

MARCH 3, 2024

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI CATHOLIC CHURCH



PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Very Rev. Rob Adams, STL

Deacon: Dcn. Joe Jacobs

Administrative Assistant: Becky Griffith

Custodian: Lisa Scalf

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MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday, Vigil Mass: 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, Mass: 10:30 a.m.

Adoration: Tuesday, 6:00 pm - 7:00 pm

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday: 4:00 p.m. or by appointment.

BAPTISM - 2 WEEKS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.

MARRIAGE PREP - 6 MONTHS NOTICE

Please call the office for an appointment.



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a



Sunday Offertory

02-25-2023.....\$2,677
 Weekly Budget.....\$2,700
 Surplus/**Deficit**.....\$23

YTD
 Offertory.....\$107,843
 Budget.....\$94,500
Surplus/Deficit.....\$13,343



Exodus 17:3-7
Romans 5:1-2, 5-8
John 4:5-42

Jesus satisfies our thirst for eternal life. Through his Spirit his grace has been poured into our hearts. God satisfies the thirst of the Israelites whose hearts had become hardened and rebellious.

Readings may be found in the Saint Augustine Hymnal Number 939

From the Pastor's Desk....

Hello everyone!

I am so happy to say that we have had a wonderful attendance at the Stations of the Cross and the fish fry. We are doing way better than most parishes our size. I also wanted to let everyone know that we will be taking up a collection for St. Martha's this weekend. Since their pastor has been sick, they have fallen on some hard financial times. Please be generous if you are able.

This Sunday is the third Sunday of Lent. For the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent, we celebrate special readings and prayers for people who will be baptized at Easter. This weekend we read the story of the woman at the well. I think this reading shows us one of the conditions for baptism - we have to be thirsty! We have to know that we need God. Whether it comes from our fasting or from a knowledge of our sins, we need to feel how much we need a relationship with the Lord.

Fr. Rob

Mass Schedule & Intentions

Saturday, March 2	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+For Vocations
Sunday, March 3	10:30 am Mass 1:00 pm	For the People For the People
Monday, March 4	No Mass	
Tuesday, March 5	Noon Mass	+Charles L. Schmidt
Wednesday, March 6	Noon Mass	+Blanche Justice Bannon
Thursday, March 7	Noon Mass	+Severino Tanael
Friday, March 8	Noon Mass	Poor Souls
Saturday, March 9	5:00 pm Vigil Mass	+Charles Schmidt
Sunday, March 10	10:30 am Mass	For the People

Parish Calendar & Announcements

LECTOR ROTATION - Below are the name and dates of the lector rotation.

03/03 Sidney Cline
 03/10 Joseph Mata
 03/17 Lindsay May
 03/24 Lauren Vanderpool
 03/31 David Hicks
 04/07 Russ Cassidy
 04/14 Doyle May

"If you cannot make your assigned date, feel free to contact a fill in for yourself or contact Sidney Cline at 606-424-8118".

Lenten challenge: This week, I dare you to ask God: "What do you want me to give up?" He may ask for that which you love most. It will be something precious to you: time, money, a relationship, a dream, an opportunity. What matters is we trust Him and act sacrificially in line with His command. Whatever we sacrifice will of course come back to us as surely as the Risen Jesus — but that doesn't make it easy. — Father John Muir ©LPi

ROSARY - We will be meeting at **noon** the first Saturday of each month to say the Rosary.



STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Will be each Friday at 6:00 pm during Lent.

GOSPEL MEDITATION - ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE

I am the Lord your God ... You shall not have other gods beside me. — Ex 20:2-3

One of the greatest golfers of all time — if not the greatest — was Jack Nicklaus. Which is why it is baffling that at the beginning of each season he would return to his childhood coach and re-learn how to grip the golf club. It's like Shakespeare re-learning the alphabet and grammar. Why would he do that? Because Jack knew that the fundamentals are always relevant. Perfecting and obsessing over his grip allowed him to do everything else in the game well. In sports and life, the best ones love the basics.

Similarly, as we begin Lent, we re-learn the spiritual basics in the Ten Commandments. Consider the first, to "have no other gods besides me." This is our "grip." Is our connection to God one of absolute fidelity and exclusive worship? Am I willing to let go of my precious idols, the things I cling to instead of God? Once we say "yes" to this fundamental question of our spiritual "grip," then we are ready to properly engage with everything else in life. Watch how beautifully the game of life unfolds in the next nine commandments (numbered in parentheses): how we speak to God and others (2 and 8), how we organize our week (3), how we relate to our family (4) and the wider community (5 and 7), how we live our sexuality (6), and how we order all the other desires of the human heart (9 and 10). But don't rush to these later Commandments too soon! Everything in life is built on the first Commandment. The more we focus on worshiping God alone, the better we navigate the complexity of life with panache, effectiveness, and love.

Lenten challenge: This week, identify what you can do to better worship God alone. If you're not sure, scan the last nine commandments to identify what you are most likely to worship instead of God. Power, pleasure, control of your time, possessions, family, health, reputation, money? Commit to concrete action to help you let go of this "idol" to better hold on to God alone in faithful worship. Remember: the best love the basics.— Father John Muir ©LPi



- Sidney Tackett
- Kayla Frix, Elon Justice Frix's sister in law (waiting for a liver transplant)
- Wilson Vanzant, Lisa Scalf's stepdad
- Sister Kathy Avery
- Ransom McCoy, Lindsay May's dad
- Terry A. Williams, Becky Griffith's brother in law (lung cancer)
- Jimmie Goss
- Tim Deskins
- Christine Misczenski, Steve Misczenski's mother
- Melba Schmidt, Kenny Schmidt's mother
- Ryan Altman, Helen Altman's grandson
- Steve Misczenski, Sr. (cancer)
- Erica Hunt, Lisa Scalf's friend (kidney failure)
- Deacon Dirck Curry
- Frank Shortridge, Becky Griffith's brother (ALS)
- John Flichman, stroke
- Chona Curry
- Wanda Baker
- Jeffrey Scalf, Lisa's son
- Sandy Lowe, cancer
- Ron Saros
- Kenny Blackburn
- Helen Altman
- Margarita Gomez
- Fran Sykes

VOTIVE CANDLES:
 Suggested donation: Large votives \$3.00 and small votives \$0.50



Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up” (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God’s temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life’s details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God’s Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

Reflect

*What might be cluttering
your life right now?*



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

Dear Padre,

My thoughts are my worst enemy. Sometimes they turn to lust and anger. When I recognize what I am thinking, I pray to Jesus and Mary, but I still struggle. What else can I do?

When angry and lustful thoughts enter our consciousness, we should say a prayer and turn our mind to something else. Such thoughts become sins only when we deliberately encourage them or when we make plans to commit the sin. The thoughts themselves are temptations, not sins.

Continue to put your trust in Jesus and Mary, and try to focus on what is good and peaceful. You might also consider what you are letting into your thoughts or imagination: What are you watching on TV or the internet? What music are you listening to? What are you reading? Are those helping to shape your thoughts and imagination in a new direction, or are they contributing to the problem?

A good thing to turn your attention to is God's word in Scripture. You might want to memorize all or part of the following New Testament verse: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). Peacefully reflect on these words when troubled by temptation. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab	Dn 3:25, 34-43	Dt 4:1, 5-9	Jer 7:23-28	Hos 14:2-10	Hos 6:1-6	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Lk 4:24-30	Mt 18:21-35	Mt 5:17-19	Lk 11:14-23	Mk 12:28-34	Lk 18:9-14	Eph 2:4-10 In 3:14-21



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Father sent [his Son] to cleanse the temple: not only the Temple of stone, but above all the temple of our heart. Jesus could not tolerate his Father's house becoming a marketplace (see John 2:16); neither does he want our hearts to be places of turmoil, disorder, and confusion.

HOMILY, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021