

Fifth Sunday of Lent – March 18, 2018

The Week That Changed the World is Coming....Again!

Readings: Jer 31:31–34; Ps 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15;
Heb 5:7–9; Jn 12:20–33

Our readings today are filled with anticipation, anticipation for THE singular events that occurred in one Holy Week 2000 years ago. The days are coming, Jeremiah prophesies in today's 1st Reading. The hour has come, Jesus says in the Gospel. The new covenant that God promised to Jeremiah is made in the "hour" of Jesus—His Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to the Father's right hand. The prophets said this new covenant would return Israel's exiled tribes from the ends of the world (Jeremiah 31:1, 3–4, 7–8). Jesus too predicted His passion would gather the dispersed children of God (John 11:52). But today He promises to draw to himself not only Israelites but all ! The New Covenant is more than a political or national restoration. As we sing in today's Psalm, it is a universal spiritual restoration. In the "hour" of Jesus, sinners in every nation can return to the Father—to be washed of their guilt and given new hearts to love and serve Him.

In predicting He will be "lifted up," Jesus isn't describing only His coming Crucifixion (John 3:14–15). Isaiah used the same word to tell how the Messiah, after suffering for Israel's sins, would be raised high and greatly exalted (Isaiah 52:3). Elsewhere the term describes how kings are elevated above their subjects (1 Maccabees 8:13). Troubled in His agony, Jesus didn't pray to be saved. Instead, as we hear in today's Epistle, He offered himself to the Father on the Cross—as a living prayer and supplication. For this, God gave Him dominion over heaven and earth (Acts 2:33; Philippians 2:9). Where He has gone we can follow—if we let Him lead us. To follow Jesus means hating our lives of sin and selfishness. It means trusting in the Father's will, the law He has written in our hearts.

Jesus' "hour" continues in the Eucharist, where we join our sacrifices to His, giving God our lives in reverence and obedience—confident He will raise us up to bear fruits of holiness.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor

ATTENDANCE REPORT

3/11/18

Attendance: 496 souls

Offerings & Tithes: \$5,578

Spanish Mass: \$253

Utility fund: \$195



FOOD FOR THE POOR

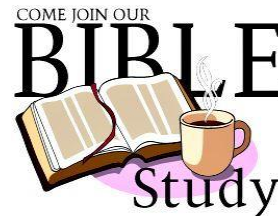
Saving Lives... Transforming Communities... Renewing Hope

We welcome **Fr. Geoffrey Wirth** from Food For The Poor, who will be celebrating all masses this weekend.

Food for the Poor is one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the United States.

Their work is motivated by our faith in God, spreading His unconditional love, regardless of race, wealth, or creed as we minister to the poorest of the poor in 17 countries throughout the Caribbean and Latin America.

By providing lifesaving food, secure housing, clean water, healthcare, emergency relief, micro-enterprise projects and education opportunities, we are giving the poor a chance at a better future and showing them God's love.



"Gospel according to Mark".

Mondays at 5:45 pm in the Music Room with Fr. Evans.

Bring your Bible and a catechism. St. Mark, pray for us!



Lectors Needed: Reverent, clear-voiced Readers of the Word are needed for daily Masses and Sunday Masses. To sign up and try out please contact Sandra Coles-Bell @ scolesbell@msn.com



Mass Intentions

March 17 - 24, 2018

Sat. 3/17	8: 00a	Jurita Villagran (thanksgiving)
	5:30p	Ellen Diogo Family & Jurita Villagran (thanksgiving)
Sun. 3/18	8:00am	+La Presentacion & +Cleofas Tanamor
	10:00a	+Henry Dieng & +Catherine Sagna
	1:00p	St. Jude Novena
Mon. 3/19	Noon	Salvatore González & Mari Hozu
Tue. 3/20	Noon	Mr. & Mrs. Lee Johnson
Wed. 3/21	Noon	All Nativity Catechist Teachers
Thu. 3/22	Noon	+Rebecca Francis
Fri. 3/23	Noon	Tom Myers
Sat. 3/24	Noon	Lee Johnson's Family
	8:00a	+Emarita Cabigas
	5:30p	+Catherine M. Loh & +Joseph Foo

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Isel Fitzgerald, *Dion A. Fortune, *Linda Foster, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Francis Howard, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Geraldine Jones, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Robert Myers. *Iris Newman, *D. Cynhia Peters, *Willie Poole, Jr., *Dorothy Richburg, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Alice Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Donald Whiting, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta,

****We are updating the sick list. Please call the Rectory if you need to add or delete a name. Thank you.**



Lenten Food Drive 2018

As we celebrate the season of Lent, may we continue to answer the Gospel call to serve those in need. Please help make a difference for local families by picking up one (or two or more) bags and filling it with food.

Bags are located at both entrances to our church. When you bring them back, just leave them at the same place.

Stations of the Cross

are prayed twice daily at Nativity during Lent, after noon Mass and during the 6pm-7pm holy hours Fridays in the Great Upper Church.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Keane Council #353

Lenten Fish Fry. Starting on February 16th at 6 pm in the Lounge. This event will occur every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Dinners are \$10, sandwiches \$5. Proceeds provide grants, scholarships, and awards for parish activities. More information call Bob Newman 301.892.2713 or Peter Gervais 202.494.7347

The Saint John Paul II National Shrine invites you and your family to a Pre-Founders Day Mass and Reception on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 6:30pm. The Celebrant and Homilist for the Mass will be Fr. Jonathan Kalisch, O.P., who serves as the Director of Chaplains for the Knights of Columbus.



Sun. 3/25	Palm Sunday
Thu. 3/29	Holy Thursday 7:00 p Liturgy
Fri. 3/30	Good Friday Noon Stations of the Cross 3:00 p Devine Mercy Chaplet 7:00 p Liturgy
Sat. 3/31	Holy Saturday 8:00 a Morning Prayers 8:00 p Vigil
Sun. 4/1	Easter Sunday 10:00 a Mass (bilingual)