



ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC CHURCH

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MARCH 4, 2018, THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

HOLY MASS SCHEDULE

DAILY MASS SCHEDULE:

Monday-Thursday - 5:40 pm - Holy Rosary
 6:00 pm - Holy Mass
 Friday - 5:30 pm - Stations of the Cross
 - 6:00 pm - Holy Mass

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE:

Saturday - 4:30 pm - Confessions
 5:00 pm - Holy Rosary
 5:30 pm - Holy Mass

Sunday - 10:30 am - Holy Mass

Religious Education - On 4th March after
 10:30am Mass

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1). On every Friday during the Season of Lent there will be Stations of the Cross at 05:30pm and we need the volunteers sign up to lead the Congregation.
- 2). Iditarod Fundraiser will be on March 10th preordered Krispy Kream Donuts and Papa Murphy's Pizzas will be delivered on this date. Watch for further details.
- 3). Paul Sebweenna Funeral Mass at 6.00pm on Monday followed by Potluck and Eskimo dance.
- 4). Parish Council meeting following Mass on Tuesday
- 4). No Religious Education next weekend.

READERS AND EM'S

Lector

Eucharistic Minister

Sat 3/3	Betsy Brennan
Sun 3/4	Kitty Scott
Sat 3/10	Angie Gorn
Sun 3/11	Sylvia Paniataaq
Sat 3/17	Gretchen Froehle
Sun 3/18	Volunteer needed
Sat 3/24	Julie Farley
Sun 3/25	Jennifer Fast (Palm Sunday)

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

- 1). Monday 5.40pm Rosary 6.00pm Mass
- 2). Tuesday 5.40pm Rosary 6.00pm Mass
6.20pm Communal Penitential Service
- 3). Wednesday 5.40pm Rosary 6.00pm Mass
- 4). Thursday 7.00pm Mass of the Last Supper, Followed by Adoration.
- 5). Friday 12.00pm Stations of the Cross Followed by Soup and bread.
7.00pm Good Friday Service.
- 6). Saturday 7.00pm Easter Vigil
- 7). Easter Sunday 10.30am Mass

FAMILY CONNECTION TO THE GOSPEL

In today's Gospel we read about how Jesus overturned the tables of the merchants and the moneychangers in the Temple at Jerusalem. In order to understand the relevance of Jesus' action, we must learn more about the activities that were going on in the temple area. Worship at the Temple in Jerusalem included animal sacrifice, and merchants sold animals to worshipers. Moneychangers exchanged Roman coins, which bore the image of the Roman emperor, for the temple coins that were needed to pay the temple tax.

In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

The Gospel of John was the last of the four Gospels to be written, and its narrative reflects the growing divide between the Jewish community and the early Christian community. Thus, greater emphasis on the distinction between Christianity and Judaism is found in John's Gospel.

Reflecting upon the destruction of the Temple of Jerusalem (A.D. 70), John recalls Jesus' cleansing of the Temple and uses that story to interpret this later event. John explains to his audience, an early Christian community, that temple worship would no longer be necessary because it was surpassed in the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus. With greater frequency than the other Evangelists, John intersperses post-Resurrection reflections of this Christian community in his narrative.

After clearing the Temple of the merchants and the moneychangers, John's Gospel tells us that the people asked for a sign of Jesus' authority to do such an audacious act. In response, Jesus predicted his death and Resurrection. Throughout John's Gospel, the language of signs is distinctive. Jesus' miracles are called signs, and the people look to these signs for proof of his authority. Here we learn that the sign par excellence will be Jesus' passion, death, and Resurrection.

During Lent we reflect upon the meaning of this sign for us and for our world. We might take this opportunity to consider the quality of our prayer and worship. In our prayers we seek to deepen our relationship with the person of Christ. In our worship with the community, we gather to experience anew the passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus and its significance in our lives. Christ promises to be present with us when we gather for prayer.

REASONS TO PRAY AND ALMS GIVING

Why Pray?

The Bible says that "He (JESUS) would often withdraw to the wilderness and pray." Often is right.

1. PRAYER ACCOMPLISHES GOD'S WORK

Jesus repeats it: "If you ask Me anything in My Name, I will do it."

It matters not what type of gifts, talent, or personality I have; it matters only that I take this time to cooperate with Him in my prayers. And that is all that matters for you, too. May we "get it" before much more time passes.

2. A WEAPON OF SPIRITUAL WARFARE

Prayer is a major weapon in fighting the spiritual battle. **Ephesians 6:10 following**, Finally, draw your strength from the Lord and from his mighty power. Put on the armor of God so that you may be able to stand firm against the tactics of the devil. For our struggle is not with flesh and blood but with the principalities, with the powers, with the world rulers of this present darkness, with the evil spirits in the heavens. Therefore put on the armor of God.

3. A PREREQUISITE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

As we pray, we experience change which revives us. Then we become the seeds of revival to change those around us. As the concentric circle enlarges, awakening spreads more broadly and quickly. And all of this is the fruit of prayer. What a wonderful reason to pray -- to see the resultant awakened church, campus, city, or country. May we be driven to our knees to pray for such a reality of His presence.

Why Should I give Alms

1Cor 4:7. What do you possess that you have not received? From the Lord.

Proverbs 19:17. Whoever is generous to the poor lends to the LORD, and he will repay him for his deed.

