

From the Heart of Fr. Jim  
March 1, 2020  
First Sunday of Lent

- 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 the Altar Society will be providing the meal. A \$5 love offering is suggested with proceeds to go toward the building fund for I C.
- This Thursday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020 there will be three priests to celebrate the Lenten Sacrament of Reconciliation beginning at 6:15 PM in Church.
- 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 desert 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.
- Next weekend, March 8<sup>th</sup>, there will be copies of the survey available in the Parish Hall at I C to be completed after Mass. These surveys are anonymous; they will be of great value for

our parishes and for the Diocese. We need many people to answer the survey. Please plan to participate next weekend in the parish Hall. The surveys will be in English and Spanish.

- There are Immaculate Conception Pens available for sale for \$5.00. They are black ink and a great idea for a gift for someone as well as a way to evangelize because they have our name and number on the pen. Please see David. All proceeds go toward our building fund.
- A key to the hall is lost or misplaced. If you have a blue lanyard with a key, please return to the office. Thank you.
- SAVE THE DATE - On Saturday, March 7, 2020, the next Work Day will be held at Clear Creek Abbey. Mark your calendars now and more information will be forthcoming. The website is open for registrations at [www.abbeyworkday.com](http://www.abbeyworkday.com).
- I will be asking families to take home the Vocation Crosses 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 28<sup>th</sup> through October 7, 2020 to Medjugorje. Cost is \$3000. More information available at [jim@trinitypilgrimage.com](mailto:jim@trinitypilgrimage.com)
- Second trip is to the Holy Land, November 4<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. Cost is \$3600 per person. If interested, please Fr. Jim for flyer and more information.

God Bless Each of you!

Fr. Jim

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 Reflections: **Virtue for March: Mortification**

*Whoever will come after Me, let him deny himself.*

Matthew 16:24

From March 1<sup>st</sup>:

The first step to be taken by one who wishes to follow Christ is, according to Our Lord's own words, that of renouncing himself—that is, his own senses, his own passions, his own will, his own judgment, and all the movements of nature, making to God a sacrifice of all these things, and of all their acts, which are surely sacrifices very acceptable to the Lord. And we must never grow weary of this; for if anyone having, so to speak, one foot already in Heaven, should abandon this exercise, when the time should come for him to put the other there, he would run much risk of being lost. ST. Vincent De Paul.

The Same saint made himself such a proficient in this virtue that it might be called the weapon most frequently and constantly handled by him through his whole life until his last breath; and by this he

succeeded in gaining absolute dominion over all the movements of his inferior nature. Therefore, he kept his own passions so completely subject to reason, that he could scarcely be known to have any.

St. John Climacus says that the Ancient Fathers, even those who were most perfect, exercised themselves in many kinds of mortifications and contempt. For they said that if they should give up training themselves because men thought them already consummate in virtue, they would come, in time, to abandon and lose that modesty and patience which they possessed; just as a field, though rich and fertile, if it be no longer cultivated, becomes unsightly and ends in producing only thorns and thistles.

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Meditation by Vinny Flynn from 7 Secrets of the Eucharist  
2 26 2020

"The Eucharist is alive. If a stranger who knew nothing about the Eucharist were to watch the way we receive, would he know this? When you and I approach the Eucharist, does it look like we believe we are about to take into our bodies the living person, Jesus Christ, true God and true man? How many times, Lord, have I forgotten that the Eucharist is alive! As I wait in line to receive you each day, am I thinking about how much you want to unite yourself with me? Am I seeing your hands filled with the graces you want to give me? Am I filled with awe and gratitude that you love me so much as to actually want to come to me in this incredibly intimate way? Or am I distracted, busy with other thoughts, preoccupied with myself and my agendas for the day? How many times, Jesus, have I made you sad, mindlessly receiving you into my body, into my heart, with no love and no recognition of your love? How many times have I treated you as a dead object? The Host that we receive is not a thing! It's not a wafer! It's not bread! It's a person – He's alive!"

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## **MARCH 2020 SCHEDULE**

- March 1<sup>st</sup>: 8:30 AM Confession  
9 am Mass  
10:30 AM Religious Education  
11:45 Confirmation Class
- 12 PM Mass at St. Elizabeth  
1 PM Scripture Study
- 5 PM Mass at St. Joseph  
6 PM Scripture Study
- March 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8 am Mass in Chapel  
6 PM Stations/Soup Supper at St. Joes
- March 4<sup>th</sup>: 12 Noon Mass in Chapel At I C  
6 PM Stations/Soup Supper at St. E's
- March 5<sup>th</sup>: 8 am Mass at I C Chapel  
6:15 Lenten Confessions in Church (3 priests)  
No Scripture Study in Parish Hall
- March 6<sup>th</sup>: 24 Adoration of Blessed Sacrament in Church  
6 PM Mass in Church  
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross  
7:15 PM Adoration continues until 9 am Sat.
- March 7<sup>th</sup>: 9 Am Benediction  
9 AM to 11 Am Confession in Church  
3:30 PM to 4:30 PM Confession in Church  
5 PM Mass in Church
- March 8<sup>th</sup>: 8:30 AM Confession  
9 am Mass  
10:30 AM Religious Education  
10:30 AM Survey's available  
11:45 Confirmation Class

12 PM Mass at St. Elizabeth  
1 PM Scripture Study

5 PM Mass at St. Joseph  
6 PM Scripture Study

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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 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.