



Reflection from Deacon Ross

Happy Valentines Day!

Love is in the air, we are told. (Maybe that could make the air a little warmer, too. ☀)

“From my heart.” “Our hearts are one.” “You are close to my heart.”

Candy hearts have all the right words....

But the word of the heart is *love*. “I ♥ you.”

Jesus was all heart, all love.

In today’s gospel (Mark 1:40-45), a leper, for whom no one had a heart, asked Jesus to cure him. “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Jesus, his heart “moved with pity...stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I will do it. Be made clean.”

Jesus’ heart broke to see this man suffering. The love from Jesus’ heart overtook the man and banished his disease. The man’s heart burst with joy, and he told everyone about Jesus’ love for him.

In just three days we will begin Lent: Ash Wednesday. The first reading, from the prophet Joel (2:12-18), begins, “...return to me with all your heart....” “Rend your hearts... and return to the Lord, your God. For gracious and merciful is God.”

God is all heart. God’s love is “slow to anger, rich in kindness... and relenting in punishment” (Joel 2:13)

Are “not our hearts burning within us?” (Luke 24:32)

Happy Valentines ♥♥

~ Peace,
Deacon Ross