

FEBRUARY 11, 2018

SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



LEVITICUS 13:1–2, 44–46

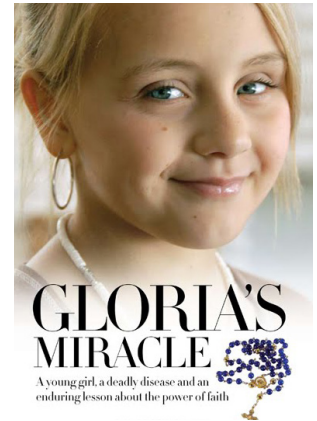
PSALM 32:1–2, 5, 11

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31–11:1

MARK 1:40–45

REFLECTION

No one likes to be sick. Lengthy illnesses can be exhausting. And sometimes the unknown causes a lot of anxiety, especially for cancer patients and those with lifelong health challenges. Turning to God and your faith community can give you strength and support when you're exhausted, anxious, or feel like you can't go on. We hear about many illnesses in the Bible, including leprosy. Leprosy is a disease of the nerves and respiratory tract, but one of the primary symptoms is lesions on the skin. Today we can treat leprosy, but in Jesus' time, it was incurable. Nobody wanted to catch the disease, so they made the lepers live outside the town. They couldn't work, get married, or live with their families, and they had to beg for food. There are several stories of Jesus healing lepers, as he does in this Sunday's Gospel. Jesus asks the leper not to tell anyone what happened to him, but the leper just cannot help himself. Something amazing and wonderful has happened to him, and he has to tell the whole world! Soon, everyone is coming to Jesus, seeking his healing touch. When we are sick, we can seek Jesus' healing touch, too. Jesus will always be there to heal us, whether physically or spiritually. When others around us are sick, we are called to be Jesus' healing touch for them, visiting them, caring for them, and doing whatever we can to help them.



Gloria's Miracle
JERRY BREWER

ACTION

Read *Gloria's Miracle* by Jerry Brewer this week. This book tells the story of how faith in God helped a young girl and her family when she was diagnosed with terminal cancer.

JOURNALING QUESTION

- What physical, emotional, or spiritual healing do you need in my life?
- How do you respond to those in your community who suffer from mental or physical illness? How might you improve your response to them?