

Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time – March 3, 2019

Heart and Mouth.

Readings: Sirach 27:4-7; Psalm 92:2-3, 13-16; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45.

In today's readings we hear Jesus speaking in Galilee as well as a Jewish sage named Sirach writing in Jerusalem more than a century earlier. The two of them touch upon a single truth: The words that come out of us make known the hidden thoughts within us. Speech reveals the secrets of the heart. Sirach teaches that speaking is "the test of men" and their character (**Sir 27:7**). One who is upright will utter words that are truthful and encouraging to others. But one whose heart is cluttered with "refuse" will be exposed, since the "fruit" of his mouth speaks volumes about the "tree" that produces it (**Sir 27:6**). Sirach also compares the testing of our words to clay fired in a kiln—if properly prepared, a useful vessel emerges; but if the clay is not fully dried, it will break apart in the extreme heat (**Sirach 27:5**).

In a similar way, Jesus insists that a person speaks "out of the abundance of the heart" (**Luke 6:45**). He too compares our speech, whether good or bad, to what grows on a tree: "For no good tree bears bad fruit, nor again does a bad tree bear good fruit" (**Luke 6:43**).

Both readings urge us to make wholesome speech a habit. After all, much about who we are is brought to light through what we say. But there's an additional step: The Lord is asking us to look inward, to examine our hearts and fill them with the "good treasure" that God desires.

Why do purity of heart and speech matter so much? Because, as Jesus declares elsewhere: "by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (**Matt 12:37**). They matter because they help to decide our final judgment, and this is where the Second Reading comes in. Paul reminds us that God will destroy death forever, and if we are to share in this victory and live forever with the Lord, then we must take all steps necessary to give our hearts and lips to what is good.

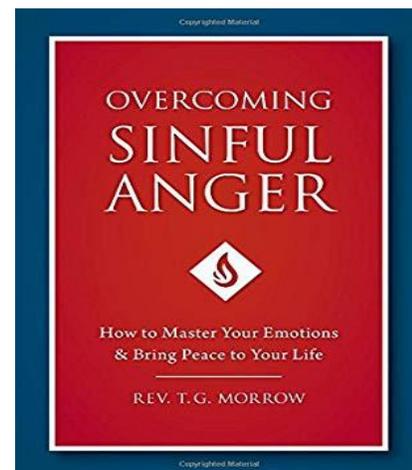
Father Blake Evans, Pastor

Ash
Wednesday

MARCH 6TH

8:00 AM	English	SGDC
Noon	English	Nativity
7:00 PM	Bilingual	SGDC
7:30 PM	Bilingual	Nativity

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday takes place 46 days before Easter Sunday, and is chiefly observed by Catholics, although many other Christians observe it too. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us. As the priest applies the ashes to a person's forehead, he speaks the words: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Alternatively, the priest may speak the words, "Repent and believe in the Gospel."



Recommended reading. Fr. Morrow is a priest of ADW and a Mount grad.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

March 2 - 9, 2019

Sat. 3/2	8:00 am	Sick & homebound parishioners
	4:30pm	Joseph Evans (birthday)
Sun. 3/3	8:00am	Maggie Wright (birthday)
	10:00am	Souls in Purgatory
	1:00 pm	People fo the Parish
Mon. 3/4	12:00	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tan
Tue. 3/5	12:00	Bob & Maria Myers (Anniv.)
Wed. 3/6	12:00	Maria Myers intentions
	7:30pm	People of the Parish
Thu. 3/7	12:00	Evelyn Lowey
Fri. 3/8	12:00	Maria Myers intentions
Sat. 3/9	8:00 am	Sick & homebound parishioners
	4:30pm	+Jonathan C. Mitchel & Deceased family members

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Theresa Arteaga, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Lukas Pastier, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Eileen Carroll-Doshier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, * Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *James Humphries, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Clarence Morris, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *Sheryl Newman, *Amelie Ongbehalal, *Father Everett Pearson, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Auristela Roman, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta.

Dollars and Diapers outreach Ministry 2019. Please place all monetary donations into provided envelopes (also next to the altar) and be sure to only place the donation into the Sunday collection. Diapers may be dropped off at the front vestibule of the church in the labeled collection containers.

ATTENDANCE REPORT

2/24/19

Attendance: 371 souls
Offerings & Tithes: \$7,892
Spanish Mass: \$565
Utility fund: \$715

Tax statements request: Forms are located at both entrances of the church. Complete the form and put it in the collection basket or mail it to the Rectory. Tax statements will be mailed.

Question of the week: In what ways do I speak or act without integrity? What must I say or do at home or in my community to bear good fruit? Can I make a commitment to doing something fruitful throughout Lent?



BAKE SALE

The Catholic Daughters of the Americas, Court 2344 are having a "Homemade Bake Sale" on Sunday March 10th. Join them in the Lounge after the 8am and 10am masses! All proceeds will help support Nativity Church.



Lenten Fish Fry. Starting on March 8th at 6 pm in the Lounge. This event will occur every Friday during Lent except Good Friday.

Dinners are \$10, sandwiches \$5. Proceeds provide grants, scholarships, and awards for parish activities. More information call Stephen Hawkins 202.285.6356 or Peter Gervais 202.494.7347

Catholic Appeal. The theme of the 2019 Appeal is "Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission." and is much different from a one-time special collection. It is a pledge campaign where you can make a gift, today, payable over ten months that will help support the ministries and mission of all our faith communities of the Church of Washington. Please find the Annual Appeal brochure and Frequently Asked Questions in your pew for your review. A gift to the Annual Appeal will touch the lives of thousands of people in a very positive way. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.