

St. Michael the Archangel

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Dear Parish Family,

We are almost halfway through the season of Lent. On this Third Sunday of the holy season we are told of an incident in the life of Jesus in which He entered the temple and cleansed it of all those that desecrated the holiness and sacredness of the place. All four Gospel writers spoke of this event, so it obviously held great significance in the first generation of the church. In St. Mark's account, He cleansed the temple and forbade business there. In St. Matthew's story, after He cleared the area, the sick came to Him and He cured them. St. Luke indicates that Jesus drove out the sellers and then set up His teaching ministry there. In St. John's version, after the area was cleared, Jesus compared it to His body that will be destroyed and then raised up again. In each case, we see that Jesus claims the space for God and all that belongs to God. Jesus was always in "the business of His Father" and that occupied Him more than any other concern.

St. Paul's first letter to the Corinthians chapter 6, verse 19 says, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit?" It is telling us that we are God's dwelling places! How special that can be! Sad to say, sometimes we fill this temple of God with many unnecessary and unwanted clutters. Therefore it needs cleansing too. If we allow Jesus in He too can cleanse us, as He did the Jerusalem temple, and make us truly a worthy dwelling place for God!

Sincerely,

Fr. Dwight

P.S. We are still waiting for the statement of the Cardinal regarding his response to Gov. Abbott lifting state mandated COVID guidelines next Wednesday. Thus for the time being nothing changes with social distancing and face mask requirements during church services. Thank you for your understanding.

Please join for me for Stations of the Cross this evening in the church at 7:00pm and also livestreamed on YouTube. You can search for YouTube/smlj to find our YouTube channel and from there the livestream.

And please remember the KC Lenten Fish Fry this evening. The drive-thru will be open from 4:30 - 6:30pm. Also this Sunday in KC Chicken Sunday - you can pick them up Sunday or pre-order if you wish at www.osvhub.com/smlj/forms/kc-chickens