



**Mass Intentions**

**Saturday, March 7**

**5 p.m.** Altar Society & their families

**7 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 8**

**8 a.m.** Bill McDaniel (D)

**10:30 a.m.** People of the parish

**Monday, March 9**

No Mass

**Tuesday, March 10**

**8:30 a.m.** Marie Monic (D)

**Wednesday, March 11**

**6:30 p.m.** Olan Sanders (D)

**Thursday, March 12**

**8:30 a.m.** David Bowers (D)

**Friday, March 13**

**8:30 a.m.** Sophia & Stephen Braszo (D)

**Saturday, March 14**

**5 p.m.** Bernice Hymes (D)

**7 p.m.**

**Sunday, March 15**

**8 a.m.** Danny Domas (D)

**10:30 a.m.** People of the parish

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; 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, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21 Alternate readings (Year A): 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

**BREAK OPEN THE WORD**

[Ex 20:1-1](#)

[1 Cor 1:22-2](#)

[Jn 2:13-25](#)

Paul's message in our second reading this weekend is as relevant as it has ever been since he wrote his letter two millennia ago. It is meant to shock us and to demand of us a renewed faith in God's plan of salvation. Paul's challenge is as fresh as the day he first spoke it. Christianity is not a philosophical system; ours is a response both with our lips and our lives to the immeasurable love and mercy of God. To be a Christian is to risk being thought foolish, absurd and passé in a world whose thoughts and values are often at odds with the good news. The great wealth of our tradition is the crucified and risen Jesus; the gift we bring to the marketplace is the paradox of the cross. It is our heritage and our glory.



On this our third Sunday of Lent, we are presented with Paul's contrasting the wisdom of the world to the wisdom of God, manifested in the passion and death of Jesus Christ. Without backing away from his message in any way, Paul still acknowledges that the very idea of a crucified Savior is difficult to accept.

For some of his fellow Jews, who demanded signs, the notion of a suffering messiah seemed to be a contradiction. As God's anointed, the messiah was regarded as highly favored, endowed with the Spirit of God and thereby equipped with the ability and the will to lead Israel to victory over its oppressors. Popular was the hope that the nation would be restored to the "golden age" it had enjoyed during the reigns of David and Solomon. With these expectations paramount in their belief system, the Jews had looked to Jesus for signs, i.e., sensational acts of power that would affirm his identity as their king. In other words, kick the Romans out of Israel.

The Greeks, on the other hand, were ever in search of a wisdom that would place them in a class of their own. To that end, they sought out philosophers and orators to hear their ideas and would decide whether or not they were impressed. But Paul would not allow them to dismiss the Gospel as just another philosophical flavor of the month. For Paul, the good news of Jesus crucified is not a slickly packaged philosophy or a scheme for living a better life.

Over and against the Jewish and Greek expectations, Paul announces that the *Jesus event* is God's saving intervention breaking into this world for the sake of this world. This suffering Jesus represents the power and the wisdom of God and constitutes a mystery that can be acquired only by faith. To the Jews and Greeks and all of us today, Paul presents a challenge: Set aside the wisdom of the world and accept (in faith) the foolishness of God. Only faith can pierce the folly of the cross and find wisdom. Only faith can see the sign of the cross and not be scandalized. If we are honest with ourselves, we can readily understand, and even sympathize, with those who first heard Paul's words and were taken aback.

Let Paul's letter this Lenten week shock and challenge you to a deeper faith!

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## BISHOP 'S FAITH APPEAL REPORT

GOAL: \$77,077.00

135 families donated \$59,785.00 which is 71% of our goal from 21% of our parishioners.

Pledge envelopes are available in pews and in the church office.

## YOUNG@HEART

Monthly Young At Heart meeting will be held **Tuesday, March 10** in the SDC following 8:30 a.m. daily Mass. Bring your favorite salad to share for our lunch. First we will enjoy fellowship, coffee, games and a short business meeting about 11:30, then we enjoy our salad luncheon. We are very busy with spring activity plans - attend if you can.

Take the opportunity to be a part of the Catholic Faith In Action Advocacy Day **Tuesday March 24** in Austin. Leaving very early on a bus - no cost to you - returning late (fun)! Just need to have your name for a seat on the bus.

Plans are in progress for the **April 15, 16, & 17** bus trip to the Fredericksburg area. The balance is due at this meeting.

Tickets for the **23rd Annual Third Age Day Celebration** will be available at the meeting. Cost is \$12 and the event will be held at St. Therese, the Little Flower of Jesus Parish in Port Acres on **May 19**. **Any questions - call Janis 883-4566**

## MEN'S ACTS COMMISSIONING MASS

All are invited to attend the Men's ACTS Commissioning mass on **Sunday, March 15 at 8 a.m. at St. Henry Church in Bridge City.**



**SILENT HOLY WEEK RETREAT** at Holy Family Retreat Center, 9920 North Major Drive, Beaumont, TX 77713 from April 2-5. Come spend the holiest days of the Christian year in silence and in prayer. Celebrate with the monastic community the Mass of the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday and the Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday. The Liturgy of the Hours will also be sung daily. Sign-in and registration is on Thursday afternoon from 3-4 pm. The retreat begins with dinner on Thursday at 5 pm and ends with Morning Prayer at 9 am on Easter Sunday. The cost: \$180/person w/ \$35 deposit

Pre-register by March 20 by mailing \$35 deposit to above address.

## THE PATH TO FREEDOM

Most of us, if we were asked "Does the phrase 'the Ten Commandments' appear in the Bible?" would likely get it wrong, because the answer is "no." "The Ten Commandments" is a post-biblical, phrase that developed along with an image of God as police officer that is not found in today's passage from Exodus. The first phrase is the key: God is the one who brings us out of slavery; following God's law or commands is our path to freedom. The moneychangers whom Jesus drove from the temple were not explicitly breaking any of the commandments, but neither were they helping people to find God's path to freedom as they came to worship at the temple. This is an important Lenten lesson for us. We need to stop asking ourselves whether or not we are breaking specific rules or regulations and instead examine our lives to see if we are truly following a path to God's freedom through Christ. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Participating in Lent, we are engaging in patterns that have endured across the centuries. From very early times, we have the sense of accompanying the elect on their journey to the font. From as long ago as the fourth century, we receive Lent as forty days to shake the dust from our spirituality and reorder our conduct. Then, fasting was not seen as a strict duty, yet it seems it was widely observed. Think of the rules of politeness and courtesy that everyone agrees on. Fasting was also seen as a social duty, since food was in short supply as winter wore on, and the weak and the sick had the first claim on what remained on hand.

As a boost to the fasting of the body, the church developed a richer spiritual fare, including celebration of the Eucharist every day. This practice began in Rome by the sixth century. Weekday Mass was only at designated "stations." The pope would arrive on horseback at the station church. In those days, although the catechumenate was already in eclipse, there were pre-baptismal activities at the station Masses: the giving of the Lord's Prayer, prayers for the godparents, and constant references to baptism. —Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## HEAVEN

Heaven is at present out of sight, but in due time, as snow melts and discovers what it lay upon, so will this visible creation fade away before those greater splendors which are behind it.

—John Henry Newman

## REMINDERS

People more frequently require to be reminded than informed.

—Samuel Johnson

## FAITH SHARE

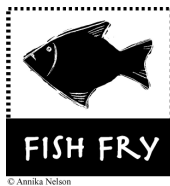
**Each Tuesday morning at 5:45 a.m. all men (bring a friend) are welcome to join the Men's Faith Share group in the San Damiano Center.**

**Women's Faith Share (bring a friend) meets each Tuesday morning at 6:15 in the youth room (enter through side entrance of garden area).**

**Both groups meet for fellowship and to discuss mass readings for the next Sunday. Yes it's early but it's worth getting up for and the coffee is always hot!**

## SOMETHING'S STILL FISHY

Knights of Columbus will sell fish dinners on Lenten Fridays in the San Damiano Center from 5-7 p.m. Dinners include baked or fried fish, fries, hushpuppies, coleslaw, drink and dessert for \$8 and the fellowship is free! Dine in or carry out.



**Polunsky Hygiene Program** provides free soap, deodorant, toothpaste and shampoo for prisoners that do not have the means to purchase them. What the state provides is very insufficient for proper hygiene. The system encourages the inmates to purchase their toiletries at the commissary but those who do not have an outside source to send them money are left without, leaving them vulnerable to those who have.

If you would like to donate to the Polunsky Hygiene Program during this Lenten season of almsgiving, please make the check out to:

**San Martin de Porres Mission  
P.O. Box 275  
Moscow, TX 75960**

**Please write in the check memo line  
Franciscan Guild - Hygiene**

## ST. Joseph Abbey + Seminary College COME AND SEE

St. Joseph's Seminary College  
Vocations Weekend Retreat  
*Thought about the priesthood lately?  
Been on your mind a lot?*

*Come and see what God has to say about it.*

No cost to you. Meals provided, beds provided, (bring bed linens, pillow, towels and personal items), prayer provided. For all men 16 years or older.

When: March 27-29

Contact: Fr. Tino Barrera,  
Diocese of Beaumont Vocations Director  
409 924 4361 [tbarrera@dioceseofbmt.org](mailto:tbarrera@dioceseofbmt.org)  
**RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!**

**An Opportunity: Conversations with friends, dinner with family, going to the grocery store ... these are all opportunities to share Jesus with others.** Every day we show Jesus to others by how we act and what we say. Join us April 16-18 to find out more about "Sharing Jesus with Others" at the New Evangelization Conference. Something for everyone - dozens of workshops and a concert Friday, April 17. Opening address April 16 by Most Rev. Gustavo Garcia-Siller, Archbishop of San Antonio. No charge to attend. Go to [www.setxcatholic.org](http://www.setxcatholic.org) to learn more and to register.

## EASTER LILIES FOR THE ALTAR

Easter lilies for the church altar can be given in honor of a loved one for a \$12 donation.

Paula Perkins 883 7393 is collecting payment by cash or check made out to SFA Altar Society.



The Altar Society sale of RADA Cutlery is ongoing with the next order to be placed March 12. Call Cathy Manshack 882 9600 for more info or to place an order. Catalog available in church office.



# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

## CAMINO A LA LIBERTAD

La mayoría de nosotros, si nos preguntaran “¿Aparece la frase ‘los Diez Mandamientos’ en la Biblia?” daríamos la respuesta errónea, pues la respuesta es “no”. “Los diez mandamientos” es una frase post-bíblica, que se desarrolló junto con una imagen de Dios como ‘policía’ la cual no se encuentra en el pasaje de hoy del libro del Éxodo. La primera frase es clave: Dios es el que nos sacó de la esclavitud; cumplir las leyes o mandamientos de Dios es nuestro camino a la libertad. Los cambistas a quienes Jesús echó del templo no estaban violando ninguno de los mandamientos, pero tampoco estaban ayudando a la gente a encontrar el camino hacia la libertad de Dios cuando llegaban al Templo a rezar. Esta es una lección de la Cuaresma importante para nosotros. Tenemos que dejar de preguntarnos si estamos o no violando alguna regla o reglamento específico, y en cambio examinar nuestra vida para ver si verdaderamente estamos siguiendo un camino hacia la libertad de Dios por medio de Cristo. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

El Nuevo Testamento nos asegura que Jesús comprende nuestra naturaleza humana (Hebreos 2:17-18). Él sabe bien lo que es ser humano porque, según la doctrina cristiana, siendo verdaderamente Dios, es humano plena y verdaderamente. Tanto amó Dios al mundo que tomó totalmente nuestra condición humana. Según el Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica esto lo hizo para salvarnos del pecado, sanarnos de la enfermedad/ muerte, mostrarnos su amor, ser nuestro modelo de santidad y hacernos partícipes de su divinidad.

Estamos hechos a imagen y semejanza de Dios, pero el pecado opaca esta imagen. Como una muestra del amor del Padre, el Hijo se encarnó por obra del Espíritu Santo en el seno de María Virgen, para así renovar en nosotros la imagen de Dios y llevarnos nuevamente a la inocencia original. Dios es Trino y Uno, tres personas en un sólo Dios. El ser humano también es trino. Cuerpo, alma y espíritu (1 Tesalonicenses 5:23) forman una sola persona que es corporal, reflexiva y trascendente. Así como el Padre, Hijo y Espíritu Santo trabajan juntos, el cuerpo, alma y espíritu de la persona buscan colaborar para seguir al Hijo de Dios que se hizo uno de nosotros. Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Glz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

## EL CIELO

No podemos ver el cielo por el momento, pero a su debido tiempo, así como la nieve se derrite y descubre lo que yacía debajo, esta creación visible se desvanecerá ante las más gloriosas maravillas que son su causa. John Henry Newman

## RECORDATORIOS

Las personas prefieren más frecuentemente que se les recuerde a que se les informe. Samuel Johnson

## STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT March 1, 2015

<b>Amount needed each week</b> (Regular collection)	\$11,873.00
Weekend regular collection (including building fund)	8,607.98
<b>Short of Goal</b>	<b>3,265.02</b>
<b>Year to date totals (March 1, 2015)</b>	
Amount needed (\$11,873. x 35 fiscal weeks)	\$ 415,555.00
Total Sunday collections to date	401,234.21
<b>Year to date shortage</b>	<b>14,320.79</b>

## UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION

**Catholic Relief Services Collection** March 15

Online giving is an excellent way to fulfill your obligation to support St. Francis parish. Go to [www.stfrancisorangetx.org](http://www.stfrancisorangetx.org) and click the Online Giving link.



## Saturday, March 7

Reconciliation 4-4:45 p.m.

5 p.m. mass

7 p.m. Spanish mass

## Sunday, March 8

8 a.m. mass 10:30 a.m. mass

Confirmation class 5:30 p.m.

Sonlight choir 6:30 p.m.

## Monday, March 9

Adult choir 6 p.m.

Women's ACTS 6:30 p.m.

Divorced Catholics 7 p.m. youth room

## Tuesday, March 10

Men's faith sharing 5:45 a.m.

Women's faith sharing 6:15 a.m.

8:30 a.m. mass

Young@Heart after mass in San Damiano

KC officers 6:30, general meeting 7 p.m.

RCIA 7 p.m.

## Wednesday, March 11

Dementia Support 10 a.m.

No RE/Keysis -Spring Break

6:30 p.m. mass

## Thursday, March 12

8:30 a.m. mass

Bible Study 9:30 a.m. Francis/Claire

Altar Society meeting 11 a.m.

Catechist Training 5 p.m.

ACTS core meeting 6:30 p.m.

Dementia Support 6:30 p.m.

## Friday, March 13

8:30 a.m. mass

Girl Scouts 4:30 p.m.

KC Fish Fry 5-7 p.m. San Damiano Center

Stations of the Cross 7 p.m.

## Saturday, March 14

Reconciliation 4-4:45 p.m.

5 p.m. mass

7 p.m. Spanish mass

## Sunday, March 15

8 a.m. mass 10:30 a.m. mass

Men's ACTS Commissioning Mass @

St. Henry Church 8 a.m.

Sonlight choir 6:30 p.m.