



# ST. PHILIP NERI

CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Portland, Oregon



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Fifth and Sixth Sunday  
in Ordinary Time



February 4 &  
February 11, 2024

## “If You Wish, You Can Make Me Clean”

Mark 1: 40

However great our sinfulness, each one of us can be healed by God every day. We have only to worship him with humility and love, and wherever we are to say with faith: “Lord, if you want to you can make me clean.” It is by believing from the heart that we are justified, so we must make our petitions with the utmost confidence, and without the slightest doubt of God’s power.

This leper is an excellent teacher of the right way to make petitions. He did not doubt the Lord’s willingness through disbelief in his compassion, but neither did he take it for granted, for he knew the depths of his own sinfulness.

Pondering this wonderful [story], let us put the words together in their proper sequence. The leper began: “Lord, if you want to,” and the Savior said: “I do want to.” The leper continued: “You can make me clean,” and the Lord spoke his powerful word of command: “Be clean.”

“For all have sinned and forfeited the glory of God.” Since, as we rightly believe, God’s power is operative everywhere, we ought to believe the same of his will, “for his will is that all should be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth.”



### Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give. (Mt 10:8)

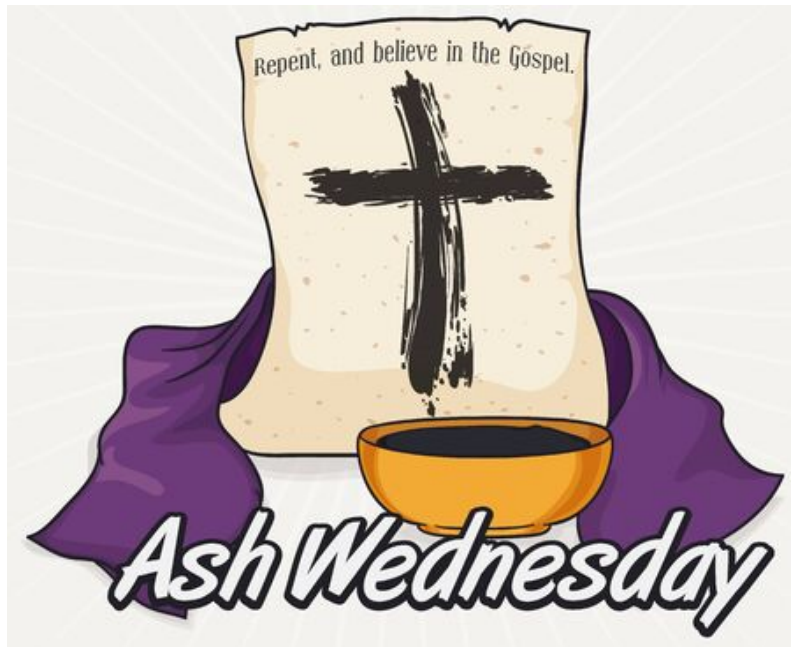
Like Simon’s mother -in-law, who opened her house so that others might receive the healing that she had been given, St. Paul felt the burden and the privilege of handing on to others the Gospel of salvation which he had received. As we have received, so let us give.

### 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. 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.

—*Magnificat*, February 2021

~Paschasius Radbertus, c. 785-860



On February 14<sup>th</sup>, **Ash Wednesday** marks the beginning of the season of Lent. It is a season of penance, reflection, and fasting which prepares us for the high point of our Christian life, Easter.

Each year the readings are the same. They call us to a change of heart and teach us about the traditional Lenten practices of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. These disciplines are to be part of the Christian life during every season, but during Lent, we renew our commitment.

Why does the priest trace the cross on our foreheads with ashes—the ‘liturgical sign’ of Ash Wednesday? On one level, the ashes remind us of our origin and our death. In the words of the prayer said when we receive ashes: “Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” But, the ashes are also a sign of *victory*: the cross of Christ. In his death and resurrection, Christ conquered death. We acknowledge that victory when we “turn away from sin and [are] faithful to the gospel,” words from the alternative prayer when we are signed with ashes. In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus warns followers against acting for the sake of appearance. When he asks disciples to give alms, pray, and fast, they are to do so in such a way that only God, who sees the heart and knows what is hidden, will know. —exerpts from *Catholic Life and Loyola Press*

**We wish everyone a blessed and meaningful Lenten season, an honest turning to the Lord.**

**The Mass Schedule for Ash Wednesday will take place on Wednesday, February 14, 2024 at 9:00 a.m. If you can't join us for those times, please join us for the Liturgy of the Word with Distribution of the Ashes at 12:10 p.m.**

## Traditional February Rite

**February 3, Friday St. Blaise (4<sup>th</sup> century).** Blaise was a doctor in Sebaste, Armenia, the city of his birth. When the bishop of the city died, he was chosen to succeed him because the people loved his generous manner, piety, holiness—and his miracles. From all around, people came to him for cures for their body or spirit—even wild animals came seeking his help. In 316, the regional governor of Lesser Armenia arrived in Sebastia at the order of the emperor to kill the Christians, and he arrested the bishop. As Blaise was being led to jail, a distraught mother, whose only child was choking on a fishbone, threw herself at his feet and asked for his help. He offered up his prayers, and the child recovered. Consequently, Saint Blaise is invoked for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat. It is said that while Blaise was kept in the dark prison, a woman secretly brought him candles and food. Every year on St. Blaise's feast, two candles tied with ribbon are used to bless throats.

We will be celebrating the ‘**Blessing of the Throats**’ in honor of St. Blaise but it will be deferred to the weekend Masses, on Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> and Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.



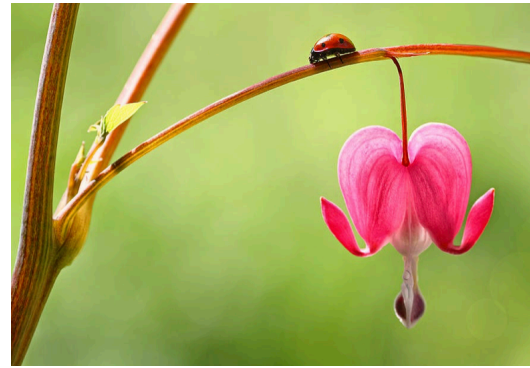
## Devotional Candle Prices

The Altar Society has set the following prices for lighting candles for personal intentions. Please put your donation in an envelope located by the candle racks and place it in the candles box. Thank you!



7 Day devotional candle  
\$4.00

4 Hour votive candles  
(by Blessed Mother's altar) \$1.00



**GOD'S  
LOVE  
ENDURES**



**The workshop has changed** and will now take place starting in February after Lent starts. We will be offering an adult education class called "Growing Old with God" this **February 17<sup>th</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> and March 2<sup>nd</sup>**. The class will start at 2:45 p.m. prior to the 4:00 p.m. Saturday Mass. Find us in the music room off the hallway behind the Altar / Sanctuary.

All are welcome! Barbara Harrison and Mary Kavanaugh will team as the presenters. Please join them.

Just click on the **GIVE ONLINE** button and take a look around. It's designed to be easy. It can be found on the upper right of our home page on our new website.

[www.stphilipneripdx.org](http://www.stphilipneripdx.org)  
Thank you!

## Church Cleaners Schedule

Feb 6 – Feb 9  
Florence & Marie

Feb 13 – Feb 16  
Jerry & Priscilla  
Stewart



MASS INTENTIONS

<b>Sat. Feb 3:</b>	4:00 p.m.	People of St Philip Neri
<b>Sun. Feb 4:</b>	9:30 a.m.	† Chris Helvey – Carol & Jane
<b>Wed. Feb 7:</b>	9:00 a.m.	† Ambrose Calcagno Jr.
<b>Thur. Feb 8:</b>	9:00 a.m.	† Christopher Calcagno – Sue Wandtke
<b>Fri. Feb 9:</b>	12:10 p.m.	Carol Cooke – Jeanne McPherson
<b>Sat. Feb 10:</b>	4:00 p.m.	† Louis Wolfe – Dorothy Bruck
<b>Sun. Feb 11:</b>	9:30 a.m.	† Raymond Capri – Marietta Spada
<b>Wed. Feb 14:</b>	9:00 a.m.	† Leona Raab – Paul & Georgene
<b>Thu. Feb 15:</b>	9:00 a.m.	† Sr. Katie Hearn
<b>Fri. Feb 16:</b>	12:10 p.m.	† Antonette Amato – Sue Wandtke
<b>Sat. Feb 17:</b>	4:00 p.m.	† George Spada – Rossetto Sisters
<b>Sun. Feb 18:</b>	9:30 a.m.	† Joe Graziano – Shannon Alfonson



Andrea Del Rosario ♥ Family of Antonette Amato ♥ Mary Schleich ♥ LeeAnn Mills ♥  
Tessa Parise Murdock ♥ Bill Dietzler

Please contact the office if you, or someone you know needs our prayers!



**February 4 – February 10**  
† Ambrose Calcagno Jr.

**February 11 – February 17**  
† Raymond Capri

*"We the welcoming community of St. Philip Neri Parish, empowered by the compassion of Jesus and supported by the Eucharist and the Word, dedicate ourselves to engage with and enrich the lives of those we touch."*

**Reconciliation Times**  
Saturday  
by appointment only

**Pastor – #101**

Fr. Andrew Thomas

[athomas@stphilipneripdx.org](mailto:athomas@stphilipneripdx.org)



**Administrative Assistant - #100**

Debra Guthrie

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