

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018

Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 17th

5 P.M. – James Jurica

Sunday, March 18th

7 A.M. – Otto, Lydia & Toni Havel

9 A.M. – Richard Klimitchek, Sr.

Sanctuary Candle Intention

The Sanctuary Candle will burn this week for world peace.

This Sunday's Holy Scriptures

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ep 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Your Gift to God: March 4th

Sweet Home	\$1,586
Online Giving	\$20
Building Fund	\$10
DSA	\$117
Rice Bowl	\$146
Koerth	\$851
Building Fund	\$1,175
DSA	\$72
Rice Bowl	\$49

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.

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

CCD Notice

There are **no CCD classes this Wednesday, March 14th**. Classes resume March 21st.

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 after Easter.

Deanery Penance Services

Monday, March 19th – St. Joseph – Moulton

Tuesday, March 20th – Sts. Cyril & Methodius –
Shiner

Thursday, March 22nd – St. Joseph – Yoakum

Friday, March 23rd – 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 25th will begin at the Parish Hall, weather permitting, with the blessing and procession of palms.



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

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 need to register – just show up!**

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

KJZT Bake Sale

The St. Ludmila #12 KJZT, Sweet Home, will sponsor a Bake Sale on Saturday, March 24th after the 5:00 P.M. Mass and on Sunday, March 25th after the 7:00 A.M. Mass in the Sweet Home Parish Hall. Proceeds benefit “Meals on Wheels”.

Community Worship Service

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

Bluebonnet Youth Ranch **Spring Fling**

Sunday, April 8th

Yoakum Community Center

Doors open at 10:00 A.M.

BBQ Chicken Plates - \$9.00
Serving 10:30 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

Shiner Hobo Band performing
10:30 A.M. – 12:30 P.M.

Live Auction 12:30 – 1:30 P.M.

Plant Sale – Desserts – Artisans Market
Balloon Creations – Face Painting

Meal tickets available at First State Bank,
Yoakum National Bank, Bluebonnet Youth Ranch and
at the door.

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.

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.

Getting back to the basics of who we are as followers of Jesus

Brother Silas Henderson, SDS

The roots of Lent are in the period of fasting that would prepare new Christians for Baptism.

His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” – John 2:17

Did you know that our word “Lent” comes from the Old English word for “springtime.” This gives us a wonderful insight into what the days between Ash Wednesday and Holy Thursday are all about: a season when faith and the virtues of the Christian life grow and flower within our hearts and souls. But, as Ash Wednesday approaches each year, one of the first questions we Catholics ask is “What should I give up for Lent?” And it’s a fair question because, as we know, penance is *a part* of Lent.

So, how do you or your family and friends answer this question? Do you give up social media? Television? Chocolate or another favorite food? Soft drinks, coffee, or alcohol? While it’s true that taking a break from any of those can be good for us, we also have to ask ourselves if these sacrifices are really helping us to grow in our lives as Christians. Lent isn’t only about doing penance. So, we have to think of other opportunities for “good works” during the Lenten Season.

The traditional works of prayer, almsgiving, and fasting help us focus our attention on what is most important in life. And, if we can think of our Lenten penance as a “good work” to be taken on and shift our focus away from what we “give up,” we will find that our Lenten prayer and devotions will be richer and more fruitful.

But there’s more at stake because, as we reflect on all of this, we remember that Lent isn’t an end in itself. *The purpose of the season of Lent is to help us prepare for Easter when we will renew our baptismal commitment.*

In the first centuries after Jesus, those individuals who wanted to become Christian spent months and even years preparing for Baptism, which almost always took place in a special ceremony on the night before Easter. That night was anticipated by a time of prayer and fasting so that the soon-to-be Christians would be as ready as they could be to receive the gifts of baptism, confirmation, and Eucharist. This is the origin of Lent.

(Our contemporary process of the *Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults* (RCIA) is built around this model of initiation.) Those Christians who were already baptized would also pray and fast as they prepared to renew their own commitment to Christ by renewing their baptismal promises on Easter Sunday.

The Readings assigned for this Third Sunday of Lent speak to us about the God’s jealous, zealous love for us, expressed in the gift of Himself in the giving of the Commandments to Moses. These laws help us recognize what is involved in loving and honoring God, as well as how we can protect and nurture our relationships with those around us. As Barbara Reid, OP, has observed, “The God who asks this response from us offers ardent love ... The way we choose to respond to this fervent offer of love carries consequences, and the effects ripple down to subsequent generations” (from *Abiding Word*, Year B).

Jesus himself embodied God’s zealous love for the “House”—a reference to both the Temple in Jerusalem and also for the “household” of God, the community of believers—when he sent the money changers out of the Temple.

Love, including God’s love for us, asks for only one response: love. And with this in mind, we can recognize that the days of Lent are a time to reflect on how we receive God’s love and how we have—or have not—allowed that love to transform us. We can also ask ourselves if we have been zealous for the things of God as we reflect on the quality of our discipleship and our personal commitment to following Christ.

In the end, every Easter Sunday we are given an opportunity to renew the promises of our Baptism. This means rededicating ourselves to live as Christians in the world and to continuing the mission of Jesus, especially for the poor and those in need. The 40 days of Lent are a time for us to get back to the basics of who we are as followers of Jesus.

When have you experienced God’s deep and zealous love for you?

How are you being invited to more faithful service in these days of Lent?

What are the things (possessions, relationships, habits, desires) that are cluttering the “temple” of your person and crowding out God?

Words of Wisdom: “Lent is a time of returning to God ... a time of refocusing, of re-entering the place of truth, of reclaiming our true identity.”—Henri Nouwen