

March 23, 2025
Third Sunday
of Lent

LENT

Fast, Pray, Give

*"ALL ARE
WELCOME HERE"*

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Office Hours

Monday - Thursday

8:30 am - 3:30 pm

Friday

8:30 am - 3:00 pm

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BLESSED SACRAMENT CATHOLIC PARISH

1701 East Oakland Park Blvd. Oakland Park Florida 33334

Our Pastor

Reverend Robert F. Tywoniak,

M.S.W., C.S.W.M

Music Director

Daniel J. Perez

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil 4:00 pm

Sunday

9:00 am & 10:45 am

Daily: Tuesday - Friday

8:00 am

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturdays 3:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Baptism for Infants and Preschool Children under 7 years old

At Baptism, infants and preschool children are initiated into the Christian community and begin a life-long journey as a committed disciple of Christ. Since the child cannot make this commitment on their own, the parent who requests Baptism states that they wish to pass on the faith in which they believe and live. Parents wishing to have their infant or preschooler Baptized are required to attend Baptism Preparation. This gives them the opportunity to reflect on the meaning of Baptism and to have their questions answered concerning the Sacrament of Baptism and the ceremony. In order to begin preparing for their child's Baptism, parents are asked to contact the parish office at 954-564-1010 prior to the anticipated birth or adoption process. We wish to celebrate this joyful time with you!

Marriage

Blessed Sacrament Parish wishes to support couples as they prepare for the Sacrament of Marriage through prayer and action. For this reason, guidelines have been established for marriage preparation by the Archdiocese of Miami. This is not done to create obstacles, but to increase the opportunity for a lasting, loving marriage in a society where divorce is prevalent. Couples should contact the parish office at 954-564-1010 at the time of their engagement to allow time to complete the necessary preparation.

Exodus 17: 3-7

Psalm 95

Romans 5: 1-2, 5-8

John 4: 5-42

The Lord Is Not Near-Sighted

This week, as I was reading through different scholarly writings about the scripture readings selected for this Sunday, I came across a comment by Maria Barga. Maria pointed out that the people who grumbled against Moses (first reading) were being near-sighted.

The people did not like being enslaved by the Egyptians. No one wants to be a slave. So, the Lord freed them from Egyptian rule. Moses was assigned by God to be the man who would lead them away from the people that enslaved them. The Israelites were led to their own land to become a nation of their own.

Becoming free from Egypt was well and good. But the people were not ready for the effort it would take to be free. They found out it takes much effort, patience, courage and endurance to make a disparate group of tribal people into a nation.

To be a nation, a group of different types of people must do more than occupy geographical territory. The Israelites had to go beyond merely language and ethnicity. Their whole group was made up of many tribes that were forced together by the powerful Egyptians. They had not been one cohesive group of people, let alone a nation. Somehow this group had to find a shared identity.

Their identity had to be defined before they could ever possibly have any semblance of political organization or to be a community. You might say they never before had any semblance of community or nation until the Egyptians conquered them. Mere survival necessitated they pull together and fight their oppressor. But the instinct to survive still did not make them a nation. What was their identity?

I reflected on this, their identity. What did pull them together?

What pulled them together was their experience of the loving God. They saw the signs of God in God's actions among them. God defended them and also God disciplined them. God certainly cared for them. He made water come from a rock, did He not?

Saint Paul, in writing to the Church in Rome (second reading), points out the hope the people may have. They may have hope because God shows in supreme fashion His care for them. The Son went to the extent of dying for them even as they did not always remain faithful to God. Jesus took the punishment they gave Him and still forgave them from the cross.

So Paul says, "And hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us."

Can you see the love of God? Think of Jesus' passion, death, and then His resurrection. Jesus went on to ascend to the Father. Then, their Holy Spirit proceeded from them to us. The Spirit remains with us now! FEEL IT! SEE IT! Do not be near-sighted!

God is not near-sighted. Look at Jesus' interaction with the woman of Samaria. They met at the well. Jesus should not have

interacted with her. It was culturally forbidden. But Jesus did.

Jesus interacted with the woman at the well because He saw beyond the immediate near-sightedness of all the rest of the culture. Instead of ignoring or berating her, Jesus respected the woman out of the basic love for another child of God. Imagine the emotion that must have gone through her as she realized that I Am was speaking to her.

Yes, the one who created all things and all people, humbled Himself to not only speak to her but to ask her for her help to quench His thirst. He thirsted for her to accept His love and to love Him in return. In a few short weeks we will hear Jesus say again "I thirst" as He hung on the cross!

Jesus sees all that is good about us. He knows we are at the core of ourselves GOOD. The Father, Son and Holy Spirit, the one true God wants us to see, feel, and hear the love that so unites us to Him.

Do not be near-sighted. See beyond your own immediate needs, longings and desires. Let us together see beyond such. Discover together God's presence in and among ourselves. When we do this together a whole new vista will open up to all of us as a parish. We may experience the excitement the woman of Samaria experienced as she exclaimed, "Come SEE a man who told me everything I have done!"

The Lord is not near-sighted. God sees the dignity and goodness in all of us.

Stewardship 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:	329
Tithes Collected:	\$9,430.00
Per capita:	\$28.66

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

ONLINE GIVING

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RIGHT NOW!**



STATIONS OF THE CROSS Every Thursday Evening During Lent 7:00pm

This "Stations" is a dynamic scriptural based presentation. This has been very popular in our parish. Join us if you have not in the past.
(RCIA and Faith Formation students are expected to participate.)

PARISH LIFE

- THE CHAPEL - A PLACE TO PRAY AND MEDITATE

The Chapel is open for prayer and meditation on Wednesdays during Lent. It will be open each Wednesday 11:30am and 1:00pm. Come by and join us! Remain in His presence as long as you can.

THE CHAPLET OF THE DIVINE MERCY

Continues:

It will follow the 10:45 am Liturgy

Every Sunday after the 10:45am Liturgy

Until April 27th.

Operation Utility Bag St. Vincent de Paul Society

If you haven't done so yet, pick up your "Utility Bag" for this year's drive to support the work of the St. Vincent de Paul Society.

Bring the bag home. Fill it each day with money you would have used on a "treat" for yourself. Or, simply place change, large or small, in the bag each day and let it multiply.

At the End of the Easter Season return the Utility Bag to the church.

This money is used to help pay utility bills for clients of the Society.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE!

Archdiocese of Miami Career Fair

Saturday, April 12, 2025

10:00am – 1:00pm

Hosted by:

Cardinal Gibbons High School

in the Gymnasium

2900 NE 47th Street

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33308

To view our current openings visit:

http://www.miamiarch.org/CatholicDiocese.php?op=Job_Openings.

Bring a resume and a friend!

Ave Maria University Event

Mary, Mother of the Eucharist

2025 Conference

May 16-18

Registration: \$190, which includes lodging, meals, and conference fee for the weekend, all on the beautiful campus of Ave Maria University. For more information about the speakers or to register for this event visit:

www.aveconferences.com or call (239) 348-4725 or email aveconferences@gmail.com.

TOGETHER WE PRAY FOR

Angiolina Armenti, Mary Benivegna, Carl Bocchino, Margarita Bogle, Michael Bryant, Helene Falzarano, Ronald Gustinella, Richard & Cathy Harper, Dil Hatchett, Patrick Keough, Doris Lakso, John LaNeve, Gail Martin, Sean Martin, Luz Mercado, Carlos Morejon, Teresita Nazareno, Lauren Nicole, Austin R., Fr. Robert (Bob) Traupman, Renette Valcourt, Sr. Frances Vass, OSC, Nancy Zakem, Marie & Jeff, Monica Yassa, Lucas Zaky

MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 22

4:00p m † Katherine Keszler
by Dennis Kucharewski
† Carmela Dee by Family

SUNDAY, MARCH 23

9:00am † Anna Cervera by Parish
10:45am † Jaime Portell
by Mark Mazzurco
† Fernando Armenti by
Angiolina Armenti

MONDAY MARCH 24 | NO MASS

TUESDAY, MARCH 25

8:00am † Grace Mazzurco
by Dennis

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26

8:00am Pope Francis

THURSDAY, MARCH 27

8:00am The sick of the Parish

FRIDAY, MARCH 28

8:00am † Deceased of the
Parish

SATURDAY, MARCH 29

4:00p m † Carmela Dee
by Family
† Randy Howe
by Mary Kay and
Sonny Little

SUNDAY, MARCH 30

9:00am Blessed Sacrament Parish
10:45am † Lucy Slovvensky
by Parish
† Robbie Fairchild
by Aunt Rosie