered medicines to combat the infection and prevent her from perishing, it was the compassionate touch of those who visited her that truly brought about her healing. To her, their loving touch held greater significance than the restoration of her sight. Thus, he realized that with Jesus, healing can occur through simple touch. This revelation taught him that each of us carries this healing power within—if only we touch others with the same tenderness as Jesus.



THIS WEEK'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

VOCATION LIVE-IN



There will be a Vocation Live-In on the weekend of February 10 -11 at the Seminary of Christ the King in Mission, BC. Anyone wishing to enter the Seminary in the next couple of years is welcome. For more information phone 604-826-8975 or email rector.minors@sck.ca

CONVENIENT E-TRANSFER DONATIONS FOR PARISHIONERS

Parishioners can now donate to St. Mary's by sending an e-transfer to "parish.stmarygibsons@rcav.org." Even though the recipient's name is displayed as "The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Vancouver (Sechelt)," the funds will be deposited into St. Mary's account.

ASH WEDNESDAY MASS

February 14, at 11:30 am

Catholics between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday (only one full meal and two smaller meals which together are not greater than a full meal, eating solid foods or snacks between meals is not permitted). In addition, all Catholics 14 years old and older must abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. This includes Fridays of Lent, although Catholics can substitute special acts of charity or piety (e.g., saying a Rosary) on these days. No one should consider this obligation lightly.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, the Stations of the Cross are celebrated after Mass on Wednesdays.

BUILDING FUND COLLECTION

There will be a second collection during this weekend's Masses dedicated to the building fund, which assists in paying off the mortgage.



Our next monthly CWL Meeting will be on Friday, February 16th at 12:45 PM in the Parish Hall.

Please bring your completed nomination forms to this meeting

VALENTINE SENIOR LUNCHEON

Join us for a heartwarming CWL Valentine's Luncheon at St. Mary's Catholic Church!

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9th

at 12:30 PM

in the Parish Hall

All are welcome and bring a friend!

Questions?

Call Paula at 778-836-0980

OLD BLESSED PALMS RETURNED

Please bring back your previously blessed palms from last year to the church. We will burn them and use the ashes for the upcoming Ash Wednesday.

PLEASE REMEMBER THE SICK IN OUR PARISH....

Cory Fortier, Mary Nguyen, Grace Wilkinson, Amy Kashani, Mercedes Link, Josie Renaldis, Helen Gillis, Sharon Hofmann.

And pray for those who care for them.

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