

March 31 2019
Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

REACHING OUT

Although today is the last Sunday of the month, it is also the 4th Sunday of Lent, that marks the midpoint in the Lenten preparation for Easter. Traditionally, it is called LAETARE (Rejoice) Sunday. It is a sign and a reminder that we are coming swiftly toward the end of our Lenten fast and the joy of Easter is already on the horizon. More importantly, the entrance antiphon tells us “Rejoice, Jerusalem! Be glad for her, you who love her; rejoice with her, you who mourned for her, and you will find contentment at her consoling breast,” (Isaiah 66:10 -11). Just like on the 3rd Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday, we may wear rose colored vestments if the Celebrant so chooses. These are the two times in our liturgical year that we may wear such vestments. See how our bulletin reflects the liturgical color of the year. Liturgical authors also call this Anticipatory Joy of Easter.

Why are we called upon to rejoice in this penitential season? We are chosen, adopted, blessed people, whom our Lord Jesus suffered for; we should be joy filled people who have been reconciled to God. St Augustine says, ‘we are alleluia people.’ In this season of grace, we should also remember the Gospel reading of Ash Wednesday,

Matthew 6:16 that says, “When you fast, do not look gloomy like the hypocrites. They neglect their appearances so that they appear to others to be fasting.” And so, this Sunday is set aside for us to rejoice in God’s graciousness through His love and mercy like the father shows to both of his sons in today’s Gospel.

Reconciliation is a powerful act in the readings today:

In the 1st Reading: God the Father reaches out, speaks to people of Israel, reconciling them through Joshua.

In the 2nd Reading: In Christ God reconciles us to Himself and makes us ambassadors of reconciliation.

In the Gospel Reading: In Christ God, “The Merciful Father” runs out to meet us sinners to celebrate our homecoming.

We are never beyond reconciliation.

In today’s Gospel, Jesus clearly responded to the complaint of the Pharisees and Scribes that He welcomed tax collectors and sinners; he corrected their misunderstanding of his mission again with this moral lesson in this popular parable “The Prodigal Son.”

Obviously we can see why the tax collectors and sinners are represented by the son who ran off and squandered his share of the property, and the Pharisees and Scribes are righteous observers of the law who remained home, like the oldest son. The latter observed the law but their motivation was wrong. They tried to buy salvation by scrupulous external observance. Their attitude was like that of the oldest son: “All these years I served you.” Too often, we are like the Pharisees and Scribes. We miss the point that God’s story of saving love, reconciliation is addressed to all, for all of us. At times we find ourselves criticizing those who welcome the “wrong people.” We are called upon to help others reconcile with one another and our God. Like the “father” did with his youngest son.

The three readings are all about God the Father lavishing His love for us sinners.

Stewardship

Tithing - God’s Plan for Giving Sunday Collection Update For 03/24/19 was \$ 3,203.00

Last week’s second collection for the Church Property was \$914.00

GUIDELINE FOR LENTEN OBSERVANCE

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)

Prayer Ideas: Read from the Bible each day, pray for someone new from the church/school/work each day.

Attend Mass at least once during the week other than Sunday.

Lenten Daily Prayers

Lord, I will turn, turn my face towards You. I will lay before You the desert areas I hide And turn to soak in Your refreshing words of life. I will cast aside the barren, selfish pursuits

And turn to rest in the tranquil warmth of Your love.

I will draw back from the harsh pull of media And turn to bathe in the gentle power of Your Spirit.

Lord, today I turn my face towards You. I will turn to soak in Your words of life, To rest in the warmth of Your love, And to bathe in the power of Your Spirit. Amen.

Lords-prayer-words.com

Fasting Ideas: Give up a certain/food/drink/ or candy that you love, or give up the computer or TV one day per week, stop eating meals out, give up an activity that wastes your time.

Alms giving/Service Ideas: Volunteer for a local organization, nursing home or hospital.

~ 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: *Joshua 5:9a, 10-12, p. 54*

God delivered Israel from Egypt. All the people celebrated Passover with unleavened cakes and parched grain in their new land, the promised land flowing with milk and honey.

Responsorial Psalm: *Psalm 34:2-3,4-5,6-7 p. 54*

“Taste and see, taste and see the goodness of the Lord. ”

Second Reading: *2 Corinthians 5:17-21, p. 55*

We are ambassadors for Christ and ministers of reconciliation to one another. We must all be reconciled to God so that we might “become the righteousness of God in him”.

Gospel: *Luke 15:1-3, 11-32; p.55*

Jesus told his followers the parable of the prodigal son. It Is never too late to repent, to be received back by a loving father, and to enjoy his presence forever.

CHRISM MASS

You’re invited; reserve your bus seat today.

For Tuesday, April 16th at 4pm at St Patrick’s Cathedral.

Come witness the blessing of the:

Oil of Chrism, Oil of Catechumen, & Oil of the Sick

You can also witness our priests renew their vow to serve God's people with humility of a good shepherd.

Sign up at the back of the church.

Sign

Religious Education

Religious Education Classes

April 13, 27

Special Dates for Religious Education Students :

April 6 - Reconciliation Family Day for
Communion Parents & Candidates

April 18 - Holy Thursday Celebration, begins
6:00 pm all students are invited to come.

April 20- No Class Happy Easter.

Mass Schedule for the week of March 31, 2019 to April 6, 2019 Special Intentions for this week

Sunday, March 31, 2019:

7:30 am – Manuel Alvarez (Decease) * Julius Rodriguez

9:00 am – Maria Anglina Rubio Difunta *Maria Rubio Hija

11:00 am – Leonard N. Spano (Decease) *Stephanie K. Otero Monday, April 1, 2019:

8:15am Available

12:05pm – Alice Gewargis (Decease) *Denis Gewargis

Tuesday, April 2, 2019:

8:15am Available

12:05pm – Avimalk Gewargis (Decease) * Denis Gewargis

Wednesday, April 3, 2019:

8:15am Available

12:05 pm – Susy Gevarguize (Living) * Denis Gewargis

Thursday, April 4, 2019:

8:15am - Available

12:05pm - Dr. Rogelio D. Mendoza (Decease) * Bochoc & Family

7:00 pm– Available / Disponible

Friday, April 5, 2019:

8:15am – Available

12:05pm – Loretta Skrobala *Lory Sk Children

7:30pm - Sagrado Corazon de Jesus

8:00pm

Saturday, April 6, 2019:

12:05pm - Available

5:00 pm – Victor Ayala * Children

7:30 pm – Legion of Mary

* Indicates the person(s) who requested the Mass.