

3rd Sunday of Lent

MARCH 20, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

Second: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

FOCUS: God offers everyone salvation and freedom; it is an offer we are free to accept or reject.

Today's readings remind us that salvation and eternal life with God require our repentance from sin and turning away from our old ways to embrace a new life with him. He invites us to participate in his mission and bear fruit for the kingdom. The offer, however, remains ours to accept or reject.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: In today's first reading, Moses encounters God in the burning bush. God reveals to Moses his plan to free the Israelites. Saint Paul writes that not all who were freed from bondage in Egypt remained faithful, warning them to *take care not to fall*. In the Gospel, Jesus warns the people that failure to repent will result in their perishing, and then he tells a parable of a fig tree.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Joe Britto, Jean Harrison and Charles Botti

Sunday: Patricia McCann, Virginia Trochymczuk and Frances Hernandez

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 13-March 20: Totaled \$7,189.75

Envelopes: \$ 1,644.00 – Online: \$ 5,545.75

THANK YOU!

A CALL TO SOCIAL JUSTICE Be Merciful: Crisis in Ukraine



By Josh Utter

Outreach director for Jesuit Refugee Service/USA

I often take it for granted - the comfort of being at home. It takes work to maintain it - scrubbing, dusting, sweeping, repairing - but it is a refuge, a place of rest and hospitality. As I survey my surroundings, I recognize in gratitude the hands of many who helped make this corner of the world my sanctuary.

I cannot imagine what it feels like to leave it all behind when the threat of violence and conflict forces one to flee for safety. For some, that choice is near impossible, as so many years passed by watching the seasons change or the trees and the children grow from one's window. How can one simply leave it all behind in an instant, when the weight of the memories keeps one firmly rooted to that holy ground?

Since February, more than two million people have fled Ukraine, leaving their homes and, in some cases, their loved ones behind. It is no easy journey, and it takes time to process the gravity of such a departure. Hearts are still pulled toward the home left behind.

The psalms are the voice of a people in exile, crying out for mercy in times of war and displacement. Let us pray the words of today's psalm, "help us, O God our savior," please do not forget your people, in Ukraine and beyond, and deliver them to safety. "Be merciful" and may we, from the comfort of our own homes, show that mercy to those in need of shelter and rest.

"For the measure with which you measure will in return be measured out to you." May we not be sparing in our hospitality to those who are fleeing conflict and violence, no matter where they are coming from geographically, as we are not to be the judges. Rather, we are called to be hosts, for the measure of our hospitality reflects what we someday hope to receive.

CARDINAL'S APPEAL UPDATE

From supporting needy parishes and religious education to mission and charitable works, your generosity makes a difference. As of last Friday, March 11, **\$29,150.80** toward our goal of \$45,500 has been received/pledged by 67 families Thank you.



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL
Sharing God's Gifts

WHAT IS HOLY WEEK ...

The Easter Triduum. The Triduum is the most solemn moment of the Church year. It lasts three days. It begins on Holy Thursday evening with the Mass of the Lord's Supper, continues with the celebration of the Lord's Passion on Good Friday, and reaches its culmination with the Easter Vigil and Easter Sunday, and it ends with Evening Prayer late Easter Sunday afternoon.

Discipleship Action Item. These are the "High Holy Days" of our Christian faith, and as Jews would stream to Jerusalem to celebrate Passover in the Temple, ideally Catholics would stream to their local churches to celebrate these sacred mysteries with their parish communities. Holy Thursday, Good Friday and the Easter Vigil are not holy days of obligation, but if there ever was a time that we should want to go to church, it would be for these three holy days. Triduum is the time to place all else on hold while our faith gets top priority.

Fasting, Part Two. With the arrival of Holy Thursday, the 40 days of Lent and its discipline are over. Whether it was to give something up, add extra prayers, do good deeds or share alms, the program is done - but one must not relax too quickly. As soon as the 40-day Lenten fast ends, a new three-day fast begins. The Triduum Fast is a period of even more intense self-denial in immediate preparation for the greatest feast of all, Easter. It is customary to extend the Lenten discipline three additional days. Many decide to make one or more key additions such as a holy hour, a visit to church, an extended period of silence, no TV, and three days of fasting from physical food. It also involves a spiritual fast, Good Friday from the Mass, but with the reception of the Eucharist, and Holy Saturday, the deepest fast of all, when not only is there no Mass, but it is the only day that the Church

...AND WHAT SHOULD CHRISTIANS DO TO PROPERLY RECOGNIZE AND PARTICIPATE IN IT?

foregoes reception of the Eucharist.

Holy Thursday. The evening Mass of the Lord's Supper recounts the establishment of the Jewish feast of Passover. It also commemorates the institution of the Eucharist, the institution of the priesthood and the foot-washing. John's placement of the foot-washing



where the other evangelists place the Last Supper conveys his belief that

the real presence of Christ is found not only in the Eucharist, but in service. Jesus gave us his mandatum or mandate: "You ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example. As I have done, so you should also do" (Jn 13:14,15). Jesus is made present when disciples put aside their prideful aspirations, humble themselves and serve one another, even to the point of doing a menial task joyfully.

Symbols. The symbols of the foot-washing are a basin, water pitcher and towel; the symbols of the Eucharist are a host and a chalice, wheat and grapes, a loaf or basket of bread and a jug of wine, and five loaves and two fish; and the symbols of the priesthood are a stole, a book of the gospels, and a host and a chalice.

Action Items. Our parish offers time before the Blessed Sacrament after Holy Thursday Mass; consider taking advantage of the opportunity. Offer a prayer that your priest might be devoted to the Eucharist and a humble servant. Be on the lookout for someone who might need assistance, and gladly help without drawing attention to yourself.

IN THE LOOP



There will be a **Bake Sale** to benefit the Prayer Blanket Ministry next weekend, March 25-26, after all the Masses.



Like to work with yarn – and perhaps spin a yarn or two in the process? Our **knit-and-crochet group** will resume monthly meetings at 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 1. Bring a work in progress or materials to start anew. Help will be available. Contact Rebecca Suchy at rebsuchy@frontiernet.net for info.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK




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April 8, 2022

**PRAYER SERVICE FOR
HEALING, HOPE & PEACE**

Hosted by the youth of St. Paul's Church, open to all



St. Paul's R.C. Church
2800 Route 17k, Bullville, NY
Friday, April 8, 2022
7pm - 8pm

Scripture, song and prayer.

For more information, email saintpaulsym@gmail.com

