

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

14 March 2021

---

## Lenten Theme:

*“Working to be Transformed!”*

My dear Sisters and Brothers in the Lord,

Grace and peace be with you in this moment of conversion called Lent. We are blessed to come together again in this the Fourth Sunday of Lent cycle b. We continue to follow our theme: “Working together to be transformed.” It is also called Laetare Sunday, because the antiphon or introit for the Mass is “Rejoice O’ Jerusalem”. Laetare means rejoice. Many can rejoice because, we have met a milestone on our Lenten journey. Because we as a faith-family are at the midpoint of the Church’s celebration of Lent, we can rejoice. Our Church also refers to this day as: Mediana, Mid-Lent, Mi-Carême, Mothering, Rose, or Refreshment Sunday. This is the midway point but, there “ain’t no half-steppin’”, if we desire a real conversion.

Laetare Sunday is a moment of rejoicing in the midst of our Lenten journey. At this point on the mountain top experience, we can “see the light at the end of the tunnel.” For twenty-six days, we have been engrossed in the observance of our call to “turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel.” Using our Lenten tools of Prayer, Fasting, and Almsgiving we (hopefully) are taking full advantage of this season. Lents are difficult for us under normal circumstances, but during the pandemics, they are extremely challenging. Five Hundred and Forty Thousand of our sisters and brothers on American soil perishing from COVID-19 is unfathomable. Our economic distress is almost paralyzing. Food insecurity, racial division, climate issues, education and social challenges any and all can inhibit us from receiving all the graces that comes from a successful Lenten journey. How can this be a “Laetare Sunday” when we have no reason to rejoice? This is our challenge to do all this rejoicing in the middle of this mess.

Saint Paul’s writing to the Corinthians (1 Cor. 5:16), he says, “Rejoice Always.”) As difficult as it seems that is what we are called to do. The extra prayer time should be exposing you to the myriad of ways that God is blessing you in your communication with Him. Your fasting is more than something that you gave up, but how much you don’t need that which you are abstaining. Because of the almsgiving, you are mirroring the selfless giving that Christ did, so that we could have a Lenten journey. It is a reason to rejoice that we are becoming more like our name Christian (like Christ). We can only proclaim this if we are living; “ain’t no half-steppin’! Church of the Transfiguration, ain’t no half-steppin!” God is calling us to give of ourselves completely in our prayer, fasting and almsgiving for His aggrandizement and our benefit. Recognizing, when the praises go up, the blessings come down. During this second half of our Lenten journey let us fully embrace our extra communal prayer opportunities: Thursday Mass at 8:00am and Friday March 19 School Mass, which is the Feast of Saint Joseph (our parish patronal feast day) at 8:45 am. Both Masses will be live-streamed.

May our fasting be not just a privation, but an invitation for Christ to fill that void with a desire for Him. In our almsgiving, may we give not of our surplus, but of our very sustenance, so that God can bless us as He blessed His Son for doing the same. If we live this mantra when it comes to the ways of God, “ain’t no half-steppin’!”, God will continue to give us a reason to rejoice as we will continue “working to be transformed!”.

*Fr. Anthony M. Bozeman, SSJ Pastor*

### **Lenten Prayer**

Almighty and Everlasting God,  
you have given the human race  
Jesus Christ our Savior as a model of humility.  
He fulfilled Your Will by becoming Man  
and giving His life on the Cross.  
Help us to bear witness to You  
by following His example of suffering  
and make us worthy to share in His Resurrection.  
We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your  
Son. Amen.

### **Transfiguration School Registration**

We are currently accepting applications for new students for preschool through seventh grade for the 2021-2022 school year. If you, or someone you know, are interested in enrolling or receiving more information about our school, please contact the main office: 323.292.3011 or email: [info@transfigurationla.org](mailto:info@transfigurationla.org)

### **Did you Know?**

How parents can help fight against sex trafficking  
Sex trafficking is a serious threat in the U.S. and around the world. Parents can make a difference in their families and in their communities by educating themselves and their children. Know the signs of trafficking or abuse, including changes in behavior, nightmares, anxiety, and self-destructive behavior. Fostering trust and communication between parents and children is crucial to protecting them from exploitation. To read more from the VIRTUS® article "Sex trafficking: What we can do to help," visit <https://lacatholics.org/did-you-know/>.

**Immaculate Heart High School & Middle School** is seeking to immediately hire a responsible, detail-oriented maintenance/custodian to maintain and clean our facilities. Interested candidates can visit the school's website at <https://www.immaculateheart.org/About-IH/Employment> for the job description and the application process.

### **Lenten Theme:**

### ***"Working to be Transformed!"*** **Thursday Morning Mass**

During the Season of Lent you are invited to attend **Mass every Thursday** at 8AM. Please follow the Sunday mass guidelines for these services. This mass will be live streamed.

### **Stewardship Thought**

*"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son..."*  
- JOHN 3:16

Of all the wonderful gifts that God has given to us, the gift of His own Son is truly the greatest. How can we ever thank God for a gift like that? God does not ask us to sacrifice our own precious firstborn, but He does ask that we are grateful and generous with our God-given gifts. That we nurture and develop our gifts, and in gratitude, generously give back with increase our time in prayer, our talent in charitable works and our treasure to support the mission and ministry of our parish and greater Church.

### **Weekly Offering for March 7, 2021**

\$14,634.00 Tithe and Offering

### **SUNDAY MASSES 8AM AND 10AM**

In Church Parking Lot  
4001 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue, L.A. 90008

**Must register for all masses!**

Limited space...

Please call 323.291.1136

Monday through Thursday to reserve a seat.

Masks Required at all times  
and Social Distancing.

Please invite your family and friends!!!

### **Pray for the Sick**

LaVerne Agnew, Brian Argusta, Vivian Burgess, Brownie Cain, Alberto Casanova, Christopher Chestnut, Sister Ann Paul Clare, Edward Cousin, Cynthia Cyrus, Juanita Davis, Carolyn Didney, Beverly Colvin-Dorsey, Cynthia Fortier, Michael Frierson, Sherie Frierson-Chenier, Brenda Garibaldi, Avis Gibbs, Barbara Harris, Darren Harris, Aaron Katz, Briana Katz, Barbara Lagarde, Irwin Lagarde, Mercedes LeBlanc, Kelli Louie, Vylfred Manor, Dorothy Okoye, Sally Price, Wiley Pugh, Andrea Ragette, Dana Semien, Dudley Semien, Mike Simon, Joan Spencer, Annie Starks, Leila Thomas, Iris Turner, Mabel Walton, William Warrior, Alice Williams, and Peggy Wilson.