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My dear parishioners:
 Each year one of my Lenten practices is to read a spiritual book from years ago. For many years I have read The Imitation of Christ by Thomas A. Kempis. It calls me back to a simplistic, humble way of life that focuses on the presence of God in a disciplined life. The problem for me is that the book is pretty meaty, and I find myself rushing to finish it by Holy Week.

Last year I settled on a smaller book based on the Rule of St. Benedict, who died in 547. St. Benedict is considered the Father of Western Monasticism. He wrote his Rule which articulates how his fellow monks should live in relation to one another and before the Lord.

There have been countless books written that take the ancient Rule of St. Benedict and apply it to today's life and culture. I have read many of these books and find each one to hold some "pearls of wisdom" which lead me to penetrating thoughts regarding my own life and how to continue to grow in faith, hope and love.

St. Benedict put great emphasis on every monk outdoing the other in kindness and generosity. The following poem entitled "Good Works" articulates beautifully this spiritual discipline.

If you want to live the life that only you can live, do good for others, and when you have done good, you will have life abundantly.
A life without good works is a shadow life. A life centered on itself is an empty life.
Seek to do good for others, and you will find fulfillment. Forget yourself and you will discover what you are seeking.
But if we do good works, we should not do so in the hope of reward, nor in the desire of betterment, nor can we be proud or self-righteous on account of our good works.
We must credit the good we do to the hidden foundation of good, and be grateful to serve as its medium.

Each good action we perform is like a blow from a sculptor's chisel, cutting away the dross, and shaping the ideal form hidden within the stone. Each step we take away from dependence on material possessions is like a day of training for an athlete, strengthening ourselves into the fit and healthy person we were designed to be. It is the small daily brush strokes that create the painting, no matter how large the canvas.

The author is reminding us that our good works are meant to assist us to deepen goodness (holiness) within us. The rhythm of good works draws us more fully into goodness itself, which is God. If you were at one of the Masses I preached last Sunday you would have heard me talk about how "truly good works require sacrifice". Many of the good works we do are meaningful for others but do not really help us to grow in holiness. We give away clothes in our closets that we no longer wear so that we have room to buy new clothes we will wear. It is a good work, but there is no sacrifice.

Webster defines a sacrifice as "The act of giving up something valued for the sake of something else more →

March 10, 2019 - March 17, 2019
Readings and Mass Intentions

Sunday, March 10 9:00am—Mass
 Dt 26:4-10/Ps 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15 [cf. 15b]/Rom 10:8-13/
 Lk 4:1-13
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Monday, March 11 4:30pm—Mass
 Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15 [Jn 6:63b]/Mt 25:31-46
Mass intention for Lloyd and Ron Chance

Tuesday, March 12 No Mass
 Is 55:10-11/Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19 [18b]/Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday, March 13 4:30pm—Mass
 7:00pm—Mass
 Jon 3:1-10/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 [19b]/Lk 11:29-32
Mass intention for Lloyd and Ron Chance

Thursday, March 14 8:30am—Mass
 Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8 [3a]/Mt 7:7-12

Friday, March 15 9:30am—Communion Service

Saturday, March 16 4:30pm—Mass
 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
 Dt 26:16-19/Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8 [1b]/Mt 5:43-48

Sunday, March 17 9:00am—Mass
 Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14[1a]/Phil 3:17-4:1 or
 3:20-4:1/Lk 9:28b-36
Mass intention for the People of the Parish

Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble. (Ps 91)

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: Bobbie Broussard, Bennie Mahaffey, Don Watt, Annie Jacobs, Kim Lowrie, Dwayne Lowrie; Michael Parrott, Sharon Horsman, Dallas Jordan, Bethany Robinson, Debbie Graham, Cecil Schriver, Connie McDowell

Repose of the soul: Michelle Duncan, Roy Fade; John Martin, Bobby Knight

Names will remain on the prayer list for two weeks. You may list names in the Prayer book in the vestibule of the Church and your intention will be offered at daily Mass.

important or worthy." The word sacrifice comes from the Latin word for "sacred". Hence, a sacrifice is to intentionally give up something of value in order to grow in holiness. For example, we give up pride in order to embrace humility. Or we give up a social activity we enjoy in order to spend that time helping vulnerable people. Or we give up a material possession or funds that leave a bit of a loss in us in order to intentionally provide a gain to people who suffer. This Lent, in addition to our many good works which we perform so easily, let us identify at least one good work that comes with a sacrifice, so that it will be a means of our growth in holiness. May each of you have a blessed Lent of prayer, fasting and good works. God bless you all.

Sincerely in Christ,

 Msgr. Frank H. Rossi
 Pastor

Sun. Mar 10 <i>First Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00am—Mass 3:30pm—Rite of Election, St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica, Beaumont, TX	Mon. Mar 11 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. Mar 12 6:30pm—RCIA	Wed. Mar 13 10:00am—Stewardship 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir 6:00pm—CCE 7:00pm—Eucharist Adoration/confessions	Thurs. Mar 14 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. Mar 15 9:30am—Communion Service 5:30pm—Stations of the Cross	Sat. Mar 16 3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass
Sun. Mar 17 <i>Second Sunday of Lent</i> 9:00am—Mass	Mon. Mar 18 4:30 pm—Mass	Tues. Mar 19 6:30pm—RCIA	Wed. Mar 20 4:00pm—Rosary 4:30pm—Mass 5:00pm—Choir 6:00pm—CCE	Thurs. Mar 21 8:30am—Mass 9:00am—Divine Mercy Chaplet	Fri. Mar 22 9:30am—Communion Service 5:30pm—Stations of the Cross	Sat. Mar 23 3:45-4:15pm: Confessions 4:30pm—Mass 6:30pm—Spanish Mass

RITE OF ELECTION

Today, March 10, the Catechumens who have been faithfully participating in the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults classes will travel to St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica to participate in The Rite of Election. Please keep them in your prayers as they continue their journey into full communion with us at the Easter Vigil.

BOB BOYD BOBBY HATCHER
 IRENE JOHNSON AMBER TANTON
 RUSTY KUCIEMBA TIM PARKER

WUISAYO KUCIEMBA

Parish Mission

"If you knew the gift of God . . ."
 ~John 4:10

Sunday, March 31 – Thursday, April 4, 2019
 6:00pm Confessions/Adoration
 7:00pm Mission Talk

Topics will include:

- ♦ Baptism: Power to Become Children of God
- ♦ Confession: Unconditional Love and Healing
- ♦ The Church: That They may Be One
- ♦ The Eucharist: Heaven on Earth
- ♦ Mary, Mother of God, and Our Mother

Mission presentation by Fr. Ricardo Pineda, CPM



Weekly Stewardship

March 2 & 3 Weekly Offering \$ 5,302.55
Average Weekly Cost \$ 3,152.00
Excess/Deficit \$ 2,150.55

Thank you for your generosity.

If you would like to give electronically, visit our website, www.ourladyofthepinescatholicchurch.com and click on **Donation**.

Religious Articles
 Come and see new items for sale.

Browse on Saturday after Mass or while having coffee on Sunday mornings.



Upcoming Events

March 22-24: Retreat Weekend for Married Couples, Beaumont, TX
 March 26: Women's Day of Prayer, St. Elizabeth Parish, Port Neches, TX
 March 26: Texas Catholic Advocacy Day, State Capitol, Austin, TX
 March 31-April 4: **PARISH MISSION**