

**For The Bulletin Of
March 11, 2018**



From Father Robert

Traditionally, this Fourth Sunday of Lent marks a joyful relief amidst the seriousness and somberness of the many weeks of preparation for Easter. Today is called “Laetare Sunday,” a name that comes from the Entrance Antiphon for today’s liturgy: “Rejoice, Jerusalem, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast.” Even in Lent, a time of fasting and repentance, we rejoice, because we know that God is love, and our loving God will provide for all our needs. Antique Rose-colored vestments are worn today and a beautiful floral arrangement adorns our ambo. However, the Gloria is still omitted – it is not yet Easter!

Our scripture readings today once again come from the “A Cycle” of our Lectionary and are as follows:

The First Reading – I Samuel 16: 1, 6-7, 10-13

The selection and anointing of David as the king of the Israelites initiates a new era in the history of the people of God. It is clear from the account that God is the one Who makes the decision, a choice that is not based on the normal criteria. Once again, the ways of the

Lord are not the ways of human beings. Despite his humble beginnings the Spirit of the Lord will guide David and he will establish a great nation. The House of David will be renowned; in a future generation another shepherd will spring from the Root of Jesse, of the Family of David.

Psalm 23

The “Good Shepherd” psalm is surely one of the most beloved passages of the Bible. The psalmist uses the very familiar image and role of a shepherd to identify the Lord and to describe the intimate relationship that the Lord has with His people, the sheep of His flock. Like the shepherd, the Lord is protector, provider, and nurturer. The tender care that the Lord provides the whole flock and even a single one of them becomes the mark of Jesus’ own ministry generations later.

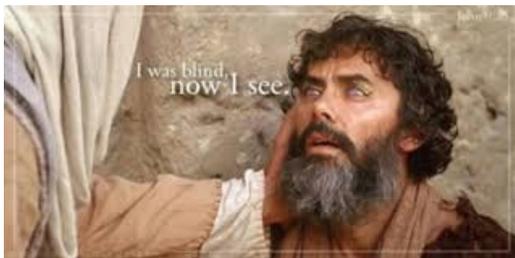
The Second Reading – Ephesians 5: 8-14

The contrast of darkness and light is one of several such contrasts that occur in the Lenten scriptures. Others include temptation and transformation; thirst and overflowing water; fasting and feasting; blindness and sight; death and new life. Paul reminds the Ephesians that they once lived in darkness, a spiritual state before their faith in Jesus, but now they live in the light. The Easter imagery here is obvious and it serves to prepare both the elect and the baptized to hurry toward the celebration of Christ, the Light of the World.

The Gospel – John 9: 1- 41

The contrast of darkness and light underscores both the healing of the blind man and the teaching of Jesus about who is spiritually blind and who can truly see.

The encounter between Jesus and the man born blind confronts the religious thinking of the crowds and the religious leaders. It becomes a vehicle for Jesus to expose them to the intervention of God in human affairs and to see if their faith is ready to accept Him. When the man regains his sight, he professes his belief in the “Son of Man.” Like the Samaritan Woman in last week’s gospel, he becomes the bearer of Good News, if only the others can see it.



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 17th, 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, next Saturday, March 17th.



Our Lenten Communal Penance Service will be celebrated on Thursday, March 22nd, 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 you 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 volunteer parishioners who do such a great job of cleaning and preparing the church and parish hall for the weekend: **Jun Bajet, Angela Bueno, Carole Miller, Kathy Romeo, Mency Osborne, Emilia Freking, Rose Salamanca, Jack Goncalves, and Steve Rojek.**

...to those who clean and maintain the bathrooms in both the church and parish hall 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:

Jeannine Ford, 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.**

