

From the Heart of Fr. Jim
March 15, 2020
Third Sunday of Lent

- We are in the season of Lent, and because this is a penitential time, I do ask that we leave the Church in silence to reflect on what the Lord has done for us.
- Out of caution and safety, we will not be sharing the sign of peace at Masses until further notice.
- Please remember that if you have a fever, cold, chills, aches or any other communicable sickness, please refrain from coming to Mass. Make a spiritual communion by reading the Scriptures for Mass, meditating on them, and if possible watching Mass on EWTN. The Lord will know your heart, so don't try to fool Him, but be respectful of others by protecting yourself and others by maintain a distance while ill.
- Daily Mass schedule this week is as follows: Tuesday at 8 Am in Chapel, Wednesday at 12 Noon in Chapel, Thursday at 8 am in the Chapel and Friday at 6 pm, followed by Stations, Adoration, and Soup Supper in the Hall. This week our Religious Education friends will be providing the meal. A \$5 love offering is suggested with proceeds to go toward the building fund for I C.
- There is No Scripture Study at I C on Thursday, March 19th.
- There is no Scripture study at St. Elizabeth or St. Joseph on March 15th.
- One of the great challenges of Lent is to recognize and discern with humility and grace the sinfulness of our lives. Lent is the time of year when we retreat to the dessert of our souls to ask for wisdom and guidance in discovering the sinful patterns and behaviors that separate us from God. We are invited during Lent to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation often. This means examining your heart and

your conscience and confessing the guilt of your sins. Every Saturday during Lent there are extra hours available for Confession from 9 until 11 am and from 3:30 – 4:30 (the usual time.) Making a good confession often helps us to grow in our journey to love God because we have a clean heart and soul. Set your pride aside and come before God seeking His forgiveness. I promise you will be lifted up.

- Faith and Works Campaign continues this weekend. Immaculate Conception's goal is \$4,420, St. Elizabeth's goal is \$1,281 and St. Joseph is \$1,164. If every family contributes \$20 a month for 10 months, then we will meet our goal to continue to spread God's Good News.
- There are envelopes available in your box set as well as in the Church to purchase Easter Lilies. Suggested donation is \$25. Please place envelope in collection basket and write the name of family member or friend for whom the Lily is for.
- Next Sunday, March 22nd, the 4th Sunday of Lent, we will offer the Sacrament of the Sick for anyone who wishes to receive it at Mass. The only requirement is that one is suffering from more than the common cold. Long term health issues, surgeries, pregnancy, spiritual and mental issues qualify. Even after surgery one can receive the anointing.
- I will be asking families to take home the Vocation Cross to pray for vocations. Instead of asking at the end of Mass for volunteers. I will individually ask a different family each week to take a cross home, and return it to Church the following week. This way, no one is embarrassed to come forward in the Church.
- Please continue to pray for all our homebound members and all our parishioners who are sick and suffering.
- Catholic Charities needs Jelly, tuna fish, canned meats and personal hygiene products. Plastic bags are also needed.

- Remember that Baptisms, Presentations, Weddings and Quincineras need a minimum of 6 months before they can happen. Please contact Fr. Jim for more information before you schedule your date.
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation is always available ½ hour before Mass and from 3:30 – 4:30 in Church on Saturday's and by appointment.
- Fr. Jim has two trips planned this fall: First trip is September 28th through October 7, 2020 to Medjugorje. Cost is \$3000. More information available at jim@trinitypilgrimage.com
- Second trip is to the Holy Land, November 4th through the 14th. Cost is \$3600 per person. If interested, please Fr. Jim for flyer and more information.

God Bless Each of you!

Fr. Jim

 Reflections: **Virtue for March: Mortification**

Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself.

Matthew 16:24

From March 22nd:

If we do not pay great attention to mortifying our own will, there are many things that can take from us that holy liberty of spirit, which we seek in order to be able to mount freely toward our Creator, without being always weighted down with earth and lead.

Besides, in a soul that belongs to itself, and is attached to its own will, there can never be solid virtue. **St. Theresa**

St. Mary Magdalen de' Pazzi, said one day that she asked nothing of the Lord except that He would take her own will from her; for she knew that through the vivacity of her disposition, she did not advance so much as she desired in those virtues which render a soul most pleasing to the Lord. After saying this, she raised her eyes to Heaven and fell into an ecstasy, in which she was shown by God how much harm is done to souls, especially those of religious, when they are guided by their own will—which they once consecrated to God by vow. In the course of the ecstasy, she took her Superior by the hand and led her to the oratory, where she knelt and prayed the Virgin to enlighten her Superior also, that she might take pains to despoil her of her will; and after prostrating herself three times on the ground, she recovered from her trance. She was so much in earnest in this matter that she once said she did not remember ever to have tried, either secretly or openly, to incline the will of the Superior to her own.

From Jesus Calling by Sarah Young for March 12th:

Waiting, trusting, and hoping are intricately connected, like golden strands interwoven to form a strong chain. Trusting is the central strand because it is the response from My children that I desire the most. Waiting and hoping embellish the central strand and strengthen the chain that connects you to Me. Waiting for Me to work with your eyes on Me, is evidence that you really do trust Me. If you mouth the words "I trust you" while anxiously trying to make things go your way, your words ring hollow. Hoping is future-directed, connecting you to your inheritance in heaven. However, the benefits of hope fall fully on you in the present.

Because you are Mine, you don't just pass time in your waiting. You can't wait expectantly, in hopeful trust. Keep your "antennae" out to pick up even the faintest glimmer of My Presence.

(Helpful Scripture: John 14:1, Psalm 27:14, Hebrews 6:18-20)

MARCH 2020 SCHEDULE

- March 14th: 9 AM to 11 Am Confession in Church
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Confession in Church
5 PM Mass in Church
- March 15th: 8:30 AM Confession
9 am Mass
No Religious Education
No Confirmation
- 12 PM Mass at St. Elizabeth
No Scripture Study
2 PM Spanish Mass at I C
- 5 PM Mass at St. Joseph
6 PM Stations of Cross and soup supper
- March 17th: 8 am Mass in Chapel
- March 18th: 12 Noon Mass in Chapel At I C
6 PM Stations/Soup Supper at St. E's
- March 19th: 8 AM Mass in Chapel
No Scripture Study in Hall at I C
- March 20th: 9 am Adoration in Church until 5:45
6 PM Mass in Church
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross with Adoration
7:30 PM Soup Supper
- March 21st: 9 to 11 am Confessions
3:30 to 4:30 Confessions
5 PM Mass
Anointing of the Sick at all Masses
- March 22nd: 8:30 AM Confession
9 am Mass

12 Noon Mass at St. Elizabeth
1 PM Scripture Study
5 PM Mass at St. Joseph
6 PM Stations and Soup Supper

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Five Keys to freedom from sexual sin:

1. Desire Change -with the help of God
2. Change your habits -be transparent
3. Get accountable: with confessor, with a recovery group
4. Prayer: with the help of Jesus, our Divine Healer: Trust in HIM
5. Learn more

Surrender Prayer:

Dear Lord Jesus, I desire the desire to surrender my heart and my entire being to you, but I cannot do it, for I fear the abandonment of losing control of who I am. I ask that you take what little space I can open to you, use it and invade my heart, take it captive and protect it captive and protect it from all evil I beg for your help in my complete surrender to you. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Battle Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ; I cannot fight this battle any more. I am done. I hand you the dragon to slay. I hand you the lizard of lust to slay. I hand you the battle and walk away, it is yours. I'm done. I cannot do this anymore. It's not my battle anymore. Amen.