



The Catholic Community of Divine Savior

Family Faith Focus

Volume 9, Issue 32

March 7, 2021

Dates to Remember

- March 6: 4:00 PM Mass
- March 7: 9:00 AM Mass
- Please see our parish website for reservation information and links to view Sunday or weekday Masses online.

Thirsting for God

Jesus fulfills the divine promises by giving us the Holy Spirit, the “living water” that quenches our restless heart which is thirsting for life, love, freedom, and peace: thirsting for God. How often do we feel or have we felt that thirst in our hearts! God, in becoming human, made our thirst his own, a thirst not only for water itself, but also for a full life free from the slavery of evil and death. At the same time by his Incarnation God placed his own thirst—because God too thirsts—in our hearts. God thirsts for us, for our hearts, for our love, and placed this thirst in the heart of Jesus. Therefore, human and divine thirst meet in Christ’s heart. May Jesus’ thirst become ever more our own thirst!

— Pope Francis

Third Sunday of Lent

John 2: 13-25

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

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, with the sheep and oxen,
and spilled the coins of the money changers
and overturned their tables,
and to those who sold doves he said,
“Take these out of here,
and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”
His disciples recalled the words of Scripture,
Zeal for your house will consume me.
At this the Jews answered and said to him,
“What sign can you show us for doing this?”
Jesus answered and said to them,
“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”
The Jews said,
“This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,
and you will raise it up in three days?”
But he was speaking about the temple of his body.
Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,
his disciples remembered that he had said this,
and they came to believe the Scripture
and the word Jesus had spoken.

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.
But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,
and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.
He himself understood it well.

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Sunday Gospel Connection: March 7, 2021

The Third Sunday of Lent, Cycle B

John 2: 13-25

Gospel Background: 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.



Jesus' action at the Temple in Jerusalem is recorded in all four Gospels and is often understood to be among the events that led to Jesus' arrest and Crucifixion. The Gospel of John, however, places this event much earlier in Jesus' public ministry than do the Synoptic Gospels. In John's Gospel this event occurs at the very beginning of Jesus' ministry, after his first miracle at the wedding feast at Cana.

We must read the Gospel of John carefully, especially in its presentation of Jesus' relationship to Judaism. The Gospel of John tends to reflect greater tension and animosity between Jesus and the Jewish authorities than the Synoptic Gospels. 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.

Family Connection: Today's Gospel invites us to reflect upon our worship of God. For Jesus and his Jewish contemporaries, the Temple was an important, holy place where they gathered to worship God. The Christian understanding of worship was transformed in light of Jesus' Resurrection. In the Christian understanding, God is worshiped in a person, the person of Jesus Christ. As we read in today's Gospel, Jesus is himself the Temple that will be destroyed, but in three days God will raise him up again.

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As you gather as a family, talk about places and times when you have experienced God's presence. After his Resurrection, Jesus' disciples understood that Jesus was present with them as they gathered to pray and especially when they gathered to share a meal. Read together today's Gospel, John 2:13-25. Jesus teaches us in today's Gospel that he is God's presence with us. Thank God for Jesus' presence with us, especially in the Sacrament of the Eucharist. Pray together the Lord's Prayer.

For more information and Sunday Connection resources visit:

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<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection/third-sunday-of-lent-cycle-b-sunday-connection/>

Missionary Childhood Association — Lenten Almsgiving

The Missionary Childhood Association (formerly the Holy Childhood Association) is one of the Pontifical Mission Societies of the Universal Church. Begun in France in 1843 by Bishop Charles de Forbin-Janson, the MCA today continues Bishop Forbin-Janson's vision of "children helping children" in the poorest places in our world through their prayers and financial sacrifices.

Each year our FCFF students are encouraged to practice the discipline of almsgiving or charity during the season of Lent. Unfortunately, this year we are not able to distribute the mission banks provided by the Missionary Childhood Association, but we hope that our FCFF children will still continue participating in this Lenten almsgiving program. Perhaps you and your children can make your own mission bank this year or designate a container that you have as a mission bank for your children's offerings for the MCA.



While there is no obligation to participate in this Lenten almsgiving program, we encourage our students to participate generously again this year and to pray for children throughout the world who are less fortunate.

MCA Lenten Almsgiving Donations may be returned to the parish office anytime during Holy Week, March 28 – April 3, or during Easter Week, April 4 - 10. We are very proud of how generous our children and young persons continue to be each year in their mission bank almsgiving. Even with the pandemic that began during Lent last year, we were still able to send a check in the amount of \$200.37 to the Missionary Childhood Association. We are grateful to all who participated!

St. Joseph Pray for us!



Since we are unable to host a Table this year, we still would like to help out those who are in great need. The pandemic has increased the demand for basic human needs such as food and toiletries. Every week, you have been hearing about the plight of the food pantry at St. Eulalia and the increased need for food.

In the spirit of St. Joseph, we are taking a collection in his honor. All monetary donations received will go toward purchasing non-perishable foods to help stock the St. Eulalia food pantry.

How can you donate?

Through the end of March, 2021, here are ways to donate.

- 1) A donation box will be in back of the church;
- 2) Mail a check payable to Divine Savior and make a note on it for St. Joseph.
- 3) Go to church website and click on the Caravan of Care Go Fund Me page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/CaravanOfCareHelp>

We thank you for your generosity.

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



The Gift of the Law

Loving God,
you gave the gift of the law to Moses
that the people might walk in the light
of your love.

In every age you call us back—
heart, mind, soul, and strength
turned to you,

our neighbor loved as ourselves.
Though we fall time and again,
give us the strength to do your will,
to act justly, be merciful, and walk humbly
with you.

We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Sunday, March 7, 2021
Keep My Commandments



Today's readings: Exodus 20:1–17; Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Corinthians 1:22–25; John 2:13–25. The Ten Commandments are often considered to be a list of rules. Even when followed with great care, a person may miss out on the broader vision they embody. What if every person chose to live in accord with God's law? What if each person strove toward this ideal?

The Ten Commandments set out the framework for a just and peaceful society. If the Commandments are approached as a vision, we can see how they help us live in right relationship with those around us. In the reading from Exodus, God proclaims a blessing that proceeds to “the thousandth generation . . . of those who love me and keep

my commandments.” How many receive blessing from the righteousness of the just one!

The ripple effect of sin is evident. Family patterns that are damaging are hard to break, and the actions of those around us affect the way we live in the world.

Jesus often came into conflict with the religious leaders of his day because they differed in their interpretation of what it meant to keep God's law. There was not anything wrong with their desire to obey God's Commandments. Perhaps, though, the intensity of their focus caused them to lose a sense that the law was a vision for a just and peaceful society. Pray with the Commandments. How can they help you work toward a just world?



THIS WEEK AT HOME

Monday, March 8

St. John of God

St. John of God turned away from God in his youth, but returned with his whole heart and lived his life in gratitude for the great mercy he had received. He spent his life in extraordinary works of charity and love on behalf of those who were in greatest need, always with tremendous respect for those he served. God's mercy and forgiveness is always waiting for us. When have you felt God's forgiveness most fully? How can you respond with a grateful heart? *Today's readings: 2 Kings 5:1–15b; Psalm 42:2–3, 43:3–4; Luke 4:24–30.*

Tuesday, March 9

Not Seven but Seventy-Seven Times

Why is it so difficult to forgive? Even though we know that holding onto our anger hurts, we brood over every small wrong. In today's parable of the unforgiving servant, the difference between the value of the two debts is enormous. This contrast shows us the tremendousness of God's love and forgiveness and startles us with our own stinginess. What would it mean for you to forgive seventy-seven times? To forgive as you have been forgiven? *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 3:25, 34–43; Psalm 25:4–5ab, 6, 7bc, 8, 9; Matthew 18:21–35.*

Wednesday, March 10

Whoever Obeys and Teaches

Some people focus on following their own way, no matter the cost. We know, though, that our will often leads us astray, seeking after things that are not good for us, and that we engage in self-deception about what we really need. The Ten Commandments provide objective standards for behavior, even as complete freedom is within them. *Today's readings: Deuteronomy 4:1, 5–9; Psalm 147:12–13, 15–16, 19–20; Matthew 5:17–19.*

Thursday, March 11

Miraculous Growth

Today we hear that a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus casts out a demon, revealing a glimpse of the coming kingdom and making space for its miraculous growth. By giving up our sins and selfishness, we too make space for miraculous growth of God's love within us. Pray the Rosary today in the hope that the spirit it cultivates will cast out all that is not of God and help bring about this miraculous growth. *Today's readings: Jeremiah 7:23–28; Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9; Luke 11:14–23.*

Friday, March 12

The Summary of the Law

Today the Gospel tells us that love of God and love of neighbor are the primary principles that ought to govern our lives. What would it mean to love God with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength? How would our lives be different if we loved our neighbor as ourselves? Does this necessarily mean putting ourselves last? It says love your neighbor as yourself. How can we respect our needs so that we are able to love others more fully? *Today's readings: Hosea 14:2–10; Psalm 81:6c–8a, 8bc–9, 10–11ab, 14 and 17; Mark 12:28–34.*

Saturday, March 13

O God, Be Merciful

When we look at our lives, we see how much we are in need of God's mercy and forgiveness. It is always there for us, requiring only that we seek it. People have used the words of the tax collector in today's reading from Luke, "O God, be merciful to me a sinner," in their prayers expressing contrition. Try incorporating this prayer into your daily prayer as a means of letting God's mercy act on you. *Today's readings: Hosea 6:1–6; Psalm 51:3–4, 18–19, 20–21ab; Luke 18:9–14.*

