

# *People Progress*

## **Sunday Community**

Feb 11, 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

E R Whelan

**Thank you, Fr. Paul, for celebrating with us.**

**REFLECTION:** by Elizabeth Whelan

In today's Gospel, Jesus, moved with pity, heals a leper. He sternly warned the leper not to tell anyone, but to go to the priest, and to fulfill the mosaic law. But the healed leper could not contain his joy, and he told everyone he saw that Jesus healed him. The cleansed leper could now socialize and be accepted, but he caused problems for his benefactor. Jesus was besieged by people seeking healing, and he could no longer go into a town because of the crowds.

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Some Pre-Lenten Thoughts:

The word 'Lent' from the Anglo Saxon word meaning 'the lengthening of days,' or Spring, reminds us that the light is returning. It's now light until six PM. So, when I was young, why did I think February days were short and that it got dark early?

For Catholics, Lent is a penitential season, and it begins this week on Ash Wednesday. It is also Feb 14, Valentine's Day. Someone with a wicked sense of humour arranged this. But before the fasting, there is a time of fun and feasting with parades, parties, and 'carnevals.' A time to eat 'carne' or meat, and celebrate, and these Carnevals conclude on Mardi Gras. Visiting Quebec City during Carneval, with students, is a favourite memory.

For many years, our community celebrated the Sunday before Lent as "Pancake Tuesday on Sunday"; and under Martha Crean's direction, her team of volunteers, including many young people, cooked and served us pancakes with all the fixins. We sat at white table-cloth covered tables, feasted on the food, and enjoyed the good company. Nice memories! Very appropriate, too, remembering that Jesus enjoyed being with people, and sharing food.

My first experience with Shrove Tuesday 'pancakes' was in England, as a grade 7 student. Our lunch dessert was crêpes, sprinkled with sugar and lemon juice, and folded into flat cylinders. A nice treat.

Later, as a teacher, I was able to incorporate culture into my French classes. I explained the Mardi Gras/Shrove Tuesday tradition of using up all the butter, eggs,

cream, and fats, because they were not permitted during the Lenten days of fasting and abstinence. So on Fat Tuesday there would be feasting and festivities, and the rich foods often found their way into crêpes or pancakes. For my students: after school French club featured homemade crêpes on Mardi Gras! Thank you, electric burner and crêpe pans.

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## Lent

Before Vatican II, fasting was required *'de riguer'* every day of Lent, except Sunday, and abstaining from meat applied to Wednesdays and Fridays. My only experience of this was senior year at university, where we were required to fast and abstain. I also have some old French cookbooks, and they acknowledge this practice with a section marked "Jours Maigres" with recipes for the days of fasting and abstinence. Adults were expected to fast, and children were encouraged to 'give up' something for Lent. My late husband told me, that, as a young boy, he gave up candy one Lent, and didn't eat any during all of Lent. Nobody told him that Sundays were holidays, or feast days, and didn't count. He could have had candy, then. When he learned this, he was more than unhappy that the 'Church' didn't tell him.

Lenten requirements have eased, but this is still a time to prepare for Easter, with prayer, almsgiving, and a focus on the spiritual. I like to think of Lent as a time of giving, rather than one of 'giving up' something.

In this community we used to have a pre-Lenten meeting, where we chose a theme, and people volunteered to plan/ coordinate the liturgies. With Zoom, we no longer have meetings, but the tradition of volunteers continues.

Holy Week: On Palm/Passion Sunday, we had the blessing of the palms, and a procession, with singing, often outdoors. In my early years here, the Gospel was dramatically presented by the young people. Before Zoom, all of us, in three designated groups, read the roles, chorally. With zoom, we have been using individual voices, because groups just do not work online.

Another major change: we used to celebrate the Triduum — Holy Thursday, Good Friday, and the Vigil of Easter — and these liturgies were memorable. For 10 years, I cooked the Paschal Supper with Lee, on site, in the old, commercial kitchen. Young people set up, set the tables, and served. Adults washed the dishes in deep sinks, enjoying the task, and the company. Good Friday service included the Passion, with roles read by several people. And the Vigil featured the new fire, (outside,) many readings, several musicians, and occasionally liturgical dance. It was a time when many former members returned, and we gathered after the long service for conversation, finger foods, wine and cold drinks.

Then, in 2008, the new pastor of St Peter's demanded that we not celebrate the 'high holy days' — his term for the Triduum — citing a rule about only one service permitted in a parish. I was sad to lose those special celebrations. But I am grateful for the memories. And for the current community. What a blessing!

### Readings:

Feb 11	Lev 13: 1-2, 45-46	Psalm 32	I Cor. 10:31-11.1	Mark 1:40-45
Feb 18	Gen 9.8-15	Psalm 25	2 Peter 3:18-22	Mark 1:12-15

### The Liturgy schedule:

Date	Planner(s)	Priest
Feb 11	Elizabeth Whelan	Fr Paul McAuley
Feb 18 Lent 1	Lindsay & Bill Watson	Fr Jack Costello
Feb 25 Lent 2	Mary Lou & Brian Halferty	Fr Ron McDonnell
Mar 3 Lent 3	Maryanne S-J & Roberto J	Fr Jack Costello
Mar 10 Lent 4	Sharon McCarthy	Fr Paul McAuley
Mar 17 Lent 5	John & Mary MacMillan	Fr Prakash Lohale
Mar 24 Palm Sunday	Elizabeth Whelan	Fr Ron MacDonell
Mar 31 Easter	<b>Volunteer needed</b>	Fr Jack Costello

As you noticed, we now have planners/coordinators for all the Sundays of Lent. Thank you, volunteers! We still need someone to coordinate Easter.

Please volunteer for this liturgy, and email Sharon McCarthy, the Lenten Convenor, at [smdmcc1@gmail.com](mailto:smdmcc1@gmail.com) as soon as possible. And many thanks for volunteering!

All Liturgies will be virtual — on Zoom — likely until the end of March.

This schedule, as always, is flexible. Planners, feel free to switch if you cannot do a liturgy on the scheduled date. Just be sure to tell the People Progress Reporter, so that we all know. Also, please notify PP early in the week (by the Tuesday before) if you cannot do a reflection.

### People Progress Schedule

February:	Elizabeth Whelan: <a href="mailto:erwhelan@icloud.com">erwhelan@icloud.com</a>
March:	John MacMillan: <a href="mailto:met191970@gmail.com">met191970@gmail.com</a>
April:	Maryanne: <a href="mailto:maryannestone.jimenez@gmail.com">maryannestone.jimenez@gmail.com</a> & Roberto <a href="mailto:urosma@gmail.com">urosma@gmail.com</a>

May:	Mary Lou Jorgensen-Bacher <a href="mailto:mljb57@yahoo.ca">mljb57@yahoo.ca</a>
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Please send your submissions to the People Progress Reporter by Thursday evening. People Progress welcomes new reporters. Thanks!

## *Announcements:*

- We still need someone **to coordinate/plan Easter**. Please volunteer and email the Convenor, Sharon McCarthy at [smdmcc1@gmail.com](mailto:smdmcc1@gmail.com)
- **A reminder: Please continue to save your egg cartons and flats for Elizabeth Stocking.** You can bring them to Elizabeth's Whelan's home, and Elizabeth Stocking will pick them up. Thanks, from both Elizabeths!

## **February Birthdays: Happy Birthday to**

4 Sharon McCarthy

4 Lucia Silveira

18 Rita Shaughnessy

23 Mary Beth MacMillan

25 Timothy Watson

28 Juan Alas

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Online liturgies are quite straight-forward.

Here are the duties, as published weekly in People Progress (for reference.)

## **Duties of liturgy planners for virtual masses:**

Early in the week before the liturgy:

- Call or email the priest to confirm Sunday's liturgy (contact info will be provided).
- Prepare or find a Reflection and send it to the People Progress reporter by Thursday. Please notify the People Progress reporter early in the week if you cannot do a Reflection.
- Select readers for the 1st and 2nd readings. Check with Sylvia Skrepichuk re: psalm.

On the Sunday of the virtual mass:

- Greet the group (Ask newcomers to introduce themselves)
- Give a brief introduction to the liturgy.
- Read your passage or be prepared to do a reading (if a volunteer is unable to log-in)
- Thank everyone who 'attended' and those who helped (at Announcements)