

# Third Sunday of Lent

## March 4, 2018

### Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>

5 P.M. – Eugene & Lydia Hermes

Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

7 A.M. – Recovery of Jeanette Janak

9 A.M. – Hubert & Lela Hermes

### Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for those suffering with terminal illness.

### This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

Ex 20:1-17; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

### Your Gift to God: February 25<sup>th</sup>

Sweet Home	\$1,319
Online Giving	\$320
Building Fund	\$1
DSA	\$20
Rice Bowl	\$312
Koerth	\$902
Building Fund	\$70
DSA	\$5
Rice Bowl	\$64

*May God reward your generosity!*

### Celebrate the Lord's Abundant Mercy

Each Saturday the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Penance/Confession) is available from 4:00 P.M. to 4:40 P.M. in the Sweet Home confessional.

### Operation Rice Bowl

During the season of Lent through Easter Sunday we will have the traditional almsgiving program, "Operation Rice Bowl" taken up as a second collection each weekend.

### The Way of the Cross

Each Friday at 6:00 P.M. we will observe Stations of the Cross followed by Exposition and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

### Baptismal Preparation Class

The next class of Baptismal Preparation will be next **Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** at 9:00 A.M. at the St. Joseph Family Center Meeting Room.

### Easter Flowers

Those who would like to donate towards the Easter floral decorations are invited to use the envelopes in the church entrances. All memorial/donations will be listed in the bulletin

### Deanery Penance Services

Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup> – St. Joseph – Moulton

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> – Sts. Cyril & Methodius –  
Shiner

Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup> – St. Joseph – Yoakum

Friday, March 23<sup>rd</sup> – Sacred Heart – Hallettsville

*All Services Begin at 5:30 P.M.*

### Lenten Day of Reflection & Adoration

"If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow Me."

**Saturday, March 24, 2018**

**10:00 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.**

**St. Mary's Church, Hallettsville  
Confession, Mass, Adoration, Stations,  
Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet, Benediction**

Please join us, for a day of reflection during Lent, as we pray for our families and our nation. This will be a silent retreat and a day of fasting. Bread and water will be provided. Families are encouraged to attend. Let's make time for our Lord!

For more information call:  
Lorrie Adamek at 293-1300.

## Palm Sunday 9:00 A.M. Mass

The 9:00 A.M. Mass on Palm Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> will begin at the Parish Hall, weather permitting, with the blessing and procession of palms.



## Daylight Saving Time

Daylight Saving Time begins next Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 A.M. Be sure to set your clock **forward** before going to bed Saturday.

## Community Worship Service

The Yoakum Ministerial Alliance will sponsor a Palm Sunday Community Service on Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup> at the First Baptist Church. The service will begin at 5:30 P.M. followed by light refreshments. Everyone is invited to attend.

## Holy Week Schedule

### Holy Tuesday

Chrism Mass – 10:00 A.M.

Our Lady of Victory Cathedral - Victoria

### Holy Thursday

The Institution of the Holy Eucharist  
and the Priesthood

Mass – 7:00 P.M.

Nightwatch in the Church until 10:00 P.M.

### Good Friday

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion  
1:30 P.M.

### Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil – 5:00 P.M.

### Easter Sunday

7:00 A.M. – Sweet Home

9:00 A.M. - Koerth

## Cemetery Flower Reminder

Easter is just a few weeks away and it's time to remove those Christmas poinsettias and any old, faded and tattered flowers as to keep things looking in good condition.

## Jesus' rules that make life worth living

Tom Hoopes

*While the faith isn't about rules, it would be a mistake to say rules aren't important.*

I spend a good amount of time telling my children and my students that faith isn't about rules. It's about a relationship with God.

But it would be a mistake to say that rules are not important at all. Even our human relationships have rules: Don't interrupt; don't ignore; don't come home late without calling.

This Sunday's readings (the Third Sunday of Lent, Year B) are all about rules in our relationship with God.

**Rule Number 1: The Temple is about worship and welcome.**

Jesus in the Gospel drives the money-changers out of the Temple. Scholars say he had two problems with what they were doing: First, their high exchange rates took advantage of the piety of pilgrims. Second: The location

## Why I'm Catholic (and you should be too)

Has anyone ever asked you why you're Catholic? Have you ever wondered yourself? Would you like some good reasons? If so, you might enjoy this six part series presented by Fr. Jacob. Sessions will take place on the **Mondays of Lent from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the St. Joseph Family Center. No deed to register – just show up!**

*“Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God,  
have mercy on me, a sinner.”*

of their tables crowded out the Gentiles from the one place they could share in Temple worship.

By driving out the money-changers, he is saying, emphatically: “The Temple is a place of worship above all” and “We must welcome others to the Temple.”

These rules touch on the Jewish people’s and his own deepest identity: The Temple is his Father’s house. It is his dwelling place on earth; it represents the covenant he has made with his people. Because of the Temple, the Jews are the chosen people, and because they are the chosen people, they come to the Temple.

### **Rule Number 2: We are each a Temple.**

“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up,” he said – and to people with their high view of the temple that was scandalous, so St. John hastens to add: “He was speaking about the temple of his body.”

But we now know exactly what he meant. There is a new dwelling place for God and a new sign of his covenant: Jesus Christ. And through his sacrifice on the cross, carried to us through the sacraments, he incorporates all of us into this “new temple” of his body, and our bodies become temples where he lives.

That means those old Temple rules now apply to us: “This is a place of worship above all,” and “This is a place that welcomes others.”

### **Rule Number 3: Don’t deny who you are — and who God is.**

The same rules God made for the Temple are right there in the Ten Commandments, in the first reading. The first three commandments say, “You were made to worship God.”

The first commandment prohibits idolatry — whether that means spending your time and treasure on a sparkly golden calf or a sparkly smart phone. We were made for more than shiny objects. We were made for God.

The second commandment prohibits taking the Lord’s name in vain. The third commandment says to keep one day a week for him – not for more work, or more shopping, or even for Amazon. We were made for better; to have awe at his name, and respect for his day. We were made for worship.

### **Rule Number 4: Don’t make others unwelcome.**

The last seven commandments are about our love for others. Think of how each makes others welcome: You honor your parents, you respect life, you do not commit adultery, you don’t steal.

Stealing is clearly unwelcoming; but also, spending so much on ourselves that we can’t serve the poor makes us unable to welcome those who most need it.

Lying about your neighbor is unwelcoming; but also, creating new versions of ourselves on social media that “bear false witness” to our lives also leaves others feeling inadequate.

And how can you welcome others when you are too busy training yourself to covet others, in ads, entertainment and pornography?

And how can you welcome others when you are ashamed that your house doesn’t live up to the standards of the ones you covet?

### **Rule Number 5: Violating the rules makes Jesus mad.**

We tend to avoid talking about the wrath of God anymore – but in our fear of over-emphasizing God’s anger we should not forget that his anger is real.

In Sunday’s Gospel we see how angry Jesus got when people violated the rules of the Temple. When we violate the Ten Commandments, what we are doing is as bad as or worse than what those money-changers did. We are each now his temple, and he still does not want anyone to make his temple into a place of iniquity.

That is one of the purposes of Lent. In Lent, we drive the money changers out of the temple that each of us is; we drive out the bad habits and negative tendencies we have built up. And then we celebrate that moment when Christ laid down his life and raised his temple — and ours — again on the third day.

