



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?*

Upcoming Schedule

<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<i>March 6 / 7</i> <i>THIRD SUNDAY OF</i> <i>LENT</i>	8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass Stations of the Cross	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<i>Tuesday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Thursday</i>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<i>Friday</i>	6:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross	
<i>March 13 / 14</i> <i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF</i> <i>LENT</i>	8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass Stations of the Cross	5:00 pm ~ Mass

	<i>OLPH</i> <i>Mass 9:00 am</i>		<i>ST. BONIFACE</i> <i>Mass 5:00 pm</i>	
Date	March 7	March 14	March 6	March 13
Lector	Dorinda Andrews	Matthew Davis	Jerry Nowak	Mary Jo Leygraaf

Mass Intentions	OLPH	St. Boniface
March 6 / 7	† Rose Lewis	Poor Souls in Purgatory
March 13 / 14	† Columbus Couch	† Libby Balenovich

Our Gifts	OLPH	St. Boniface
February 27 /28	\$260.00	\$246.00
Missions among Black and Native Americans	\$ 40.00	\$ 10.00

There will be a **second collection** today for flood victims in Eastern Kentucky. Please give generously.

Eastern Kentucky experienced historic rainfall and devastating floods. This extreme weather event occurred immediately on the heels of the snow and ice storm that had already left many without power. The images of flooding and property loss are heartbreaking. Many homes suffered severe damage and some homes are a complete loss. Federal aid assists in costs related to relocation of families but there are critical needs still present for many families. The Diocese of Lexington is taking up a collection to support the emergency needs of families in the area and will administer the funds via Catholic Charities. ***Families are in need of financial assistance as well as basic hygiene and household items.*** Catholic Charities will work with these groups to lend aid to families and individuals as they rebuild their lives. Please give to this week's second collection to support the emergency needs of our brothers and sisters in Eastern Kentucky.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Adeleine Pearson
March 9

Reading I **Ex 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."

Responsorial Psalm

19:8, 9, 10, 11

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.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The precepts of the LORD are right,
rejoicing the heart;
the command of the LORD is clear,
enlightening the eye.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

The fear of the LORD is pure,
enduring forever;
the ordinances of the LORD are true,
all of them just.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

They are more precious than gold,
than a heap of purest gold;
sweeter also than syrup
or honey from the comb.

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Reading II

1 Cor 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.

Verse Before the Gospel

Jn 3:16

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

Gospel

Jn 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.

Gospel Reflection

Jesus does not come to destroy the temple, but to fulfill it—to reveal its true purpose in God’s saving plan. He is the Lord the prophets said would come—to purify the temple, banish the merchants, and make it a house of prayer for all). The God who made the heavens and the earth, who brought Israel out of slavery, does not dwell in sanctuaries made by human hands. Nor does He need offerings of oxen, sheep, or doves.

Notice in today’s First Reading that God did not originally command animal sacrifices—only that Israel heed His commandments. His law was a gift of divine wisdom, as we sing in today’s Psalm. It was a law of love, perfectly expressed in Christ’s self-offering on the Cross.

This is the “sign” Jesus offers in the Gospel today—the sign that caused Jewish leaders to stumble, as Paul tells us in the Epistle.

Jesus' body—destroyed on the Cross and raised up three days later—is the new and true sanctuary. From the temple of His body, rivers of living water flow, the Spirit of grace that makes each of us a temple and together builds us into a dwelling place of God.

In the Eucharist we participate in His offering of His body and blood. This is the worship in Spirit and in truth that the Father desires.

We are to offer praise as our sacrifice. This means imitating Christ—offering our bodies—all our intentions and actions in every circumstance, for the love of God and the love of others.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Marian Colette, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris, Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gary Hackler, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, all those of our families who are affected by Covid-19, and the Donner family.

UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS

Saint John of God, Religious

March 8

Saint Frances of Rome, Religious

March 9

A Prayer for Pope Francis

On March 13th, we celebrate the eighth anniversary of Pope Francis' election! Say a prayer for the Holy Father.

O God, shepherd and ruler of all the faithful,
look favorably on your servant Francis,
whom you have set at the head of your Church as her shepherd;
Grant, we pray, that by word and example
he may be of service to those over whom he presides
so that, together with the flock entrusted to his care,
he may come to everlasting life.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the
unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Saint Boniface

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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

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

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