

MARCH 20, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT
Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15
Psalm 103
1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12
Luke 13:1-9

It takes a Lifetime to Reform Our Lives

Often, when I speak to youth, I say to them it takes a lifetime to grow up. So, do not rush it. Likewise, when I speak to older people, those even into their 80's and beyond, I say to them they are old, not dead yet.

It is true maturing does take a lifetime. The process does not end until we die. Similarly, it is a steady lifelong effort to grow with Christ who calls us to conversion and reform. The process is like that of the Jews called to go with Moses on a very long journey to the Promised Land. We continue to move in the direction of the One who created us, the source of creative love who is the Father.

Each of the Gospels takes a little different approach to the same place, that place being Salvation. Mark's Gospel, the first written, is quite to the point. In Mark, at the beginning of Jesus' ministry, Jesus is emphatic that we must reform by a complete turnaround. As the scholar Fr. Eugene Maly points out, for Mark, the Kingdom of the Father was seen as an overwhelming reality, and it demanded this. Yet, Saint Luke's Gospel, the one we are reading from today, sees reform as lifelong. As mentioned earlier, life is a continuing effort to be one with God to grow with Christ.

In today's passage Jesus minimalizes the people's comparisons of one another. He wishes to lead people in a positive way toward God's friendship (theme from last week). For the moment the magnitude of the sin involved and who else is sinning is irrelevant. Finger pointing is useless and often a deflection from dealing with one's own sin. Rather, Jesus says to repent yourself. In the second reading Saint Paul makes a similar argument.

God gives us every opportunity to come to an understanding of His call. As we move through life discerning the Lord's way for us, as individuals and as a total community, we are supplied all that we need to make the journey. We receive corporal necessities and spiritual necessities. Moreover, we receive the reward of His love and friendship.

Make no mistake, even as you follow the life of Jesus Christ there will be frustrations. Temptations will abound. Yet, if you are sincerely following the Lord, when you look on the whole course of your life, you will notice a steady progress in the direction of Salvation.

It takes a lifetime to reform your life. If you are young do not rush the process, do not lose patience. If you are old,

remember, you still have more living to do, do not give up.

NEXT WEEK'S READINGS
Fourth Sunday of Lent
Jos5:9a, 10-12; 2Cor5:17-21; Lk15:1-3, 11-32
Scriptural Stations of the Cross, Thursdays, 7-8pm.

Time, Talent, Tithing
It is our way of showing gratitude to God for life itself. It is also your way of being part of the mission and participating in the challenge of spreading the Good News of Love.

Attendance last week:	293
Tithes Collected:	\$3,513.00
Online Giving:	\$427.00
Total:	\$3,940.00

Next week's second collection is for Catholic Relief Services.

Archbishop's Charities and Development Drive
ABCD
Disciples in Faith. Missionaries of Hope. Servants for Charity.

Please make your pledge. Make sure your pledge card designates your pledge originates from Blessed Sacrament Parish. We must claim our quota.

Our Goal
\$62,000.00
Pledged \$59,248.00
Paid \$37,412.00
Anticipated Under \$2,752.00
Let Us Do It!

SPIRITUAL LIFE

During Lent
Scriptural Stations of the Cross
Thursdays at 7:00pm

This dynamic way of the cross greatly takes from the biblical accounts of Jesus' passion and death. It is truly attractive to the children. Come as a family each Thursday evening. A preview of the next Sunday's readings is given. You might even get a little reward too!

Sunday School students and parents must participate.

STEWARDSHIP

Let us show gratitude to our paid staff. You might say, "well, they get paid to be here." Yet, understand the often-extreme situations they find themselves in. There are many hours of work behind and in front of the scenes. Be kind to them. Send a little "love note" to them. Thanks, Yvonne, Daniel, John and Carl.

“Operation Utilities Bag”

Remember, keep filling your Zip Lock Bag with currency. The little money you save here and there each day truly adds up for the many people the Saint Vincent de Paul Society serves every week.

One major project they perform each Friday, from 1:30pm to 4:00pm, is the Food Distribution. Stop by and see it in operation someday. It is a marvel how it all works.

Also, please help our Easter Bunny...He needs small, wrapped candy to fill his plastic eggs for the Parish Easter Egg Hunt. They can be left in the Rectory or Parish Gift Shop. Thank you!

LITURGY

Holy Week Schedule

April 14 @ 7:00pm: Holy Thursday, Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper.

April 15 @ 7:00pm: Good Friday of the Passion of the Lord.

April 16 @ **8:00pm**: Easter Vigil

(There is NO morning Mass on the above days.)

April 17: Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord. 9:00am & 10:45am.

COMMUNITY

Ask a friend if he or she would like a ride to Mass on Sunday. And, give him or her a ride.

Archdiocese of Miami Development Corporation

1. Giving isn't just about donating. It's about making a difference. Be a part of the difference by making a gift today!
www.isupportabcd.org
2. One of the easiest ways for you to support the mission of the Church, is to leave Blessed Sacrament Parish a bequest. A bequest is a gift made to charity in your will or trust. For more information, contact Sabrina Paul-Noel, MPA (305) 762-1112, or our office.
3. "...He said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none.'" (LUKE 13:7)

Sometimes we can all be like the barren fig tree. We have everything to bear fruits, but we don't! How will you respond when God asks you what you have done with all the gifts, He has given you? Remember, not only are we called to be generous, but we are also called to develop and nurture our gifts, and return them with increase, especially the one that means the most to us.

Pray every day this Lent

Hallow

The #1 Catholic Prayer & Meditation App

Join the #Pray40 Challenge

info@hallow.app

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Joe Alfaro, Jordan Almendral, JoAnn Anderson, Angiolina Armenti, Michael Beard, Karen Becker, Mary Benivegna, Margarita Bogle, Tom Carver, Sean Chin, Robert Clark, Mary Collis, John Cooper, Logan Costante, Gregoria Daen, Sam DeMarco, Ines DeSalle, Roseanne DeSimone, Lisa DeStasio, Joseph Devlin, John Dooney, Nelson Douaihi, Peggy Duff, Susan Fabbri, Lisa Findlay, Megan Forrester, Joshua Freeman, Richard Gossett, Ana Gilajota, Stephen Goch, Keri Greenan, Richard & Cathy Harper, Tyler Harrison, Dil Hatchett, Cindy Hogman, Tiffany Kentosh, Butch Klinger, Judith Kolo, John LaNeve, Tamika Lee, Bernie Liggett, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Mary McKelvey, Clare McMahon, Frank McNeil, Rylee Mertz, Dan Murphy, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Thomas O'Brien, Barbara Perry, Della Mae Reblin, Lucy Reitano, Coleen Riley, Paul Riley, Dee Ripple, Matilda Rivier, Charles Rousseau, Anthony Ruggiero, Theresa Schluter, Brad Schroder, Ellen Seaman, Roger Sherman, Jim Smullen, Vivian Spasiano, Rick Steffan, M. Stoufer, Richard Taylor, Antoinette Teresi, Constantino Thomas, Margarita Verano, Peggy Weiss, Ed Wrisley, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 19

- 4:00 p.m. † Josephine Marotta by son Carmine
 † Joseph de Paola by sister Concetta

Sunday, March 20

- 9:00 a.m. † Jean Yves Dartois by Catherine & Donald Dunn
 10:45 a.m. † Jaime Portell by Mazzurco Family
 † Lois Lee & Albinas Gincas by Family

Monday, March 21

8:00 a.m. NO MASS

Tuesday, March 22

8:00 a.m. Past & Present Members & Benefactors of St. Vincent de Paul Society

Wednesday, March 23

8:00 a.m. Fr. Don Tranel by Dan Murphy

Thursday, March 24

8:00 a.m. Edwin Marmorstone by Dan Murphy

Friday, March 25

8:00 a.m. Edwin Marmorstone by Dan Murphy

Saturday, March 26

- 4:00 p.m. † Fr. Al Sinasac by Michael Trask
 † Louis & Mary Michel by Anthony & Rose Michel

Sunday, March 27

- 9:00 a.m. Blessed Sacrament Parish
 10:45 a.m. † Robbie Fairchild by Aunt Rosie
 † Tim Stewart, retired NYPD by Joe Johnson, retired NYPD