

## From the Pastor's Desk



My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In today's Gospel, Jesus was unhappy when he visited the Temple because the Temple was being used as marketplace and currency exchange. They sold oxen, sheep, and doves to be used as sacrifices in the Temple. The Temple is a special place for the Jewish people to encounter God, "The House of God". However, the Temple in the Gospel had become a den of thieves and marketplace. Even though he was angry, Jesus' response was controlled. Note that Jesus asked the dove-sellers to "Take these out of here," because he knew that if he threw over the tables of doves, that the doves would be hurt, unable to scatter like the larger animals. He showed respect for vulnerable life even in his anger and hurt. Overall, Jesus' reaction to disrespect and failure to honor God's House is anger and even physical violence.

From an early age we see Jesus valued and respected the Temple, the House of God. When Jesus was twelve, his mother and father brought Jesus to the Temple. When it was time for the family to leave, unbeknownst to his parents, Jesus stayed behind in the Temple listening to and answering questions of the temple leaders. After a few days of looking for him, Mary and Joseph found Jesus. When his parents asked him about why he did what he did, Jesus answered to them "Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house" (Lk 2:49)

In the Gospel the disciples recalled: Psalm 69: "Zeal for your house will consume me" (Ps 69:10) Which hints at how when we lose perspective of what is important we become consumed by our efforts and actions, which in turn does not please God either. The Gospel continues with Jesus hinting at the future events to come "destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." He is talking about his body being the Temple, about each of us being a temple.

If you think about your soul, knowing that each of us are individually a temple of the Holy Spirit. We should want our houses/temples to be in order, neat and clean. The First Reading about the Ten Commandments works with the Gospel. It gives us the rules on which to determine whether our "temples" our personal "house of God" are chaotic or dirty. As Catholics we can put our temples back in order, through the Sacrament of Reconciliation and an examination of conscience based on the Ten Commandments. During Lent especially, I encourage you go to confession. We should go confession at least once a year. But during Lent, especially, it is good for us to reconcile ourselves with God and others. The Parish will hold its Lenten Penance service on March 13 at 7 PM. I invite you to "clean" your houses, so that Christ can come and stay with you.

Your Servant in Christ,  
Fr Khanh D. Nguyen, Pastor

## ❖ DAILY MASS TIMES & READINGS ❖

**Monday, March 5, Saint John Joseph of the Cross,** 2 Kings 5:1-15ab; Gosp Matthew 18:21-35 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

**Tuesday, March 6,** Daniel 3:25, 34; Gosp Matthew 18:21-35 – **no morning Mass**

**Wednesday, March 7, St. Perpetua and Felicity,** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Gosp Matthew 5:17-19 – **Masses at 8:45 am and 6:30 pm**

**Thursday, March 8, Saint John of God,** Jeremiah 7:23-28; Gosp Luke 11:14-23 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

**Friday, March 9, St. Frances of Rome,** Hosea 14:2-10; **Gosp:** Mark 12:28-34 – **Mass at 8:45 am**

**Saturday, March 10, St. John Ogilvie,** Hosea 6:1-6  
**Gosp** Luke 18:9-14- **Mass at 8:45 am**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent, March 11,** 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23; Gosp John 3:14-21

**HELP JESUS IN DISGUISE** Next weekend we will take up the annual Catholic Relief Services Collection. "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." Christ is standing at the door of our hearts, knocking, seeking relief from the pain and suffering found around the world. With your donations-feed suffering refugees, give water to quench thirst, offer legal assistance, reach out to comfort loneliness in isolated workers, advocate on behalf of Jesus to the poor and marginalized." Envelopes are in your packets and at the ends of the pews.



**RICE BOWL** How can our purchases this Lent support farmers and artisans? How can you support those worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? How can you work to improve the lives of others this Lent? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) for more suggestions. Pick up a Family's Rice Bowl in the Church entrance.

**SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE** Wednesday, March 7, at 7 pm hosted by St. Vincent de Paul/Funeral Ministry/Liturgy/Peace Guild. All donations will go to our Rice Bowl Collection.

**NEW MONTH AT THE FOOD BANK** Thank you to all who helped restock our cereal supply. During the month of March, we are asking for dry pasta and Chef Boyardee type canned meals. Thank you for your continued support.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS** † Please join us Saturday, March 24th at 9:30 am to decorate the church for Palm Sunday; everyone is welcome - Many hands make light work! † Please join us Saturday, March 31st at 9 am to decorate for Easter. Everyone is welcome - this is a particularly busy day so please consider joining in the fun!

### **Sacred Story - Week 22**

**Chose the time and place for your 15-minute prayer time.**

- ♦ Preview your week and visualize the places and time for prayer.
- ♦ Every day enter into your Sacred Story prayer at set times. Establishing the ritual is vital to your discipline of prayer.
- ♦ We spend no more/no less than 15 minute in each prayer session.

#### **Week 22**

- ♦ Mercy is the theme of the Meditation for this week.
- ♦ We begin with a review of the prayer structure in Week 16.
- ♦ We practice the Mercy meditation for the remaining days of the week.

#### **Affirmation**

*"My life's greatest tragedies can be transformed into my life's greatest blessings."*

#### **Information**

- ♦ Sacred Story Gathering is on Monday, March at 7 pm in the Parish Center Library
- ♦ If you wish to receive regular e-mail contact [marycross@aol.com](mailto:marycross@aol.com) and [msloane@comcast.net](mailto:msloane@comcast.net)

**HONDURAS MISSION INFORMATION** There will be a presentation on the St. Matthew Honduras Mission in the Community Center Conference room following the 8 and 10 am Masses on Sunday, March 11th.

This presentation is for you if are interested in possibly joining us on a future trip or just want to hear how the parish supported the Children's Homes in Honduras this past Fall. If you are unable to attend and would like to hear more about the Parish our Mission in Honduras, please contact Kevin and Colleen Flanigan, 206-362-6499. Also, save the date for our Annual Fundraiser Dinner that supports our fall projects will be held Saturday, April 28.

#### **DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO ENRICH YOUR MARRIAGE**

St. Matthew is hosting this year's North Seattle Marriage Enrichment Evenings on March 17, April 14 and May 5. Each evening will have a separate topic, so come to one, two or all three! More information and online registration @ <http://marriageenrichment.info/> or contact Mike & Maureen Sloane at [mscloane@comcast.net](mailto:mscloane@comcast.net)

#### **NORTH SEATTLE CATHOLIC YOUTH**

is continuing their series "Lent Reawaken" this Sunday, March 4! Visit our website: [www.nseattlecatholicyouth.org](http://www.nseattlecatholicyouth.org) or our Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram pages for the latest information or contact Kate Brown, Youth Ministry Director at [kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org](mailto:kate@nseattlecatholicyouth.org) or 206-488-5970. Important reminder – There is no Sunday gathering March 11<sup>th</sup> due to Junior High Rally/Confirmation Retreat.

### **St. Matthew School News**

**Karen Herlihy, Principal**, 206-362-2785 ext. 102, [kherlihy@stmattschool.org](mailto:kherlihy@stmattschool.org)

**Andy Hews, Administrative Assistant**, 206-362-2785, ext. 101, [ahews@stmattschool.org](mailto:ahews@stmattschool.org)

**"Excellence – Diversity – Community"**

**Stations of the Cross** Please join students and staff to reflect on the Stations of the Cross during Lent each Tuesday at 8:30 am in the church.

#### **MARY: A BIBLICAL WALK WITH WALK WITH THE BLESSED MOTHER**

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, this study will place you in the midst of the powerful drama of Mary's earthly life, taking you through her joys and sorrows. Wednesdays, April 4 - May 23, 10 - 11:30 am and 7 – 8:30 pm. Suggested donation for materials: \$30. For more information call Sara Lane at 206-334-5350 or [sslane5@comcast.net](mailto:sslane5@comcast.net) <http://ascensionpress.com/studies/27533/registration/>

#### **LENTEN OPPORTUNITIES**

♦Contemplative Prayer: Thursdays, March 8,15, 22, 29 from 7 - 8:15 pm; Saturday, March 17, 9 am -12 noon. ♦ Peace Days for Women: "Walking the Way of Peace"- Wednesday, March 21, 9:30am-2pm. Bring a sack lunch; all events held at the Peace and Spirituality Center, Sisters of St. Joseph of Peace, 1663 Killarney Way, Bellevue; To register or for more information, email [peace@csjp-olp.org](mailto:peace@csjp-olp.org) or call 425-635-3603.

#### **PERSONAL HYGIENE PRODUCT COLLECTION**

benefitting St. Vincent de Paul. Boy Scout Troop #309 will be conducting a drive for these products from March 10 to 18. A donation box will be available in the church vestibule. A Scout will also be collecting donations after Masses on weekends and at Sunday Coffee Hours. Donated items can be any size, as long as they are brand new. Suggested items: shampoo, body wash, soap, hand sanitizers, toothbrushes, toothpaste and socks.

#### **Sunday Env/Loose/Holy Days**

	<u>02/25/2018</u>	<u>YTD 02/25/2018</u>
Budgeted	\$ 10,050	\$348,200
Collected	\$ 8,878	\$342,962
Difference	< \$ 1,172>	<\$ 5,238>



"You shall not covet" is perhaps a difficult commandment to keep in our consumer-oriented society. But as Christian stewards, we know that we are the recipients and caretakers of God's many gifts. May this understanding that all is gift help us be less resentful of the gifts of others.