

APRIL 2, 2017 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow—a day at a Time

SUNDAY, APRIL 2, 2017

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Earthen vessels

When we hear talk of *flesh* in scripture, we usually think of it as the human body, our flesh and bones. Saint Paul often pits flesh against spirit in his Letters. If at those times we understand Paul's references to flesh to be referring to the body only, we would believe our bodies to be rather nasty indeed. But the news isn't that bad. By *flesh* Paul means "self-centeredness" versus *spirit*, or "God-centeredness." Are we oriented toward ourselves or to the ways of God? If the first option is true for us, then our physical existence, bodies included, can be a drag on our spirit. If we look to God, though, before all else, then our material lives, bodies included, become sacred vessels that house the divine.

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:12-14; Romans 8:8-11; John 11:1-45. "You are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you."

MONDAY, APRIL 3

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Drop it!

In one of the most dramatic moments in scripture, Jesus comes face-to-face with a woman caught in adultery. But because her accusers are only using her as a tool to trap Jesus, he confronts a second and greater sin: the eagerness to judge. At Jesus' invitation—"let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her"—at least those in the crowd were honest enough to let the rocks drop. Being sinless does not lead Jesus to condemn sinners. It leads to forgiving them, showing them how to live without the sin that can destroy. In Lent we scrutinize ourselves for signs of self-righteousness—something we must drop like a heavy stone.

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62; John 8:1-11 "In response, they went away one by one."

TUESDAY, APRIL 4

MEMORIAL OF ISIDORE, BISHOP, DOCTOR OF THE CHURCH

School yourself in divine wisdom

There are some who would like to add Divine Intelligence theory, or creationism, to the curriculum to counter the teachings of the theory of evolution, which they contend is contrary to the

biblical teachings of the origin of man. Saint Isidore 1,500 years ago assured us that there is no contradiction in God's world between so-called book learning and heart wisdom, what we learn about the world and how we experience God. We can see God's presence in all creation and in all that we learn from science and faith.

TODAY'S READINGS: Numbers 21:4-9; John 8:21-30 "The one who sent me is true, and I declare to the world what I have heard from him."

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5

MEMORIAL OF VINCENT FERRER, PRIEST

Gracefully reconcile

Reconciliation means bringing things or people into some kind of harmony. The Dominican Saint Vincent (1350-1419) practiced reconciliation on many levels. He traveled around preaching repentance. "When you have realized your true worth," he said, "you will be able to judge your faults sanely . . . and the faults of your neighbor will remain in shadow." Seeing the shortcomings of others, Vincent reminds us, begins with seeing our own limitations clearly. That perspective can then lead us to gracefulness in accepting criticism and tact in giving it.

TODAY'S READINGS: Daniel 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; John 8:31-42 (253). "If you were Abraham's children, you would be doing the works of Abraham."

THURSDAY, APRIL 6

Pleased to meet you

The second Commandment warns against using the Lord's name in vain. When Jesus refers to himself as "I AM," as he does many times in John's gospel, he is deliberately associating himself with God, who revealed the divine name to Moses as "I AM WHO I AM." This strange-sounding name declares that God's absolute existence depends upon nothing and no one. It puts God in a unique category, because the rest of us are dependent and fragile creatures. Give thanks today for all the ways your life is nourished and sustained by God's unshakeable presence.

TODAY'S READINGS: Genesis 17:3-9; John 8:51-59 (254). "Very truly, I tell you, before Abraham was, I am."

FRIDAY, APRIL 7

MEMORIAL OF JOHN BAPTIST DE LA SALLE, PRIEST

What to do?

Most churchgoing folks are people of good will. We, like the folks around Jesus, try to do what is right in the eyes of God. But we're not always clear on what the expectations are. Some of us are minimalists who hope that not doing anything really wrong is the same as living right. Some are legalists, comfortable with obeying and enforcing moral laws. Some struggle to shed a few more bad habits every year so as to creep closer to the spiritual ideals over a lifetime. Jesus says if we trust in him, we'll always know what to do.

TODAY'S READINGS: Jeremiah 20:10-13; John 10:31-42 (255). "Understand that the Father is in me and I am in the Father."

SATURDAY, APRIL 8

LENTEN WEEKDAY

The Caiaphas inside us all

Caiaphas, the Jewish high priest who presided at the trial of Jesus, saw Jesus as a threat to his own power and privilege. So he took advantage of his close relationship with Pontius Pilate to persuade the latter to condemn Jesus to crucifixion. Though it is easy enough to dislike Caiaphas based on the biblical testimony, we do well to recognize a bit of ourselves in him. Lent is a good time to reflect on how we protect our power and privilege in ways that hurt others. Before condemning Caiaphas let's make sure we haven't done the same thing to Jesus in our own hearts!

TODAY'S READINGS: Ezekiel 37:21-28; John 11:45-56 (256). "It is better for you that one man should die instead of the people."

NEXT SUNDAY

Sunday, April 9, 2017

PALM SUNDAY OF THE PASSION OF THE LORD

Acknowledge your state of denial

TODAY'S READINGS: Procession: Matthew 21:1-11 Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7; Philippians 2:6-11; Matthew 26:14-27:66 "Blessed is the he who comes in the name of the Lord."

Catholic Social Teaching Corner

April 1-2, Fifth Sunday of Lent

In this Sunday's readings we hear God's promise of spirit and life. We do not have to remain entombed by fear, selfishness, jealousy, greed or any other evil that kills God's life in us. Jesus passed through suffering and death so that we might have abundant life. What is the new life God is calling us to experience? What tomb do we need to leave in order to live in God's freedom and fullness of life?



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**MASS INTENTIONS
FOR THE WEEK**



Mass Intentions is offering a mass for
Reasons: The intentions of another
Person: birthday, anniversary, traveling grace, or as is
most common, for the repose of the soul of someone who
has died. To schedule a mass intention contact the church
office.

Saturday, April 1, Vigil Mass

Mark Escarrilla and Children, requested by
Albert and Gina Escarrilla

Sunday, April 2, 8:00 Mass

Thanksgiving Mass for Albert and Gina
Escarrilla and children

Pray for traveling Grace for parishioners who
will be traveling to Louisiana today.

Sunday, April 2, 10:00AM

Mark Escarrilla and Children, requested by
Albert and Gina Escarrilla

Pray for traveling Grace for parishioners who
will be traveling to Louisiana today.

Calendar of Events

Sunday April 2, 2017
Mass 8:00AM & 10:00 AM
Rosary 9:30AM

Tuesday April 4, 2017
Noon Mass

Wednesday April 5, 2017
Noon Mass

Thursday April 6, 2017
Noon Mass
Choir 6:00pm

Friday April 7, 2017
Station of the Cross 6:30pm
Benediction

Saturday April 8, 2017
Rosary Making
1st Saturday Devotion 10-11AM
Tai Chi Classes 1:15-2:15
Vigil Mass 5:30PM

Weekend MARCH 25/26, 2017

ATTENDANCE

Vigil Mass 25
SUNDAY
8:00AM 53
10:00AM 203

Weekend MARCH 25/26, 2017

OFFERTORY	6410.00
E-GIVING	1161.75
SVDP (E-GIVING)	45.00
SVDP	211.00
CHILDREN	43.00
Catholic Relief Service	391.00
Ash Wednesday	25.00
FISH FRY	1000.00
World Mission	25.00
GIFT STORE	20.00

REGISTERED NURSES

We are calling on all registered nurses
who are Holy Cross Parishioners to
please give your name to the secretary.
This is to help us organize properly in
case of emergency

HOLY WEEK ACTIVITIES

THURSDAY OF THE LORD'S SUPPER 6:30PM
GOOD FRIDAY
FISH FRY ENDS 2:00PM
STATIONS OF THE CROSS 2:30PM
PASSION OF THE LORD FOLLOWS
EASTER VIGIL 9:00PM
EASTER SUNDAY 8:00AM & 10:00AM

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Classes will resume today at 12noon.

YOUNG/MIDDLE AGED ADULTS

Young Adults 19-39 and Middle Aged
Adults 40-54, are in the initial planning
stage of a "Meet and Greet Fellowship".
Please contact the chairs: **Janet
Fontenette and Carolyn Collins** of you
would like to join this ministry.

SAFE PLACE

The KPC Ladies Auxiliary and Junior
Daughters are collecting Black/African
American adult and children's books
and magazines. Safe Place is in need
of these items to better serve their
Black/African American Clients. AA
magazines such as Ebony, Essence,
Black Enterprise, Heart and Soul and
others, donations and subscriptions
appreciated! The campaign ends May
31st. Please see bulletin insert for
additional information.

Black Catholic Studies (IBCS)

Are you feeling called to deepen your
spirituality? Join us at the Institute for
Black Catholic Studies (IBCS) at Xavier
University in New Orleans. IBCS is the
first and primary national center for the
study of the Black Catholic experience.
Programs include the Elders Retreat,
Continuing Education and Enrichment
Programs, and the Masters of Theology
Degree Program. Summer programs are
offered for a one, two, or three week
experience. For more info, go to
xula.edu/lbcs or contact Kaye Crawford
at 512-965-3075.

Be the change you wish to see in the
world. Gandhi

ADVOCACY DAY

HOLY CROSS, join Catholics from the
Diocese of Austin and other fellow Texas
Catholics at the Capitol in Austin to promote
life, dignity, and the common good on April 4,
2017.

Catholics from across the Lone Star State will
unite for the Texas Catholic Conference's
2017 Texas Catholic Faith in Action Day.
Why participate in Advocacy Day? This bi-
annual rally is hosted by the Texas bishops
to promote the Church's values of Life,
Justice, Charity, and Religious Freedom to
members of the Texas Legislature.
The Bishops and event participants will
address a broad range of diverse issues
including:

- +Protecting Human Life
- +Children and Families
- +Health and Human Services
- +Justice for Immigrants
- +Protecting the Poor and Vulnerable
- +Criminal Justice

Chrism Mass

The Chrism Mass will be at St. Vincent
de Paul, 9500 Neenah Avenue, April 11,
2017, 10:30 a.m.

**Schoenstatt Community hosts Good
Friday pilgrimage**

The Austin Schoenstatt Community will
host a Walk with Christ, a Good Friday
pilgrimage, through the streets of Austin
on April 14 beginning with Mass at
12:30 p.m. at St. Mary Cathedral in
Austin. The 9-mile solemn walk from the
Cathedral to the Marian Shrine of Our
Lady of Schoenstatt will focus on Jesus
Christ's sacrifice. For details visit
www.schoenstatt.us.

National Black Catholic Congress XII

Registration and Hotel Reservations are
open for National Black Catholic Congress
XII being held in Orlando, FL July 6th - 9th.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN



*God made you to be the answer to
someone else's prayers.*

Keep your eyes open!