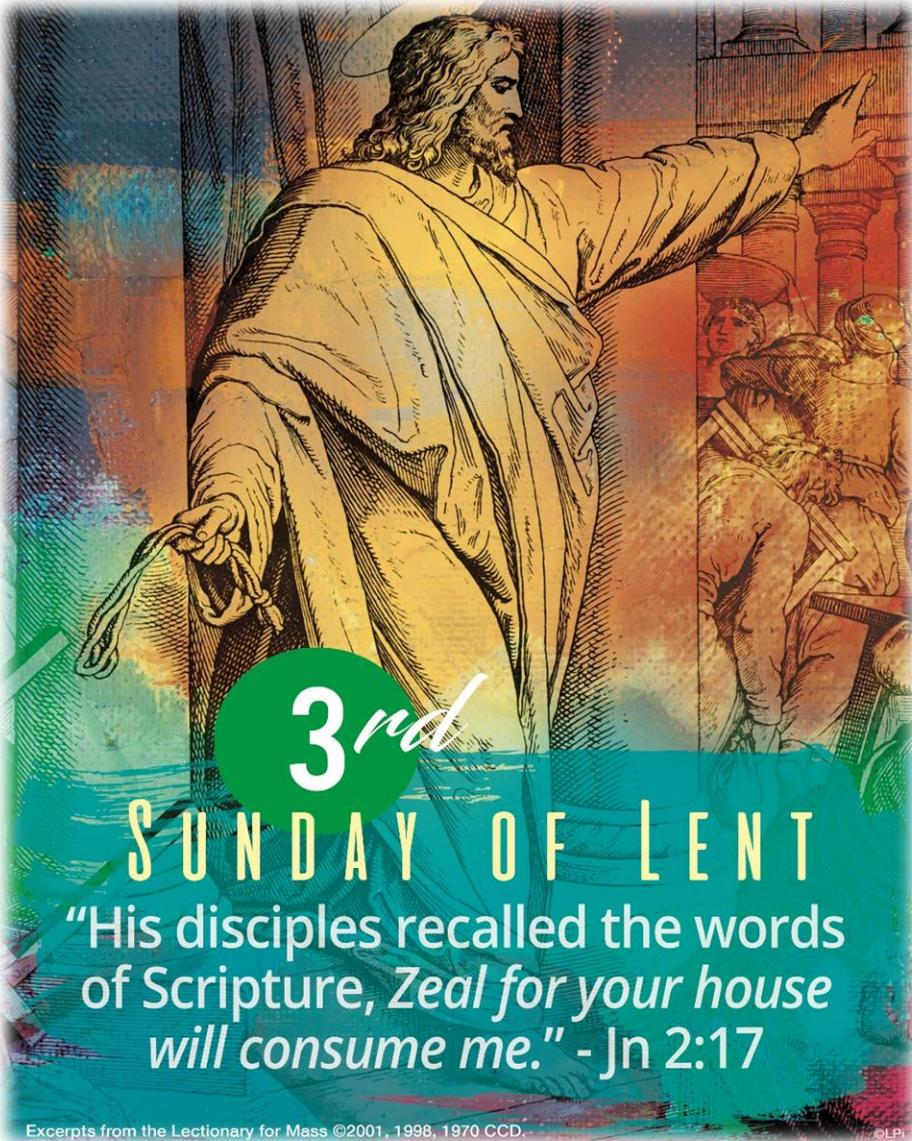


Church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary



3rd

SUNDAY OF LENT

"His disciples recalled the words
of Scripture, *Zeal for your house
will consume me.*" - Jn 2:17

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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**3411 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032
www.assumptiondc.org**



Rev. Gregory Shaffer, Pastor

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 pm
Sunday Mass: 10:00 am
Daily Mass: Monday thru Saturday 12:10 pm
Eucharistic Adoration: Monday, Wednesday, Friday 11:00 - 12:00 noon
Confessions: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm, Wednesday 11:00 – 12:00 noon
or anytime by appointment

Address: 3401 Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20032

Office Hours: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am to 5:00 pm
Tuesday 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm

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**Pope Francis
Outreach Center :** Food Pantry and Clothing Room
Director: Ms. Mildred Brown
Assistant Director Ms. Brenda Hare
Hours of Operation: Monday, Wednesday, Friday
9:00 am - 12:00 noon

Phone: 202-561-5941 Fax 202-561-4024
Email outreach@assumptiondc.org



Third Sunday of Lent March 4, 2018

Last year, I gave you several examples in this column of answers to the question of “Why do Catholics do that?” It was wildly popular, so I’ve decided to give you more! Actually, I don’t think any of you ever commented about it haha. Anyway, I’ve been doing the same Q & A with the fabulous group from RCIA at the start of each of our weekly meetings. We’ve gone over why we make the Sign of the Cross, use a crucifix, pray the rosary, use statues of saints, and receive ashes at the start of Lent. Feel free to ask me about these anytime!

Why do Catholics call priests “Father”?

We heard in the Gospel (Mt 23) at last Tuesday’s Mass Jesus say to the crowds, “Call no one on earth your father”. Protestants like to bring this up to Catholics when asking why we call priests “Father”. They take this saying of the Lord literally and isolate it which is their common practice with certain Scripture verses. That can be dangerous because lines like this taken literally and by themselves contradict Scripture itself. The Bible calls men on earth “father” all over the place. For example, the fourth commandment is “honor your father and mother”.

We have to take Mt 23:9 in the context of the entire passage. The Church asks us to do this with each Scripture passage and with the whole of Scripture. In other words, we are to have a “global view” when reading the Bible. This global view helps us to see what Jesus is saying in Matthew 23. He is railing against the scribes and the Pharisees for loving the salutations of “Rabbi”, “Father”, and “master”. They are into the prestige of being a religious leader, and have gotten carried away with spiritual pride. So, he is basically saying that we should call no one on earth “Father” who only loves the title of father.

Jesus shifts quickly to the real fathers on earth: those who reflect the “one Father in heaven”. And, the greatest example of this is Jesus Christ

himself. His whole mission is to reflect the Father in heaven. He is referred to as the Word (Logos in Greek). He is the Word of the Father. He speaks of the Father and communicates the Father to us. He is the knowledge of the Father. His whole mission is to reflect the Father so that we come to know the Father through him. So, any father on earth that lives Christ is reflecting God the Father.

Every Catholic priest is known as alter Christus (another Christ). Everything I just wrote about Christ becomes true about Catholic priests, especially in the sacraments (when priests act in persona Christi – in the person of Christ). So, we call priests “Father” because they reflect the love and mercy and goodness of God the Father in Christ. We know that the early Church referred to the Apostles (the first priests) and their successors as “fathers” by the following passages:

“Even if you should have countless guides to Christ, yet you do not have many fathers, for I became your father in Christ Jesus through the Gospel”.

- 1 Cor 15:4

“And he replied, ‘My brothers and fathers, listen...’”

- Acts 7:2

“My brothers and fathers, listen to what I am about to say to you in my defense”.

- Acts 22:1

There’s no doubt that we should not use the term father lightly. The term carries great significance to us when it applies to our biological and spiritual fathers. But, the ultimate point that the Lord is making and that the Church has honored for 2,000 years is that we call fathers all those who show us God the Father.

May you know the freedom of Christ this Lent,

Fr Greg

Healing Prayers for: Cheryl Bradshaw, Sharen Williams, George Thomas, Yvonne Lesesne, Juanita Watkins, Deacon Ralph Cyrus, Burdell Thomas, Angella Greene, Frederick McNiel, James Anthony Murphy, Earnest Ingram.Jr., John Howard, Iris Best, Dorothy Hollis, Calvin Best Gisele Best, Lezeal Rorie, Corinne Bachiller, Lillian Taylor, Veronica Brown, Deacon McBurnett Smith, Marsha Carlson-Meyers, Dr. Dee Jones Adams, Barry Robella, Father Dan Vitz, Eleonora Best, Jane Rhyne, Faye Lyon, Abby Fargo, Mildred Selmar, Heather Wooten-Rollins, Brenda Newman, Courtney Barlow, Christine Jones, Benjamin Davis, Ronald Horton, Veronica Harris, Teresa Wilkinson, Pauline Haggins, Dorothy Sylvester, Darlene Jones, Paul Higgins, Audrey Saunders, Pauline Johnson, June Murphy **Our Homebound Parishioners:** Mary Cooke, Sybil Depeazer, Louvenia Gray, Fr. Charles Green, Pauline Johnson, Yvonne Samuel, Audrey Saunders, Joan

LIVE THE LITURGY - INSPIRATION FOR THE WEEK-March 4, 2018

The hope of being transformed or transfigured into the image of God awaits all of God's children. We walk through this life knowing that our eternal destiny is to be like God and live eternally in his presence. How does this truth about who we can become change the way we live today? Does it even matter to us that we are called to a higher purpose that is often quite different than the one we fabricate for ourselves here on earth? A transformed, eternal life is God's desire for all of his daughters and sons. Knowing this helps us put suffering in perspective and walk peacefully with hope in our hearts.

QUESTION OF THE WEEK -Mk 9:2-10

Abraham's willingness to unconditionally obey God's command brought him the divine blessings of land and descendants. What blessings would you like to receive from God?

READINGS FOR THEWEEK

Monday:	Dn 9:4b-10 Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday:	Is 1:10, 16-20 Mt 23:1-12
Wednesday:	Jer 18:18-20 Mt 20:17-28
Thursday:	Jer 17:5-10 Lk 16:19-31
Friday:	Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday:	Mi 7:14-15, 18-20 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Next Sunday	Ex 20:1-17 1 Cor 1:22-25 Jn 2:13-25



ONE MONTH MEMEORIAL MASS CELEBRATIONS AND MASS INTENSIONS

Mass Intention – March 6, 2018

Adrena Taylor- Cheryl Hamlin-Williams' daughter

All daily Masses are available for Mass Intentions. Please give the office a call if you would like to have a Mass offered for someone.



Dear Assumption Family,

I hope you are well. Thank you for your prayers and support. Currently, I am in Jamaica with 16 other seminarians, Fr. Ivany and Msgr. Panke on a mission trip to support the Mustard Seed Community.

This trip has been made possible through your prayers and support. Please continue to pray for us as we serve men and women in need living with disabilities. After our trip, I'll give you a more detailed update. Be assured of my continued prayers for every one of you.

God Bless,
Jimmy Morgan



Announcements

We will have Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent after the 12:10 Mass

10 Great Ways to be a Catholic Evangelist! Joanne Fields from St. Paul Street Evangelization will be giving a seminar to us on evangelization at St. Dominic's on March 11 from 12 - 1:30 pm. Don't miss this exciting opportunity to learn how to be more effective in sharing your faith!

Come and Let Us Sing

St. Augustine: "He who sings prays twice"

If you have a desire to praise God in song, please consider joining our music ministry. Rehearsals are on Tuesday at 6:00 pm. In the church. Please see Ms. Denese after Mass.

Prayer | Fasting | Almsgiving | Everyday Stewardship

Can you recite the Ten Commandments by heart? Several years ago, a national US survey found more people could identify the ingredients in a Big Mac and name the children in the Brady Bunch television show than recite the Ten Commandments. Of course, being able to recite them is not nearly as important as living a life in harmony with them. However, if we simply live to not break them then we are only living out half of our discipleship.

Every commandment calls us to action beyond the simplicity of its words. We are not to kill, but we are also called to support life. We are not to steal, but we are also to share what we have freely. We are to have no other Gods before our God, but we also need to actively praise and glorify Him.

To live a moral life is to do more than follow rules and laws. It is to actively live in a way that gives witness to the Good News of Jesus Christ. This way of living is stewardship. As we focus more on the penitential message of Lent, we need to not just reflect on what we have done wrong, but equally what we have failed to do. To be given so much by a loving God and not share those things with God and His people is wrong as well. Perhaps as we reflect on these things we might find ourselves adding something to our lives that will last for many Lenten seasons to come.





Sisters in the Spirit - Archdiocese of Washington

P.O. Box 4373

Capitol Heights, MD 20791-4373

SCRIPTED ANNOUNCEMENT FOR PARISH BULLETIN

Sisters in the Spirit in the Archdiocese of Washington cordially invites you to attend our gathering on Saturday, April 7, 2018, at the St. Mary of the Assumption Catholic Church in Upper Marlboro, MD. The event is from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (registration begins at 9:30 a.m.). Please come for spirit-filled discussions and fun activities with women from many parishes, who love the Lord. Join the experience of *“Women: Resurrected in Christ”*. SIS members are encouraged to bring a younger woman (ages 20s, 30s, 40s), for we are stronger when we grow together. The cost is only \$15.00 per person. For more information, contact Donna Grimes (202-309-3644), Tayloria Jordan (202-641-4363), or Cynthia Morris (202-271-7253) or email: sistersinthespirit@gmail.com.

It's that time again, please remember to turn you clocks
ford one-hour Saturday on night.



3D SUNDAY OF LENT



March 4, 2018