



SUNDAY, MARCH 7, 2021

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

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CLPI

Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish
235 North Front St. New Bedford, MA 02746

MASSES FOR March 6th-14th

Saturday, March 6th—Third Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM +Stasia & +Joseph Patykula
Req. Family

Sunday, March 7th—Third Sunday of Lent

10:00 AM OLPH Parishioners,
Living & Deceased

Monday, March 8th—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM Reconciliation with God
& Blessed Mother's Protection
Req. Casimir P.

Tuesday, March 9th—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM ++Obenauf Family

Wednesday, March 10th—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM Health & God's Blessings
Req. Abigail G.

Thursday, March 11th—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM ++Souls in Purgatory

Friday, March 12th—Lenten Weekday

5:00 PM Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM +Rita & +Tom Schemm
Req. George Schemm

Saturday, March 13th—Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM +Walter & +Helen Palys
Req. Family

Saturday, March 13th—Fourth Sunday of Lent

4:00 PM-- +Bill Regula
Req. Joan Cyr

Sunday, March 14th--Fourth Sunday of Lent

10:00 AM Family of +Frederick M Kalisz, Jr
Req. Lynn Carvalho

Brothers, Sisters, and Friends of OLPH Parish,

In last week's column, I jotted down a few thoughts from an article that had recently crossed my desk: *How to Live Lent*. This week I would like to continue that message with some other reflections that might help all of us make the most of these 40 days.

Comforting a griever. God spoke through the prophet Isaiah, "*Comfort, comfort My people*" (40.1). We all know someone who is suffering from a loss caused by the China Virus. A visit, a note, or a phone call to that grieving friend or relative, simply offering a listening ear and gentle words of encouragement, might be just the thing to make a real difference in his or her day.

Driving compassionately. Letting another vehicle into the lane; being patient if the car ahead is moving slowly; allowing a pedestrian to cross the street—all come under this teaching of Jesus: "*Do to others as you would have them do to you*" (Luke 6.31).

Seeing Christ in our neighbor. Whether our encounters today are pleasant, unpleasant, or neutral, may we try to see Jesus in every person we meet. Jesuit priest-theologian Pierre Teilhard de Chardin left us this prayer, "*Grant me to recognize in others, Lord God, the radiance of Your own face.*"

Letting God. When life's journey takes us to a crossroad where the way forward isn't clear, turning it over to God is what Jesus did in His time of crisis: "*Father...not My will, but Yours be done*" (Luke 22.42). This approach is based on confidence that Divine wisdom is with us for all the support we will need.

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad

Exodus 20:1-17

In those days, God delivered all these commandments:

“I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.

“You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.

“Remember to keep holy the sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

“Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him.”

Psalm 19

R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The law of the LORD is perfect,
refreshing the soul;

the decree of the LORD is trustworthy,
giving wisdom to the simple. R.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart,

the command of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eye. R.

The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;

the ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just. R.

They are more precious than gold,
than a heap of purest gold;

sweeter also than syrup
or honey from the comb. R.

I Corinthians 1:22-25

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.
Jn 3:16

John 2:13-25

SINCE THE PASSOVER OF THE JEWS WAS NEAR, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace.” His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?” But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.



Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent (B)

Ex 20:1–17 or 20:1–3, 7–8, 12–17

1 Cor 1:22–25

Jn 2:13–25

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23



The Long Arm of the Law

Eventually you're going to get caught. That's what this expression means. And that is pretty much how most people understand law—as something that hems them in and, if disregarded, will get them in the end. But that is not how Israel understood its law. The psalm verses for today insist that the law refreshes the soul, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eye, is more precious than gold, and is sweeter than syrup or honey from the comb. The people cherished the law because it outlined for them how they were to live as God's Chosen People.

People who want to run a marathon, learn to fly a plane, or join a club are eager to take on the directives that will enable them to accomplish their goal. That is how Israel viewed the law outlined in today's first reading. It's as if God said: "If you want to be my people, this is the way you should live."

Whenever the law of Israel seems to be criticized (as is often the case in St. Paul's writings), it is not really the law itself but the inappropriate attitude toward it that is censured. As important and precious as the law might be, it is only a means to an end. It is not the end itself, any more than the directives for flying a plane are what are uppermost. From the Bible's point of view, the long arm of the law is meant to direct and support us, not intimidate us.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ★ *The laws in today's first reading deal with basic living. Which ones seem to be the hardest to live by? Why?*
- ★ *Which laws give you the most support as you try to live with integrity?*

Dear Padre,

Our deacon was preaching about Lent and mentioned that the Church calls us to *metanoia*. What did he mean?

Most of us think of Lent as a time of penance. We receive our ashes and take up some traditional practice of giving up something or doing something for Lent. But there's more to Lent than just practices of piety or acts of penance and mortification. Your deacon is correct. In Lent, the Church calls us to *metanoia*, a Greek word meaning "a change of mind and heart."

We begin a new way of thinking and acting. We take a long, hard look at our lifestyle and compare it to the values Jesus offers. Then we change our lives to match the values of the Lord. This, of course, is difficult to do alone. The Church asks us to pray during Lent that the Lord's power will enter our lives and give us the wisdom to see a new direction and the courage to move in that direction. The Church suggests we strengthen our resolve through acts of personal mortification and sacrifice for others. This will tighten the belt of our discipline and

train us for the more sweeping changes that we must make.

The Scripture readings for the first three weeks of Lent center on *metanoia*. The readings direct us to understand what is involved with "changing our hearts" and seeking a new life direction. Listen to them well and they will lead you to *metanoia*.

*From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask, © 2003 Liguori Publications
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ROBYN MACKENZIE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Calendar

Monday

MARCH 8

Lenten Weekday
2 Kgs 5:1—15ab
Lk 4:24—30

Tuesday

MARCH 9

Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:25, 34—43
Mt 18:21—35

Wednesday

MARCH 10

Lenten Weekday
Dt 4:1, 5—9
Mt 5:17—19

Thursday

MARCH 11

Lenten Weekday
Jer 7:23—28
Lk 11:14—23

Friday

MARCH 12

Lenten Weekday
Hos 14:2—10
Mk 12:28—34

Saturday

MARCH 13

Lenten Weekday
Hos 6:1—6
Lk 18:9—14

Sunday

MARCH 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Chr 36:14—16,
19—23
Eph 2:4—10
Jn 3:14—21

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting, and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.

LENTEN MESSAGE FOR 2018, NOVEMBER 1, 2017

