

The Third Sunday of Lent

March 19, 2017



MASS SCHEDULE AND INTENTIONS: MARCH 18 TO MARCH 26

(L) indicates a living intention

Saturday	March 18	Third Sunday of Lent	
4:30 pm	Our Parishioners		
Sunday	March 19		
9:00 am	Joy Anandi Cotone & Colleen Nilan	Denise Imperiale & family	
11:00 am	Kenneth Harper	Pat Fahey	
Monday	March 20	Solemnity of St. Joseph	
8:30 am	Domingo Jipos	Lourdes Jipos	
Tuesday	March 21		
8:30 am	Jack Scimone	Mary Scimone	
Wednesday	March 22		
8:30 am	Vito & Lina Marcario & Lino De Marco	Rina Della Rocca	
Thursday	March 23		
8:30 am	Mark Julius Coelho	Pat & Donny Coelho	
Friday	March 24		
8:30 am	Regina Beekers	Dina Beekers	
Saturday	March 25	The Annunciation of the Lord	
11:00 am	Protection of the unborn		
		Fourth Sunday of Lent	
4:30 pm	Emma & Mike Di Girolamo	family	
Sunday	March 12		
9:00 am	Eva Schanz-Kuppek	Mary & Walter Gargul	
11:00 am	Our Parishioners		

LORD, GRANT MERCY AND LASTING PEACE to those who have died recently and strength and comfort to those who mourn them:

Georgia Obregon Valencia, sister of Marchita Obregon and cousin of Elvyn Obregon and Marieta Lawton.

Cindy Cameron, wife of Evans Cameron

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MAR. 11/12

Offerings: \$ 4, 006.00

Helping Others: \$ 1, 597.00

Next special collection: **March 26** (Building Fund)

SANCTUARY LAMP:

Week of:

March 19: *Wilhelmus Hendriks*, requested by his family

March 26: *Joseph Bastone*, requested by Frank Perri

REFLECTIONS ON FORGIVENESS & MERCY (Part 1)



Reconciliation sounds great as an idea, but how do you reconcile with someone who's bitterly hurt you and won't even acknowledge that he or she has done wrong? Isn't forgiveness a two-way street?

Forgiving those who hurt us is *our* business. Making our forgiveness contingent on the other person's admission of guilt is just another way of demanding justice and insisting on our "rights." That's a subtle form of pride. Jesus forgave his murderers even as they mocked him on the cross. His forgiveness was a free gift, no strings attached. We can't follow him unless we do the same. However, you're right that when a breach exists between two people, it can't be healed unless both sincerely want it healed. Even then, someone or something has to provide a means of bringing them back together. That's God's role. Reconciliation is the work of God. Seeking reconciliation is our work. We need to do whatever we can to make peace with others, and then leave the rest in the hands of God.

But if justice is a good thing, why would I simply walk away from it when it comes to my own needs?

You shouldn't. It's always reasonable to insist on being treated fairly and honestly, and we're obliged to treat others in the same way. Unfortunately, you and I and everyone else are also sinners—which means that, inevitably, we'll treat others unjustly and be treated unjustly ourselves. As a result, life can very quickly become a web of angry claims and counter-claims against each other, many of them just, and most of them unresolvable.

The only way to cut our way out of this tangle is to forgive. Forgiveness is an act of freedom. It creates new possibilities. It frees us from the burden of our own wounded selfishness, and it releases others to forgive and get free as well. Handing our claims over to God unburdens us of a huge weight—a weight which will cripple us, no matter how legitimate our complaints, if we carry it too long.

We always work more effectively for justice *on behalf of others*. When it comes to our own personal situation, the self always gets in the way and clouds our judgment. The great paradox of God's plan is that we only achieve justice through the practice of mercy. Mercy changes both the giver and the receiver. It softens the hardened heart. That's why Scripture so often likens mercy to water in a desert: It brings new life. It encourages conversion and love, which breed acts of justice, which builds peace. So if you want justice for yourself and for others, *forgive*. Put mercy first. Justice will follow.

~ Archbishop Charles Chaput of Philadelphia

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF LENT

1. How many days are there in Lent?
2. What was the original meaning of the word "Lent"?
3. What is the first day of Lent called?
4. What do we call the day before Lent begins?
5. What colour vestments does the priest wear during Lent?
6. What prayer of the Mass is omitted during Lent?
7. What word is never said or sung during Lent?
8. What do Catholics abstain from eating on Fridays?
9. On what days are Catholics required to fast during Lent?
10. What snack originated during Lent because it contains only flour, water and salt?
11. What food was traditionally eaten the day before Lent begins?
12. What Irish saint's feast day takes place during Lent?
13. How do Italians celebrate the feast of St. Joseph on March 19?
14. What important feast day occurs on March 25?
15. On what Sunday during Lent does the priest bless palms?
16. What event in the life of Jesus do the palms recall for us?
17. On what day during Lent does the Bishop bless holy oils for the year?
18. How many Stations of the Cross are there?
19. How many times does Jesus fall in the Stations?
20. Who helped Jesus carry His cross?

(Answers at the bottom of the next page).



WHY DID JESUS FAST? Because hunger never comes alone; hunger usually touches us very deeply, not just physically but deep in our heart. Hunger in a sense wounds us; it undermines something in us which up to that moment had been

inviolable. It causes a kind of vacuum, tears open an old wound and even at times leads to dizziness. Precisely for that reason fasting and hunger can change something in us, can even bring about a genuine transformation. What is thus touched or kindled is not always honourable or satisfying . . . In order to be able to test us, the devil has to take advantage of our weakness, the hunger which torments us and makes us afraid of losing our life.

For along with hunger, other desires and temptations immediately surface as well, even in the case of Jesus: the seductive challenge of easy success, the desire for earthly fame, the hunger for power in this world, sensuality in all its forms. Fasting is meant to allow Jesus to take possession of our hearts. Not to crush all desires and temptations, nor to conquer them honourably. The contrary is true. Fasting helps us to see how deep our attachments are to created things. . . Our fasting even today risks opening the door to the excitement of the desires it threatens to unleash, a door which looks out on the other shore of our desires, not on their dark but on their light side: God within us; God who desires to be loved; God who hungers for us and we for him, passionately.

~ *Father André Louf, O.C.S.O.*

PYXES MISSING: Pyxes can be easily forgotten in pockets or purses... If you have borrowed a pyx from the parish, please be sure to return it to one of the priests or the Sacristan as soon as possible. Thank you.

FAITH FIRST

UPCOMING GATHERINGS:

First Communion gathering #6: **Tuesday, March 21**

Confirmation Gathering #5: **Tuesday, March 28**

50TH ANNIVERSARY PHOTO ALBUMS will be available for pick up after all Masses on March 25 & 26. For more info call Rina: 514-915-7586.

WHAT IS THE CENTRE FOR REPRODUCTIVE LOSS?

This Montreal centre provides counselling and assistance in healing to individuals and families affected by such loss as miscarriage, stillbirth, abortion, adoption, SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome), infertility, and sterility. Find out more at www.crl.rho.org or call (514) 486-6708.

ANSWERS TO LENTEN QUIZ

1. Forty
2. "Spring"
3. Ash Wednesday
4. Shrove Tuesday, Fat Tuesday, or Mardi Gras
5. Purple
6. The Gloria
7. Alleluia
8. Meat
9. Ash Wednesday and Good Friday
10. Pretzels
11. Pancakes
12. St. Patrick
13. St. Joseph's Table
14. The Feast of the Annunciation
15. Palm Sunday
16. The entrance into Jerusalem
17. Thursday of Holy Week
18. Fourteen
19. Three
20. Simon of Cyrene