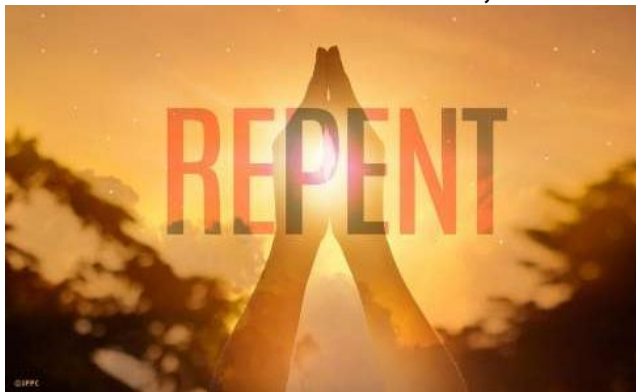


THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 7, 2021



Reading I: Exodus 20: 1-17, or 20: 1-3, 7-8, 12-17

Yahweh delivers the Ten Commandments by which the Covenant was to be observed and maintained. Unique to Israel is the sanctity of the Sabbath.

Reading II: I Corinthians 1: 22-25

The “foolishness” of God is a crucified Christ, whom the Jews rejected because of their mistaken idea of a messiah. The Greeks rejected Him because of their rationalism.

The Gospel: John 2: 13-25

John places this powerful scene of the Temple cleansing by Jesus at the start of His ministry rather than at the end as the other three Gospels do. John sees it as related to Jesus’ resurrection.

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathy to Julie Tolliver upon the death earlier this week of her husband, Richard. Please keep them in your prayers.



5 p.m.: Rosemary & Michael Quinn, Alexis Peralta, Warren Roggendorf & Betty Cieslewitz Sutton

10 a.m.: Yvonne Nocera, Eileen Carson, John Nardo and Donald Caverly

LAST WEEK’S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. Saturday, February 27: **48**

10 a.m. Sunday, February 28: **52** in the church;
20 in the hall

TREASURER’S REPORT

February 21-28: Totaled \$ 6,025.67

Envelopes: \$ 3,586.00 – Online: \$ 2,439.67

Thank you!

LESSONS FROM THE TEMPLE

The shock and sadness that most Americans felt two months ago when the United States Capitol building was under siege by an uncontrolled mob sprang from our common agreement about the building’s symbolism. Commentators called the building “The Temple of Democracy.” Emotions ran high, not the least of which was anger on all sides.

The justifiable anger of Jesus that compelled Him to make a whip to drive out commercialism from the Temple sprang from His belief that the building was the House of God, a symbol of His Father’s covenant with the nation of Israel. It was not to be desecrated.

We Christians of today view vandalism and destruction of any of our churches as desecration. We feel violated. They are our houses of worship. They speak to us of our baptismal covenant and our consequent relationship with God as our Father.

St. Paul goes further and demands that we think of our very bodies as temples of the Holy Spirit dwelling within us. Ridding ourselves of a bad habit takes determination. Yet the rewards of our cleansing are heavenly, like a hot shower after a run. One feels like a new person.

This Temple-cleansing episode offers another important



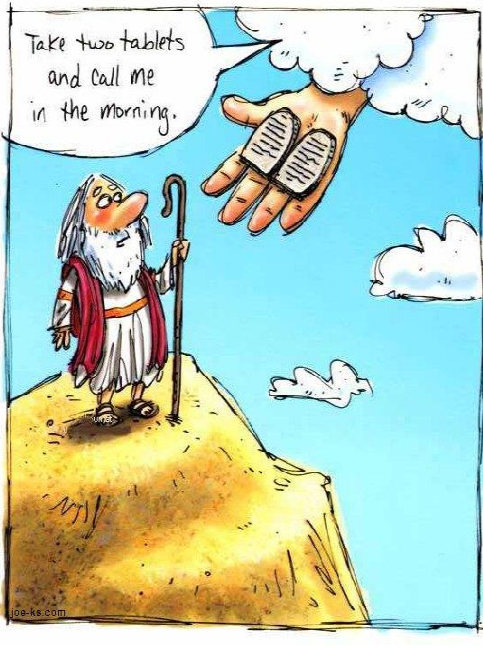
secondary lesson: Anger itself is not sinful. Otherwise Jesus would never have let it grow inside Him to burst out in His dramatic action. We have the right to be angry about a lot of things – including ignoring our consciences.

On the other hand, unjustified anger will always be sinful, such as that directed at an innocent spouse or children or at an unsuspecting co-worker. We must respect their temples of the Spirit also. There is in all our Lenten penance the comfort of knowing God’s all-embracing love for us and our efforts at reform.

During the November blitz in England during World War II, Coventry Cathedral was destroyed. Workmen picking through the rubble found a large number of nails from the Middle Ages. The nails were fashioned into crosses and plated with silver. One cross of nails was set up on an altar in the ruins of the old cathedral. On the wall behind that are the words: “Father, forgive.”

Many little crosses made of these nails have since been sent to churches in other countries that had been engaged in World War II. Thousands of picture postcards depicting the Coventry Cross of Nails have been distributed all over the world. It has become for many a symbol of forgiveness, reconciliation and peace. Let that symbol speak to you this Lenten season.

God love you and give you His peace,
- **Rev. Leonard N. Peterson**



"God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy."

- Pope Francis



YOUTH MINISTRY UPDATE

IN THE LOOP



In celebration of the **Year of St. Joseph**, a Preached Novena with a different theme as well as a different Carmelite friar will be featured at each Mass beginning March 11 and running through March 19. Mass is at 11:30 a.m. weekdays, noon on Saturday and Sunday, at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel in Middletown. A complete schedule can be found at www.ourladyofmtcarmelshrine.com.



It's time to Spring Ahead! **Daylight Savings Time** begins next Sunday, March 14, so don't forget to set your clocks ahead one hour next Saturday.



We are continuing to share resources for insight into the current issues of social justice from a Biblical/Church perspective. This week's reflection, "A Pledge to Rescue Our Youth" by Maya Angelou can be accessed via this link:

http://www.streetdirectory.com.my/lyricadvisor/song/plujaf/pledge_youth_poem/

Last week, our kids enjoyed an altered version of the game Hedbanz, which they called "Who Am I?"

A participant would turn around, unable to see the computer screen as a card was held up displaying a Disney character. That person then asked questions in an attempt to identify that character. Goofy fun for sure!

Shared Scriptures included:

Matthew 6:33-34 - But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

1 John 1:5 - This is the message we have heard from Him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.

Proverbs 27:19 - As water reflects the face, so one's life reflects the heart.

Ben Sira 40:25-26 - Gold and silver make one's way secure, but better than either, sound judgment.

Philippians 4:6 - Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

1 Peter 3:8-9 - Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.



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From supporting needy parishes and religious education to charitable outreach and COVID-19 relief, your generosity makes a difference. As of February 19, \$19,455 toward our goal of \$43,000 has been received/pledged by 51 families. Thank you.

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