

# **Mass Intentions**

# Sunday, March 3 - 3rd Sunday of Lent

**8:15 a.m.** Gerry Cunningham (RIP) by Rich & Gina Springer **10:45 a.**m. Living & Deceased Members Helgerman Family by Stephanie Helgerman

Monday, March 4 - Lenten Weekday

9:00 a.m. Marty Puckett (RIP) by Andy & Lisa Sloan

Tuesday, March 5 - Lenten Weekday

9:00 a.m. Curtis Barbour (RIP) by Bill & Cindy Kendrick

Wednesday, March 6 - Lenten Weekday

9:00 a.m. Amber Coleman (Birthday) by Mark & Paula Coleman Thursday, March 7 – Lenten Weekday, Sts. Perpetua & Felicity

**9:00 a.**m. Lopez Family by Carmen Lopez

Friday, March 8 - Lenten Weekday, St. John of God, Religious

**9:00 a.m.** Living & Deceased Flautt & Ott Families by Martin & Carol Flautt

Saturday, March 9 - Lenten Weekday,

St. Frances of Rome, Religious

5:00 p.m. Jacob Andolina (RIP) by Priano Family
Sunday, March 10 – 4th SUNDAY OF LENT, Laetare Sunday

**8:15 a.m.** Living & Deceased Wagner & Fox Families **10:45 a.m.** Living & Deceased Members St. Edward Parish



Fr. Tim: As I pray and bow to the congregation, I invite you to also pray, "Lord, give him the homily You want me to hear. Give me the ears to hear it, the heart to receive it, and the grace to put it into practice in my life."

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 3, 2024 - YEAR B

# **PRELUDE**

(Cantor/Choir): sung Antiphon

**INTRODUCTORY RITES** 

OPENING: From the Depths We Cry to Thee (#132)

No Gloria during Lent
LITURGY OF THE WORD

5:00 p.m. & 8:15 a.m.: pages 76-78

10:45 a.m.: pages 78-81

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

OFFERTORY: Shepherd of Souls (#367)

SANCTUS: chanted (#860/text in "Notes from the Loft") MEM. ACC.: Save us, Savior of the world... (arr. Weber)

AMEN: chanted

AGNUS DEI: chanted (#864/text in "Notes from the Loft")

COMMUNION: What Wondrous Love Is This COMMUNION 2 (8:15 & 10:45 a.m.): sung antiphon

COMMUNION 2 (10:45 a.m. Choir): As the Deer Longs (Hurd)

**CONCLUDING RITES** 

CLOSING: Jesus, Remember Me (#413)

CANTORS

5:00 p.m.: Paul Radkowski (Mike Sullivan, organist)

8:15 a.m.: Kevin Skinner 10:45 a.m.: Kayla Drummond



St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do Thou O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Divine

Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the evil spirits that prowl around the world seeking the ruin of souls.

# Notes from the Loft

□For the next three Sundays, we will celebrate the Scrutinies at the 10:45 a.m. Masses. The Scrutinies are rites to pray for those who will be baptized during the Easter Vigil. At the Masses when the Scrutinies are celebrated, we use specially designated readings, psalms, and Gospel Acclamation verses. That is why our hymnal has two sets of readings for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent. The page numbers for the readings can be found in this bulletin's music list.

Sanctus text: Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus Dominus Deus Sabaoth. Pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua. Hosanna in excelsis. Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Hosanna in excelsis.

*Agnus Dei text*: Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis/dona nobis pacem.

Paul Radkowski, Director of Music music@saintedwards.org, 740-587-3254



# Welcome Sunday is March 3! It's Pancake Sunday!

Please stop by and enjoy pancakes and sausage prepared for you by our Knights of Columbus! The cost is \$8.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children; kids under 5 are free. Included in the

cost is all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage, and drinks. So come join us at Welcome Sunday for food and fellowship.



"I rejoiced when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord." Psalm 122:1

**WELCOME, all visitors and parishioners who have come to worship today!** To our visitors, you may have come as a stranger to us, yet you are known to Our Lord, Jesus Christ. In His name, we pray you will find peace, hospitality, and friendship with us. Children are always welcome at Mass! We hope you will return regularly to worship at St. Edward Church! If you would like to be a member of St. Edward Parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket, or stop by the Church Office, or call us at 740-587-3254. **God bless you!** 

|         | I WANT TO JOIN ST. EDWARD PARISH! |       |
|---------|-----------------------------------|-------|
| NAME    |                                   |       |
| EMAIL _ |                                   | <br>_ |
| PHONE   |                                   | <br>_ |
|         |                                   |       |

# ST. EDWARD EASTER FLOWER MEMORIALS



**Due March 11** – If you would like to make a donation for Easter Lilies in memory or in honor of a loved one, please use your Easter Flower Offering

envelope or fill out this coupon and put it in the collection basket or drop it off at the Parish Office by Monday, March 11. A listing of memorials will be published in the Easter bulletin. The suggested donation is \$20.00.

| In Memory of |
|--------------|
| In Honor of  |
| Ву           |
| -            |

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 3, 2024

# A Word from Your Pastor



**Dear Parishioners:** 



"Zeal for your house will consume me." This is the Scriptural passage (Psalm 19:10) that comes to mind for Jesus' disciples as they watch the sign He performs at the Temple, sending away the merchants and the moneychangers. It is the action of Jesus that brings the passage to mind. In other words, the disciples were not waiting for a fulfillment and then seeing it. They saw what Jesus did and its meaning was explained by the passage they recalled. It was Jesus' own

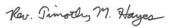
expression of zeal that helped them to understand the psalm. They saw, they remembered, and they understood.

The 10 Commandments are to be understood not as external laws, but rather as God's interpretation of the Law that is written into our very being. Jesus shows us in Word and action how to live in accord with the Law. The sign is a reminder to us that nothing on earth is destined to last except zeal for God's House. The zeal for what belongs to God opens us to the Resurrection, the Temple of Jesus' own Body that is raised up.

We have heard the expressions "Actions speak louder than words" and "a picture is worth a thousand words." This suggests that what God wants from us is a zeal, a love, a desire that is passionate for the accomplishment of His Will. The Law points us in the right direction, but it must be interiorized before it can be lived.

The Third Sunday of Lent is about longing. We all have an innate sense of something we want, a hunger and thirst for something only God can satisfy. We are meant to live forever. Jesus alone satisfies. He carries us and all that we are with Him as His Body is "destroyed" and raised up.

What do you really want from God? Can you respond to the longings of your heart by putting your trust in Him? What is it that moves you to be full of zeal? What do you see that is happening? What Scriptures come to mind for you? What new understanding do you glean from what you have seen?



Rev. Timothy M. Hayes, Pastor



# **DO NOT REPLY TO EMAILS** FROM FR. TIM!

Please know that I will never ask you to make a purchase or send anything to me by email, text, or Flocknote

without contacting you personally. Always feel free to call the office to check out anything suspicious. Report spam email to whatever email system you use. Thanks for your generous spirit in being willing to help, but do not be deceived. Fr. Tim



# **COMING IN APRIL**

Family First Holy Communion Retreat with Sisters of Children of Mary on

April 6, 2024, from 8:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Please bring your own sack lunch and RSVP by March 23, 2024. For more information, please call us at 740-323-1977.



# **MANY DESSERTS NEEDED FOR** FISH FRIES!! PLEASE HELP!

If you are not a baker, store bought cakes or pies are fine.

Bakers – It's time to start baking those delicious homemade goodies that the St. Edward Fish Fry is famous for. Please drop your baked goods in Enke Parish Hall any time on Thursdays, or on Friday morning. We appreciate you!

Confirmation Class - Need Service hours? The Fish Fry is the perfect solution! It takes many volunteers make the St. Edward Fish Fry a success and we need your help. Please contact Noel Gremling at ngremling@gmail.com and offer a bit of your time this Lent. Participating in the Fish Fry is a wonderful way to give back to your community, have fun with friends, and meet members of your Parish. Sign up now!



Have you been a Eucharistic Minister in the past? You are needed again. Would you Eucharistic like to become a Eucharistic Minister? We need more Eucharistic Ministers to prepare for the distribution of the Precious

Blood at all Masses. Contact Deacon John to become an **Extraordinary Eucharistic Minister.** 



# Altar serving is a blessed ministry.

We need boys and girls, and young men and women, from 4th grade to adulthood to serve the Lord at the altar during Mass.

PLEASE CONTACT DEACON JOHN FOR TRAINING at barfamilybour@yahoo.com.





For our OCIA Candidates and Confirmation Class as they make their final preparation to enter the Church For Our Country & World to Return to God For all War-torn Countries in the World For Catholics to Return to Church **Bishop Fernandes & All Bishops and Priests** For Young Men to Heed the Call to Become a Priest For St. Edward's Youth Group to Grow **For Sick & Homebound Parishioners** All Staff, Teachers, Volunteers & Members of St. Edward Contact Cindy Kendrick at 740-366-2871 for prayer requests.

|                                   | Eucharistic Ministers:   | Lector:               | Altar Servers:                       |  |  |  |
|-----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| March 2/3 Third Sunday of Lent    |  |                       |                                      |  |  |  |
| Saturday,<br>5:00 p.m.            | Stefanie Manley<br>S.A. Beaver<br>Volunteers Needed                  | Barb Mattei-<br>Smith | Katelyn Shaw<br>Volunteer Needed     |  |  |  |
| Sunday,<br>8:15 a.m.              | Rick Corder<br>Lori Corder<br>Volunteers Needed                      | Jim Bidigare          | Isaac Gardner<br>Jonathan<br>Gardner |  |  |  |
| Sunday,<br>10:45 a.m.             | Richard Hoben<br>Lisa Barrett<br>Stephanie Dodd<br>Volunteers Needed | Jason<br>Winterhalter | Avery Warling<br>Augustine Dodd      |  |  |  |
| March 9/10: Fourth Sunday of Lent |  |                       |                                      |  |  |  |
| Saturday,<br>5:00 p.m.            | Leann Kirchner<br>Cliff Kirchner<br>Volunteers Needed                | Christopher<br>Haight | Arianna Carter<br>Jude Long          |  |  |  |
| Sunday,<br>8:15 a.m.              | Kris Whiting<br>Lisa Sloan<br>Volunteers Needed                      | Michael<br>Whiting    | Avery Miller<br>Sydney Miller        |  |  |  |
| Sunday,<br>10:45 a.m.             | Von Downing<br>Margo Downing<br>Annie Lach<br>Volunteers Needed      | Pushkar Baum          | Katie Cottrell<br>Claire Cottrell    |  |  |  |

Please check in sacristy for current list of weekend volunteers.

# Supporting St. Edward Church

"Each one must do as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver."



2 Corinthians 9:7

# ST. EDWARD OFFERTORY - FEBRUARY 24/25, 2024

|                                | · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · |
|--------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Basket:                        | \$ 8,925.00                           |
| Online:                        | \$ 8,456.71                           |
| Total:                         | \$ 17,381.71                          |
| Weekly Need:                   | \$ 17,442                             |
| Weekly Deficit:                | (\$ 60.29)                            |
| Yearly Offertory Budget:       | \$ 907,000.00                         |
| Fiscal Year to date Offertory: | \$ 510,809.00                         |
| 2nd Collection for Seminarians | \$ 4,182.00                           |

DIOCESAN SECOND COLLECTIONS March 10 - Catholic Relief Services Good Friday - Holy Land



# Contact Maggie Barno to schedule Mass Intentions at maggie@saintedwards.org.

March and April Mass Intentions are filled.

If you desire a specific date/s, please contact Maggie at least six months before the desired date. If the date you request for a Mass Intention is already taken, we will try to schedule your Mass on a date that will suit you. Your patience is greatly appreciated.

To comply with Diocesan Finance Office policies, a \$10.00 stipend is requested when Mass Intentions are scheduled.

# This Week at St. Edward



# SUNDAY, MARCH 3

Mass - 8:15 a.m.

Mass - 10:45 a.m.

Choir - 9:30 a.m.

Welcome Sunday - Pancake Sunday! After Sunday Masses

Adults - \$8.00. Children - \$5.00. Under 5 - Free

PSR - 9:30 a.m.

OCIA - Noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge

Youth Group Homeless Outreach - 2:00 to 5:45 p.m.

**MONDAY, MARCH 4** 

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

**TUESDAY. MARCH 5** 

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Soup Supper – 6:00 p.m. in Enke Parish Hall Soup Supper Speaker – 6:30 in Enke Parish Hall

Stations of the Cross – 7:00 p.m. in the Sanctuary

Handbells - 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 6

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

PSR - 6:00 p.m.

Painting Class - 7:00 p.m.

Planning, Walking with Purpose - 7:00 p.m. in Lounge

THURSDAY, MARCH 7

Mass - 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

Choir – 7:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus Business Meeting - 7:00 p.m.

in Enke Parish Hall

FRIDAY, MARCH 8

Mass – 9:00 a.m.

Preschool

FISH FRY! 4:00 to 7:30 p.m.

LOTS of desserts needed! Please help.



SATURDAY, MARCH 9

Confession – 4:00-4:30 p.m.

Mass - 5:00 p.m.

SUNDAY, MARCH 10 -

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS BEGINS

Mass – 8:15 a.m.

Mass – 10:45 a.m.

PSR - 9:30 a.m.

Confirmation Class Super Sunday - Confirmation Class and their sponsors attend 10:45 a.m. Mass together.

Then meet in Enke Parish Hall for lunch and discussion until 2:00 p.m.

OCIA – Noon to 1:00 p.m. in the Lounge Youth Group – 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

\*Pushkar Baum maintains the calendar. Contact him for additions/corrections to the calendar.



MARCH 3, 2024 THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

# Sacred Places

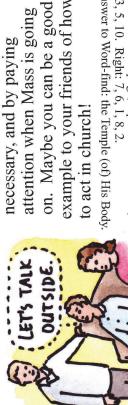
NOT MAKE MY OF TRADE! A HOUSE You SHALL

were people who were selling EATHER'S HOUSE that Our Lord was born, there sacrifices to God. By the time animals right in the area of the In the old times, people would Temple. In today's Gospel bring animals to offer as

reading Jesus drives the animals and money-changers out of the sacred space.

At one time the men who sold the animals for sacrifices were probably trying to make money, and they supposed to be used for people away. But now they were just were taking up space that was really helping the people who came to the Temple from far to worship God

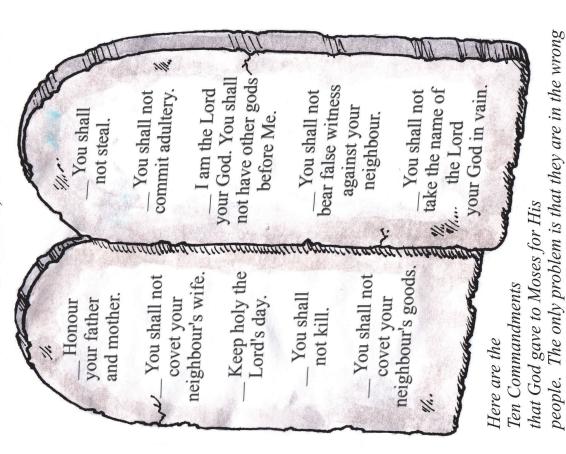
Temple. Every Catholic church is a special place made for worshipping God in the Mass. We should always behave walking quietly, not talking inside the Church unless it is respectfully in church, and remember that Jesus is really there in the tabernacle. We can show our respect by We also have sacred spaces like the



Answers to front page, top to bottom: Left: 4, 9, 3, 5, 10. Right: 7, 6, 1, 8, 2. Answer to Word-find: the Temple (of) His Body example to your friends of how to act in church!

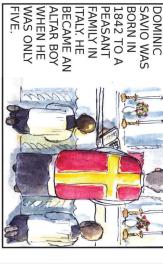
# The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent March 3rd, 2024



www.thekidsbulletin.com

order! Can you put the right numbers in the spaces?









Jou'll

have to throw





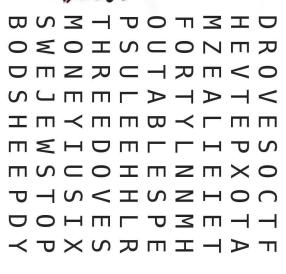




BE A SAINT. HOW OLD ARE YOU? ARE YOU TOO YOUNG TO BEING YOUNG DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN'T BE HOLY ENOUGH TO WHEN DOMINIC DIED, SOME PEOPLE THOUGHT HE WAS TOO YOUNG TO BE CANONIZED. BUT THE HOLY FATHER KNEW THAT SAINT? YOU CAN PRAY TO SAINT DOMINIC TO HELP YOU!

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

# esus at the Temple Word-Find



to fill in the blanks at the end use the letters that are left over Find all the words in CAPITALS and then

sign can you SHOW us for doing this?" Jesus answered disciples recalled the words of Scripture, ZEAL for your SPILLED the COINS of the MONEY-changers and raise it up in three days?" under construction for FORTY - SIX years, and you will will raise it up." The Jews said, "This temple has beer making my FATHER'S house a market place." His the TEMPLE area, with the SHEEP and the OXEN, and Jesus made a whip out of cords and DROVE them all out of them and said, "Destroy this temple, and in THREE days HOUSE will consume me. The JEWS said to Him, "What OVERTURNED their TABLES, and to those who sold DOVES he said, "Take these OUT of here, and STOP But He was speaking of

# Lectio Divina SCRIPTURE READING + MEDITATION + PRAYER + CONTEMPLATION

"What page, what passage of the inspired books of the Old and New Testaments is not the truest of guides for human life?" ~Saint Benedict, from the *Rule of Saint Benedict* (73:3)

The month of March is dedicated to Saint Joseph.

"If we look forward to receiving God's mercy, we can never fail to do good, so long as we have the strength. For if we share with the poor, out of love for God, whatever He has given to us, we shall receive according to His promise, a hundredfold in eternal happiness. What a fine profit, what a blessed reward! With outstretched arms He begs us to turn toward Him, to weep for our sins and to become the servants of love, first for ourselves, then for our neighbors. Just as water extinguishes a fire, so love wipes away sin." +SAINT JOHN OF GOD

# Monday, March 4 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent Optional Memorial: Saint Casimir of Poland

**Holy Gospel: Luke 4:24-30** Jesus said to the people in the synagogue at Nazareth: "Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place. Indeed, I tell you, there were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when the sky was closed for three and a half years and a severe famine spread over the entire land. It was to none of these that Elijah was sent, but only to a widow in Zarephath in the land of Sidon. Again, there were many lepers in Israel during the time of Elisha the prophet; yet not one of them was cleansed, but only Naaman the Syrian." When the people in the synagogue heard this, they were all filled with fury. They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong. But he passed through the midst of them and went away.

**Meditation**: When Jesus spoke in his hometown synagogue he startled his listeners with a seeming rebuke that no prophet or servant of God can receive honor among his own people. He then angered them when he complimented the gentiles who seemed to have shown more faith in God than the "chosen ones" of Israel. They regarded gentiles as "fuel for the fires of hell." Jesus' praise for "outsiders" caused them offence because they were blind-sighted to God's mercy and plan of redemption for all nations. The word of warning and judgment spoken by Jesus was met with hostility by his own people. They forcibly threw him out of the city and would have done him harm had he not stopped them. The Lord offers us freedom and pardon and the grace to walk in his way of truth and righteousness. His discipline is for our good that we may share his holiness (Hebrews 12:10). "Whoever loves discipline loves knowledge, but whoever hates reproof is stupid" (Proverbs 12:1). Do you seek the Lord for instruction and help so you can grow in holiness and grace, and become a stronger disciple of Christ?

**Prayer:** May your unfailing compassion, O Lord, cleanse and protect your Church, and since without you she cannot stand secure, may she be always governed by your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** What limits God's grace and power in our lives to undergo change and transformation of mind and heart? Indifference and lack of faith for sure! The prophets confronted God's people with their indifference and unbelief. God's grace and mercy is offered freely to those who seek it with sincerity, repentance, and faith. When Naaman, a non-Jew went to Jerusalem to seek a cure, the prophet Elisha instructed him to bathe in the river. In faith he obeyed and was healed. Jesus did not hesitate to confront his own people with their indifference and unbelief. Have you looked at where your faith life is? Are you indifferent? Are you lukewarm about your faith, and how you live out your faith? If so, it's time to set your faith on fire. But you need first to rid yourself of those things which hold you back – whatever they may be. Pray that you will rid yourself of these barriers. Then free from those things which hold you back, may your faith life flourish and bear much fruit.

# Tuesday, March 5 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 18:21-35** Peter approached Jesus and asked him, "Lord, if my brother sins against me, how often must I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus answered, "I say to you, not seven

times but seventy-seven times. That is why the Kingdom of heaven may be likened to a king who decided to settle accounts with his servants. When he began the accounting, a debtor was brought before him who owed him a huge amount. Since he had no way of paying it back, his master ordered him to be sold, along with his wife, his children, and all his property, in payment of the debt. At that, the servant fell down, did him homage, and said, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back in full.' Moved with compassion the master of that servant let him go and forgave him the loan. When that servant had left, he found one of his fellow servants who owed him a much smaller amount. He seized him and started to choke him, demanding, 'Pay back what you owe.' Falling to his knees, his fellow servant begged him, 'Be patient with me, and I will pay you back.' But he refused. Instead, he had him put in prison until he paid back the debt. Now when his fellow servants saw what had happened, they were deeply disturbed, and went to their master and reported the whole affair. His master summoned him and said to him, 'You wicked servant! I forgave you your entire debt because you begged me to. Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?' Then in anger his master handed him over to the torturers until he should pay back the whole debt. So will my heavenly Father do to you, unless each of you forgives your brother from your heart."

**Meditation:** Who among us doesn't have debts that need to be paid off? And who wouldn't be grateful to have someone release them from their debts? But can we really expect mercy and pardon when we owe someone a great deal? The prophet Amos speaks of God forgiving transgression three times, but warns that God may not revoke punishment for the fourth (see Amos 1:3-13; 2:1-6). When Peter posed the question of forgiveness, he characteristically offered an answer he thought Jesus would be pleased with. Why not forgive seven times! How unthinkable for Jesus to counter with the proposition that one must forgive seventy times that. Jesus made it clear that there is no reckonable limit to forgiveness. And he drove the lesson home with a parable about two very different kinds of debts. The first man owed an enormous sum of money – millions in our currency. In Jesus' time this amount was greater than the total revenue of a province – more than it would cost to ransom a king! The man who was forgiven such an incredible debt could not, however bring himself to forgive his neighbor a very small debt which was about one- hundred-thousandth of his own debt. The contrast could not have been greater!

**Prayer:** May your grace not forsake us, O Lord, we pray, but make us dedicated to your holy service and at all times obtain for us your help. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** There is no way we could repay God the debt we owed him because of our sins and offenses. Only his mercy and pardon could free us from such a debt. Despite how we may feel at times toward people in our lives, there is no offense our neighbor can do to us that can compare with our debt to God! If God has forgiven each of us our debt, which was very great, we too must forgive others the debt they owe us. Through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross – which atoned for our sins – each one of us has been forgiven a debt beyond all reckoning. It cost God his very own Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to ransom us with the price of his blood. Jesus paid the price for us and won for us pardon for our sins and freedom from slavery to our unruly desires and sinful habits. God in his mercy offers us the grace and help of his Holy Spirit so we can love as he loves, pardon as he pardons, and treat others with the same mercy and kindness which he has shown to us. God has made his peace with us. Have you made your peace with God? Have you reconciled yourself with God? Especially during Lent we are called to reconcile ourselves with God and with one another. A healthy trip to the confessional to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a first and important start. Have you been to confession lately? If not, why not?

# Wednesday, March 6 ∼ Third Week in the Season of Lent

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 5:17-19** Jesus said to his disciples: "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill. Amen, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or the smallest part of a letter will pass from the law, until all things have taken place. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do so will be called least in the Kingdom of heaven. But whoever obeys and teaches these commandments will be called greatest in the Kingdom of heaven."

**Meditation:** Jesus taught reverence for God's law – reverence for God himself, for the Lord's Day, reverence or respect for parents, respect for life, for property, for another person's good name, respect for oneself and for one's neighbor lest wrong or hurtful desires master us. Folks, reverence and respect for God's commandments teach us the way of love – love of God and love of neighbor. What is impossible to men and women is possible to God and those who put their faith and trust in God. Through the gift of the Holy Spirit the Lord transforms us and makes us like himself. We are a new creation in Christ (2 Cor. 5:17) because "God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans

5:5). God gives us the grace to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to think as he thinks, and to act as he acts. The Lord loves justice and goodness and he hates every form of wickedness and sin. He wants to set us free from our unruly desires and sinful habits, so that we can choose to live each day in the peace, joy, and righteousness of his Holy Spirit (Romans 14: 17). To renounce sin is to turn away from what is harmful and destructive for our minds and hearts, and our very lives. As his followers we must love and respect his commandments and hate every form of sin. Do you love and revere the commands of the Lord?

**Prayer:** Grant, we pray, O Lord, that, schooled through Lenten observance and nourished by your word, through holy restraint we may be devoted to you with all our heart and be ever united in prayer. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

Contemplation: How do you view the laws of God? Negatively? Positively? A pick-and-choose ("cafeteria Catholic") approach? Do you allow the human laws of any local, state or federal legislative body or the human decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court to supersede the divine laws of God and the divine teachings of Jesus Christ – especially when these laws or decisions are contrary to God or Jesus? Jesus' attitude towards the law of God can be summed up in the great prayer of Psalm 119: "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day." For the people of Israel the "law" could refer to the Ten Commandments or to the five Books of Moses, called the Pentateuch, which explain the commandments and ordinances of God for his people. The "law" also referred to the whole teaching or way of life which God gave to his people. The Jews in Jesus' time also used it as a description of the oral or scribal law. Needless to say, the scribes added many more things to the law than God intended. That is why Jesus often condemned the scribal law. It placed burdens on people which God had not intended. Jesus, however, made it very clear that the essence of God's law – his commandments and his way of life – must be fulfilled. So, once again, how do you view God's law? How do you put God's law into action and practice in your daily life?

# Thursday, March 7 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent Optional Memorial: Saints Perpetua and Felicity, Martyrs

**Holy Gospel: Luke 11:14-23** Jesus was driving out a demon that was mute, and when the demon had gone out, the mute man spoke and the crowds were amazed. Some of them said, "By the power of Beelzebul, the prince of demons, he drives out demons." Others, to test him, asked him for a sign from heaven. But he knew their thoughts and said to them, "Every kingdom divided against itself will be laid waste and house will fall against house. And if Satan is divided against himself, how will his kingdom stand? For you say that it is by Beelzebul that I drive out demons. If I, then, drive out demons by Beelzebul, by whom do your own people drive them out? Therefore they will be your judges. But if it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the Kingdom of God has come upon you. When a strong man fully armed guards his palace, his possessions are safe. But when one stronger than he attacks and overcomes him, he takes away the armor on which he relied and distributes the spoils. Whoever is not with me is against me, and whoever does not gather with me scatters."

**Meditation:** Jesus' numerous exorcisms brought freedom to many who were troubled and oppressed by the work of evil spirits. Jesus himself encountered personal opposition and battled with Satan when he was put to the test in the wilderness just before his public ministry. He overcame the evil one through his obedience to the will of his Father. Some of the Jewish leaders reacted vehemently to Jesus' healings and exorcisms and they opposed him with malicious slander. How could he get the power and authority to release individuals from Satan's power? They assumed that he had to be in league with Satan. They attributed his power to Satan rather than to God. Jesus answers their charge with two arguments. There were many exorcists in Palestine in Jesus' time. So Jesus retorted by saying that they also incriminate their own kin who cast out demons. If they condemn Jesus they also condemn themselves. In his second argument he asserts that no kingdom divided against itself cannot survive for long? We have witnessed enough civil wars in our own time to prove the destructive force at work here for the annihilation of whole peoples and their land. If Satan lends his power against his own forces then he is finished. How can a strong person be defeated except by someone who is stronger? Jesus asserted his power and authority to cast out demons as a clear demonstration of the reign of God.

**Prayer:** We implore your majesty most humbly, O Lord, that, as the feast of our salvation draws ever closer, so we may press forward all the more eagerly towards the worthy celebration of the Paschal Mystery. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** We live in a world of compromise. And yet, there are some aspects of our life that we just cannot afford to compromise on – especially our faith life, and the teachings of the one, holy, Catholic and

Apostolic Church. The teachings of the Church are based on the laws of God and the teachings of Jesus Christ. Jesus makes it clear that there are no neutral parties. We are either for Jesus or against him, for the kingdom of God or against it. Once we start going down the road of compromise, we turn against God and Jesus, because we begin to place our will above and before the will of God (sound familiar – Adam and Eve?). There are two kingdoms in opposition to one another – the kingdom of God and the kingdom of darkness under the rule of Satan. If we disobey God's word – if we compromise God's word – then we open to door to the power of sin and Satan in our lives. If you want to live in freedom from sin and Satan, then your house – your life and all you possess – must be occupied by Jesus where he is enthroned as Lord and Savior. Is the Lord Jesus the Master of your home, heart, mind, and will?

# Friday, March 8 ~ Third Week in the Season of Lent Optional Memorial: Saint John of God, Religious

**Holy Gospel: Mark 12:28-34** One of the scribes came to Jesus and asked him, "Which is the first of all the commandments?" Jesus replied, "The first is this: Hear, O Israel! The Lord our God is Lord alone! You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength. The second is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these." The scribe said to him, "Well said, teacher. You are right in saying, He is One and there is no other than he. And to love him with all your heart, with all your understanding, with all your strength, and to love your neighbor as yourself is worth more than all burnt offerings and sacrifices." And when Jesus saw that he answered with understanding, he said to him, "You are not far from the Kingdom of God." And no one dared to ask him any more questions.

Meditation: How do love and obedience to God's law go together? The Pharisees prided themselves in the knowledge of the law and their ritual requirements. They made it a life-time practice to study the 613 precepts of the Old Testament along with the numerous rabbinic commentaries. They tested Jesus to see if he correctly understood the law as they did. Jesus startled them with his profound simplicity and mastery of the law of God and its purpose. What does God require of us? Simply that we love as he loves! God is love and everything he does flows from his love for us. God loved us first and our love for him is a response to his exceeding grace and kindness towards us. The love of God comes first and the love of neighbor is firmly grounded in the love of God. The more we know of God's love and truth the more we love what he loves and reject what is hateful and contrary to his will. What, then, makes our love for God and his commands grow in us? Faith in God and hope in his promises strengthens us in the love of God. They are essential for a good relationship with God, for being united with him. The more we know of God the more we love him and the more we love him the greater we believe and hope in his promises. The Lord, through the gift of the Holy Spirit, gives us a new freedom to love as he loves. Do you allow anything to keep you from the love of God and the joy of serving others with a generous heart? Remember and reflect on what Saint Paul the Apostle said: "Hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit which has been given to us" (Romans 5:5).

**Prayer:** Pour your grace into our hearts, we pray, O Lord, that we may be constantly drawn away from unruly desires and obey by your own gift the heavenly teaching you give us. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**Contemplation:** The following prayer by Saint Anselm is worth contemplating on this day: "We love you, O our God; and we desire to love you more and more. Grant to us that we may love you as much as we desire, and as much as we ought. O dearest friend, who has so loved and saved us, the thought of whom is so sweet and always growing sweeter, come with Christ and dwell in our hearts; that you keep a watch over our lips, our steps, our deeds, and we shall not need to be anxious either for our souls or our bodies. Give us love, sweetest of all gifts, which knows no enemy. Give us in our hearts pure love, born of your love to us, that we may love others as you love us. O most loving Father of Jesus Christ, from whom flows all love, let our hearts, frozen in sin, cold to you and cold to others, be warmed by this divine fire. So help and bless us in your Son."

Scripture passages (NAB translation) courtesy of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops. Daily meditations and contemplations adapted from the Irish Jesuits' *Sacred Space* web page and *Biblical Medications for Lent* by Rev. Carroll Stuhlmueller, C.P.; prayers are from *The Roman Missal*, Catholic Book Publishing, 2011; information about saints, solemnities, feasts and memorials courtesy of the Catholic Culture web site.



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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 3, 2024

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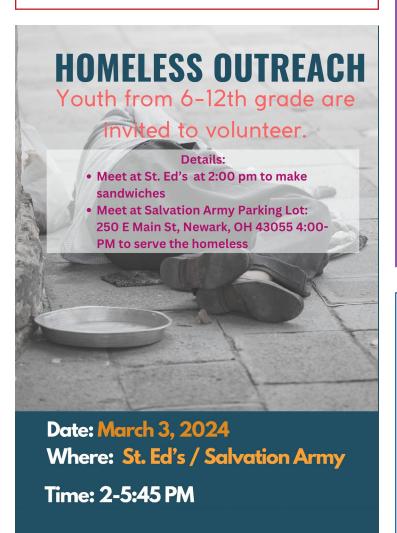
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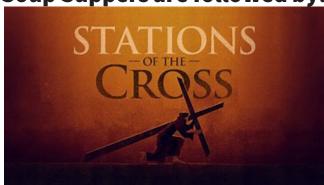


# **Lenten Speaker is Dana Updegrove**

Tuesday, March 5:
The Eucharist as Real Presence

Tuesday, March 12
The Eucharist & Growth
in Holiness

Soup Suppers are followed by:



Tuesday, March 19
Penance Service 7:00 p.m.

# **FOSTERING HOPE DUFFEL BAG PROJECT**

The project is underway again to collect new and gently used duffel bags and backpacks to be distributed to children who are being removed from their homes to be placed in foster care. The collection box will be in the Gathering Space. **What is needed?** 

- Duffel bags and backpacks
- Travel-sized toiletry items such as: shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste and toothbrushes, soap, combs/brushes.

Your generosity allowed us to fill 150 duffels and 33 backpacks last year. The committee hopes for even more this year! Thank you!

The Duffel Bag Committee – Karen Kolbe, Lisa Matula, Betty Terlecky





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# Reflection on Lectionary Readings



# MARCH 3, 2024 - THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

EX 20:1-17; PS 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 COR 1:22-25; JN 2:13-25

Our readings call us to roll up our sleeves and persevere through the remainder of Lent by committing to a more faithful life with Christ.

In today's Gospel, Jesus purifies the temple area because it is being misused as a marketplace. He becomes angry at their lack of reverence for God. He spills the coins of the money changers and overturns tables, saying, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."

Jesus witnessed the way people mistreated the temple – the place to worship God and God alone. He drives out evil and works to purify all that is sinful in that place. This is what Jesus wants to do for us this Lenten season. He wants to remove all impurity and evil in our lives and hearts, so that we may have a proper dwelling place for the Holy Spirit. Let us ask ourselves, what areas of our life need cleansing? Let us name those areas and invite Jesus to purify us. He became man to carry our burdens and wipe away our sins. He has given us boundless mercy, but we must do our part to seek it and commit to living a more faithful life as a disciple of Christ. With this knowledge, let us seek to be purified from our sins, so that our hearts might be a true temple of the Holy Spirit.

This season of Lent is only halfway done – there is still time to work through our shortcomings and purify our hearts for Easter morning. But let us not waste another moment. Let us name our shortcomings, seek God's mercy and invite Him to transform our hearts.

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