

Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time  
February 11, 2024  
Be my protector, O God!



**Masses For The Week**

**Sun 11 Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
08:00 am +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandy Leyendecker)  
+Leopoldo & Irene Villarreal (M/M Carlos Cassiano)

**Wed 14 Ash Wednesday**  
6:30pm Missa Pro Popula

**Thr 15 Thursday after Ash Wednesday**  
12:05 pm +Gilbert & June Leyendecker (Sandy Leyendecker)

**Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time**  
*“Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him.” This was probably the first time the leper had ever been touched. That contact was just as compelling as his cure. The leper perceives in Jesus a compassion, a “pity.” Sickness and suffering can be a powerful occasion to experience the tenderness and goodness of another. Most likely the leper never would have begged Jesus as he did if he had not been afflicted in the first place. “I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble.” The leper presents himself to the Great High Priest, who “fills him with the joy of salvation.” Our sufferings, like the leper’s ailment, can be precisely what draw us close to Jesus.*

**The Sanctuary Candle**



**This Week will be Burning for**  
+All Souls in Purgatory (Sandra Leyendecker)

**Good News!**  
February 11, 2024  
Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)  
Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46 / 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1 / Mark 1:40-45  
FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

**As a child, were you teased, bullied, chosen last for a team? Did you feel apart from the in-crowd? If so, in various ways this treatment may have kept you from being fully engaged with the larger community, possibly continuing to scar you in even your grown-up world.**

In 2021, the news media reported that a Louisiana cemetery refused burial for Darrell Semien because he was black. Though he had served his community as a deputy sheriff for fifteen years and had helped raise seventy-two foster children, none of that was of any significance. After the news broke, the cemetery quickly lifted its whites-only stipulation, but the damage had been done. In so many ways, we continue to exclude others from the human community, even in death.

Our Sunday Gospel tells of Jesus curing a leper, enabling the man to again become part of the community. Even more startling, by touching him, Jesus himself became “impure,” and thus isolated himself from the community, thereby switching roles with the man. Bringing others into community even at a cost to ourselves is divine.

Such compassion is exemplified when people work to reform prisons, seek to integrate immigrants into national life, give voice to the voiceless, improve mental health care, strive to alleviate paralyzing poverty, and more. The world witnessed compassion at its finest during the COVID-19 pandemic when medical personnel worked to heal the sick, even at the cost of isolating themselves from their own families. Compassion toward those in need is holy. ●

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**Dear Padre**  
February 11, 2024

**I am having a difficult time receiving Communion from a eucharistic minister who has been behaving in a manner that I don’t consider moral. When I receive Communion from her, I feel like I am condoning her actions. Would it be wrong of me to go to a different person to receive Communion?**

It seems unlikely that someone would assume you are condoning her actions by receiving Communion from her. We do not sin by receiving a sacrament from an unworthy person. What matters is how worthy we are to receive it. It might be wise to receive Communion from a different person if you are more concerned with this minister’s behavior than you are with Jesus when you approach the sacrament.

It is not our task to expose and punish the sinner. If you look at the life of Jesus, you will see that he did everything possible not to condemn sinners but to save them. We should take that as the model for our own lives. Try to find ways to encourage her to live a good life. Perhaps friendship would serve her better than a boycott of her Communion line.

When Jesus was presented with the woman caught in adultery, he did not pretend that it was right. Neither did he rush to condemn her. He looked for his opportunity to forgive and tell her to avoid sin. Use that as your example about how to treat the woman at church. ●

*The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org*

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**2024 ANNUAL DIOCESAN CONFERENCE**  
THE EUCHARIST: A SACRED BOND OF UNITY  
MARCH 2ND, 2024  
8:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
TEXAS A&M INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

**EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION FEE \$30 per person**  
\$35 after Feb 26th (and on-site)  
\$25 students (with proof of valid school ID)

Registration form with check payable to:  
**Diocese of Laredo**  
1901 Corpus Christi St  
Laredo, TX 78043  
or register online by visiting:  
[www.dioceseoflaredo.org](http://www.dioceseoflaredo.org)

**Catholic Regulations for Lent**

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of **fasting and abstinence**, and all Fridays of Lent are days of **abstinence**.

**Abstinence**—requires all Catholics who have reached their 14<sup>th</sup> birthday to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and on all Fridays during Lent (Code of Canon Law §1252). Meat is considered to be the flesh and organs of mammals and fowl. Salt and freshwater fish as well as shellfish are permitted; as well as products derived from animals such as dairy products and eggs.

**Fasting**—requires that a Catholic from the 18<sup>th</sup> birthday to the beginning of their 60<sup>th</sup> birthday reduce the amount of food eaten normally. The Church defines this as one meatless meal a day, and two smaller meatless meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices, are allowed.

**Dispensations**—Besides those outside the age limits, those of unsound mind, the sick, the frail, pregnant or nursing women according to the need for meat or nourishment, manual laborers according to need, guests at a meal who cannot excuse themselves without giving great offense or causing enmity and other situations of moral or physical impossibility to observe the penitential discipline.

**2023 Catholic Sharing Appeal**  
Final Report 2023  
**IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY CHURCH**




**\$ 21,700.00 - Our Gifts to Date**  
**\$ 23,655.00 - Our Pledges to Date**  
**\$ 2,996.00 - Our Parish Goal**  
**37 – Families Participating**

**CATHOLIC SHARING APPEAL CAMPAIGN 2024**



Thank you to everyone who has participated in our 2024 Catholic Sharing Appeal campaign. The opportunity is still available at [www.dioceseoflaredo.org/csa](http://www.dioceseoflaredo.org/csa) or by texting "GIVE" to 956-305-2140. Pledge forms should also be available in the parish. Thank you!

**SPECIAL COLLECTION ON ASH WEDNESDAY**  
A special collection will be taken up on Ash Wednesday, February 14, for the **Catholic Church in Eastern Europe**. Funds for this collection are used for 1,000 projects in 22 countries to support religious and moral education, religious communication through mass media, restoration of churches, seminaries and convents, and the revitalization of Catholics. We are asked to assist with our generous donations. Thank you for your kindness.



**THE WAY OF THE CROSS**  
During Lent, as has been our custom in the past, we pray the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6:00pm.

**SECOND COLLECTION NEXT SUNDAY**  
Thanks to the **National Collection for the Black and Indian Missions**, tuition scholarships were awarded to Native American children to attend Our Lady of Refuge School in Eagle Pass, Texas. Evident that our diocese also benefits from this national collection for our Black and Native American brothers and sisters, you are asked to be generous in this collection next Sunday, February 18.

**LET US PRAY FOR THE SICK OF OUR PARISH**  
Olga Gonzalez, Cristina Zarate, Mina Aldaco, Mario Garcia, Ramona Alaniz, Edna Flores, Ana Maria Finley, Mary G. Finley, Margarita Inocencio, Lucia Rodriguez, Maria Teresa Cassiano, Dotty Guffey, and Rodrigo Medina.



Renew your spirit at the Lord’s table

*Last Sunday’s Collection*  
Envelopes: \$ 1,434.00  
Loose: \$ 36.00  
Children’s Envelopes: \$ 6.00

*Total Sunday Collection: \$ 1,476.00*  
*Total Expenses Last Week: \$ 620.89*

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