



The Cathedral of **SAINT JOSEPH**

521 North Duluth Avenue • Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57104

www.stjosephcathedral.net

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,

*“This is my chosen Son;
listen to him.”*

Luke 9:35

LITURGY GUIDE - March 16, 2025

The Second Sunday of Lent

Welcome to the Cathedral of St. Joseph and thank you for joining us for the celebration of Holy Mass today!

Please, silence your cell phones and refrain from eating, drinking or chewing gum in the Cathedral. Help keep our Cathedral tidy by utilizing the waste baskets found near the main entrances.

Please, do not take pictures during the Mass celebration. You are welcome to take pictures after Mass.

INTROIT - (At 9:15 AM & 11:00 AM THE INTROIT IS SUNG BY THE CHOIR DURING THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION)

| | |
|--|---|
| <i>Reminiscere miserationum tuarum, Domine, et misericordiae tuae, quae a saeculo sunt: ne unquam dominentur nobis inimici nostri: libera nos Deus Israel ex omnibus angustiis nostris. (Verse) Ad te, Domine, levavi animam meam: Deus meus in te confide, non erubescam.</i> | Remember your compassion, O Lord, and your merciful love, for they are from of old. Let not our enemies exult over us. Redeem us, O God of Israel, from all our distress. (Verse) Unto you, O Lord, have I lifted up my soul; O my God, I trust in you, let me not be put to shame. |
|--|---|

**OPENING HYMN (4:00 PM & 7:30 AM) ERHALT UNS HERR
781 The Glory of these Forty Days**

PENITENTIAL ACT

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do, **(striking breast three times)** *through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;* Therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

First Reading

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

The Lord God took Abram outside and said, "Look up at the sky and count the stars, if you can. Just so," he added, "shall your descendants be." Abram put his faith in the LORD, who credited it to him as an act of righteousness.

He then said to him, "I am the LORD who brought you from Ur of the Chaldeans to give you this land as a possession." "O Lord GOD," he asked, "how am I to know that I shall possess it?" He answered him, "Bring me a three-year-old heifer, a three-year-old she-goat, a three-year-old ram, a turtledove, and a young pigeon." Abram brought him all these, split them in two, and placed each half opposite the other; but the birds he did not cut up. Birds of prey swooped down on the carcasses, but Abram stayed with them.

As the sun was about to set, a trance fell upon Abram, and a deep, terrifying darkness enveloped him.

When the sun had set and it was dark, there appeared a smoking fire pot and a flaming torch, which passed between those pieces.

It was on that occasion that the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying:

"To your descendants I give this land, from the Wadi of Egypt to the Great River, the Euphrates."

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14

(Refrain sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)



The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion.

Text: Refrain trans., *Liturgical for Mass*, © 1969, 1981, 1997, ICEL; verses, *New American Bible*, © 1970, Confraternity of Christian Doctrine
Music: Michel Guimont, © 1994, 1998, GIA Publications, Inc.

The Lord is my light and my salvation; whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the stronghold of my life; whom should I dread? **R**

O Lord, hear my voice when I call; have mercy and answer me. Of you my heart has spoken, "Seek his face." It is your face, O Lord, that I seek. **R**

Hide not your face from me. Dismiss not your servant in anger; you have been my help. Do not abandon or forsake me. **R**

I believe I shall see the Lord's goodness in the land of the living. Wait for the Lord; be strong; be stouthearted, and wait for the Lord! **R**

Second Reading

Philippians 3:17 - 4:1

Join with others in being imitators of me, brothers and sisters, and observe those who thus conduct themselves according to the model you have in us. For many, as I have often told you and now tell you even in tears, conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is destruction. Their God is their stomach; their glory is in their "shame." Their minds are occupied with earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body by the power that enables him also to bring all things into subjection to himself.

Therefore, my brothers and sisters, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, in this way stand firm in the Lord, beloved.

Gospel Acclamation

Please Stand

(Sung first by cantor, then congregation repeat)



Praise and hon - or to you, O Lord Je - sus Christ.

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard:
This is my beloved Son, hear him. **R**

Gospel

Luke 9:28b-36

Jesus took Peter, John, and James and went up the mountain to pray.

While he was praying his face changed in appearance and his clothing became dazzling white.

And behold, two men were conversing with him, Moses and Elijah, who appeared in glory and spoke of his exodus that he was going to accomplish in Jerusalem.

Peter and his companions had been overcome by sleep, but becoming fully awake, they saw his glory and the two men standing with him.

As they were about to part from him, Peter said to Jesus, "Master, it is good that we are here; let us make three tents, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah."

But he did not know what he was saying.

While he was still speaking, a cloud came and cast a shadow over them, and they became frightened when they entered the cloud.

Then from the cloud came a voice that said,

"This is my chosen Son; listen to him."

After the voice had spoken, Jesus was found alone.

They fell silent and did not at that time tell anyone what they had seen.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Please Stand

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.
I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made,
consubstantial with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(bow here) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.
Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST PREPARATION OF THE ALTAR AND GIFTS

OFFERTORY HYMN (4 PM & 7:30 AM)
829

HAMBURG

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

OFFERTORY ANTIPHON (9:15 AM & 11:00 AM)

11:00 AM SETTING BY - Joseph Rheinberger (1839-1901)

*Meditabor in mandatis tuis,
quae dilexi valde: et levabo
manus meas ad mandata tua,
quae dilexi.*

I shall meditate on your
commandments, which I
greatly love; I will extend
my hands towards your
commandments which
I love.

Celebrant: Pray brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and
yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

R. May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the
praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of
all his holy Church.

SANCTUS

San-ctus, San-ctus, San-ctus Do-mi-nus De-us Sa-ba-oth.
Ple-ni sunt cae-li et ter-ra glo-ri-a tu-a. Ho-san-na
in ex-cel-sis. Be-ne-di-ctus qui ve-nit in no-mi-ne
Do-mi-ni. Ho-san-na in ex-cel-sis.

MEMORIAL ACCLAMATION

We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Re-sur-rec-tion un-til you come a-gain.

AGNUS DEI

A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: mi-se-re-re no-bis.
A-gnus De-i, qui tol-lis pec-ca-ta mun-di: do-na no-bis pa-cem.

ECCE AGNUS DEI

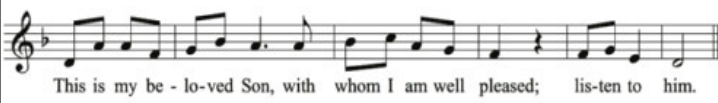
Celebrant: Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

R. Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

HOLY COMMUNION

All Catholics who have prepared themselves to receive Holy Communion are invited to come forward. Our brothers and sisters of other faiths are invited to approach with their arms crossed over their chest to signal their desire to receive a blessing.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON (4:00PM)



COMMUNION ANTIPHON (9:15 & 11:00 AM)

| | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Visionem quam vidistis,</i> | Tell no one about the vision |
| <i>nemini dixeritis, donec a</i> | you have seen until the |
| <i>mortuis resurgat Filius</i> | Son of Man has risen |
| <i>hominis.</i> | from the dead. |

COMMUNION MEDITATION (11:00 AM)

| | |
|---------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Jesu dulcis memoria</i> | Jesu! the very thought |
| <i>Dans vera cordis gaudia:</i> | is sweet; |
| <i>Sed super mel et omnia</i> | In that dear name |
| <i>Ejus dulcis praesentia.</i> | all heart-joys meet; |
| | But O, than honey |
| | sweeter far |
| | The glimpses of |
| | his presence are. |

HYMN OF THANKSGIVING 828

WONDROUS LOVE
What Wondrous Love

CLOSING HYMN (4 PM & 7:30 AM) 799

SWABIA
'Tis Good, Lord, to Be Here

CLOSING HYMN (9:15 AM) 443

Ave Regina Caelorum

RECESSIONAL (11:00 AM) Lamb of God, Most Holy

arr. F. Melius Christiansen
(1871-1955)

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Gift of Hope Concert - March 18, 2025

Concert starts at 7:00 pm
in the Bishop O'Gorman
Performing Arts Center
(Lorang Theater) All
proceeds from the Gift of

Hope Concert will ensure that anyone who is hurting due to grief, emotional wounds, anxiety or distress can receive the support they need. Concert-related expenses are financially sponsored or donated, allowing 100% of all proceeds to benefit the Gift of Hope Fund and the immediate needs of The Lourdes Center.



Eucharistic Minsters - Fr DeWayne Kayser is requesting additional help with distribution of **Holy Communion** at Avera McKennan Hospital at their main campus and at the Avera Specialty Hospital. If you are interested in helping out with this wonderful and blessed opportunity please call Fr. Kayser **605-322-7948** or Julie Holms at **605-322-7897** or go directly to the website at <https://www.avera.org/about/volunteer/> and fill out the application. It is easy and quick.

Thank you for your prayerful consideration in this Corporal Work of Mercy, ministry to the sick.



The Catholic Daughters of America - Court St.

Patricia will hold their monthly meeting on Tuesday, **March 18th** in the lower level of Holy Spirit Church. A rosary will be prayed at 6:15 and the meeting will begin at 6:30. Come and enjoy a little Irish fun as we warm up for our **Irish Potato Bake on Saturday, March 22nd!**



Catholic Daughters of America Court St Patricia #271

Invite you to our **Irish Potato Bake Buffet and BINGO** at Holy Spirit Church- Lower Level
Saturday, March 22nd—11:30 am

\$15 per person - Please **RSVP by March 20th.**

Serving Baked Potatoes, with toppings
cheese, chili, broccoli and more!
Followed by **BINGO** with prizes!

Call Pat at **605 351-5217** or Corrine at **605 413-3625**
by **March 20th** for a reservation!



2025 Catholic Family Sharing Appeal (CFSA) - CFSA challenges us each year to think beyond our walls and our individual needs. A letter from Bishop DeGrood will be coming soon asking for your support. If you do not receive a letter, please let the parish office know. Your gift helps each of the diocesan ministries reach out to thousands, for example: training our future priests, respect for life, faith formation, ministry to the homebound and help for hurting marriages.

Please, prayerfully consider a gift to this year's appeal, fill out your pledge card and return it to the church.



COMMUNITY NEWS

St. Joseph Academy is a hybrid, Catholic, classical school for preK Montessori to 8th grade students. Applications for the 2025-2026 school year are now being accepted. To learn more and apply, visit us online at stjosephclassicalacademy.org. Become a part of our growing and vibrant community!



Presentation Sisters Catholic School Scholarships - For 2025-2026 Catholic Tuition Assistance at any Catholic School in the Diocese is now open. Applications for these scholarships are available through the parish office or you can visit www.presentationisters.org to print out applications. Please contact Jane Schaffer at 605-229-8417 or email: jschaffer@presentationisters.org. Deadline for submitting an application is **March 21st**.

Brothers in Christ - Saturday, **March 29, 2025** at Holy Spirit Church, Sioux Falls. 1/2 Day Men's Retreat to aid in your Lenten Journey. Event starts at 7:00am with Adoration/Registration with the Retreat starting at 8:00am. Theme "Out of the Desert" **Matthew 4:1**. Pre-register/get more details at: <https://brothersinchrist.regfox.com/bic-12-day-spring-2025>

Shroud of Turin Presentation - The Burial Cloth of Christ St. Therese Parish, Sioux Falls Sunday, **March 23, 7:00pm** is hosting this engaging presentation. Deacon Bill Radio explores the scientific, historical and theological significance of the Shroud of Turin to Christ's Passion and Resurrection.

Diocesan Vocation Camps:

Saint Maria Goretti Camp - June 4-6, 2025 at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD. This camp is for young women ages 12-16, led by religious sisters. Please contact Fr. Michael Kapperman: frmichaelskapperman@sfcatholic.org Emma: **605-988-3772**.

JPH Vocations Camp - July 29-August 1, 2025 at Abbey of the Hills, Marvin, SD. For young men ages 12-16, led by Priests and seminarians of the diocese. Please contact Fr. Tony Klein: frtonyklein@sfcatholic.org or Emma: **605-988-3772**.

2nd SUNDAY OF LENT



Liturgical Roles

Daily Mass - Ministers as Scheduled



March 22/23

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

4:00 pm Laura Barnett, Kate Piercemogen
7:30 am Steve Feldhaus, Robert Renner
9:15 am Connie Luke, John Moneke, Susan Sommervold
11:00 am Mary Enderson, Bob Lux, Michelle Sletten
4:00 pm Ministers as Scheduled

Lectors

4:00 pm Susanne Bradford, Denise Rotert
7:30 am Kym Osterberg
9:15 am Bette Theobald, Mickie Sweeney
11:00 am Matthew Enderson, Mary Enderson
4:00 pm Readers as Scheduled

Altar Servers

4:00 pm Pontifical Servers
7:30 am Thomas Mogle
9:15 am Nathan & Dominic Hardie, Henry Lanners
11:00 am Joseph Tran, Leo Rutten, Isaac Stanek
4:00 pm Servers as Scheduled

Mini-Bus Driver

4:00 pm Tom Meyer

Dow Rummel John & Barbara Lockwood

Good Sam Nancy Ann Kadinger

Readings for the week of March 16, 2025

Sunday: Gn 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/
Phil 3:17 - 4:1 /Lk 9:28b-36

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10/Ps 79:8, 9, 11 and 13/Lk 6:36-38

Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20/Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23/
Mt 23:1-12

Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5,
27 and 29/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/ Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or
Lk 2:41-51a

Thursday: Jer 17:5-10/Ps 1:1-2, 3, 4 and 6/Lk 16:19-31

Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Ps 105:16-17, 18-19,
20-21/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 9-10,
11-12/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Next Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9 **Scrutiny:** Ex 17:3-7/
Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 /Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15,
19b-26, 39a, 40-42

CONGRATULATIONS

Mark Weber is Cathedral 500 Club's second winner for March 2025. He has received a check for **\$87**. Anyone interested in joining will find applications at the front entrance (Duluth Ave) of the Cathedral. Cost is \$5/month. Applications must be received by **March 31** to be in the April 2025 drawings. Call the Parish Office at **605-336-7390** for details.

Mass Intentions:

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| Mon. Mar. 17• | <i>St. Patrick, Bishop</i> 12:00 pm † Irene Rotert |
| Tue. Mar. 18• | <i>St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop & Doctor of the Church</i> 12:00 pm Adoration Sisters |
| Wed. Mar. 19• | <i>St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary</i> 12:00 pm Richard & Patricia LaHood 6:30 pm Pro Populo/Parish |
| Thu. Mar. 20• | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> 12:00 am † Catherine Spader |
| Fri. Mar. 21• | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> 12:00 pm † Kenneth Schulte |
| Sat. Mar. 22• | <i>Lenten Weekday</i> 4:00 pm Adelaide Bennett |
| Sun. Mar. 23• | <i>Third Sunday of Lent</i> 7:30 am Emily Johansen 9:15 am † Brad Anfinson 11:00 am † Art Teruny 4:00 pm Pro Populo |

Sanctuary Candles

The five hanging Sanctuary Candles in the Sacred Heart Chapel are available for prayer intentions.

- 1.) † Myron Truex
- 2.) Roger Theobald
- 3.) Tom & Peggy Trudeau
- 4.) Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus
- 5.) Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Cathedral Events Calendar

Monday, March 17 -
12:00 pm - St. Patrick's Day Noon Mass-with Bagpipes
6:30 pm - Young Adults

Tuesday, March 18-
9:00 am - Quilter's Group, School
10:00 am - Women's Group/Bible Study, School (200)

Wednesday, March 19 -
6:30 pm - St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary, Mass
7:30 pm - OCIA, Parish Hall, after Mass

Thursday, March 20-
7:00 pm - Adoration & Confessions, SH Chapel

Friday, March 21 -
5:30 - 6:45 pm - Lenten Soup Supper, Parish Hall
7:00 pm - Stations of the Cross, Cathedral Nave

Saturday, March 22-
12:00 & 3:00 pm - Confessions in the Cathedral Nave

Sunday, March 23 -
2:30 pm - St. Josephine Bakhita, First Communion Class, Cafeteria

PARISH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bagpipes - Come Celebrate Saint Patrick's Day, Monday, March 17, Noon Mass. We will also have **Bagpipes**!

St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary - Wednesday, **March 19th**, we will have our regular **12:00 pm Mass** and a **6:30 pm Mass** (with our Cathedral Children's Choir singing) on this special day celebrating our Patron, St. Joseph.

Join the Sacred Arts Volunteer Team! The Cathedral Sacred Arts Series is seeking enthusiastic volunteers to support our concerts. Roles include greeters, scanning tickets and assisting with post-concert clean-up. Training is provided - no prior experience needed! If you're interested in being part of this meaningful ministry, please reach out to Reid Hunhoff at reid.marie04@gmail.com.

First Communion Retreat



A beautiful and fun filled day for our First Communion Students, their Families, Fr. Morgan and the PES Sisters.



Please pray for the repose of the souls of

Dolores Kinyon - mother of Carolee (Mark) Weber parishioners

Dr. Daniel Tynan - husband of Mary, and father of Sabrina, Brody and Gabrielle

May all the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.

LENTEN MEAL & STATIONS OF THE CROSS

A simple **Soup Supper** will be offered every Friday during Lent in the Parish Hall starting at 5:30PM. Enjoy a meal & fellowship. Free will offering. **Stations of the Cross** begin in the church at **7:00PM**.



WEEKLY OFFERING MARCH 8/9



| | | |
|---------------------|-----------|------------------|
| Envelopes | \$ | 9,420.00 |
| Online/EFT | \$ | 3,770.00 |
| Visitors/Loose Cash | \$ | 4,345.72 |
| Total | \$ | 17,535.72 |

*Scan QR code to be directed to our Giving Page
Thank you for your Support and Prayers!*

CATHEDRAL INFORMATION

Parish Office: [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

Parish Office Email: cathedral@sfcatholic.org

Office Hours: 9:00am-4:00pm M-Th, 9:00am-3:00pm Fri.
Closed - Saturday and Sunday

Cathedral Church Hours:

Monday-Saturday - 8:00am-4:00pm

Sunday - 7:00am-Noon & 3:30pm-5:00pm

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday 4:00pm (First Sat. of the month a Mass at 9am)

Sunday 7:30am, 9:15am, 11:00am,
4:00pm (St. Josephine Bakhita Community)

Weekday Masses

Cathedral - Monday - Friday, 12:00pm (Noon)

Monastery - Monday - Saturday, 7:00am

Confessions

Thursday 7:00pm (w/Adoration) in the Sacred Heart Chapel

Saturday 12:00pm & 3:00-3:30pm in Cathedral Nave
(In the Sacred Heart Chapel if a Wedding is scheduled)

Adoration

Sacred Heart Chapel - Thurs. 7:00-8:00pm (w/confessions)

Cathedral - 11:00am, First Friday of the month

Monastery - Mon-Sat 7:45am-6:00pm, Sun 10:30am-6pm

Tours

Self-guided - 1:00pm Monday-Friday (except Holy Days)

Guided Tours-By appointment [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390)

Parish Staff

Rector, Very Rev. James P. Morgan

Parochial Vicar, Rev. Pasquale Armando Francesco

Weekend Sacramental Assistance, Rev. Anthony Klein

Deacon, William Radio

Deacon, Jonathan Eckrich

Director-Operations & Finance, Heidi Solem

Administrative Assistant, Mary Anne Lux

Music Director, Dr. Jared Ostermann

Assistant Music Director, Nicole Gerdes

Tour Docent/Guide, Susan Albers

Wedding Coordinator, Mary Enderson

Counseling Services, The Lourdes Center - [605-988-3775](tel:605-988-3775)

Sacramental Preparation:

Baptism - The sacrament of Baptism is celebrated for our parishioners on Sundays after the 11:AM Mass. Parents must attend a Baptism preparation meeting.

To schedule a meeting for Baptism preparation contact the parish office at [605-336-7390](tel:605-336-7390).

Matrimony - Six months preparation required. Registered parishioners, please contact the parish office. All others please contact the pastor of your home church. For wedding information, go to www.stjosephcathedral.net under Sacraments.

Anointing of the Sick - Please call the parish office to request this Sacrament if you have been diagnosed with an illness, in preparation for surgery or in the case of serious illness.

Catholic Cemetery - St. Michael's Cemetery [605-338-3376](tel:605-338-3376)

CLERGY REFLECTION

The Royal Hue

As you know, for the next 40 days during Lent your priests will don purple vestments for Mass and Stations of the Cross.

I read an interesting article in the National Catholic Register regarding purple's unique role as the color for Lent. The article was written by a priest who I know from my days studying in Rome: Fr. Bryce Sibley, a professor at Notre Dame Seminary in New Orleans. Throughout history, purple has been the color of emperors and kings. They were dressed and draped in it. It makes sense then, that Jesus, who was considered a "King" (In fact, crucified because He made Himself a King), was clothed in purple cloth at the time of his trial and punishment.

Yet, at the time of Jesus' death, purple was a very expensive dye, only one shade existed — "Tyrian purple," from the region of Tyre (Lebanon). To make one ounce of this purple dye, you had to harvest the gland from a quarter of a million Murex snails that could only be found in the Dead Sea. As a result, this dye was as expensive as silver and gold, so only the wealthiest, most powerful people could wear it or even afford it. This raises the question: Why would Roman soldiers use this expensive purple clothing on a convict sentenced to death?

We just take the color for granted and see it as a symbol of penance and sacrifice. However, knowing this unique piece of trivia of the nature and value of the dye, it adds an interesting nuance to the Gospel accounts of Christ's passion and crucifixion. Where would the soldiers have gotten this cloth? They could not have afforded it. One could presume that they probably stole it from somewhere, and then putting it on the bloodied body of Christ would have completely ruined the tunic and destroyed the value of the purple dye. Father Sibley proposes that the use of purple demonstrates the full extent of the mockery that Christ endured — reflecting that the Roman soldiers wanted to make a fool of Him, so they dressed Him in the most expensive clothing they could find. It makes sense then, that the use of purple vestments show how unreasonable sin is, and the extent that we make a fool of Christ ourselves when we sin. The paradox, according to Fr. Sibley, is this: that even in our sin, where we distort the image of Christ, purple is the sign that we truly desire to give Him glory as the "King of our Lives."

Fr. James Morgan

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