



## Breaking Open the Word

### February 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 – 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Ordinary Time - Year B

#### **Opening Prayer:** AN ACT OF ABANDONMENT (By Saint Francis De Sales)

O my God, I thank you and I praise you for accomplishing your holy and all-lovable will without any regard for mine. With my whole heart, in spite of my heart, do I receive this cross I feared so much! It is the cross of your choice, the cross of your love. I venerate it; there is nothing in the world that could keep me from accepting this cross since it is your divine will. I keep it with gratitude and with joy, as I do everything that comes from your hand; and I shall strive to carry it with all the respect and all the affection which your works of salvation deserve. Amen.

#### **Connecting Liturgy to our Lives:**

- Isaiah remembers God's saving work in the premier event of the Jewish people—the Exodus. He further extols the God who saves in the present return from Babylonian exile. The Gospel highlights Jesus' power to forgive sins—also a sign of God's saving power.

*May the Lord be in our hearts as we read a reading from this Sunday's Liturgy of the Word?*

#### **Readings for this Sunday:**

First Reading: Isaiah 43:18–19,21–22,24b–25 (I Cleanse)

Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 1:18–22 (All is Yes)

#### **Gospel: Mark 2:1–12 (The Son Forgives)**

#### **Gospel Reflection:**

- Jesus was moved by the loyalty and love of the man's friends. What does that teach us about our responsibility toward one another? Is there anyone in your life that you would move mountains to help? What do the action of the paralytic's friend's call us to consider in our lives? Who in your life needs you to step up to the plate to help?

#### **Bringing the Gospel into Your Family:**

- Ask each family member to name their good friend(s) and what qualities they especially value in that friend. Next, ask each person to tell whose good friend they are and what values each person has that makes him/her a good friend. Finally, ask each family member to think of one thing they could try to change or improve in themselves that would make them an even better friend.

#### **Closing Prayer:**

Prayer of Pope Clement XI

Lord, I believe in you: increase my faith. I trust in you: strengthen my trust. I love you: let me love you more and more. I am sorry for my sins: deepen my sorrow. I worship you as my first beginning. I long for you as my last end. I praise you as my constant helper. And I call you as my loving protector. I want to do what you ask of me: In the way you ask, for as long as you ask, because you ask it. Let me love you Lord as my God. And see myself as I really am: a pilgrim in this world. A Christian called to respect and love all those lives I touch.