

St. Aloysius, Gate of Heaven & Sacred Heart Church

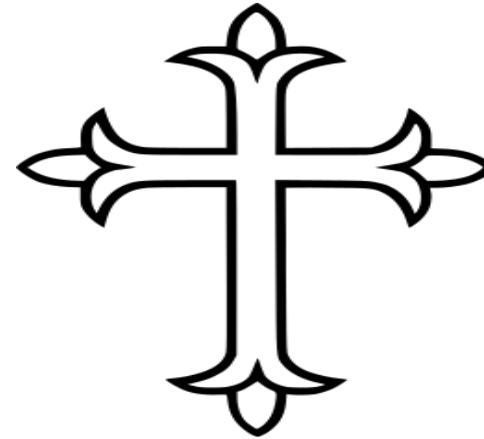
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT MARCH 24, 2019

Reflection on Sunday's Readings

Central theme All three of today's readings speak of God's mercy and compassion in disciplining His children by occasional punishment while giving them another chance despite their repeated sins. Although God's love for us is constant and consistent, He will not save us without our co-operation. That is why He invites us during Lent to repent of our sins and to renew our lives by producing fruits of love, compassion, forgiveness, and faithful service.

Scripture lessons: The first reading tells us how God shows His mercy to His chosen people by giving them: Moses as their leader and liberator. The God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (v. 6) reveals Himself to Moses from the burning bush and assures Moses of His Divine presence with His people and of His awareness of their sufferings in Egypt. He declares His intention to use Moses as the leader who will rescue His enslaved people. Then God reveals His name as Yahweh ("I AM Who AM") and renews His promise to the patriarchs (v. 8), to give them a "land flowing with milk and honey." Our Responsorial Psalm, (Ps 103) reminds us of God's unfailing mercy: "Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness." The second reading warns us that our merciful God is also a disciplining God. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that they must learn from the sad experience of the Israelites who were punished for their sins by a merciful but just God. The merciful and gracious God is also just and demanding, and hence they must be free from sexual sins and idolatry. Today's Gospel explains how God disciplines His people, invites them to repent of their sins, to renew their lives, and to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Citing two tragic events, Jesus exhorts the Jews to repent and reform their lives. With the parable of the barren fig tree, Jesus also warns them that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. Although God patiently waits for sinners to repent, giving them grace to do so, He will not wait forever. Time may run out; therefore, timely repentance is necessary. Hence, one can say, "A Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life."

Life Messages: 1) We need to live lives of repentance, because (a) we never know when we will meet a tragedy of our own. Let us turn to Christ, acknowledge our faults and failings and receive from him mercy, forgiveness and the promise of eternal life. There is no better way to take these words of Jesus to heart than to go to sacramental confession, and there is no better time to go to confession than during Lent. (b) repentance helps us in life and in death. It helps us to live as forgiven people and helps us to face death without fear. **2)** We need to be fruitful trees in God's orchard. Lent is an ideal time "to dig around and manure" the tree of our life so that it may bring forth fruits of repentance, reconciliation, forgiveness and sensitivity to the feelings of others. **3)** We need to make the best use of the "second chances" God gives us. Our merciful Father always gives us second chances. During Lent, too, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love.



Parish Staff

Rev. Edward Bader, Administrator
Rev. Antony David MMI
Rev. Fr. Joseph Raj MMI
Deacon Donald Prendergast
(845-239-0131)

Trustees

Ms. Jane Ryan
Mr. Andrew Carlson

Religious Education

Mrs. Danielle Carlsen

Youth Activities

Mrs. Mary Davis

Parish Council Chairperson

Mr. Chris Tuleweit

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Mass Schedule

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|-----------------|----------|---|
| Saturday | 4:00 PM | St. Aloysius |
| Saturday | 5:30 PM | Sacred Heart Church (July 4th to Labor day) |
| Sunday | 9:00 AM | St. Aloysius |
| | 11:00 AM | Gate of Heaven |

Weekday

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|-----------------|----------|--------------|
| M/T/F | 8:15 AM | St. Aloysius |
| Thursday | 12:00 PM | St. Aloysius |

Adoration

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| M/T/F | 7:30 to 8.15 AM |
| Friday | 9.00 AM to 12.00 PM |

Holy Day of Obligation

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| Holy Eve: | 5:30 PM | Gate of Heaven |
| Holy Day: | 9:00 AM | St. Aloysius |
| | 7:00 PM | St. Aloysius |

Sacraments

Confession: Before all mass

Baptism: Call the rectory for the arrangement

Marriage: Call the rectory to schedule your
Wedding and pre-Cana classes.

Pastoral Visitation

When confined at home, please call the rectory to arrange for a visit and Holy Communion. Please call the rectory if you are facing surgery or hospitalization and would like the Sacrament of the Sick.

PARISH MISSION STATEMENT

As a parish, we strive to bring our communities of Catholic Christians together, as we have for over 100 years, by loving and serving God and Each other through Worship, education and service.

MASS INTENTIONS: Mar 23- Mar 31 , 2019

Saturday, Mar 23

4:00 PM - Thomas & Margaret Casey

Mon, Mar 25

8:15 AM - Bishop Joseph Coffey(consecration)

Thurs Mar 28

12. PM - No Mass this week

Saturday, Mar 30

4:00 PM - Marilyn Kocher(birthday)

Sunday, Mar 24

9:00 AM - Sean Fredenburg

11:00 AM -

Tues. Mar 26

8:15 AM -

Fri. Mar 29

8.15 AM-

Sunday, Mar 31

9:00 AM- Duke Smith

11.AM- Linda Bonin

NOTE: No Gifts can replace offering a mass to departed soul or welfare of living. We have openings for weekdays and weekend masses. The mass stipend per mass is \$15.

PRAYERS FOR THE SICK & DECEASED

For the Sick: Jim Engelhardt, Kevin & LarryMcHugh, Joni & Vinny

Salvatore, LilianCoy, Colleen&JerrilynnO’Neill;Nora Fernandez,

Mary Jones, James Knack, Laurene Symanski, Lisa Grieco, Ken Duffy; Laurie &

William McMichael, Carol Faughn,Christopher Merklin, Jack

Tempel, Robert Ackerly, Sr. Grace, Maureen Connolly, Dave Tucker, Shannon

Bruning, Patty Lewis, Lynne Hyzer, Beth Marie Martin, Kristi Romolo, Erma

Carlson ,Linda Bonin, Jim Wilbur, Dom Formato, Darren Steele, Jonell Dalton,

Carrie Neer-Molinari. Mary Muhlig. Scott Branning. Easton Gorr. Joyce conroy.

For the Deceased: Rita Margaret Reda.

COMMUNITY FOOD PANTRY

Is in need of spaghetti sauce, soup, tuna fish and jelly

Collection for last Week

Total: \$ 1256

Thank you

Readings for Next Sunday

Joshua 5:9a, 10-12.

2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel- Luke:15:1-3, 11-32.

BIBLE STUDY

Good Soil Bible Study Group will meet this week.

Time: Tuesday 4.00 PM at Church basement

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

As we begin season of lent, we will have Stations of the Cross on every Friday 7.00 PM at St. Aloysius Church. All are welcome to partake in station of the cross and reflect upon the passion of Jesus.

Vote of Thanks

I would like to thank all the volunteers who have organized St. Patrick’s day dinner. We had 74 people present for the dinner.it is a joy of coming together as one family of St.Aloyius. I was also surprised to see people coming other Churches joining for dinner. I also thank all people who brought gifts and made the event more beautiful. Finally I thank everyone who made the event memorable.

Fr.Antony David

Jesus Conquers Death

In the Garden of Gethsemane, Jesus dies before he dies, and thereby readies himself for what awaits him. The next day, when Pilate threatens him with death, Jesus stands in a freedom and courage that can be understood only if we understand what happened to him in the garden. When Pilate says to him: “Don’t you know that I have power over you, power to take your life or to save it?” Jesus answers: “You have no power over me whatsoever. Nobody takes my life; I give it over freely.” Pilate is threatening a man who is already dead. No big threat. Jesus had already undergone the *agonia*. In great anguish, he had given his life over freely the night before, and so he is ready for whatever awaits him.

READY TO MAKE THINGS NEW

Francis of Assisi was a master of making room for the new and letting go of that which was tired or empty. As his first biographer said, “He was always new, always fresh, always beginning again.” Much of Francis’s genius was that he was ready for absolute “newness” from God, and therefore could also trust fresh and new attitudes in himself. His God was not tired, and so he was never tired. His God was not old, so Francis remained forever young.

