

ST. LEONARD CATHOLIC CHURCH

8510 S. Zarzamora St. | San Antonio, TX 78224

Office: (210) 924-6000 | Fax: (210) 924-5552

E-mail: parishoffice@stleonardsa.org | Website: www.stleonardsa.org

~~~~~

Rev. Servando Guerrero Ponce, Pastor

Rev. Mr. Charles R. (Rusty) Gamez, Deacon | Rev. Mr. Jose Hernandez, Deacon (Ret.)



Welcome  
to Our Parish!

## OFFICE HOURS | HORARIO DE OFICINA

Monday: 9 a.m.– 12 p.m.

Tuesday - Thursday: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Friday: 9 a.m. -12 NOON

CLOSED DAILY FOR LUNCH FROM 1 - 2 p.m.

*Lunes: 9 a.m.– 12 p.m.*

*Martes- Jueves: 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.*

*Viernes: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.*

**Our mission of St. Leonard** is to spread the message of Our Lord Jesus Christ. To hear the Good News from the Gospel and therefore invite the Community to be part of the Holy Church

**Nuestra misión en San Leonardo** es difundir el mensaje de Nuestro Señor Jesucristo. Escuchar la Buena Nueva del Evangelio y por lo tanto invitar a la Comunidad a ser parte de la Santa Iglesia.

*Bienvenidos a Nuestra Parroquia!*



6th Sunday of Ordinary Time

February 11, 2024

**PARISH INFORMATION**  
*Información Parroquial*

**Church Address**

8510 S. Zarzamora St.  
San Antonio, Texas 78224

Phone: [210] 924-6000

Fax: [210] 924-5552

E-mail:

parishoffice@stleonardsa.org

Website: www.stleonardsa.org

**Office Hours:**

Monday 9:00am-12:00pm

Tuesday-Thursday 9:00am-5:00pm

Friday 9:00am-12:00pm

[closed for Lunch 1:00pm-2:00pm]

**MASS SCHEDULE**  
*Horario de Misas*

**Saturday | Sabado**

5:30pm

**Sunday | Domingo**

8:30am [Spanish]

11:00am

7:00pm [Spanish]

**Martes & Jueves**

8:30am [Spanish]

**Wednesday & Friday**

8:30am

**ADORATION**  
*Adoración*

**Martes & Miercoles**

9:00am-11:00am

**Holy Hour | Hora Santa**

Thursday | Jueves

5:00pm-6:00pm

**Confession | Confesiones**

Thursday | Jueves

5:00pm

**Divine Mercy**

**Divina Misericordia**

1st & 3rd Friday | Viernes

7:00pm (Chapel | Capilla)

**PARISH ADMINISTRATION**  
*Administración Parroquial*

**Pastor**

Rev. Servando Guerrero Ponce

*Pastor@stleonardsa.org*

**Deacons**

Rev. Dcn Charles R. (Rusty) Gamez

Rev. Dcn Jose Hernandez (retired)

**Bookkeeper**

Patricia Gonzales (ext. 102)

*Bookkeeper@stleonardsa.org*

**Office Coordinator**

Ileana Serda (ext. 101)

*Parishoffice@stleonardsa.org*

**Faith Formation**

Sr. Blanca E. Hinojosa (ext.108)

*Faithformation@stleonardsa.org*

**Maintenance**

Victor Moreno

**COUNCILS**  
*CONSEJOS*

**Finance Council**

Judy Perez

**Parish Pastoral Council (PPC)**

Laura Gonzalez

**PARISH MINISTRIES**  
*Ministerios Parroquiales*

**ACTS**

Deacon Rusty Gamez

**Altar Servers**

Herman Sanchez

**Altar Society**

Rachel Sosa

**Bereavement**

Mary Mora

Sylvia Garcia

**Divine Mercy**

Elvia & George Orta

Deacon Rusty Gamez

**Eucharistic Ministers**

Mela Sepulveda

**Guadalupe Society**

Rosemary Soriano

**Knights of Columbus**

Edward Mata

**Ladies Auxiliary**

Maria Lopez

**Lectors**

Tony Ybarra

**Marriage Preparation/  
Quinceaneras**

Judi Gamez

**Martha's Ministry**

Micaela Rubio

**Matachines**

Maria & Alexis Luna-Chavez

**Ministry of the Sick**

Deacon Rusty Gamez

**Music Ministry**

Maria & Andy Chavez

**Sacristans**

Andrea Castillo

Elvia Moreno

**Sanctus Young Adults**

Cleo Voight

**Ushers**

Janie Gonzalez

## Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:30 p.m.

†Fernando V. Medellín

†Pat Longoria

†Rachel Borrego

Ricardo Tovar – 3rd Birthday

Fr. Servando – Birthday

Sunday 8:30 a.m.

†Severiano Mata

†Salvador Lozano

†Felipe Abelar y †Maria Reyes  
Gutierrez

†Ezequiel Trujillo Garcia

†Gabriel de Anda y †Aurelia Ramirez  
cumpleaños del Padre Servando

11:00 a.m.

†Clara G. Ortiz

†Maria Manuela Ramirez

†Maria C. Martinez

†Rebecca Villarreal

Duran Family

Azrael Rey Espinoza

Deacon Rusty Gamez – Birthday

Fr. Servando– Birthday

7:00 p.m.

Salud de Francisco Flores  
cumpleaños del Padre Servando



**This week's Sanctuary Lamp  
is for the eternal rest of**

*St. Leonard's departed loved ones*

**Eternal rest grant unto her/him, O Lord, and let  
perpetual light shine upon her/him. May her/his soul  
and the souls of all the faithful departed, through the  
mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen**



*Pray For...*

Bertha & Gabriel Canales, Andrea Cantu, Devyn Casias, Irma Castro, Mary Cruz, Rosalie Croom, Baby Azrael Espinoza, Amelia Flores, Alice B. Gamez, David & Maria Garcia, Melody Garcia, Blanca Hernandez, Johnny Hernandez, Ruben Hernandez, Blanca S. Hernandez, Patricia Hernandez, Jose and Rosa Huerta, Roxanne Longoria, Maria Loreda, Michael Mendoza, Anna Montoya, Juan Nava, Elvia & George (Tio) Orta, Susie Owens, Rosario Perez, Gloria Perusquia, Sotero Reyes, Frank Rodriguez, Maria Valdez, Stephanie Zamago & family, Mary Ferry, Bryan Wetz.

*Lord, look upon me with eyes of mercy, may your healing  
hands rest upon me, may your life-giving powers flow into  
every cell of my body and into the depths of my soul,  
cleansing, purifying, restoring me to wholeness and strength  
for service in your Kingdom.*

*Amen.*

## God Hears Prayer

For special blessings  
such as wedding  
anniversary or birthday  
blessings please notify  
the parish office in  
advance.

Para bendiciones especiales  
tales como aniversario de  
bodas o bendiciones de  
cumpleaños, por favor  
notifique a la oficina parroquial  
con anticipación.

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## WEEK AT A- GLANCE

**Sunday, February 11**  
Faith Formation Classes  
Mens ACTS Return from Retreat  
Fr. Servando's Birthday  
Celebration 12pm - Hall

**Monday, February 12**  
No Meetings Scheduled

**Tuesday, February 13**  
Faith Formation Classes  
Fr. Servando's Birthday

**Wednesday, February 14**  
NO Faith Formation Classes  
Ash Wednesday  
St. Valentine's Day

**Thursday, February 15**  
Faith Formation Parent  
Session - 6:30pm Hall Rm #1

**Friday, February 16**  
Stations of the Cross  
6:30pm - Church

**Saturday, February 17**  
No Meeting Scheduled

## Question of the Week

Who can I reach out to in order to help make my family/community/world whole? How can I go about doing so?

¿A quiénes puedo extender mi mano a fin de ayudar a mi familia/comunidad/mundo a ser más íntegro? ¿De qué manera puedo hacerlo?



## Bulletin Announcements

Have an announcement request for the bulletin? Send in the announcement one *week in advance* to be published in the bulletin!

**THANK YOU!** TO THIS WEEK'S BULLETIN PAPER SPONSOR



ANGIE ALVAREZ GUEVARA

(910) 302-9979

UNLOCK YOUR DREAM HOME TODAY!



BUY-SELL-RENT-INVEST

HABLO ESPAÑOL

*Thank You! | ¡Gracias!*

To all the donors who helped the parish the week of **February 4, 2024**. May the Lord bless you abundantly!

*A todo los donantes que ayudaron a la parroquia la semana de 4 de Febrero de 2024.*

*¡Que el Señor los bendiga abundantemente!*

| Masses                                      | Attendance | Total Offering    |
|---------------------------------------------|------------|-------------------|
| Saturday                                    | 105        | \$2,155.00        |
| Sunday                                      |            |                   |
| 8:30 a.m.                                   | 255        | \$1,930.00        |
| 11:00 a.m.                                  | 303        | \$2,558.00        |
| 7:00 p.m.                                   | 269        | \$1,047.00        |
| Total                                       | 962        | \$7,690.00        |
|                                             | Coins      | \$13.38           |
| Online                                      | 17         | \$1,049.00        |
| <b>Grand Total Offering 1/29 - 2/4/2024</b> |            | <b>\$8,752.38</b> |

## Second Collection Notice / Aviso de segunda colecta

Feb. 14 - For Catholic Charities

Feb. 18 - For Catholic Missions among Black & Native Americans

Donations can be placed in the wooden box in the back of the church. Please be generous.

*Las donaciones se pueden colocar en la caja de madera que se encuentra en la parte trasera de la iglesia. Por favor sea generoso.*



## EXCITING NEWS

NEW AC INSTALLATION BEGINS AT THE CHURCH BUILDING

COMIENZA LA NUEVA INSTALACIÓN DE AIRE ACONDICIONADO EN LA IGLESIA

We are pleased to inform you that the installation of the new A/C units will begin soon. The proposed dates are from February 19th - March 1st, between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please note that the church will not be available during this time and Thursday confessions and adoration will be canceled. We will keep you posted. Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

*Nos complace informarles que el trabajo de instalación de los nuevos aire acondicionado comenzarán pronto. Las fechas propuestas son del 19 de febrero al 1 de marzo, entre las 8 a.m. y 5 p.m. Tenga en cuenta que la iglesia no estará disponible durante este tiempo y las confesiones y la adoración de los jueves se cancelarán. Los mantendremos informados. Gracias por su comprensión y cooperación.*

# ASH WEDNESDAY

Miércoles de Ceniza

Schedule | Horario

February 14th | 14 de febrero



Mass | *Misa*

7:00am

Bilingual  
*bilangüe*

## Services | Servicio

9:00am English

5:00pm Spanish

12:00pm Spanish

6:00pm English

4:00pm English

7:00pm Spanish

# Welcome Back St. Leonards

Welcomes back the  
Mens ACTS Retreatants

*Let us join together and pray for them.*

Heavenly Father, today we lift up these men before you. Lead them to live holy lives, may they hunger and thirst after your Word and after righteousness. Set them up as positive role models to those around them. Guide them, oh Gracious Father, to be all You created them to be. In Jesus name we pray. Amen.

# Stations of the Cross

*Join us Every Friday in Lent at 6:30 pm*

February 16th | 16 de febrero

**Bilingual** | *bilangüe*

February 23rd | 23 de febrero

**English** | ingles

March 1st | 1 de marzo

**Bilingual** | *bilangüe*

March 15th | 15 de marzo

**Bilingual** | *bilangüe*

March 22nd | 22 de marzo

**English** | ingles



## Via Crucis

*Unase a nosotros Todos los  
viernes de Cuaresma a las 6:30 pm*



**CUT & SAVE**



# **SOUTHWEST URBAN DEANERY**



ARCHDIOCESE  
OF SAN ANTONIO

## **LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES 2024**

- Our Lady of the Angels.** Thursday, February 22 - 5:00pm-7:00pm - (210) 924-6591  
1214 Stonewall St, San Antonio, TX 78211  
Pastor: Fray Donald Rank, OFM, Cap.
- St. Vincent de Paul** Monday, March 4 at 7:00 PM - (210) 674-1200  
4222 SW Loop 410, San Antonio, TX 78227  
Administrator Rev. Roberto Saldivar, MSpS
- St. Lawrence** Wednesday, March 6 At 6:30 PM (For Religious Ed Students)  
Wednesday, March 13 at 6:30pm For the Community.  
236 E Petaluma Blvd, San Antonio, TX 78221  
(Pastor: Rev. Arnold Ibarra. - 210) 924-4401
- St. Joseph** Thursday, March 7 at 7:30pm - (210) 924-4383  
Every Thursday during Lent at 7:30pm  
535 New Laredo Hwy, San Antonio, TX 78211  
Pastor: Rev. Francisco Ramirez, OFM, Cap.
- St. Clare** Monday, March 18 - At 6:00pm - (210) 924-5252  
And Every Friday During Lent from 5:30pm-6:30pm  
7701 Somerset rd, San Antonio, TX 78211  
Pastor: Rev. Richard M. Samour
- Divine Providence** Tuesday, March 19 at 6:00 PM (210) 623-3970  
5667 Old Pearsall Rd., San Antonio, TX. 78242  
Pastor: Rev. Eduardo "Eddy" Morales
- St. Bonaventure** Wednesday, March 20 - 6:00pm-8:00pm - (210) 922-1685  
1918 Palo Alto Rd., San Antonio, TX 78211  
Pastor: Rev. Abel Ruiz
- St. Henry** Saturdays 3:30-4:20 pm - (210) 225-6877  
1619 S Flores St, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Pastor: Rev. Jesus Anguiano
- St. Philip of Jesus** For more Information Call the Office: (210) 226-5024  
142 E Lambert St, San Antonio, TX 78204  
Pastor: Rev. Sean Stilson, BBD.
- St. Leonard** Every Thursday, during Lent at 5:00pm (210) 924-6000  
8510 S Zazamora St, San Antonio, TX 78224 ·  
Pastor: Rev. Servando Guerrero
- St. Leo** Please Call the office for more information (210) 533-9108  
4415 S Flores St, San Antonio, TX 78214  
Pastor: Rev. Antonio Gonzáles
- St. James** For More Information Call the Office: (210) 922-2136  
907 W Theo Ave, San Antonio, TX 78225  
Pastor: Rev. Fr. Sonny Aryanto, CICM



ST VALENTINE'S DANCE  
**LOVE AND FRIENDSHIP**  
2024  
Saturday, February 17th.

Music by  
**K MARADAS**  
*Klan*

7:00pm to 10:00 pm  
8510 S Zarzamora rd San Antonio Tx

**Refreshments available for sale**

**\$5.00 per person**

*bring your own dinner*

**BAILE DE SAN VALENTIN**  
reservé your table for \$5 | Reserva tu mesa por \$5



Let's celebrate  
**Fr. Servando's Birthday**



**FEBRUARY**  
SUNDAY | **11** | 12:00PM  
Parish Center

**ST. LEONARD RUMMAGE**  
**Schedule**



|           |            |               |
|-----------|------------|---------------|
| March 2nd | June 1st   |               |
| April 6th | July 6th   | September 7th |
| May 4th   | August 3rd | November 2nd  |



**Damaris Ybarra, LPC-Associate**, is offering FREE counseling services for individuals, couples, groups in both English & Spanish from 4:30-7:30pm. Please contact the parish office to schedule an appointment.



Please consider making a contribution to offset the cost of the 2024 Paschal Candle. Envelopes can be found in the lobby. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

*Considere hacer una contribución al costo del Cirio Pascual 2024. Los sobres se pueden encontrar en el vestíbulo. Gracias de antemano por su generosidad.*



NO-COST!  
**SENIOR PRODUCE**  
GIVE AWAY

The San Antonio Food Bank will be providing free fruits and vegetables to the 64+ Senior Community.


Tuesday February 20th  
10:00am-11:30am

St Leonard Catholic Church


8510 S Zarzamora St, San Antonio, Tx 78224

**\*\*Each site is scheduled until supplies last\*\***  
**\*\*Estos mercados están programados hasta agotar existencias\*\***




Follow  
**ST. LEONARD'S**  
New  
Facebook Page



**40 CANS FOR LENT**

FEBRUARY 15, 2024 - MARCH 26, 2024

Join us in collecting canned food during Lent to combat food insecurity in our community. Your donation feeds our neighbors throughout the year. See Sr. Blanca for more details.



# DO YOU HAVE A WILL?



## FREE EDUCATIONAL PRESENTATION COVERING:

- Why you need an estate plan even if you're not rich.
- The 3 things your estate plan must include to keep your money out of the hands of the government.
- How often your Will or Trust needs to be reviewed and updated to ensure they work.

**JOIN US FOR  
BREAKFAST TACOS  
& COFFEE  
AT NO OBLIGATION**

**YOUR FAMILY WILL  
THANK YOU!**

**FOR MORE  
INFORMATION**

210-410-8013

Info@moralespadiaw.com

**MARCH 6, 2024  
9:30AM  
ST. LEONARDS CATHOLIC  
CHURCH  
IN THE HALL**

# Haven for Hope

Where Homelessness Ends and Healing Begins

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink." - Matthew 25:35

St. Leonard's **RCIA Adults** are sponsoring a donation drive on Jan 27th - Feb 18th for the needs of our brothers & sisters in Christ. Drop boxes will be located in the Church lobby.

Please drop off items such as travel size hygiene products, blankets, warm clothing, diapers, children's toys and non-perishables. Thank you in advance for your generosity.



**SPREADING THE GOOD NEWS  
OF JESUS AND THE HOLY SPIRIT**  
**2024 Spiritual Renewal Conference**  
Sponsored by the Catholic Center for  
Charismatic Renewal

**SPREAD THE  
FIRE!**

**Friday and Saturday  
March 1st and 2nd  
St. Mary Magdalen  
Church and Hall  
1710 Clower Street  
San Antonio, Texas 78201**



Registration contact - Catholic Center for Charismatic Renewal (CCCR)  
1707 S. Flores St. San Antonio, Texas 78204 - (210) 226-7545 - www.cccrsa.net  
March 1st - Friday Doors open at 5pm - Conference 7pm - 9pm  
March 2nd - Saturday Doors open 8am - Conference - 8:30am - 6pm



Father Bob Hogan, B.B.D



Matt and Sylvia Alismendez



Sr. Bernadette

Put your faith into action & pick up a box in the Lobby on Ash Wednesday

Feb 14 - March 31st

**FOR  
LENT  
FOR LIFE**

PARA LA  
**CUARESMA  
POR LA VIDA**



**CRS RICE BOWL**  
CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

[crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) | [crsplatodearroz.org](http://crsplatodearroz.org)



# GROWING IN FAITH

## Blessing of the Throats - St. Blaise Pray for Us

## Faith Formation - Future Vocations



## SAINT VALENTINE ~ February 14

**St. Valentine**, priest and martyr, lived nearly 1,700 years ago in pagan Rome. Valentine answered God's call to the priesthood at a time when it wasn't easy to be a Catholic, much less a priest or bishop. Polygamy was the norm in Rome. The Emperor issued an edict that prohibited the marriage of young people. Valentine made it his own personal mission to share the Catholic vision of marriage and the graces of the Sacrament with all those who would listen. He would secretly marry as many couples as he could. After being caught and while in prison, he prayed and healed the young daughter of judge Asterius. As a result of the healing Asterius himself became a Christian. In the year 269 AD, Valentine was sentenced to execution because of his stand for Christian marriage. The last words he wrote were in a note to Asterius' daughter. He inspired today's romantic missives by signing it, "from your Valentine."

**San Valentín**, Sacerdote y mártir, vivió casi 1.700 años en la Roma pagana. Valentín respondió al llamado de Dios al sacerdocio en una época en la que no era fácil ser católico, y mucho menos sacerdote u obispo. La poligamia era la norma en Roma. El Emperador emitió un edicto que prohibía el matrimonio de los jóvenes. Valentín se propuso como misión personal compartir la visión católica del matrimonio y las gracias del Sacramento con todos aquellos que quisieran escucharlo. Casaría en secreto a tantas parejas como pudiera. Después de ser capturado y mientras estaba en prisión, oró y sanó a la joven hija del juez Asterio. Como resultado de la curación, el propio Asterio se convirtió al cristianismo. En el año 269 d.C., Valentín fue condenado a ejecución por su postura a favor del matrimonio cristiano. Las últimas palabras que escribió fueron en una nota dirigida a la hija de Asterio. Él inspiró las misivas románticas de hoy al firmarlas "de tu San Valentín".



**St. Valentine  
Pray for us**

# Lent 2024

CALENDAR

## Daily At-Home Lenten Activities for Families

### FEBRUARY

SUN 11

MON 12

TUE 13

ASH  
WEDNESDAY 14

THU 15

FRI 16

SAT 17

"But when you pray, go to your inner room, close the door, and pray to your Father in secret."  
Mt 6:6

Seek out quiet times and places for prayer each day during Lent. Set up a comfortable prayer space in your home. Add a prayer notebook to draw and write prayers in.

"If you bestow your bread on the hungry and satisfy the afflicted, Then light shall rise for you in the darkness."  
Is 58:10

Shop for food items to donate to a parish or community food bank in order to assist those in need.

"Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth."  
Ps 86:11

Go for a walk together in a park or other place of beauty. Pay attention to signs of God's creation all around you.

"Even now, says the Lord, return to me with your whole heart."  
Jl 2:12

Write your Lenten intentions on paper hearts and place them in a bowl or basket so you will be reminded each day to turn to God.



# Gospel

# Reflection

In today's Gospel, we continue to hear Mark report the miraculous healings that Jesus performed in Galilee. The Gospel begins with Jesus healing a man with leprosy. Leprosy is a disfiguring, infectious skin disease that has been surrounded by many social and religious taboos throughout history. In 1873, the cause of leprosy, also known as Hansen's disease, was identified. We now know that leprosy is caused by a bacterial infection. Although it is infectious, modern medical studies have shown that transmission is more difficult than previously thought. Since the 1940s, medical treatments have been available, and the patient no longer needs to be isolated once long-term treatment has begun.

In Jesus' time, however, religious and social taboos dictated the behavior of those with leprosy and other skin diseases. The Law of Moses provided for the examination of skin diseases by the priests, and if leprosy was identified, the person was declared unclean. People with leprosy lived in isolation from the community. They were instructed to rip their clothes and to announce their presence with loud cries when moving in the community. If the sores of leprosy healed, the Law of Moses provided a purification rite that permitted the person to return to the community.

In today's Gospel, the man with leprosy took the initiative, approaching Jesus and asking for healing. In doing so, the leper violated the religious customs of the day by approaching a person who was clean. His request to Jesus can be interpreted as a courageous and daring act. The confidence of the leper in Jesus' ability to heal him is evident in the words of his request. But his words can also be read as a challenge to Jesus, asking just how far Jesus was willing to extend himself in order to heal someone. While healing the man, Jesus touched him, which also violated established social norms. This is an important sign of the depth of Jesus' compassion for the man and an important statement about Jesus' interpretation of the Law of Moses.

Although Jesus touched the leper, he did not break completely with the Law of Moses. He instructed the man not to tell anyone about the cure and told him to present himself to the priests as prescribed by the Law of Moses. The first instruction sounds nearly impossible to honor. Certainly, the man would want to share the good news of his healing, and his quick improvement would require an explanation. The second instruction honors the Law of Moses.

Mark's Gospel tells us that after this healing, it became difficult for Jesus to travel freely. There are several possible explanations for this. There might have been concern about the repercussions of Jesus' breach of social and religious norms. In touching the man with leprosy, Jesus made himself unclean. Mark's narrative, however, leads to the conclusion that Jesus' movement was hampered by his popularity. Despite his instructions, the cured man spread the word about Jesus' healing power. Even when Jesus was in deserted places, people sought him out in search of his healing.

En el Evangelio de hoy, seguimos escuchando a Marcos relatar las curaciones milagrosas que Jesús realizó en Galilea. El Evangelio comienza con Jesús curando a un hombre con lepra. La lepra es una enfermedad cutánea infecciosa y desfigurante que ha estado rodeada de muchos tabúes sociales y religiosos a lo largo de la historia. En 1873 se identificó la causa de la lepra, también conocida como enfermedad de Hansen. Ahora sabemos que la lepra es causada por una infección bacteriana. Aunque es contagioso, los estudios médicos modernos han demostrado que la transmisión es más difícil de lo que se pensaba anteriormente. Desde la década de 1940, existen tratamientos médicos disponibles y ya no es necesario aislar al paciente una vez que ha comenzado el tratamiento a largo plazo.

Sin embargo, en la época de Jesús, los tabúes religiosos y sociales dictaban el comportamiento de quienes padecían lepra y otras enfermedades de la piel. La Ley de Moisés preveía que los sacerdotes examinaran las enfermedades de la piel y, si se identificaba lepra, la persona era declarada inmunda. Las personas con lepra vivían aisladas de la comunidad. Se les ordenó rasgarse la ropa y anunciar su presencia con fuertes gritos cuando se desplazaran por la comunidad. Si las llagas de la lepra sanaban, la Ley de Moisés establecía un rito de purificación que permitía a la persona regresar a la comunidad.

En el evangelio de hoy, el hombre leproso tomó la iniciativa, acercándose a Jesús y pidiendo curación. Al hacerlo, el leproso violó las costumbres religiosas de la época al acercarse a una persona que estaba limpia. Su petición a Jesús puede interpretarse como un acto valiente y audaz. La confianza del leproso en la capacidad de Jesús para curarlo es evidente en las palabras de su petición. Pero sus palabras también pueden leerse como un desafío a Jesús, preguntándole hasta dónde estaba dispuesto Jesús a extenderse para sanar a alguien. Mientras curaba al hombre, Jesús lo tocó, lo que también violó las normas sociales establecidas. Esta es una señal importante de la profundidad de la compasión de Jesús por el hombre y una declaración importante sobre la interpretación de Jesús de la Ley de Moisés.

Aunque Jesús tocó al leproso, no rompió completamente con la Ley de Moisés. Le ordenó al hombre que no le contara a nadie sobre la curación y le dijo que se presentara a los sacerdotes como lo prescribía la Ley de Moisés. La primera instrucción parece casi imposible de cumplir. Ciertamente, el hombre querría compartir las buenas nuevas de su curación, y su rápida mejoría requeriría una explicación. La segunda instrucción honra la Ley de Moisés.

El Evangelio de Marcos nos dice que después de esta curación, a Jesús le resultó difícil viajar libremente. Hay varias explicaciones posibles para esto. Podría haber habido preocupación por las repercusiones de la violación de las normas sociales y religiosas por parte de Jesús. Al tocar al hombre leproso, Jesús se hizo impuro. La narración de Marcos, sin embargo, lleva a la conclusión de que el movimiento de Jesús se vio obstaculizado por su popularidad. A pesar de sus instrucciones, el hombre curado hizo correr la voz sobre el poder curativo de Jesús. Incluso cuando Jesús estaba en lugares desiertos, la gente lo buscaba en busca de su curación.

## *Readings for the week*

**Sunday:** Lv 13:1-2, 44-46/1 Cor 10:31–11:1/Mk 1:40-45

**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/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

**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