

Dear Padre,

Our deacon was preaching about Lent and mentioned that the Church calls us to *metanoia*. What did he mean?

Most of us think of Lent as a time of penance. We receive our ashes and take up some traditional practice of giving up something or doing something for Lent. But there's more to Lent than just practices of piety or acts of penance and mortification. Your deacon is correct. In Lent, the Church calls us to *metanoia*, a Greek word meaning "a change of mind and heart."

We begin a new way of thinking and acting. We take a long, hard look at our lifestyle and compare it to the values Jesus offers. Then we change our lives to match the values of the Lord. This, of course, is difficult to do alone. The Church asks us to pray during Lent that the Lord's power will enter our lives and give us the wisdom to see a new direction and the courage to move in that direction. The Church suggests we strengthen our resolve through acts of personal mortification and sacrifice for others. This will tighten the belt of our discipline and

train us for the more sweeping changes that we must make.

The Scripture readings for the first three weeks of Lent center on *metanoia*. The readings direct us to understand what is involved with "changing our hearts" and seeking a new life direction. Listen to them well and they will lead you to *metanoia*.

*From Dear Padre: Questions Catholics Ask, © 2003 Liguori Publications
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org*

A WORD FROM *Pope Francis*

I urge the members of the Church to take up the Lenten journey with enthusiasm, sustained by almsgiving, fasting, and prayer. If, at times, the flame of charity seems to die in our own hearts, know that this is never the case in the heart of God! He constantly gives us a chance to begin loving anew.

LENTEN MESSAGE FOR 2018, NOVEMBER 1, 2017



Calendar

Monday
MARCH 8
Lenten Weekday
2 Kgs 5:1—15ab
Lk 4:24—30

Tuesday
MARCH 9
Lenten Weekday
Dn 3:25, 34—43
Mt 18:21—35

Wednesday
MARCH 10
Lenten Weekday
Dt 4:1, 5—9
Mt 5:17—19

Thursday
MARCH 11
Lenten Weekday
Jer 7:23—28
Lk 11:14—23

Friday
MARCH 12
Lenten Weekday
Hos 14:2—10
Mk 12:28—34

Saturday
MARCH 13
Lenten Weekday
Hos 6:1—6
Lk 18:9—14

Sunday
MARCH 14
Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Chr 36:14—16,
19—23
Eph 2:4—10
Jn 3:14—21

Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent (B)
Ex 20:1—17 or 20:1—3, 7—8, 12—17
1 Cor 1:22—25
Jn 2:13—25



While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

JOHN 2:23

The Long Arm of the Law

Eventually you're going to get caught. That's what this expression means. And that is pretty much how most people understand law—as something that hems them in and, if disregarded, will get them in the end. But that is not how Israel understood its law. The psalm verses for today insist that the law refreshes the soul, rejoices the heart, enlightens the eye, is more precious than gold, and is sweeter than syrup or honey from the comb. The people cherished the law because it outlined for them how they were to live as God's Chosen People.

People who want to run a marathon, learn to fly a plane, or join a club are eager to take on the directives that will enable them to accomplish their goal. That is how Israel viewed the law outlined in today's first reading. It's as if God said: "If you want to be my people, this is the way you should live."

Whenever the law of Israel seems to be criticized (as is often the case in St. Paul's writings), it is not really the law itself but the inappropriate attitude toward it that is censured. As important and precious as the law might be, it is only a means to an end. It is not the end itself, any more than the directives for flying a plane are what are uppermost. From the Bible's point of view, the long arm of the law is meant to direct and support us, not intimidate us.

Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

For Reflection

- ★ *The laws in today's first reading deal with basic living. Which ones seem to be the hardest to live by? Why?*
- ★ *Which laws give you the most support as you try to live with integrity?*



St. Mary's Church
Dalton, NE 69131



All Souls' Church
Bridgeport, NE 69336
Pastor: Rev. Dr. C.P. Varghese
Address: 701 P Street, Bridgeport, NE 69336



Sacred Heart Church
Bayard, NE 69334

Parish Office & Fax: (308)262-0709. Rectory: (308)262-1332 Email: allsoulsbridgeport@gmail.com Website: www.smassh Catholics.org

Dear Sisters, Brothers and Children in Jesus Christ,

Today's readings from Holy Scripture teach us that Lent is the ideal time to clean out the Temple of our own hearts and to offer to God proper Divine worship by obeying the Ten Commandments. They also teach us that our *New Covenant* with God demands that we should keep our parish Church holy and our Divine worship vibrant by our active participation in the liturgy with hearts cleansed by repentance, and holy by allowing the Holy Spirit to control our hearts and lives.

Today's first reading teaches us that the Ten Commandments are the basis of our religious and spiritual life. Instead of restricting our freedom, the Commandments really help us to love and respect our God and our neighbors. The Responsorial Psalm (Ps 19) depicts the Mosaic Law's life-enhancing attributes: it refreshes the soul and rejoices the heart; it is pure and true, more precious than gold. The second reading reminds us that we must appreciate the Divine "foolishness" of the crucified Christ and obey His commandment of love as our expression of Divine worship. Today's Gospel gives us the dramatic account of Jesus' cleansing the Temple of its merchants and moneychangers, followed by a prediction of his death and Resurrection. The synoptic Gospels place the "cleansing of the Temple" immediately after Jesus' triumphant arrival in Jerusalem on the back of a colt on Palm Sunday, while John places it at the beginning of his Gospel. Jesus cleansed the Temple which King Herod began to renovate in 20 BC. The abuses which kindled the prophetic indignation of Jesus were the conversion of God's Temple into a "noisy marketplace" by the animal merchants and into a "hideout of thieves" by the moneychangers with their grossly unjust business practices – sacrilege in God's Holy Place. Jesus' reaction to this commercialized Faith was fierce. Since no weapons were allowed inside the Temple, Jesus had to construct his own weapon, a whip of cords to drive out the merchants and moneychangers from the Court of the Gentiles.

We need to avoid a calculating mentality in Divine worship: Our relationship with God must be that of a child to his parent, one of mutual love, respect and a desire for the family's good, with no thought of personal loss or gain. Let us remember that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit: St. Paul reminds us that we are God's temples, body and soul, because the Spirit of God dwells in us. Hence, we have no right to desecrate God's temple by impurity, injustice, pride, hatred, or jealousy. Let us be cleansed by asking God's forgiveness through the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Let us love our parish Church as our "Father's house" and use it: Let us make our Church, our "Heavenly Father's house" a holier place by our active participation in the it's life.

Yours in Christ Jesus,

Fr. C. P. Varghese

Pastor

SCHEDULE FOR THIS WEEK

Date	Day	Time	Place	Intention
03/08	Monday	No Mass Today		
03/09	Tuesday	6.00 PM	Bridgeport	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/10	Wednesday	No Mass Today		
03/11	Thursday	6.00 PM	Dalton	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/12	Friday	11.30 AM	Bayard	Stations of the Cross & Eucharist
03/13	Saturday	5.30 PM	Dalton	Intention of Anna Faye Van Ann
03/14	Sunday	800 AM	Bayard	Lawrence Sanchez
03/14	Sunday	10.30 AM	Bridgeport	Oneva Lummel

ALL SOULS
617 P STREET
BRIDGEPORT NE 69336

MASS TIME
Tuesday — 6:00 PM
Sunday — 10.30 AM

Stations of the Cross:
March 09, Tuesday
at 6.00 PM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	120.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	177.00
SUBTOTAL	\$297.00
MASS STIPEND	
E.FLOWERS	\$40.00
TOTAL	\$ 337.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,046.00
DONATIONS	\$1,100.00
BALANCE	\$4,946.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Carolyn-262-0453 or Teresa-262-0439.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

SACRED HEART
1003 AVE B
BAYARD NE 69334

MASS TIME
Friday — 12:00 PM
Sunday — 8:00 AM

Stations of the Cross:
March 12, Friday
at 11.30 AM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	680.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	6.00
SUBTOTAL	\$686.00
MASS STIPEND	
E.FLOWERS	50.00
TOTAL	\$756.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$4,907.00
DONATIONS	\$1,280.00
BALANCE	\$3,627.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to Paula-586-2992.
- The rosary is prayed ½ hr before Mass, please come and pray.

• **FISH FRY**
MARCH 12TH
5:30 -7:30PM

FREE WILL DONATION

SAINT MARY'S
718 FRANCIS ST
DALTON NE 69131

MASS TIME
Thursday — 6:00 PM
Saturday — 5:30 PM

Stations of the Cross:
March 11, Thursday
at 6.00 PM
followed by Mass

OUR GIFTS TO GOD & CHURCH

ADULTS	\$290.00
CHILDREN	
PLATE	\$10.00
SUBTOTAL	\$ 300.00
MASS STIPEND	
E.FLOWERS	\$50.00
TOTAL	\$ 350.00
BUILDING FUND	
APPEAL GOAL	\$6,136.00
DONATIONS	\$2,400.00
BALANCE	\$3,736.00

- Prayer line requests may be made to DeAnn-249-1735.

• **FISH FRY**
MARCH 12TH
5:30 -7:30PM