

The Work of the People
The Third Sunday of Lent

On this Third Sunday of Lent, we move from Mark's Gospel (the main Gospel of this Cycle of Readings) to John's Gospel. As I have indicated recently, the readings for Lent are divided into two parts – the readings for the Triduum are separate. The readings for the first part of Lent focus on our turning from our sinful ways and back to God-like ways. The readings for the second part focus on Jesus' decision to take on the sin of suffering humanity in order to raise us up from that sin.

The first weeks of Lent focus our attention on the relationship we have with the law as people of the covenant and followers of Jesus. In the first reading today, we experience the power of God's voice and the giving of the law. To follow these precepts is to remain in right relationship with God and with God's people. The language of the law is "you" and "me," an intimate address that reflects the direct correlation between God, the nation, and each and every individual.

Paul expresses that the people of his time look for signs. In our age, we too want "signs" or evidence to prove things; we also use intellect to shape answers and guide our thinking. To claim Christ as the Risen Lord is to leap, with the fleet feet of faith, into the Paschal Mystery.

John's vivid depiction of the cleansing of the Temple in today's Gospel offers us insight into Jesus' courage at the abuses in the Temple precinct. The money changers and those selling unblemished animals for sacrifice were gouging the traveler and the poor, who had no recourse but to purchase what they needed from extortionists. In doing this, Jesus stands within the tradition of the prophets, who come to Israel to call her back to sanctity. John places this account at the very beginning of his Gospel to emphasize the opposition Jesus will face.

The reflection for this week is from Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz who is Archbishop of Louisville, Kentucky.

Two temples were cleansed when Jesus so vividly expressed righteous indignation at the state of affairs on the Temple Mount. Of course, the courtyard leading to the Holy of Holies—the sacred space that is still honored as the "Temple of the Mount" by Jews, Muslims, and Christians—was cleansed of "marketers" who were distracting from the essential atmosphere of holiness.

The soul yearns for that serenity of place that Jesus restored. The peaceful silence of a Church visit stirs the mind and lifts the heart to God.

But Scripture scholars remind us that Jesus' dramatic actions cleansed a second "temple." This involved the hearts of ancient-day "scalpers"—the ones charging extra and taking advantage of the poor who

approached the Temple to make their offering. I have never liked the loud scalpers standing outside sports arenas, but this case is worse. The least able to pay were over a barrel. With rather strong action, Jesus cleansed the hearts of those greedy merchants so that the echo of God's voice (their consciences) might prevail.

That echo of God's voice in our hearts fits into today's first reading from Exodus, describing the handing down of the Ten Commandments to Moses. The stone tablets held laws already written on the hearts of all. Good proof might be the Egyptian women who rescued baby Moses from the reeds earlier in the book of Exodus (2:1-10). Long before the Ten Commandments were proclaimed, these women heard the echo of God's voice in their hearts, and it moved them to save an innocent child.

As Lenten pilgrims yearning for conversion, we too long to hear this echo. A quiet visit to a holy place might be just what we need to cleanse the "temple" of our hearts.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2Kgs. 5:1-15ab/Lk. 4:24-30
Tuesday: Dn. 3:25, 34-43, Mt. 18:21-35
Wednesday: Dt. 4:1, 5-9/ Mt. 5:17-19
Thursday: Jer. 7:23-28/Lk. 11:14-23
Friday: Hos. 14:2-10/Mk. 12:28-34
Saturday: Hos. 6:1-6/Lk. 18:9-14
Sunday: 2 Chr. 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph. 2:4-10/Jn. 3:14-21

1:38 Women

Just two more weeks until 1:38 Women - register now! This day of inspiration and spiritual growth, open to women of all faiths, will feature national speakers, including Caralyn Collar from New York City, and Alyssa Bormes from Hopkins, MN. The sixth annual will be held on Saturday, March 20 from 9 am - Noon and you may attend as follows; 1. Live in-person at Our Lady of Peace Parish which is limited to 250 people and following CDC guidelines, 2. Virtually at satellite parishes via Zoom at participating parishes (check www.138women.com), 3. Virtually via Zoom at your own home.

CATHOLIC SISTERS WEEK

Catholic Sisters week takes place the week of March 8 - 14. Please pray for the Religious who have given their lives in service to the Church, especially those who ministered in the Diocese of Erie, may they know the reward of their labors. The Catholic Sisters who currently serve in the Erie Diocese may be found at: eriercd.org/vocations/womenreligious/communities. Perhaps you know a Sister who influenced your lives.

WORSHIP

Monday, March 8
 8:00 am + John E. Auer
 Tuesday, March 9
 8:00 am + Daniel H. Baker (Rita Baker Family)
 Wednesday, March 10
 12:00 Noon - Lenten Prayer at
 C.S. Presbyterian Church
 6:00 pm + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Stations of the Cross and Benediction
 6:00 pm + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Stations of the Cross
 Thursday, March 11
 8:00 am + Deceased Ancestors of Rembielak Family
 (Joan Rembielak & Phyllis Wronko)
 Friday, March 12
 8:00 am + Dorothy Czajka
 Saturday, March 13
 4:30 pm + Steve Scott (The Neely & Hyde Girls)
 Sunday, March 14
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 For the Intention of Judie & Bruce Palmer
 (John & Kay Weagraff)
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Living & Deceased Parishioners

CRS RICE BOWL

Join our faith community and more than 12,000 Catholic communities across the United States in a life-changing Lenten Journey with The Erie Diocese distributed CRS Rice Bowl. Pick up your family's CRS Rice Bowl from the Gathering Space and back of the church through Lent. The C.S. Ministerium Emergency Food Program gets a once a year donation through the Rice Bowl Fund. Please be sure to pick up, and reflect through Lent on how hunger and malnutrition affect our human family.

LENTEN FISH DINNERS

The Knights of Columbus of Our Lady of the Lake Parish are again sponsoring fish dinners throughout Lent. Drive-through take out is the only option this year. Please enter through the Sunset Drive side. Serving 4:30 pm until sold out!

Lenten Fish Dinners at All Saints Parish in Waterford will be Fridays through Lent. All dinners are take-out only, from 4:30 - 7 pm.

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Tuesday, March 9
 After Mass - St. Anthony Novena
 Wednesday, March 10
 6:00 pm + AT ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 Stations of the Cross and Benediction
 6:00 pm + AT ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA
 Stations of the Cross
 Saturday, March 13
 3:30 - 4:15 pm - Confession
 Sunday, March 14
 Before Mass - Confession - ST. BERNADETTE MISSION
 After Mass - Confession - ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 14TH. PLEASE BE SURE TO SET YOUR CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR!

LENT 2021 VIRTUAL RETREAT

Join Fr. Mike Polinek and Youth Ministers from the Diocese of Erie as they discuss specific topics on how they personally strengthen their relationship with God. The next scheduled will be Monday, March 15, with Anna Anderson, St. Joseph, Warren. The topic will be "Mary, the Mother of God". To sign up and receive the Zoom link please email mpolinek@eriercd.org. The virtual retreats are on from 8:00 - 8:40 pm.

The Twelve Apostles Lutheran Church in Saegertown seeks a P.T. secretary approximately 8 hours/week. Send resumes to P.O. Box 630, Saegertown, PA 16433

ST. ANTHONY OF PADUA STEWARDSHIP

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|---------------|-------------------|
| Offertory | \$739.00 |
| Maintenance | 196.00 |
| Candles | 33.00 |
| Miscellaneous | 215.30 |
| Altar Flowers | 25.00 |
| Latin Mass | <u>195.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$1,403.30 |

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$16,922 Paid: \$7,487

ST. BERNADETTE MISSION STEWARDSHIP

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|--------------|-----------------|
| Offertory | \$385.00 |
| Candles | <u>23.00</u> |
| TOTAL | \$408.00 |

Catholic Services Appeal
 Pledged: \$5,840 Paid: \$4,390

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
