

## Fifth Sunday of Lent April 7, 2019

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

### THE WOMAN CAUGHT IN ADULTERY

Our first reading today contains a message of hope addressed to the Jewish exiles in Babylon. There will be a new exodus, so glorious that it will put the great events of the first exodus in the shade. And all of this will happen because God is faithful to his people.

This prepares us also for the message of compassion so beautifully portrayed in the Gospel. Christians see the radically new thing that God has created for them in and through Jesus. This is what St Paul expresses in the second reading of today. He is willing to sacrifice everything for the justification that comes from faith in Christ, and for the hope of the resurrection; his new life in Christ. We can also see God's love and compassion in Jesus' treatment of the sinful women (Gospel reading).

The Scribes and Pharisees set a snare for Jesus. This is 'entrapment story' to show Jesus' wisdom in his mission on earth. If he pardoned the woman, he could be accused of encouraging people to break the Law of Moses. If he agreed she should be stoned, he would lose his fame on his teaching on mercy. But Jesus turned the table on her accusers by suggesting that they look at their own sins first. The compassion and forgiveness of Jesus encourage us to pay attention to the spirit of the law not just the letter of the law. The life of the woman received liberation and set her free to love, free to change her behavior because she has regained her self—respect and self—worth. This is the mission of the Church; to forgive and to make whole. This is why theologians describe the Church as a community of grace and not legalism. Not a place a sinner is condemned but to a place where the sin of the sinner is condemned and the person given a second chance. Important preparation dates for our upcoming celebrations:

- Liturgy Meeting: Wednesday, April 10, 2019 at 7:30 pm
- Altar Servers Practice: Saturday, April 13, 2019 at noon in the Church
- Extra – Ordinary Minister of the Holy Eucharist workshop on Saturday, April 13, from 9:00 am—4:00pm

Please remember, we are available for Confessions before every Mass as we draw closer to Holy Week.

*Next Sunday we will be celebrating Palm Sunday.  
Please invite families and friends to join us in our Palm Sunday Mass.*

### **PALM SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

Saturday: Confessions - 4:30 – 5:00 pm

Evening Mass – 5:00 pm

Confession – 7:00 pm

Evening Spanish Mass – 7:30 pm

Sunday: Confessions - 7:00 – 7:30 am

Morning Mass 7:30 am

Confessions before Spanish Mass – 8:30 – 9:00 am

Spanish Mass – 9:00 am

Confessions before English Mass – 10:30 am–11:00 am

English Mass - 11:00 am

Arabic Mass – 1:00 pm

### **EASTER TRIDUUM SCHEDULE**

Holy Thursday – Our Lord's Super: (Bi-lingual) 6:00 pm

Arabic Community 8:30 pm

Good Friday – Passion of Our Lord Celebration – 1:30 pm – English

3:30 pm - Spanish

8:30 pm – Arabic

Holy Saturday – Easter Vigil celebration (Bi-lingual) 7:30 pm

Arabic Community 10:00 pm

### **2019 Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal Update**

Total Amount Pledged: \$19,756

Total Amount Paid: \$15,858

Number of Families: 58

Goal: \$39,500

We are appealing to every parishioner to participate in Cardinal's Annual Stewardship Appeal. God bless!

### **Stewardship**

Tithing - God's Plan for Giving Sunday Collection Update For 03/31/19 was \$ 3,261.00

### **GUIDELINE FOR LENTEN OBSERVANCE**

FASTING binds all persons who have completed their 18<sup>th</sup> birthday through those who have completed their 59<sup>th</sup> 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 14<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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:** *Isaiah 43:16-21, p. 60 Isaiah recounted who the LORD crushed the enemies of Israel. Then the LORD GOD did something entirely new by providing water in the desert for his chosen people to drink.*

**Responsorial Psalm:** *Psalm 126:1-2,2-3, 4-5,6 p. 61 "The Lord has done great things for us; we are filled with joy. "*

**Second Reading:** *Philippians 3: 8-14, p. 61 Paul told the Philippians how much he has forfeited in order to arrive at resurrection from the dead. Paul's entire attention was on the finish line as he ran toward the prize: life in Christ Jesus*

**Gospel:** *John 8:1-11; p. 62*

*Pharisees brought to Jesus a woman caught in adultery. They hoped he would condemn her to death by stoning, but Jesus said simply. "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her. "No one dared. Jesus forgave the woman and told her to avoid sin.*

### **Thank to the Volunteers**

*We would like to thank the group of volunteers that dedicated their time to clean and remove the moss from the façade from the front of the church.*

*Miguel Herrera, Vincent Ruiz, Benjamin Soto, Gabriel Cadozo, Isidoro Acevedo, Dario Florio.*

### **Religious Education**

Religious Education Classes

April 13, 27

Special Dates for Religious Education Students:

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 6, to April 13, 2019**

Special Intentions for this week

**Saturday, April 6, 2019:**

12:05pm - Available

5:00 pm – Victor Ayala \* Children

7:30 pm – Praged Cordero (Decease) \*Legion of Mary

**Sunday, April 7, 2019:**

7:30 am – For Parishioners

9:00 am – Jose Disla \*Jose Milagros Disla

11:00 am – Elaine Canavan (Decease) \*Jenny Brown

**Monday, April 8, 2019:**

8:15am — Baby Rory Rodden \*Carmel Mangan

12:05pm – Saturnina Rivera Jimenez (Decease) \*Mercedez y Gonazalo Vidals Tuesday, April 9, 2019:

8:15am Jose Edemni (Healing) \* Imelda Edemni 12:05pm – Manuel Carneiro Vieira (Decease)

\*Pedido Familia

**Wednesday, April 10, 2019:**

8:15am Steve Brady (Decease) Winnie & John

12:05 pm – Maria Amilia Desilva (Decease) \*Pedido Familia

**Thursday, April 11, 2019:**

8:15am - Agostinho Nuguera (Decease) \*Pedido Familia

12:05pm - Emmett Clarke Health \* Carmel Mangan

7:00 pm– Ruben D. Hernandez (Decease/Difunto) \*Amada Hernandez

**Friday, April 12, 2019:**

8:15am – Available

12:05pm – In Thanksgiving \* Mr. & Mrs Duggan

8:00pm

**Saturday, April 13, 2019:**

12:05pm - Available

5:00 pm – Vincent Nowak (Decease) \*Dianne O'Rourke 7:30 pm – Antolin Perez (Decease/Difunto) \* Ana Gladys Perez

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

**~Request a Mass Intention~**

Those wishing to honor a loved one during the celebration of Mass may pick up Mass cards in the parish office. Mass cards are available for the living and deceased and provided opportunities for prayerful remembrance of anniversaries, birthdays, and other special intentions. Masses are usually booked at least several months in advance so if you want the Mass, it is very important that you call the parish office well ahead of time.