

Prayer Gathering for Sixth Week of Ordinary Time

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

OPENING PRAYER

Divine Master,
when we are weak in body or in spirit, you reach out your healing hand to us;
when we are gripped by the shame of sin, you flood us with mercy.
Energize us to humbly spread the good news of what you have done in our lives
and tell others how you lifted us from our lowest depths to higher ground.
We ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ, Our Lord. AMEN.

READING

MOMENT FOR SILENCE

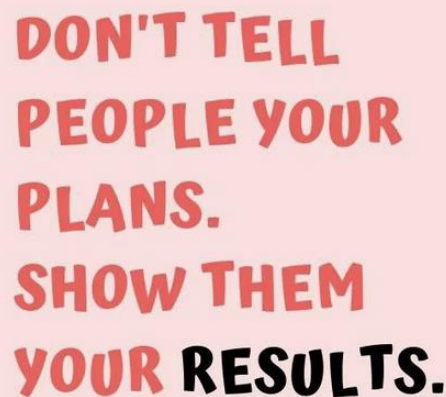
GOSPEL PASSAGE

SHARING QUESTIONS

“As long as the sore is on him, he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean.”
Those with positive COVID tests must isolate since they are in fact contagious.
When has the experience of COVID made you feel shunned or treated as if you were
“unclean”? When else in your life could you relate to this?

“Jesus stretched out his hand, touched him and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.”
When in your life have you been freed from some sort of pain, shame, bondage or trial
from a power beyond yourself? What was that experience like?

POSTED RECENTLY



**DON'T TELL
PEOPLE YOUR
PLANS.
SHOW THEM
YOUR RESULTS.**

DISCUSSION

“The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter...

People kept coming to [Jesus] from everywhere.”

Jesus asked the healed man not to tell anyone about what Jesus had done for him, but he did anyway. Today, we're encouraged to share with others all that God has done for us (“evangelize”), but we often shy away from that. Why are we reluctant to share our faith? When has someone shared their faith with you in a way that was off-putting? When has someone shared their faith in a way that was attractive? What was the difference?

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

That Catholic Christians will live our faith so beautifully, others will be drawn in by attraction rather than promotion; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our nation will show by example what is possible when people of goodwill come together with a common love of freedom and solidarity; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our communities may grow in our love and concern for each other's well-being; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That everyone who deals with shame caused by things like illness, addiction and past mistakes may be freed by the merciful touch of God; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That purity may be reclaimed by our society as a noble virtue that applies not only to our bodies but to work, money and relationships; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That all who feel exhausted and burnt out may be refreshed by God's tender loving care; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That all the sick will see beyond their present circumstances to the healing that is always offered through our connection to God; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

That our beloved dead will send us signs of their connection to us despite the illusion of our separation; we pray... **Lord, hear our prayer**

OUR FATHER

[OPTIONAL] PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION (St. Alphonsus Ligouri)

**My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the most Blessed Sacrament.
I love You above all things and I desire to receive You into my soul.
Since I cannot now receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart.
I embrace You as if You were already there, and unite myself wholly to You.
Never permit me to be separated from You. AMEN.**

CLOSING PRAYER

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. AMEN.**

SIGN OF THE CROSS +

READING 1

A reading from the book of Leviticus

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron:

“If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants.

If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head.

The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’

As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God

READING 2

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said,
“If you wish, you can make me clean.”

Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand,
touched him, and said to him,
“I do will it. Be made clean.”

The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean.

Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once.
He said to him,

*“See that you tell no one anything,
but go, show yourself to the priest
and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed;
that will be proof for them.”*

The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter.
He spread the report abroad
so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly.

He remained outside in deserted places,
and people kept coming to him from everywhere.

The Gospel of the Lord

Praise to You, Lord, Jesus Christ