



Mass Intentions

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

Monday, March 16

No Mass

Tuesday, March 17

8:30 a.m. Nancy Ehrman (D)

Wednesday, March 18

6:30 p.m. Theresa Fall (D)

Thursday, March 19

8:30 a.m. Will Frey (D)

Friday, March 20

8:30 a.m. Irene & Andrew Sedlak (D)

Saturday, March 21

5 p.m. Darren Trace LeBlanc (L)

7 p.m.

Sunday, March 22

8 a.m. Florina & Alvin Robichaux

10:30 a.m. People of the parish

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21;
Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b;
Jn 4:43-54



Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6,
8-9; Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9,
13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

Thursday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16;
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rm 4:13:16-18, 22;
Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21,
23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12;
Jn 7:40-53

Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15;
Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

BREAK OPEN THE WORD

2 CHR 36:14-16, 19-23 EPH 2:4-10 JN 3:14-21

In this fourth week of Lent, we are invited to remember that salvation is more than a theory, and it often has nothing to do with physical safety. We are saved by the great love of God, manifest in the one lifted up to show the way to eternal life. Those who believe in Christ lifted up are God's handiwork, saved by sharing his life and continuing his works.

This weekend we eaves drop on the conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. This dialogue might be seen as a bridge between the Old and New Testaments. Nicodemus recognizes Jesus as a rabbi/teacher (John 2:2), which means that he expects Jesus to be in line with the rabbis of the day. He understands Jesus as another of Moses' disciples who preaches well and performs signs. In John's language, Nicodemus is in the dark. He doesn't get it at all when Jesus talks about being "born from above" (John 2:3).



Trying to help Nicodemus, Jesus appeals to his memories of Moses. He refers to the time when it was believed that snakes were doing God's will by biting Israelites (Num 21). To remedy the situation, God told Moses to fashion a bronze serpent and hold it up; God then saved the life of all who looked on it. The symbolism of this drama demonstrated that just as Moses could fashion a model snake, so God the

Creator could control death and life. The story also intimates that people can face what they most fear and not be overcome if they believe in God's life-giving power.

That leads into Jesus' explanation that the Son of Man must be lifted up. But now, unlike in the time of Moses, the action of the people is not just to see and be cured, but to believe. The result will not be a return to health, but a movement to eternal life. For the author of this weekend's Gospel, to believe in the Son means to hold onto or cling to him to the point of becoming one with him. To believe in the Son of Man lifted up, implies accepting the astonishing, scandalous mystery of Christ crucified. Believing in him confers eternal life.

Because Jesus' teaching is so densely packed, we can be glad that John has Jesus continue to explain. First, as opposed to an image of a punitive God, Jesus reveals God, the lover of humankind. God is not the death-dealer, but the eternal life-giver. All of Jesus' emphasis is on God's great love: the Son was sent by God to save the world. We are saved by adhering to the Son, and the result is eternal life.

When we choose faith in another god, cling to an image of divine vengeance, reject the light offered by Christ, we condemn ourselves and are left with exactly what we have chosen: separation from God by our own stubborn attitudes, and it becomes increasingly difficult to "save us from ourselves."

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

BISHOP'S FAITH APPEAL REPORT

148 families donated \$63,985 which is 83% of our goal from 23% of our parishioners.

On behalf of Bishop Guillory and the more than 110,000 individuals who are served by our diocesan ministries, thank you to all of those who have pledged to this year's Bishop's Faith Appeal. If you have not made a financial and prayer pledge, we ask you to prayerfully consider doing so. Pledge envelopes are available in the pews, church entrances and church office. You can also donate on the diocesan website at www.dioceseofbmt.org.



PRAY FOR THE SICK
OF OUR PARISH

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

RESERVE YOUR SPOT TODAY!

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.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

The family of S. Roy Simar is presenting the 5th annual \$500 scholarship to a graduating senior, who is Catholic and active in his or her parish. Applications are available in the parish office, due back to office May 1. Call Wanda Simar 883-4912 for more information.

Beaumont Diocesan Council of Catholic Women will be giving two \$500.00 scholarships to two young ladies who are High School Seniors. Applications are available in the church office, due back to Port Arthur address by April 1.

First Annual Rosey Molina Memorial Scholarship

The family of Rosey Molina is offering two \$500 scholarships in her memory, available to a boy or girl. Applications/Qualifications are available in the church office, due back by May 1.

DIOCESE OF BEAUMONT
NEW EVANGELIZATION CONFERENCE
OPENING ADDRESS
THURSDAY, APRIL 16, 7 P.M.

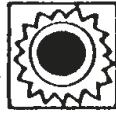
“GO AND MAKE DISCIPLES:
SHARE WHO AND WHAT YOU HAVE
ENCOUNTERED”
MOST REVEREND
GUSTAVO GARCIA-SILLER
ARCHBISHOP OF THE DIOCESE OF
SAN ANTONIO

SAINT ANTHONY CATHEDRAL BASILICA
700 JEFFERSON, BEAUMONT, TX

OPENING PRAYER
FRIDAY, APRIL 17
SATURDAY, APRIL 18
9 A.M.



Holy Week



Tuesday, March 31	8:30 a.m.
Wednesday, April 1	6:30 p.m.
Holy Thursday, April 2	6:30 p.m.
Good Friday, April 3	6:30 p.m.
Easter Vigil, April 4	8:30 p.m.

CHRISTIAN ZEN RETREAT

Fr. Robert E. Kennedy, SJ

Integrating Christian life and meditative prayer

Thursday - Sunday, April 9-12

This is a silent retreat with formal instruction and teaching. The retreat begins with dinner at 5:30 pm on Thurs and ends at 11:30 am Sun. Registration begins at 4 pm Thurs.

Cost: \$215/person for a private room
\$75.00 deposit with email address and phone

To register please mail \$75 deposit to
Holy Family Retreat Center
9920 North Major Drive
Beaumont, TX 77713

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

RAISED UP BY THE MESSIAH

Last week, when Jesus referred to the destruction of the temple, the account from today's first reading is what would have come to the minds of his listeners. But, as Jesus was speaking on a deeper level, so does today's first reading. In the first paragraph we hear that Israel had, in effect, "fallen" already through its infidelity to the covenant. Lest we get too cozy, this account reminds us that God, though just, loving, and merciful, is capable of punishing sin when that sin is unrepentant. But we are also reminded that God, rich in mercy, anoints individuals to be vessels of salvation as well (in Hebrew, King Cyrus of Persia is called "messiah"). In the Gospel reading, we hear of another Messiah being "lifted up" for our salvation in one of the best-known passages from the New Testament. As Lent concludes and we enter Holy Week, we need to keep our gaze steadfast upon the cross of Christ, the Son of God who came into the world to raise us who had fallen.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

With the dissipation of the catechumenate's energy since almost everyone was born into the Church, Lent began to be seen more as a preparation to follow the Passion of Christ with devotion. In the city of Rome, creative spirits settled on "stational churches" as a way of keeping the energy flowing. Everyone would be directed to a certain "station" each day, and the name of that church provided a theme for the liturgy. So, for example, on certain Saturdays in Lent, everything centered on the church of St. Vitale. Now, this poor fellow had been thrown into a hole and covered in stones at his martyrdom, so the readings recalled Joseph thrown down the well by his brothers, and the wicked servants killing the son of the owner of the vineyard. Gradually, travelers to Rome noted the celebration and worked it into liturgical schedules back home. Eventually, calendars everywhere bore the curious footnote on a Lenten Saturday: "Station S. Vitale." This served the priority of getting ready to hear the Passion fairly well, but was hardly satisfactory for Lent's baptismal character. Now, at last, our liturgy is reorganized to serve the deepest level of our tradition exceedingly well. Lent, once again, is all about baptism. Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

GOD UPHOLDS ME

I take for my sureties: The power of God to guide me, the might of God to uphold me, the wisdom of God to teach me, the eye of God to watch over me, the ear of God to hear me, the word of God to give me speech, the hand of God to protect me, the way of God to go before me, the shield of God to shelter me. St. Patrick

BLOSSOMS AND FRUIT

Unless a tree has borne blossoms in spring, you will vainly look for fruit on it in autumn. Walter Scott

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

EVANTADOS POR EL MESÍAS

La semana pasada, cuando Jesús se refería a la destrucción del Templo, el relato de la primera lectura de hoy es lo que les hubiera venido a la mente a sus oyentes. Pero, dado que Jesús estaba hablando en un sentido más profundo, así también debemos entender la primera lectura de hoy. Escuchamos en el primer párrafo que Israel en efecto ya había “caído” a causa de sus infidelidades contra la alianza. Para no ponernos demasiado cómodos, este relato nos recuerda que Dios, aunque justo, amoroso y misericordioso, es capaz de castigar el pecado cuando es un pecado no arrepentido. Pero también nos recuerda que Dios, rico en misericordia, unge a individuos para que sean a su vez instrumentos de salvación (en hebreo al Rey Ciro de Persia se le denomina “mesías”). En la lectura del Evangelio, escuchamos de otro Mesías que debe ser “levantado” por nuestra salvación, en uno de los pasajes más conocidos del Nuevo Testamento. Al terminar la Cuaresma y entrar en la Semana Santa, debemos mantener nuestra mirada fija en la cruz de Cristo, el Hijo de Dios que vino al mundo para levantarnos a todos los que habíamos caído. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TRADICIONES DE NUESTRA FE

Los católicos en general y los latinoamericanos en particular, somos muy dados al uso de imágenes y símbolos religiosos para acercarnos a Dios o para sentirnos más cerca de él. En realidad el cristianismo entero es así, gracias a la encarnación del Hijo de Dios. Hay quienes critican el uso de imágenes, pero recordemos que Jesús usó imágenes para explicar cómo es Dios. En el Evangelio de Juan (3:14) Jesús recuerda que Moisés había hecho uso de imágenes para sanar a los hebreos.

En Números 21:4-9 Dios le pide a Moisés que haga una serpiente de bronce y la levante en alto de tal forma que los hebreos puedan verla. Muchos de ellos habían sido mordidos por serpientes en el desierto y al ver la imagen de bronce sanaban, gracias a Dios. El pueblo de Israel se quedó con la imagen. No obstante, con el paso del tiempo olvidaron que era sólo una imagen y comenzaron a adorarla hasta que el rey Ezequías se vio en la necesidad de destruirla (2 Reyes 18:4). Las imágenes pueden ser útiles para recordarnos la presencia y misericordia de Dios, pero no permitamos que se conviertan en ídolos.

Fray Gilberto Cavazos-Giz, OFM, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

DIOS ME SOSTIENE

Tomo para mi seguridad: El poder de Dios para guiarme, la fortaleza de Dios para sostenerme, la sabiduría de Dios para enseñarme, el ojo de Dios para cuidarme, el oído de Dios para escucharme, la palabra de Dios para hablar por mí, la mano de Dios para ampararme, el camino de Dios para ir delante de mí, el escudo de Dios para protegerme.

San Patricio

FRUTOS Y RETOÑOS

A menos que un árbol de retoños en la primavera, vanamente encontrarás frutos en el otoño. Walter Scott



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.

Monday, March 16

Adult choir 6 p.m.

Women's ACTS 6:30 p.m.

Divorced Catholics 7 p.m. youth room

Tuesday, March 17

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

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

8:30 a.m. mass

RCIA 7 p.m.

Wednesday, March 18

No RE/Keysis -Spring Break

6:30 p.m. mass

Thursday, March 19

8:30 a.m. mass

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

Book Club 7pm

Friday, March 20

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 21

Reconciliation 4-4:45 p.m.

5 p.m. mass

7 p.m. Spanish mass

Sunday, March 22

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

Sonlight choir 6:30 p.m.

STEWARDSHIP OF TREASURE REPORT

March 8, 2015

Amount needed each week (Regular collection) \$11,873.00

Weekend regular collection (including building fund) 14,452.46

Over Goal 2,579.46

Year to date totals (March 8, 2015)

Amount needed (\$11,873. x 36 fiscal weeks) \$ 427,428.00

Total Sunday collections to date 415,686.67

Year to date shortage 11,741.33

UPCOMING SPECIAL COLLECTION

Holy Land Apr 3rd Easter Collection Seminarians/Ministers Apr 5

Online giving is an excellent way to fulfill your obligation to support St. Francis parish. Go to www.stfrancisorangetx.org and click the Online Giving link.

