



ST FRANCIS XAVIER'S PARISH

FED BY THE WORD

*A joyful, inclusive community ...each growing
in personal relationship with Christ*

**6TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME
YEAR B, 2020**

“Fan into flame the gift of God...” 2 Tim 1: 6-7

THE GOSPEL

Mark 1:40-45

A leper came to Jesus and pleaded on his knees: 'If you want to' he said 'you can cure me.' Feeling sorry for him, Jesus stretched out his hand and touched him. 'Of course I want to!' he said. 'Be cured!' And the leprosy left him at once and he was cured. Jesus immediately sent him away and sternly ordered him, 'Mind you say nothing to anyone, but go and show yourself to the priest, and make the offering for your healing prescribed by Moses as evidence of your recovery.' The man went away, but then started talking about it freely and telling the story everywhere, so that Jesus could no longer go openly into any town, but had to stay outside in places where nobody lived. Even so, people from all around would come to him.

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Starting Out

Context:

A leper does the unthinkable and approaches Jesus, asking to be cured. Then Jesus does the unthinkable and touches him.

What word or phrase are you drawn to by the Holy Spirit?

What idea within this gospel speaks most to your own life right now?

The gospel gives us insight into Jesus' willingness to do whatever it takes, to share in the suffering of others, as he makes himself ritually unclean. Where on that willingness scale do you find yourself today?

Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to a different way of being, or to a specific action?

Ready to go deeper

Context:

Under the law, Jesus takes the uncleanness of the leper on himself, as he reaches out in compassion. A foreshadowing of the way he will take humanity's sin upon himself on the cross.

- 1. What word or phrase are you drawn to by the Spirit in this week's gospel?**
- 2. Jesus' action is instant and without hesitation. Can I think of an action in my own life, or the life of someone I admire, where such compassion has been shown?**
- 3. Have you thought about ways our community might reach out in healing? What might that look like? Who are the 'lepers' in our society today?**
- 4. Is the Holy Spirit prompting you to an action or conversation as a result of this gospel? How might you take concrete steps towards that?**