

Pastor's Notes: Lenten Parish Mission March 1 & 2

February 28, 2021

We are offering a Lenten Parish Mission, led by Fr. Felix Just, SJ, PhD, as a virtual retreat, in partnership with OLPH. It will be held over two evenings, Monday and Tuesday, March 1 and 2, from 7-9pm. There is no charge to participate, and you are welcome to invite friends and family. Below is more information, and you can link directly to the retreat from our website.




Our Lenten Journey from Passion to Resurrection: The Life and Ministry of Jesus in Mark's Gospel

Lenten Parish Mission
Our Lady of Perpetual Help
The Basilica of Sts. Peter and Paul
Chattanooga, TN

March 1 & 2, 2021, 7:00-9:00 PM (Eastern Time)

Led by Fr. Felix Just, SJ, PhD

On Palm Sunday this year we will hear the entire Passion Narrative from the Gospel according to Mark, and selections from Mark's Gospel are read on most other Sundays throughout 2021 (Lectionary Year B). Since Mark's presentation of the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus is significantly different from those of Matthew, Luke, or John, it is important for us to hear and understand the distinctive themes and emphases of this oldest and shortest of the four Gospels.

Mark not only teaches us who Jesus is, but also encourages us to follow Jesus as his faithful disciples. He portrays Jesus as the Christ and the Son of God, the one who proclaims the Kingdom of God with urgency, power, and authority; but he also emphasizes that Jesus is the suffering Son of Man, who was crucified, died, and rose again. Moreover, Mark's Jesus calls each of us as his disciples to remain faithful to God as we accept our own crosses. Despite the inevitable hardships of our lives, Mark's Gospel can help us grow closer to Jesus as we journey with him through the Season of Lent to the new life of Easter.

The two sessions of this parish mission, which will be held by Zoom, are open to the public; so feel free to pass this invitation on to your family, friends, co-workers, and neighbors.

If possible, please read all of Mark's Gospel in advance, so you can see and appreciate his message even more clearly.

Monday, March 1 (7-9pm) – An Overview of Mark's Gospel: Literary Features and Theological Emphases

Tuesday, March 2 (7-9pm) – Mark's Account of the Passion, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ

Here's the Zoom link, for you to share with anyone. You can link to it directly from the Basilica parish website.

<https://lmula.zoom.us/j/81466141746?pwd=TnZaUi84OGgyZ0djS1huYjdEdW5rdz09>

Fr. Felix Just, SJ, is a member of the "Jesuits West USA Province" of the Society of Jesus (the Jesuits). He is the founder and director of "Living Word Catholic Biblical Ministries," based in Los Angeles, CA. After receiving his Ph.D. in New Testament Studies from Yale University, he taught theology and biblical studies at Loyola Marymount University (Los Angeles), the University of San Francisco, and Santa Clara University. He then served ten years as Director of Biblical Ministries and as Executive Director of the Loyola Institute for Spirituality (LIS) in Orange, CA, and as Dean of the Lay Ecclesial Ministry and Deacon Formation programs of the Diocese of Las Vegas. He regularly teaches courses for the "Ecclesia" program of Mount Saint Mary's University (Los Angeles), and the "Catholic Bible Institute" of several dioceses in California and Arizona. He gives many public lectures on a wide variety of biblical and liturgical topics, and often leads biblically-based days of prayer, parish missions, weekend or week-long retreats, and biblically-focused pilgrimages. He is a member of the editorial board for the revision of the New Testament of the New American Bible, and an active member of the Catholic Biblical Association of America. He has produced seven audio-CD programs with "Now You Know Media" (now renamed "Learn25"), and also maintains his own large internationally recognized website of "Catholic Resources" (<http://catholic-resources.org>).