

*Our Lady of the Fields Family Worship & Learning Guide -
Celebrating the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time
February 11, 2018*



Dear Parents and Families, this is your Family Worship & Learning Guide for the Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time, February 11, 2018.

Our readings for this Sunday include: Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46, 1 Corinthians 10:31- 11:1; Mark 1:40-45. The readings show us a picture of a leper who calls out to the Lord begging to be released from his sickness and from all the fears that hold him back from God. “Lord make me *clean!*” he calls out to Jesus. The Leviticus reading tells us about the laws that separate lepers from other people. It was a dreaded disease and those sufferers had to warn people to be afraid of them and not to come too near. The disease was linked to sin by the Jews and so anyone who suffered from leprosy was pre-judged as a public sinner and as being physically and spiritually “sinful.” Jesus understood that fear and He risks being contaminated by reaching out and touching the man to cleanse him physically and spiritually. Health was linked directly to holiness and sin was connected to fear and distance from God. This leper needed Jesus to touch and believe in him and to make him whole, healthy without fear of any kind. And Jesus touches him and cures him in body and in soul. Jesus has no fear!

Our “Prayer and Learning at Home” texts present a challenge for us. Jesus cures the leper and asks him not to tell anyone. And he immediately tells everyone what Jesus did for him. We learn that when God releases us from fear it is a joy more than we can imagine. What the leper celebrates is the goodness of God overcoming all that we fear in life. The leper is clean, inside and out. He has not only overcome his illness he is no longer afraid of what others think of him or how they judge him. Jesus has made him whole! Jesus gives him back his good name, his family and friends and all that the world around him sees as important. And he has given him a new knowledge of God’s love that will overcome anything that he fears in life. No wonder he could not stop telling everyone he met about the glory and graciousness of God.

The ***Celebrating Sunday*** theme suggests that we examine the areas we share as a family and consider how a cleaning might change our space physically and intentionally. For example, if you clean out a closet at home, think about what you are keeping in your closet and in your heart and let go of what we don’t need but hold onto in our closets and in our heart and mind! Clean out anything that might interfere with knowing God’s love. It’s a good time for a family to decide how we might live free of anything that holds us back from our love for God and for one another. Clean out anything that clutters your house and heart that keep you from living fully in your home and in God’s love. Discuss what we need to “clean out” in our hearts so we are ready to do God’s will inside our houses and in our hearts this Lent

Let us pray together for our family and friends this week: Father, We lift up our hearts to you. We often struggle with fear and worry. It grips our minds and hearts and can erode our faith in You. Please help us not to fear Lord! Give us a heart that trusts in you completely and does not hide behind our fears. May our faith may increase. And may we trust you to support and care for us every day in every way we need. We pray in Jesus name. AMEN!

Thank you for loving each other and learning to praise and follow God’s way in your family life!
A blessed Sunday and week ahead to all!

*Dr. Tom Little and the Evangelization and Faith Formation
Ministry Team*