

From the Heart of Fr. Jim
March 8, 2020
Second 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.
- In addition, beginning this weekend, out of an abundance of caution due to the flu and Coronavirus, we will refrain from shaking hands at the sign of peace. Please look at each person around you and give them a reverential bow instead.
- 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 Hispanic 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 Scripture Study at I C on Thursday, March 12th beginning at 6 PM on the Book of Revelation in the Hall.
- 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.
- 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 15th, there is a Spanish Mass at 2 Pm at Immaculate Conception.
- 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.
- 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 11th:

Upon interior mortification depends the right adjustments of our whole exterior, its arrangement with most perfection, with most sweetness and peace. **St.**

Teresa

St. Philip Neri, when anyone asked him what he should do to become a saint, used to put his hand to his forehead, saying, “Give me those four fingers, and I will make you a saint; meaning that all sanctity depends on denying one’s own will and one’s own judgment. And to a penitent who often asked permission to take the discipline, he once gave this answer: “ How are the shoulders to blame, if the head is hard?”

Meditation on Confession by Fr. Ignatius of the Side of Jesus, p. 284-5

"Many Christians regard Confession in the light of an unimportant act of piety, if not mere ceremony . . . many go even frequently to Confession, but so few amend, and consequently derive little or no benefit from the Sacrament. ... Be, then, most thoroughly convinced of the immense importance of this Sacrament, and be filled with an earnest desire of approaching it worthily, bestowing the utmost care and attention upon your preparation for this great duty, if you desire to obtain eternal salvation.

Confession is one of the seven Sacraments instituted by Christ; it is called the Sacrament of Penance, and by its means alone can he who has committed mortal sin after Baptism hope to save his soul; therefore it is called by the holy Council of Trent: *the second plank after shipwreck*. In this Sacrament Jesus Christ has deposited His Precious Blood, that it may be to our souls as a salutary bath wherein they may be cleansed from all the stains of sin, their wounds closed, their maladies cured, their weakness strengthened, and grace unto salvation imported to them. This Divine Blood is dispensed to us by the priest in the holy absolution, and is abundantly poured forth upon all souls approaching the tribunal of confession with proper dispositions."

MARCH 2020 SCHEDULE

- March 8th: 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 Stations of the Cross, followed by soup
- March 10th: 8 am Mass in Chapel
- March 11th: 12 Noon Mass in Chapel At I C
6 PM Stations/Soup Supper at St. E's
- March 12th: 8 AM Mass in Chapel
6 PM Scripture Study in Hall at I C
- March 13th: 6 PM Mass in Church
6:30 PM Stations of the Cross with Adoration
7:30 PM Soup Supper
- 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

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.