

# MINSTER CLUSTER

ST. AUGUSTINE & ST. JOSEPH

Served by the Missionaries of the Precious Blood

February 11, 2018

## ST. AUGUSTINE CATHOLIC CHURCH

48 N. Hanover St., PO Box 93

Minster, OH 45865

### St Augustine Mass Schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm

Sunday: 8:00, 10:00, 11:30 am

Holyday Vigil: 6:30 pm

Holyday: 8:00 am, 6:30 pm

## ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

02441 State Route 364

Minster, OH 45865

### St Joseph Mass Schedule

Sunday: 8:45 am

Holyday: 7:00 pm

Communion Service

Wednesday: 8:00 pm

### Mission Statement

The Mission of St Augustine/St Joseph Cluster is to provide a spiritual environment and resources where people may gather to hear the Word proclaimed. As a cluster, we celebrate the Eucharist, the sacraments, and provide the members of all ages the opportunity to grow in the practice of their faith, learning how to fully keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbors.

### Contact Us

Cluster Office 419-628-2614 Fax 419-628-1078

Parish Center Office 419-628-3434

Website [www.staugie.com](http://www.staugie.com)



Pastor: Rev Rick Nieberding, C.P.P.S. [rick@staugie.com](mailto:rick@staugie.com)

Deacon Hal Belcher [hbelcher001@woh.rr.com](mailto:hbelcher001@woh.rr.com)

Deacon Roger Klosterman [rogk1@roadrunner.com](mailto:rogk1@roadrunner.com)

Pastoral Assoc: Sr Marla Gipson [srmarla@staugie.com](mailto:srmarla@staugie.com)

Director of Music: Jared Post [musicstaugie@gmail.com](mailto:musicstaugie@gmail.com)

Admin Assistant: Cindy Wuebker [cindy@staugie.com](mailto:cindy@staugie.com)

Business Manager: Leslie Tyler [finances@staugie.com](mailto:finances@staugie.com)

Rel Ed Secretary: Carol McMaster [carol@staugie.com](mailto:carol@staugie.com)

K-6th CRE: Therese Brown [therese@staugie.com](mailto:therese@staugie.com)

7th -12th CRE: Barb Blanco [barb@staugie.com](mailto:barb@staugie.com)

Youth Minister: Alex Clune [alex@staugie.com](mailto:alex@staugie.com)

### St. Joseph Staff

Administrators: Dan & Sue Wehrman 419-628-4081

Sacristan: Rose Schmiesing 419-953-3344

Parish Hall Rental: Roger Hoying 419-628-3204

### Cemetery

St. Augustine: Jim & Beth Hinker 419-628-2822

St. Joseph: Ralph Bihn 419-628-3102

Matt Sommer 614-296-0021

### Bulletin

Please have announcements to the Cluster Office by 2:00 pm Monday. Announcements can be emailed to [bulletin@staugie.com](mailto:bulletin@staugie.com)

### Like us on Facebook

St Augustine/St Joseph Cluster. Minster, OH  
St Augustine/St Joseph Youth Ministry. Minster, OH

## SACRAMENTS

### Sacrament of Baptism

Baptisms are celebrated at the 5:00 pm Mass on Saturday or Sunday at 1:00 pm outside of Mass. Baptismal preparation class for parents is offered the fourth Tuesday during the months of January, March, May, July, September, and November. You must register no later than the Monday before class. The class is held in the Parish Center at 7:30 pm and attendance is required before a child can be baptized.

### Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays from 4:00–4:30 pm at St. Augustine Church

### Sacrament of Marriage

Congratulations on your engagement! A premarital preparation program is required by the Archdiocese. It is important to contact the rectory office at least six months in advance of a wedding date. A tentative date can be set after the first appointment, but will become final only after marriage preparation is completed.

## MINISTRY

### Minister to the Sick

Jim Saluke 419-628-3753  
salukeb@roadrunner.com

### Prayer Line Requests

Cindy Vondenhuevel 419-628-3528  
cinronv@nktelco.net  
Deb Knapke 419-628-2866  
ddknapke@nktelco.net  
Shirley Olding 419-305-4575  
oldingm@nktelco.net

### Radio Maria—88.7 FM

www.radiomaria.us Mondays at 9:30 am  
Fr. Sean Wilson & Julia Monnin 1st & 4th Monday  
TBA 2nd Monday  
Rich Stein & Susan Bernhold 3rd Monday

### Readings of the Week : Feb 12-18

Monday: Jas 1:1-11; Mk 8:11-13  
Tuesday: Jas 1:12-18; Mk 8:14-21  
Wednesday: Jl 2:12-18; 2 Cor 5:20-6:2  
Thursday: Dt 30:15-20; Lk 9:22-25  
Friday: Is 58:1-9a; Mt 9:14-15  
Saturday: Is 58:9b-14; Lk 5:27-32  
Sunday: Gn 9:8-15; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

## ST AUGUSTINE MINISTRIES

### Babysitters:

Sun 2/18 Lori Stammen, Angie Bergman  
Ava Stammen, Cadence Bergman, Brooklyn Osterloh

## ST AUGUSTINE MINISTRIES

### Servers:

Wed 2/14 8:00 am Claire Lamm, Emma Meyer  
7:00 pm Sophomore Students  
Sat 2/17 5:00 pm Drew Perryman, Jacob Wissman, Sam Werling  
Sun 2/18 8:00 am Jenna & Jarod Schulze, Ben Wuebker  
10:00 am Andrew & Katie Kogge, Redmond Bernhold  
11:30 am Alex Frimel, Courtney & Wyatt Kemper

### Eucharistic Ministers

Wed 2/14 Noon Peggy Bensman, Min Weiskittel, Judy Winner, Sr. Marla Gipson  
7:00 pm Sophomore Students  
Sat 2/17 5:00 pm Paige & Karla thobe, Jenny Perryman, Pat Roetgerman, Jon Werling, Kaycie Wissman, Brooke Wolf  
Sun 2/18 8:00 am Natalie Bensman, Diana Hausfeld, Danielle Barhorst, Carly Wagner, Gerry Dwenger, Regan Wuebker, Dolores Fortman  
10:00 am \*Karen Dwenger, Scott Limbert, Jill Oldiges, Tom & Becky Roetgerman, Marlene Rutschilling, Ken Wuebker  
11:30 am Mya Dirksen, Lauren Dwenger, Alice & Emma Schmiesing, Lauren Hagelberger, Krista Frimel, Lindsey Albers

### Lector:

Wed 2/14 Noon Greg Oen  
7:00 pm Sophomore Students  
Sat 2/17 5:00 pm Laura Heitkamp  
Sun 2/18 8:00 am Jenni Meyer  
10:00 am Becky Roetgerman  
11:30 am Emma Schmiesing

### Greeters:

Sat 2/17 5:00 pm Dick, Elaine & Alec Huber, Skylar Albers  
Sun 2/18 8:00 am Diana Hausfeld, Carly Wagner, Dotti Dickman, Danielle Barhorst  
10:00 am Marlene Rutschilling, Leslie Tyler, Ellen Zircher, Pam Kinsella  
11:30 am Alice & Sam Schmiesing, Lindsey Albers, Kris Niekamp

## ST. AUGUSTINE CHURCH

### Daily Masses and Intentions

#### MONDAY— Feb 12

8:00 am Communion Service

#### TUESDAY—Feb 13

8:00 am For the Parish

#### WEDNESDAY— Feb 14

8:00 am Steve Trzaska  
12:00 pm Henry Dickman  
7:00 pm Martha Boecker

#### THURSDAY—Feb 15

8:00 am All Souls

#### FRIDAY— Feb 16

8:00 am Ferd & Velma Dwenger  
1:30 pm at Heritage Center

#### SATURDAY—Feb 17

5:00 pm Cara Young

#### SUNDAY—Feb 18

8:00 am Shirley Oldiges  
10:00 am Michael J. Mering  
11:30 am Colin Heckman

### St. Joseph Mass Intentions

Wed 2/14 7:00 pm Dahlinghaus and Schmitmeyer families

Sun 2/18 8:45 am Sophia and Lawrence Winner, Larry Ray and Connie Smith

### PARISH NEWS

**Book Pick Up** - If you reserved a copy of, "Everybody Needs to Forgive Somebody" by Allen Hunt, please pick up in the rear of St. Augustine Church. Books will be labeled with your name.

**Parish Council** - Meeting minutes from the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting can be found at the entrances of church and online at [www.staugie.com](http://www.staugie.com).

**Friday Faith Series** - Every Friday after the 8:00 am Mass in the rectory basement. Join us any time for faith and fellowship.

**2018 Catholic Ministries Appeal (CMA)** - Please help us reach our goal of \$34099 to help Catholic ministries in our Archdiocese. If you have already responded by mail or online, or if you brought your completed pledge card to place in the offertory today, thank you! To make a gift online, visit [CatholicAppeal.net](http://CatholicAppeal.net).

**Sports, Faith, & Film** - Monday, February 19<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm in the Parish Center. Showing, "Legend of Bagger Vance." Join us as we explore the Catholic questions of everyday situations related to the movie.

**Building & Maintenance Meeting** - Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 pm in the rectory basement.

**Finance Committee Meeting** - Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 11:30 am in rectory conference room.

**"The Light is on for You" Night of Confessions** - Tuesday, February 27<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9 pm at St. Augustine Church. *The Light is On* is an initiative of the Archdiocese where all Catholic churches in the diocese are open for quiet prayer and Confession.

### St. Augustine Stewardship

Sunday, February 4<sup>th</sup> offerings were \$8109.00

- \$7096.00 in 254 envelopes
- \$980 loose
- \$33 children's envelopes

Thank you for your generosity!

### St. Augustine & St. Joseph Catholic Church

#### Ash Wednesday

February 14, 2018

8:00 am St. Augustine  
12:00 pm St. Augustine  
7:00 pm St. Augustine  
7:00 pm St. Joseph



#### Stations of the Cross

St. Augustine Church

Sundays during Lent

February 18<sup>th</sup> - March 18<sup>th</sup>  
at 2:00 pm

St. Joseph Church

Wednesdays during Lent

February 21<sup>st</sup> - March 21<sup>st</sup>  
at 8:00 pm

Communion Service  
immediately following



**Join our  
"Java with Jesus"  
Book Study**

Gatherings will be held  
Saturdays,  
February 17<sup>th</sup> - March 10<sup>th</sup>  
at the New Bremen  
Coffee Shop,  
115 W Monroe St.,  
New Bremen  
from 8:00—9:30 am.

We will be reviewing  
"Everybody Needs to  
Forgive Somebody"  
by Allen R. Hunt

Feb 17 = Ch 1-3  
Feb 24 = Ch 4-6  
Mar 3 = Ch 7-9  
Mar 10 = Ch 10-Closing



**Radio Maria  
Brunch  
Buffet**

Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>  
9:00 am-1:00 pm at  
Speedway Lanes,  
455 N. Herman St.  
New Bremen.

All-you-care to eat  
breakfast buffet, lunch  
items will be available  
after 10:00 am. Meals cost  
\$9.99 for adults and \$5.99  
for those 3 to 10, children  
ages 2 and under eat free.

Radio Maria is operated  
by volunteers dedicated  
to bringing "A Christian  
Voice in your Home."  
WHJM 88.7 FM .

## CLUSTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**A Time of Joy** ... please welcome James Bernard Homan, son of Steven & Kristi (Luthman) Homan and Noah Joseph Hackemoeller, son of Michael Hackemoeller & Crystal Schmiesing, who were baptized recently.

**A Time to Heal**...please pray for our parishioners who are ill, especially John Kuether.

**Eucharistic Adoration** - Monday, February 12<sup>th</sup>, at St. Augustine Church. Opening begins at 9:00 am. Right to Life will lead rosary at 8:00 pm with Benediction concluding by 9:00 pm.

**Prayer for the Heart** - Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00 pm at Maria Stein Shrine. February is heart health awareness month. Join us for this prayer service as we pray to St. John, the patron saint of heart health. Scripture readings, witness reflection, and relic veneration. All are welcome.

**Cataract Fire Company Meeting** - Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00pm at Minster bowling alley.

**Shrove Pancake Dinner** - Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm at the Maria Stein Shrine. Why Pancakes? Pancakes are associated with the day preceding Lent because they were a way to use up rich foods such as eggs, milk, and sugar, before the fasting season of the 40 days of Lent. RSVP today by calling 419-925-4532 \$8.00 per adult / \$4.00 per child.

**Minster New Bremen Right to Life Meeting** - Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at the Hoying Building, Minster. Please help us preserve the sanctity of life!

**Alzheimer's Support Group** -Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 7:30pm, at the Mercer County Council on Aging, 217 Riley Street, Celina. This group is for family, caregivers or friends of those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. Feel free to bring loved ones with Alzheimer's. For additional info, please call 419-586-1644.

**Knights of Columbus Meeting** - Tuesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, at 8:00 pm at the K of C Hall. All current members are welcome to attend the meeting and enjoy food, drink and fellowship immediately following.

**Patriotic Rosary** - Thursday, February 15<sup>th</sup>, at Noon at St. Augustine Church. Please come pray for the sanctity of our country.

**Catholic Adult Singles** - Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup>; way of the cross & supper, Maria Stein & New Bremen. For more information contact Eileen Lamm at 419-678-8691.

**The Shroud of Turin**: February 18<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm at Holy Redeemer Catholic Church, New Bremen. A medieval hoax or the actual cloth that wrapped Jesus' crucified body? It is the single most studied artifact in history. Come and find out how research and other relics from Jesus' Passion shed light into this mystery. Presented by Dave Rothman and Frank Denome.

**"One Border, One Body"** - Tuesday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. Missionaries of the Precious Blood will show a thirty-minute film followed by optional discussion. Held in the Gaspar Room at St. Charles Center, 2860 U.S. Route 127, Celina, 45822. For more information call Colleen Kammer at 937-228-9263 X221.

## CLUSTER ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Daily Journey to Heaven** - February 20<sup>th</sup> & March 8<sup>th</sup>, from 10-11:00 am at the Maria Stein Shrine. Join Sr. Joyce Ann Zimmerman as we embark on a wonderful journey of learning about purgatory, indulgences, grace, and holiness that opens up for us our daily journey to heaven.

**Salt and Light: A Transformative Journey into Catholic Social Teaching.** Thursdays, February 22 - March 22, from 6:30-9 pm at the Archdiocesan Offices, 119 E. Water St., Sidney. Join us on an adventure into the social dimension of the Gospel, focusing on how caring for God's creation is caring for our brothers and sisters as well as focusing on options for the poor and vulnerable. Please register by contacting Becky Kunkler at 937-224-3026 ext. 5015 or rkunkler@catholiccincinnati.org. Cost is \$25, payable the first night.

**Full of Grace Women's Conference** - Saturday, February 24<sup>th</sup>, from 9:00 – 2:00 at St. Bernard's Church, Burkettsville. Includes Mass, light breakfast, uplifting talks, lunch, craft, book and gift vendors; door prizes and more! Time for Confession and Adoration. \$30/person, all women high school juniors and older are invited. Send registration with name, phone, and email with check payable to: Pam Moody, 5588 Brown Rd., Versailles, OH 45380. For further information call 937-569-1953.

**Is God Calling You?** - Ever thought of increasing your involvement with parish ministries, but felt you needed more training? An informational meeting will be held, Sunday February 25<sup>th</sup>, from 2 - 4 pm at the St. Charles Center, Carthagen. Deacon Hal Belcher and other deanery priests will be available to talk to individuals about the Lay Pastoral Ministry Program offered by the Anthenaeum. Light refreshments will be served and everyone is welcome to come over to visit and talk about growing their knowledge of our Catholic faith!

**American Legion Meeting** - Monday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, at 6:30 pm. For hall rental contact Jerry & Donna Winner at 419-733-3869 or 419-305-6344.

**Quarter Auction** - Thursday, March 1<sup>st</sup>, at Coldwater Eagles, 101 W. Walnut Street. Auction begins at 6:30pm. Proceeds benefit the Briarwood Village Activity Department. Paddles are \$3.00; and remember to bring plenty of quarters!

**Parish Mission with Fr. Ben Luedtke** - March 11-14, each evening at 7:00 pm at St. Michael Church, Ft. Loramie. Fr. Luedtke studied at the Angelicum in Rome, was ordained by Pope St. John Paul II, and worked closely with Blessed Mother Teresa. Topics include Sunday: "Time and Eternity", Monday: "Forgiveness, Tuesday Evening: "The Holy Eucharist", Wednesday: "The Blessed Virgin Mary and the Cross". Free and open to the public.

**Are You Thirsting?** - Fr. Nathan Cromly will be at the Spiritual Center, March 15<sup>th</sup>, 12:30-3:00 pm for a talk entitled, "I Thirst". \$5.00 – bring a bag lunch. To register contact Carol Heckman at heckman\_carol@yahoo.com, or Barb Blanco at barb@staugie.com or 419.953.1587. Space is limited, register early!

**Lenten Family Holy Hour** - March 15<sup>th</sup>, from 7-8:30 pm at St. Augustine Church. Fr. Nathan Cromly, founder of Eagle Eye Ministries, presents an evening with uplifting talk, adoration, and music to be inspired to cultivate a deeper relationship with Jesus. Free and open to the public.



**"Divine Mercy,  
In the second greatest  
story ever told"**

Join us for a video bible study that tells the dramatic history of God's love and mercy.

**Tuesdays  
February 20<sup>th</sup> -March 20<sup>th</sup>  
6:30 to 8:00 pm  
in the Parish Center**

To register contact Kathy Winner by email kmuellka@gmail.com or Therese Brown at 419-628-3434.

### **Celebrate National Marriage Week**

February 7-14

Marriage Benefits Everyone. Celebrate the beauty and sanctity of marriage with *Humanae Vitae*:

Married love particularly reveals its true nature and nobility when we realize that it takes its origin from God, who "is love" (no. 8)

For resources to prepare for marriage or strengthen your marriage and family, visit:

[www.foryourmarriage.org](http://www.foryourmarriage.org)  
[www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org](http://www.nationalmarriageweekusa.org)



UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF  
CATHOLIC BISHOPS



High School volunteers are needed to help organize a fundraising event for Eli Monnier. Eli was born with a genetic condition, Epidermolysis Bullosa (EB), that affects the skin. Children born with it are missing a key protein that holds the layers of the skin together. Without the protein, the layers of skin separate, forming fluid or blood blisters shearing the skin. Eli will undergo a Bone Marrow Transplant to help slow the progression of his condition. There currently is no cure for EB.

We would like to form a team to plan, organize, advertise, and host a fun family day with Carnival Games, Food, and Super Hero Theme. The event will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 - 5:30. All proceeds will benefit the Monnier family for Eli's medical treatments. There will be a planning meeting on Sunday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM at Minster Elementary.

If you would like to be part of this amazing team please contact Leanne Keller at [leanne.keller@minsterschools.org](mailto:leanne.keller@minsterschools.org) or text 937-638-2022.

## Student News

### Wednesday School Liturgies

Feb 14 - 5C Jenni Meyer  
Feb 21 - 3A Alex Clune  
Feb 28 - 2C Anne Wendeln

### High School PSR Schedule

Feb 14 - Sophomores have a class @ 5:45 pm in parish center  
Feb 18 - No Class: President's Day

**Lenten Mission for Kindergarten thru 6<sup>th</sup> grade** - We are fundraising for *Monkey in my Chair*, a program to complement cancer research efforts. This program was developed for preschool and elementary aged children who are away from school because of a serious illness. We are fundraising to provide a child/children with a "monkey kit" which includes a big stuffed monkey that takes a child's place in school when they are unable to be there. The kits include the monkey with a backpack, a book to help the teachers explain to students the situation their classmate is facing and how it affects them, a teacher companion guide, along with other items that can be utilized by the child and/or classmates. All kits are sent out at no cost to the families or hospitals. During LENT we practice **Prayer, Fasting and Almsgiving**; PSR students K-6 will be asked for example to save money for this cause with compassion and generosity (not buy a snack, earn money doing odds and ends, etc.). Each student will come home with a letter about the fundraiser and a paper monkey head in a plastic zip lock bag. To learn more visit [www.monkeyinmychair.org](http://www.monkeyinmychair.org). Participation in this fundraising is optional.

**Little Flowers** - Wednesday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, at 3:15 pm in Parish Center. Church bus will transport girls after school with parent pick up at 5:00 pm.

**Jr High Bible Study** Sunday, February 25<sup>st</sup>, from 7 - 8:30 pm in the Parish Center.

**Edge** - Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, from 3:15 - 5:00 pm at the Parish Center. We will dive into the topic of the Mass.

**Blue Knights** - Tuesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, at 6:45 - 8:15 pm in Parish Center. Join us for great discussion and lesson on Mary & Joseph.

**K-3 Kickball** - Begins again March 23<sup>rd</sup> at 3:15 pm at the Parish Center.

**Kindergarten registrations** - are now being accepted at Minster Elementary School for the 2018/2019 school year. All children turning 5 years old before August 1, 2018 are eligible to attend kindergarten next fall. Parents of prospective kindergarteners are asked to call the elementary school at 419-628-4174 or email [jenny.ripploh@minsterschools.org](mailto:jenny.ripploh@minsterschools.org).

**Catholic Youth Damascus Day** - April 29, 2018 at Catholic Youth Summer Camp community, 7550 Ramey Rd, Centerburg, OH 43011, from Noon - 8:15 pm. This will be a FREE event for families to explore Damascus, participate in high adventure activities, and hear internationally recognized keynote speaker, John O'Leary. Everyone is invited to join - open to our CYSC campers and beyond; benefactors, families, friends, parishioners, neighbors, grandparents, parish leaders, priests, alumni, and all. Day includes welcoming, Mass, free activity time (high ropes, rock wall, zip line, archery tag, and more), dinner with live music, skits, entertainment, keynote, and adoration.

## St Augustine Capital Purchases

In an effort to keep parishioners informed regarding capital expenditures in our parish, here is St Augustine's fiscal year to date outlook. Please remember that all mentioned projects were bid to at least three vendors. The Building & Maintenance Committee diligently studies and reviews the proposals to determine which vendor will be best to complete the project. Any project exceeding \$25,000 requires majority approval from both the Finance Committee and Parish Council.

### Current Fiscal Year (7/1/17-12/31/17)

Church painting: outside windows on the North side of the church	\$ 8,416.00
Altar Crown Refinishing - Main Altar plus two side altars. Includes cost to refinish and scaffolding company to tear down and replace the crowns. (Final Billing)	\$ 10,676.00
Wellman Brothers - repair water leaks on North and South steeples	\$ 19,972.00
Updated parking lot to LED	\$ 1,560.00
Parish Center Roof Repairs (\$2500 originally quoted)	\$ 968.27
<b>17/18 Fiscal Year to date Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 41,592.27</b>

### Projected Capital Expenditures for 17/18 Fiscal Year

Church HVAC Repairs - several 'bells & whistles' installed for maximum system performance. Clean up work required. New controllers on chillers required.	\$ 15,000.00
Buehler Paving - Repaving most driveways throughout St Augustine Cemetery	\$ 70,000.00
Building foundations for headstones on East side of cemetery - quoting process	\$ 20,000.00
Quoting window repairs to multiple windows in Parish Center	TBD
Replace street sign along Hanover Street - on hold	TBD
Updates to rectory basement - on hold	TBD
<b>17/18 Projected Capital Expenditures</b>	<b>\$ 105,000.00</b>

## Sixth Sunday of Ordinary Time - February 11, 2018

### Reading I : Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46

Those who are sick shall live outside the camp.

- The Book of Leviticus is a collection laws; many having to do with the proper worship of God.
- In today's reading we hear of illness and exclusion from communal life.
- Because people did not know about the process of contagion at the time, the community banished persons with any skin disease as long as the disease lasted.

### Reading II : 1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1

Imitate me as I do Christ.

- The passage from 1 Corinthians refers to a concern the early Christians had about eating meat that had been sacrificed to idols.
- Paul makes the point that our behavior toward others is more important than what we eat or drink.
- Paul's advice is to avoid offending one another at all costs.

### Gospel : Mark 1:40-45

If you will do so, you can cure me.

- The Gospel story shows that Jesus not only has the power to cure disease, he also has the power to heal the separation from the community and the separation from God, which leprosy signified.
- Jesus' approach to the leper would have scandalized the people of his time.
- By touching the leper, Jesus demonstrated the arrival of the kingdom of God.

**Question for Youth:** How has Jesus touched your life? How are you changed because of that touch?

**Question for Adults:** Name a time when you experienced Jesus' healing touch.