



St. Mary's Catholic Church



March 7, 2021 – Third Sunday of Lent - Cycle B

St. Mary's - Shenandoah
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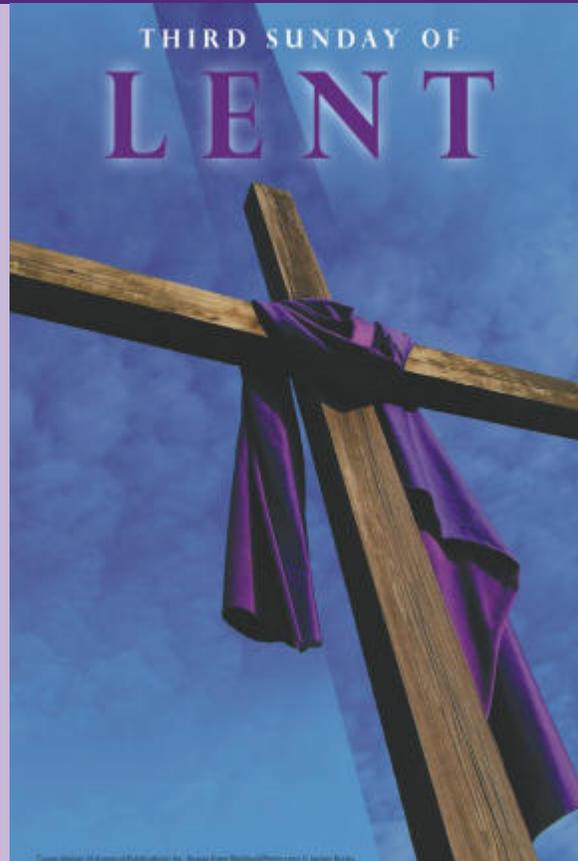
Office Hours - M-W-T - 9-4
Tues - 9-2
Fri - Closed

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Welcome to St. Mary's Church on this Third Sunday of Lent. We fail. We sin. We fall. We humans are weak, so we turn to God for strength. During this penitential season, we are keenly aware of our need for mercy and forgiveness. God's mercy and forgiveness came to full fruition in Jesus, who redeemed us by taking on our failings, our sins, our mortality. God has the words of everlasting life, as we sing in the psalm today, so we look to God this day for words of mercy and love as we recommit ourselves to our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting and almsgiving.

Readings for week March 7, 2021

Sunday: Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20]/Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21 ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Cycle B—Reflection on Readings

Third Sunday of Lent
Exodus 20:1-17; Psalm 19;
1 Corinthians 1:22-25; John 2:13-25



Theme: “You are the temple of the Holy Spirit”

To raise money, a Jewish synagogue sold tickets for reserved seats on Solemn Holy Days to the congregation. On one such Holy Day a kid came to the synagogue in search of his father, but the usher would not let him in because he did not have a ticket.

“Look”, said the lad, “this is an important matter.” That’s what they all say,” the usher replied, unmoved. The lad became desperate and began to plead. Please, sir, let me in. This is a matter of life and death. I’ll only be in a minute.”

The usher relented, “well, ok, if it is so important,” he said, **“but don’t let me catch you praying!”** isn’t the conclusion funny?

In today’s Gospel, Jesus cleansed the Temple of Jerusalem, and predicted about its destruction and reconstruction.

In the cleansing of the Temple, Jesus appears as a modern-day Jeremiah who addresses the abuses of God’s dwelling place (see Jeremiah 7:1-15; 26:1-19). The author of the gospel has adapted the original event to speak about the foundation of trust. Jesus’ zeal for the Temple is the reason for his death, and his resurrected body becomes the new Temple. The demand for a sign is answered by Jesus’ passion, death, and resurrection experience.

Now let us see why Jesus acted as he did. His anger is a terrifying thing; the picture of Jesus with the whip is an awe-inspiring sight. We must see what moved Jesus to this white-hot anger in the Temple Courts.

Brief Background

The Passover was the greatest of all the Jewish feasts. The law laid it down that every adult male Jew who lived within fifteen miles of Jerusalem was bound to attend it. But it was not only the Jews in Palestine who came to the Passover. By this time Jews were scattered all over the world, but they never forgot their

ancestral faith and their ancestral land; and it was the dream and aim of every Jew, no matter in what land he stayed, to celebrate at least one Passover in Jerusalem.

There was a tax that every Jew over nineteen years of age must pay. That was the Temple tax. It was necessary that all should pay that tax so that the Temple sacrifices and the Temple ritual might be carried out day by day. But the Temple tax had to be paid either in Galileans shekels or in shekels of the sanctuary. These were Jewish coins, and so could be used as a gift to the Temple; the other currencies were foreign and so were unclean; they might be used to pay ordinary debts, but not a debt to God.

Corrupt traders inside the temple

Pilgrims arrived from all over the world with all kinds of coins. So, in the Temple courts there sat the money changers. If their trade had been straightforward, they would have been fulfilling an honest and a necessary purpose. But what they did was to charge exorbitantly. What enraged Jesus was that pilgrims to the Passover, who could ill afford it, were being cheated at an exorbitant rate by the money changers. It was a rampant and shameless social injustice--and what was worse, it was being done in the name of religion.

It was that which moved Jesus to flaming anger.

THE ANGER OF JESUS

We have seen that it was the exploitation of the pilgrims by conscienceless people which moved Jesus to immediate anger; but there were deep things behind the cleansing of the Temple. Let us see if we can penetrate to the even deeper reasons why Jesus took this drastic step.

Is Jesus Justified?

There were at least three reasons why Jesus acted as he did, and why anger was in his heart.

(i) He acted as he did because God’s house was being desecrated. In the Temple there was worship without reverence.

(ii) Jesus acted as he did to show that the whole paraphernalia of animal sacrifice was completely irrelevant (Isa.1:11-17).

(iii) There is still another reason why Jesus acted as he did. Mark has a curious little addition which none of the other gospels has: “My house shall be called the house of prayer for all the nations” (Mk.11:17). All this

buying and selling was going on in the Court of the Gentiles which was the only place into which a Gentile might come.

The conduct in the Temple court shut out the seeking Gentile from the presence of God. Jesus was moved to the depths of his heart because those who long to pray were being shut out from the presence of God.

Our Attitude to pray

We have here the tremendous truth that our contact with God, our entry into his presence, on our approach to him is not dependent on anything that our hands can build or minds devise. In the street, in the home, at business, on the hills, on the open road, in church we have our inner temple, the presence of the Risen Christ forever with us throughout the entire world.

Dear beloved, in the church of God, no discrimination is to be made; nobody should be barred, separated, or discouraged from worshipping God in it.

Let us seek to eschew anything that will disturb or prohibit a person from praying and worshipping. May our bodies indeed become a spiritual temple for God. Shalom!

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK



| | |
|--|--|
| Saturday 3:30pm 4:30pm | March 6 Confessions Mass for Maureen Hansen+ |
| Sunday 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom | March 7 3rd Sunday of Lent Mass for David Maher+ Mass for Mike Teachout+ |
| Monday No Mass | March 8 St. John of God, Religious Fr Raphael Day off |
| Tuesday 12:10pm | March 9 St. Frances of Rome, Religious Mass for Wally Teten+ |
| Wednesday 12:10pm | March 10 Mass for Mike Lonowski+ |
| Thursday No Mass | March 11 |
| Friday 12:10pm | March 12 Mass for Kay Norton+ |
| Saturday 3:30pm 4:30pm | March 13 Confession Mass for Mike Dinville+ |
| Sunday 6:30am 10:30am - Also Livestream Zoom | March 14 4th Sunday of Lent Daylight Savings Time begins Mass for Pat Ginger+ Mass for Wally Teten+ |



Stations of the Cross

Friday, March 12th
@ 5:30pm
via Zoom - Hamburg

Lectors - March 13th & 14th

4:30pm — Terry Engelmeyer
6:30am — Dana Wenstrand
10:30am — Joan Bloom



Lenten Retreat

Wednesday, March 10th
@ 6:30pm

Watch your email for the
Zoom link to participate.

This & That

- We begin reading the Apostolic letter "Patris Corde" of Pope Francis for the month of March as part of the year of St. Joseph. This was sent via email as an attachment a few weeks ago. If you cannot print, please see the secretary for a hard copy.
- Due to Spring Study Day in Des Moines, there will be no noon mass in Shenandoah on March 11th.

God is good! All the time
All the time.....God is Good!

St. Mary's Church Support

Tithes - \$2609.00

Plate - \$126.00

First Offering - \$2.00

Mass Intentions - \$100.00



Birthday's

3-7 Luke Mather

3-7 Richard Haigwood

3-8 Maggie Troxel

3-12 Mem Laughlin

3-13 Bill Ludwig

Anniversary

3-12 Steve & Barb Huerter

St. Mary's Shenandoah Parishioners who would like to have their Birthday's & Anniversaries in the Church Bulletin, please email them to: saintmaryoffice.shen@gmail.com. Thank You

Some quotes to Consider

"Every adversity, every failure, every heartache carries with it the seed of an equal or greater benefit." Napoleon Hill

"What life means to us is determined not so much by what life brings to us as by the attitude we bring to life; not so much by what happens to us as by our reaction to what happens." Lewis L. Dunnington

"You build on failure. You use it as a stepping-stone. Close the door on the past. You don't try to forget the mistakes, but you don't dwell on it. You don't let it have any of your energy, or any of your time, or any of your space." Johnny Cash

BAPTISM: Please call the Church office to schedule the Baptism. A class is required for first-time parents.

1ST COMMUNION AND RECONCILIATION SACRAMENTS:

Eligibility to receive these Sacraments includes being Baptized, in 2nd grade or above, enrolled in the Religious Education Program, and meet Sunday class attendance requirements including extra Sacrament Lessons. Please contact Lynda Marshall for more information.

CONFIRMATION: This Sacrament is offered every other year to 10th and 11th graders who have received their 1st Communion and Reconciliation Sacraments, meet the criteria of two years attendance in the Religious Education Program-Youth Ministry's Sunday classes and attend extra Sacrament Lessons. Please contact Lynda Marshall for more information.

MARRIAGE: Couples planning a wedding at St. Mary's should contact Fr. Raphael at least 6 months prior to the wedding to begin the preparation process.

RCIA: Each Fall the parish forms a group of adults who are interested in becoming Catholic, or in learning about the faith. Contact the Parish Office or Fr. Raphael.

CARE OF THE SICK: Please contact the Parish Office or Fr. Raphael to receive the Sacrament of the Sick, or if you would like a visit while in the hospital or Communion brought to your home. Eucharist is taken to the homebound on Sundays by Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion.

PARISH REGISTRATION: If you would like to register in the parish, please introduce yourself to Fr Raphael or stop by the Church Office. Forms are also available at the back of Church. Completed forms can be dropped in the collection basket.

UPDATE OF PARISH ROSTER: A constant effort of the parish office is updating our current registered parishioners email addresses, home addresses and home and cell phone numbers. Please address these changes to the church office. If you are new to the parish, please call the office to register or pick up form in back of Church. If you are moving to a new location, or if parishioners know of someone who has moved, please call the parish office.

If you are in need of sacramental records or would like **Masses** offered for anyone, please contact the Church Office. Envelopes are in back of Church. Masses are \$5.00 per Mass.

PARISH HALL RENTING: Please contact the Church Office. All communication with usage must be communicated with the Church Office. Parishioners using the Parish Hall for meetings or any other purposes should contact the Church Office.

The Ten Commandments

And God spoke all these words: "I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt, out of the land of slavery. "You shall have no other gods before me." Exodus 20:1-3



Based on Exodus 20:1-17 (NIV)

W G Y O F W S T R P E B H T A
 G A E Q A O E M D S F Y O H D
 D P U E G V E S U O K Q N I U
 L S M N O S H O E R N Y O D L
 W A O C U T H K E V D K R O T
 N L L S L I S H Y X E E E L E
 Y R I O D A T S Q A G N R Y R
 A M E B R A R T A K J Q T O Y
 F M L M F D S L N B Q W B H W
 E A O D E S T E A L B H Y R O
 R C L T P M M J U K G A K O R
 W N S S H L B W T I Y A T N S
 I Z W S E E G E E L U L C H H
 F H H O L Y R N R F L I V E I
 E L R C P T E S T I M O N Y P

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|---------|----------|----------|-----------|--------|
| SABBATH | NAMING | MURDER | LONG | HOUSE |
| WIFE | FALSE | REMEMBER | DAY | IDOL |
| GOVT | WORSHIP | MOTHER | LONG | FATHER |
| LORD | NEIGHBOR | DONKEY | SEVENTH | STEAL |
| MISUSE | HONOR | ADULTERY | TESTIMONY | HOLY |

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 What: Diapers sizes 2-5

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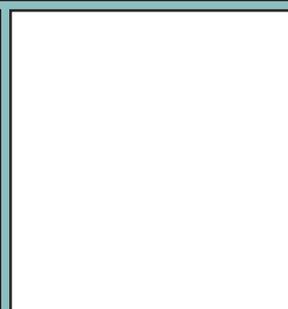


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