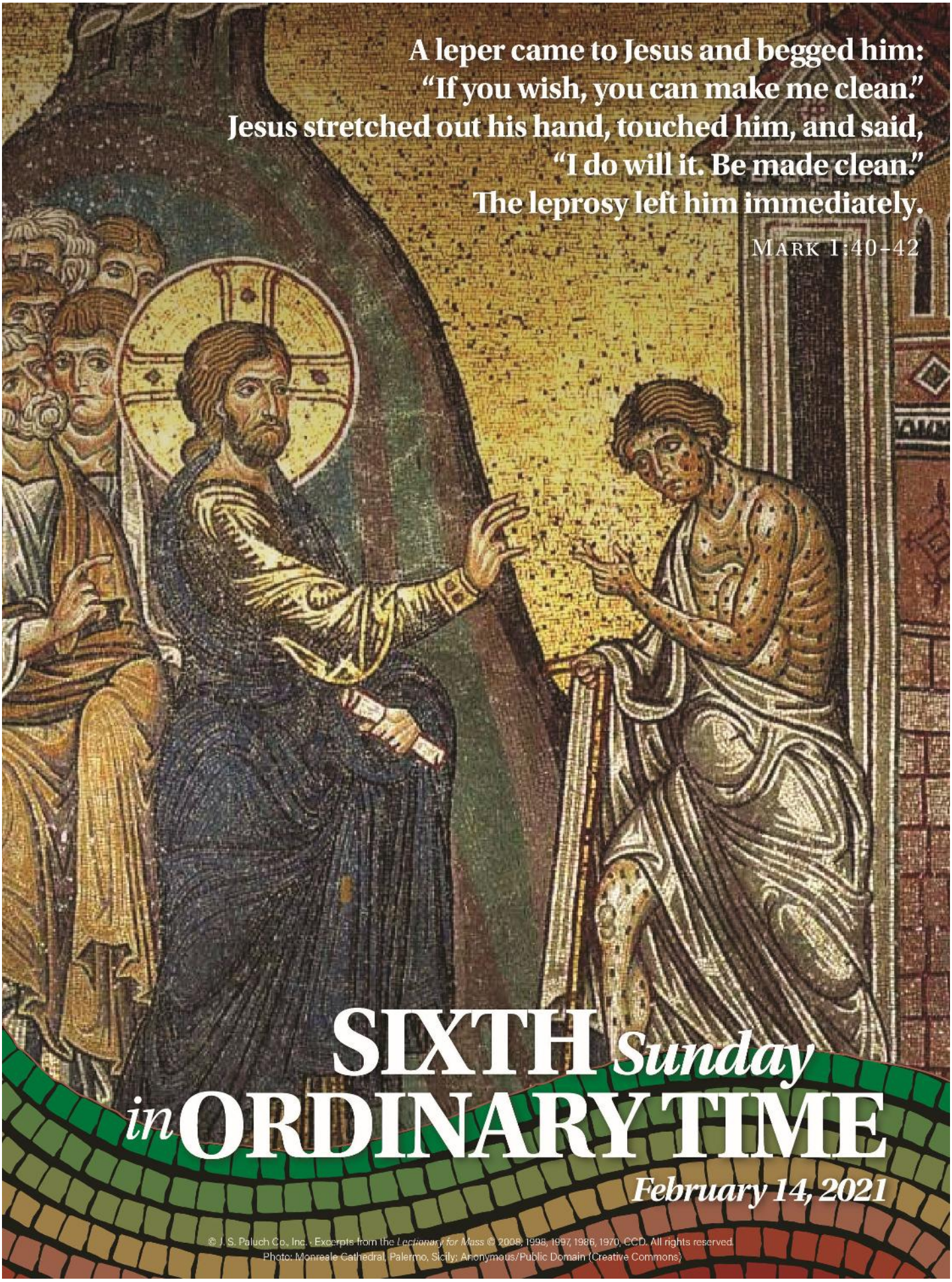

A leper came to Jesus and begged him:
"If you wish, you can make me clean."
Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him, and said,
"I do will it. Be made clean."
The leprosy left him immediately.

MARK 1:40-42

SIXTH *Sunday* *in* ORDINARY TIME

February 14, 2021

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Feast of Faith

The Gloria (2)

The Gloria is a rejoicing prayer, an exclamation of praise. It begins with the song of the angels at the announcement of the birth of Jesus (Luke 2:14), a heavenly burst of praise for God's loving action in the world. But in the Gloria, the song goes on, leaping, as it were, from height to height, with every kind of praise, blessing, adoration, glory, and thanksgiving.

We begin by thanking and praising God the Father; then we turn our gaze to Christ, the Lamb of God. The paschal mystery of Christ's suffering, death, and resurrection is found here, at the heart of this prayer, which descends to the depths with Christ, but then rises with him to the heavens, where he is seated at the Father's right hand. The Gloria ends with a series of acclamations to Christ, emphasizing over and over that he "alone" is the Holy One, the Lord, the Most High, truly God, with the Father and the Holy Spirit. Our prayer of praise ends where it began, in the "glory of God the Father." The Gloria, with its arc leading us from the glory of God to the suffering of Christ and again to glory, is the pattern of the Mass itself. At the center of all our prayer is the sacrificial love of Christ.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Jesus' Way

Today's readings present a contrast between "Jesus' way" and the "old way." An example of the old way is the law given to Moses and Aaron about leprosy: the leper was unclean and cast out of the community. Jesus' way is the opposite: the leper is reached out to, touched, and finally cured.

Nor ought we think of the "old way" as restricted to the days of Moses and Aaron, or even to the "old" testament. The difference between the old way and Jesus' way arises in own lives. We still choose, every day, to live in our old way or in Jesus' way.

Jesus dared to touch a leper, disregarding the old way. The leper then was changed forever. He felt a calling. He couldn't keep himself from proclaiming that he had been touched by Jesus (even though Jesus told him not to!). Once Jesus touches us, we are called to proclaim his way.

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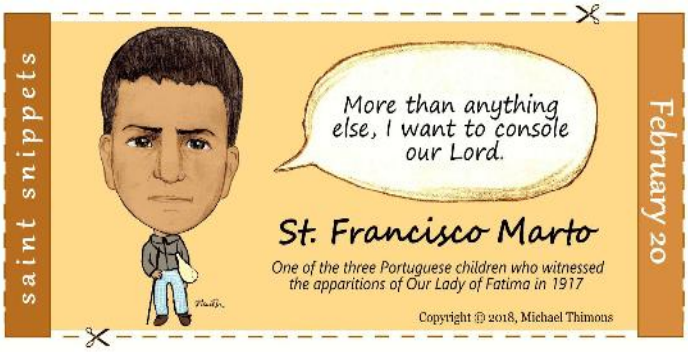
Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gn 4:1-15, 25; Ps 50:1, 8, 16bc-17, 20-21; Mk 8:11-13
Tuesday:	Gn 6:5-8; 7:1-5, 10; Ps 29:1a, 2, 3ac-4, 3b, 9c-10; Mk 8:14-21
Wednesday:	Jl 2:12-18; Ps 51:3-6ab, 12-14, 17; 2 Cor 5:20 — 6:2; Mt 6:1-6, 16-18
Thursday:	Dt 30:15-20; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 9:22-25
Friday:	Is 58:1-9a; Ps 51:3-6ab, 18-19; Mt 9:14-15
Saturday:	Is 58:9b-14; Ps 86:1-6; Lk 5:27-32
Sunday:	Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time; World Marriage Day; Valentine's Day
Monday:	Presidents' Day
Tuesday:	Mardi Gras; Shrove Tuesday
Wednesday:	Ash Wednesday; Fast and Abstinence; Almsgiving
Friday:	Abstinence



Today's Readings

First Reading — The leper will dwell apart, making an abode outside the camp (Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46).

Psalm — I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation (Psalm 32).

Second Reading — Do everything for the glory of God; be imitators of Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31 — 11:1).

Gospel — The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean (Mark 1:40-45).

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Sixth Sunday
In Ordinary Time
February 14, 2021

Whether you eat or drink,
or whatever you do,
do everything for the glory of God.
—1 Corinthians 10:31

Treasures From Our Tradition

What would you say is the oldest, most frequently sung, most translated, most memorized, most beloved song text in the Christian world today? An astute and surprising answer might be the Gloria, "Glory to God in the Highest." Soon the Lenten fast will begin, and the Gloria, sung at the beginning of Sunday Mass, will be silenced. It is an heirloom from a treasury of hymns spun from the songs of praise on the lips of Mary, Elizabeth, and Zachary. We move in the prayer from the song of the angels at the first Christmas, to the praise of God, and to a final plea to Christ to continue and complete his work in us.

For nearly 1500 years, the singing of the Gloria has been a sign of the festive quality of a particular Mass. From the beginning it was a song of the people, not of the choir or clergy. These last few Sundays of winter Ordinary Time allow us a chance to savor the hymn and give ourselves over to the chorus. How is the song of praise arising from your pew? If you claim the song as yours, its absence from Lent will be more striking, and its return at Easter will cheer your heart.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Paul the People Pleaser?

Last week we heard St. Paul saying that he was all things to all people. This week, we hear that he tried to please everyone. To modern ears, that sounds more like a used car salesman, who has just the right deal for any buyer. But that wasn't what Paul meant. The key to Paul's way of life is the last line of the second reading: "Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ." (1 Cor 11:1)

Remember when Paul was still Saul, the Jew who persecuted Christians? When he was struck by lightning he heard, not thunder, but the voice of Jesus, who asked why Saul was persecuting him. Paul later began to understand that all Christians make up the body of Christ. As members of that body, we can show others what Jesus is like, by our example. That seems to be a two part process.

First, to show Christ, we have to know Christ. We can do that by reading the scriptures and praying with them. We can receive the sacraments regularly, especially Reconciliation, where we experience his forgiveness and love, and the Eucharist, where Jesus unites himself with us, so that we can become more like him.

The second part is acting like Jesus. If we want people to see Christ in us, we don't dress like him, or grow a beard. We have to do things as Jesus would: Forgive people who hurt us, care for the sick, the dying, the poor. Don't be afraid to tell people what God has done for you; encourage others to be grateful for what God has done for them. Pray with people who have difficulty talking to God.

Paul obviously didn't please everyone, or he wouldn't have ended his life in prison. He was more interested in pleasing God by spreading the Good News of Jesus' resurrection. If we can imitate Paul in that way, we can't go wrong.

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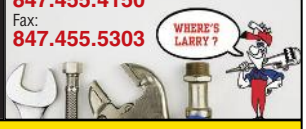

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