

March 10, 2019

From the Desk of Rev. Fr. Anthony C. Ekanem, MSP:

Our Lord fasted forty days in the desert before he started his mission. Moses stayed on Mount Sinai for forty days to receive the Law of the Covenant. We, too since Last Wednesday are invited to embark on a journey of a forty – day period during which we are challenged to repent and reorient ourselves toward God.

All the readings are concerned with the faithfulness to God. The First Reading describes the ceremony of the offering to God of the first fruits of the harvest. It was an occasion for people to thank God, not only for the blessings of the harvest, but for all He had done for them in the past, and especially in the Exodus.

In the Second Reading we hear St Paul preaching that all who have faith will be saved.

The Gospel highlights for us one of the central themes of the Season of Lent. We are dependent upon God for all that we have and all that we have. Anything that leads us to reject this dependency or destroy its sufficiency is a temptation from the devil. Luke's account of the temptation follows closely that of Matthew, except that he deliberately changes the order of the last two temptations so that series ends in Jerusalem. This is in keeping with Luke's theological interest in the holy city. The three scenes serve to correct a false understanding of Jesus' mission. Jesus repels the tempter by quoting from the book of Deuteronomy, which stresses God's will for Israel. The temptations were attacks on all that was fundamental to the mission of Jesus.

To give people what they want rather than what they need. To please the crowd by giving them what will satisfy their immediate wants, when they don't know what their hearts really need.

To set up a political kingdom, to resort to power rather than love. Jesus did not come to rule but to serve. He didn't cling to his divine power, but emptied Himself and became the loving servant of all. We are always tempted to replace love by power.

Doing something spectacular in order to elicit faith. Sensationalism is not what Jesus came for. He wanted followers, that is, people who would imitate His way of living and not screaming fans.

The three temptations come down to the same thing in the end: to put material things and His own glory first, and spiritual things and God second. This is one the temptations of His Church as a whole. Resisting temptation was not easy for Jesus; nor will it be for us. But in Jesus we have a brother who knows what we are up against.

Jesus' forty in the desert, reflecting and praying is an ideal place for reflection and prayer. The desert experience came at a crucial moment in His life. We need a lonely place for reflection like in our Church where the doors are open for private prayer beginning at 7:00 am with Masses at 8:15 am and 12:05 pm. We need solitude to face our demons, our addiction, our lusts, our anger, and our need to express our trust in God. This is how Jesus was able to handle His agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

We don't go into the wilderness to escape from others, but to find them in God. "Only in solitude and silence can I find the gentleness with which I can love my brothers and sisters." Thomas Merton.

Stewardship Tithing God's Plan for Giving Sunday Collection For 03/03/19 was \$3,822.00

Today we have a second collection for The Support of the Catholic Relief Services

Tax Statement: Anyone that needs their donation statement for Tax purpose are to stop by the Rectory Office and leave your name and envelope number and we will mail it out to you.

GUIDELINE FOR LENTEN OBSERVANCE

ASH WEDNESDAY AND GOOD FRIDAY ARE DAYS OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE (Canon 1251)

FASTING binds all persons who have completed their 18th birthday through those who have completed their 59th year, unless prevented by poor health. On days of fast, one full meal is allowed. Two other meals sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to one's own needs. Eating meals in between is not allowed although fluid may be taken. (Canon 1252)

ABSTINENCE binds all persons who have completed their 14th birthday, unless prevented by poor health. On days of abstinence during Lent, the consumption of meat of mammals or fowl is not allowed. The Church strongly encourages the observance of Friday abstinence throughout the year, but failure to do so is not regarded as sinful. (Canon 1252)

~ Stations of the Cross ~

- Friday after 12:05pm Mass Stations of the Cross in English
- Friday at 6:45pm Stations of the Cross in Arabic
- Friday of 8:00pm Stations of the Cross Spanish in the Church. You are all invited.

Sundays Readings:

First Reading: *Deuteronomy 26:4-10; page 43: Moses told the story of the Israelites: The LORD God led them from bondage to freedom. This story should always be recalled before offering gift to God. The people of God can rejoice over the many good things the Lord has given them.*

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15: page 44: "Be with me, Lord, when I am in trouble."*

Second Reading: *Romans 10:8-13; page 44: God's word is on your lips and in your heart. If you proclaim with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe it in your heart, you will be saved. "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

Gospel : *Luke 4:1-13; page 45 : Jesus was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert for forty days. There he ate nothing and was tempted by the devil left him to await another opportunity.*

Today's Focus: What's in a Word?:

Though we may think that actions speak louder than words, we still express that truth using words. Our words can be potent, for good or evil, to promote the gospel message.

Religious Education

March 2019:

16th Religious Education Classes~ Communion Rehearsal 10:00 am

23rd Religious Education Classes ~ Confirmation Rehearsal 10:00 am

30th Religious Education Classes

April 2019:

6th No Religious Education Classes-Reconciliation Family Day for Communion Parents& Candidates

13th Religious Education Classes

18th HOLY THURSDAY-MASS STARTS AT 6:00 PM ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT at 5:45pm

*Mass Schedule for the week of
March 10, 2019 to March 16, 2019*

Below are the Special Intentions for this week

Sunday, March 10, 2019:

7:30 am – For the Parishioners

9:00 am – Frank Navarro *Josefa Navarro

11:00 am – George F. Russ *Genny Brown & Family

Monday, March 11, 2019:

8:15am Available

12:05pm – Rob Yager (Living) Ita Yager

Tuesday, March 12, 2019:

8:15am Available

12:05pm – Available

Wednesday, March 13, 2019:

8:15am Available

12:05 pm – Sebastian Luiz * Ita Yager

Thursday, March 14, 2019:

8:15am - Available

12:05pm - Available

7:00 pm– Felipe Reales (decease) *Desy Rosario Reales

Friday, March 15, 2019:

8:15am – Available

12:05pm – Stephen Joseph Cheruvelil

8:00pm - Via Crucis dentro de la Iglesia

Saturday, March 16, 2019:

12:05pm - Available

5:00 pm – Fr. Henry Madigan OFM CONV *Tony Felicissimo 7:30 pm – Available