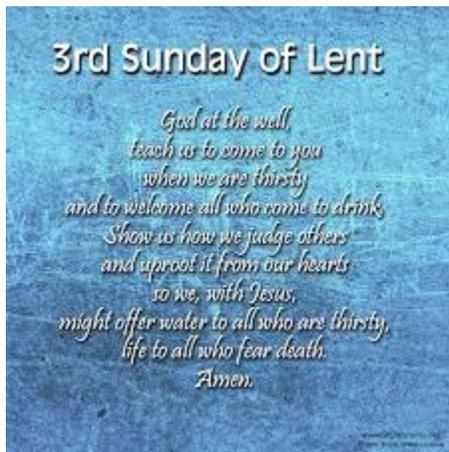


## For The Bulletin Of March 4, 2018



### **From Father Robert**

The scripture passages for today and the next two weeks come from the A Cycle of Readings and are used because we have Catechumens/Elect with whom we are celebrating the Scrutinies during the 10:00 a.m. Eucharist.

**The First Reading:** The passage from Exodus is rich with images and layers of meaning. We might well be surprised at the grumbling of the people against Moses; after all, God had delivered them from Egypt. It appears that they are really dissatisfied with God and ask, “is the Lord in our midst or not?” The response of God to Moses’ pleas is an unconditional gesture of concern for the people. Out of a life-less rock, in the middle of a desert God provides living water. This happened at Massah (which means “testing) and Meribah (which means “dissatisfaction”), but the greater meaning of this place is found in the intervention of God on behalf of a people thirsting for life.

**Psalm 95:** This liturgical hymn praises the God of the covenant. The psalmist issues a fivefold invitation to praise,

“come let us sing...let us acclaim...let us come...let us kneel.” The image of God echoes the First Reading; God is the “Rock of our salvation.” Here we can imagine a great rock, one that speaks of strength and security, something one could depend on to be in place forever. Such is the role of the Lord in the life of the people. The psalmist ends with an exhortation that recalls the First Reading: “Harden not your hearts as at Meribah.”

**Second Reading:** Paul’s theology of justification occurs a number of times in his letters. One aspect of his teaching is that this justification is not merited by believers, it is pure grace and comes from God through Jesus. In fact, we were sinners and still God has chosen to save us. This grace is the love of God that is “poured into our hearts.” This baptismal imagery reflects Paul’s understanding that it is through baptism that we enter into the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

**Gospel:** This is the first of the three great stories of John that takes us toward the end of Lent. The baptismal imagery is obvious and the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan Woman is layered with meaning. Jesus stops at the well of Jacob because He is thirsty, but it is the woman who is refreshed. Through the course of the conversation, Jesus identifies Himself with one of the “I Am” statements that will occur in the Gospel account for the next two Sundays. He becomes the source of a new life for the woman and she becomes an evangelist, bearing the news that she has found the Messiah.

***About Liturgy: The Scrutinies In Year B***

“How come we always have to do Year A at the scrutinies? The assembly is missing out on hearing the readings for Year B. Besides, we’ve already written new scrutiny rites for the Year B readings. Can’t we use those?”

I hear those comments every year we aren’t in the Year A cycle of the Lectionary, but read the “scrutiny gospels” nonetheless. Remember that the readings from scripture we hear every Sunday are structured on a three-year rotation. In Year A, we hear primarily from Matthew’s gospel; In Year B, from Mark; and in Year C, from Luke. John’s gospel is interspersed through each of the cycles. For the next three Sundays, we will hear from John’s gospel. The readings in Year B are not the Johannine gospels prescribed for the celebration of the scrutinies that take place on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent.

The RCIA is very clear: “In every case the ritual Liturgies of Christian Initiation,” the Scrutinies are celebrated and in this sequence: for the First Scrutiny the gospel of the Samaritan Woman; for the Second, the gospel of the Man Born Blind; for the Third, the gospel of the Raising of Lazarus.

Just as the scrutinies themselves are meant to be a series of rites spanning over an extended period of time, so too are these three gospel readings meant to be “digested” little by little with time in between each set. This is because the readings in their assigned sequence reflect the very purpose of the scrutinies. That is, little by little, these readings with their rites uncover what is weak and

sinful and strengthen what is good and upright for the Elect. Through them, “the Elect are instructed gradually about the mystery of sin, from which the whole world and every person longs to be delivered.” Furthermore, these readings are intended “to enlighten the minds and hearts of the Elect with a deeper knowledge of Christ the Savior” because these gospels ask the Elect, Could He possibly be the Messiah? Do you believe in the Son of Man? Do you believe this (the resurrection)?

Though well-intentioned and creative, when we compose new scrutiny texts to match the readings from Year B or C, we sever ourselves and our Elect from the rich history and wisdom of the church, which over the centuries has understood the unique power of these three Johannine gospels. Remember that although you may be tired of hearing these Year A readings year after year on these three Sundays, this will be the only time our Elect will ever hear these readings in their lifetime as members of the chosen ones of God and subjects of the rite.





*And*



***St. Joseph's and St. Patrick's Festival Dinner*** – Tickets for our annual St. Joseph's Day Festival Dinner are on sale following our weekend liturgies as well as in the parish office during the week. Because we are celebrating St. Joseph on St. Patrick's Day, March 17<sup>th</sup>, we are adding our tribute to St. Patrick as well and combining the two feast days! Our Social Events Committee is working very hard to put this celebration together so be sure and get your tickets. Join us for great fun, food, and fellowship. The festivities begin at 5:30 p.m. immediately following the Vigil Liturgy, March 17<sup>th</sup>.



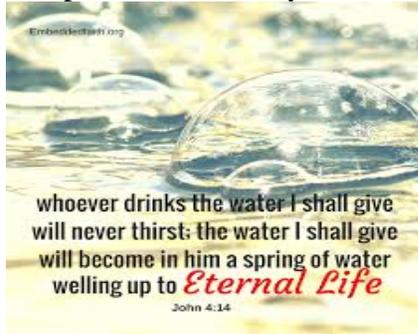
***The Bishop's Appeal***

The 2018 Annual Bishop's Appeal will be ending soon and one final mailing will be sent soon to those who have not yet participated. Your support of this important effort would be deeply appreciated. To date, our parish has received \$21,313.00 towards our goal of \$34,900. It is our hope to exceed our goal so we can receive a rebate to fund our parish hall expansion and the building of our new kitchen. If you have not already done so, please complete the Appeal Envelope found in the pews and place your one-time gift in the amount of \$60 or greater in it and be sure to mark that your gift is from a parishioner of St. Ignatius of Antioch Parish, Antioch. Thank you to all those who have already participated and contributed so generously. Let's do our part to help the Diocese continue their ministries, programs, outreaches, and staffing.



Our Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring their signature Lenten Friday Fish Fry. Both dining in as well as "drive through" are available. If you dine in, there is Bingo as well as beer and wine offered along with dessert. This is one of the great events of our parish and I hope you will support our Knights. The menu consists of the most delicious deep fried battered Cod, crispy French fries, and tangy Cole Slaw. You can't beat the price! And the fellowship is priceless! Bring your family and friends and enjoy a wonderful Lenten Friday evening. The time is 4:30 p.m. to

7:00 p.m. each Friday during Lent, except for Good Friday.



Our Lenten Communal Penance Service will be celebrated on Thursday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. Fr. Vincent Scott, Retired Pastor Emeritus of Church of the Assumption, San Leandro, will be with me to share in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which will be celebrated in the context of Sung Evening Prayer. Individual celebration of the sacrament takes place each Saturday from 2:45 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Chapel of Reconciliation.



### PALM SUNDAY

Saturday, March 24: Vigil Liturgy, 4:00 p.m. - *Blessing of Palms, Procession, Proclamation of the Passion, Holy Eucharist*

Sunday, March 25: 8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m.** - *Blessing of Palms, Procession, Proclamation of the Passion, Holy Eucharist*

### Monday of Holy Week

March 26

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### Tuesday of Holy Week

March 27

8:00 a.m. Liturgy of the Word and Holy Communion

### Wednesday of Holy Week

March 28

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

### Holy Thursday

March 29

8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer

7:30 p.m. Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper - *Presentation of the Holy Oils, Liturgy of the Word, Washing of Feet, Holy Eucharist, Procession to the Altar of Repose, Adoration until 10:00 p.m.*

### Good Friday

March 30

8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer

3:00 p.m. Solemn Commemoration of the Lord's Passion and Death - *Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross, Holy Communion*

7:00 p.m. Tenebrae - *Scriptures of the Passion and Veneration of the Cross*

### Holy Saturday

March 31

8:00 a.m. Sung Morning Prayer

7:30 p.m. The Great Vigil of Easter - *Lighting of the New Fire, Liturgy of the Word, Liturgy of Initiation, Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Liturgy of the Eucharist, followed by a welcome*

*reception in the parish hall for those initiated.*

**Easter Day**

April 1

8:00 a.m. and **10:30 a.m.**

*Festive Celebrations of Holy Eucharist  
Procession, Liturgy of the Word,  
Renewal of Baptismal Promises, Holy  
Eucharist*



***Easter Environment***

You are invited to become a part of helping to create our Easter Environment! Each year, the environment is created by the members of our Art & Environment Committee to say "Easter!" for the entire seven weeks of the Easter Season. The panels of cloth, candles, Easter Lilies and blooming plants, and trees all contribute to creating and sustaining the joy and beauty of Easter. Contributions to the Easter Environment may be made either In Honor of someone or In Loving Memory of a family member or friend. Simply use the Easter Flower Envelope found on the credenza or in your next envelope packet and mark it accordingly with your name, envelope number, and that your contribution is either In Honor of/In Memory of and the name of the person being remembered. All contributions will be listed in the bulletins of the Easter Season. Thank you for your support and helping create the Easter Garden.

*Thank  
you!*

...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who arrive early each Saturday morning to clean and prepare the church for the weekend: **Rose Salamanca, Carole Miller, Heather Hatteroth, Jun Bajet, Mency Osborne, Angela Bueno, Jack Goncalves, and Steve Rojek.**

...to our wonderful volunteer parishioners who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall throughout each week: **Robert Goncalves, Sofie Zimmerman, Virginia Noack, Mary Ewing, Patricia Britton, and Harlan Young.**

...to **Mary Anne Douville and Faultless Cleaners** for all the dry cleaning, sewing and miscellaneous other tasks that are completed by her for the parish.

...to **Dilcia Aparacio** who does such an excellent job of washing, ironing, and caring for the Sacred Linens.

...to our Sacristans and Altar Guild who prepare the sanctuary for the celebration of Eucharist each week:

**Peter Degl'Innocenti, Pam and Rich Confetti, Vincent Rodriguez, Harlan Young, Rowena Cayaban, Monika Kauer, Cynthia Enrique, Belen Farin, Nancy Santos and Rose Salamanca.**

...to **our counting teams** who are here every week to count the weekly collections.

...to our volunteers who assisted in the parish office last week:

**Melodye Costanza, Harlan Young, Yvette Young, Alicia Perez, Sharon Cissell, Joe Fanfa and Bev Iacona.**

...to our St. Vincent de Paul and Mobile Mall volunteers who transported last week's donations: **Bob Carvalho and Barbara Jackson.**

...to our faithful weekly bulletin assembly team: **Bob Carvalho, Dave Costanza, Beth Enea and Richard Enea,**

...to our wonderful Parking Lot Security who keep watch over our vehicles during the weekend liturgies: **Don Benson, Steve Rojek and Bob Goncalves.**

