Church of the Ascension

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Pastoral Staff

Rev. Hao Dinh, Pastor
Rev. Reynaldo Sarmiento, Parochial Vicar
Nomer Rios, Administrative Assistant
Mark Rose, Bookkeeper
Wayne Purdy, Maintenance Supervisor

Catechetical Ministry

Loy Oppus-Moe, Youth Faith Formation Coordinator
RCIA Rev. Hao Dinh, Pastor

Masses

Saturday
9:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m. (Vigil)

Sunday
7:00 a.m.
9:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

Weekday
M—F 8:00 a.m.

Holy Days
Mass times as announced

Reconciliation

Saturday
4:00 pm—4:45 pm

MARCH 26, 2023 — FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — Thus says the LORD GOD: I will open your graves, have you rise from them, and settle you on your land. (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Psalm — With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption (Psalm 130).

Second Reading — If Christ is in you, the spirit is alive even if the body is dead because of sin (Romans 8:8-11).

Gospel — Lazarus, dead for four days, came out of his tomb when Jesus called his name. Many of those who had seen what had happened began to believe in Jesus (John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]).

LIFE FROM GOD

As we approach Holy Week, our readings speak of a God who, in the midst of death, brings new life to the people. In Ezekiel, we hear that God will open the graves of the people of Israel, who faced near extinction. In the Gospel of John, Jesus gives new life to Lazarus in a manner that prefigures the resurrection of Jesus. Paul tells the Romans that in Christ, God will not only give life to our bodies after death, but God offers us abundant life here and now.

We observe that the external conditions for the people described in these readings did not radically change. Israel was still in exile. Lazarus would eventually face death again. But now God's presence and power are revealed. Even when our situation in life is difficult and perhaps not likely to change soon, we remember that the Spirit dwells within us.

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Stations of the Cross:
Fridays of Lent
—after the 8:00 am Mass

Please join us for a Lenten Reflection:

"Our Journey from Easter 2023 to Jubilee 2024"

—with Fr. Noel

Thursday, March 30
9:00—10:30 am

Or

7:00—8:30 pm (Repeat)

Liturgy Notes

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Stations of the Cross

One of the most common traditions of Lent is praying the Stations of the Cross. This series of pictures represents certain scenes in the Passion of Christ; each one corresponding to a particular incident. The Stations are usually arranged at intervals around the walls of a church, although they are sometimes found in the open, often as statues, leading to a chapel or shrine.

Praying the Stations of the Cross is a relatively modern phenomenon although its beginnings date back to the time of Christ. After Jesus died and rose, many people reflected on His passion and death. They began to make visits to Jerusalem and walk in His footsteps. Tradition holds that the street Jesus walked to His crucifixion is called Via Dolorosa, the way of pain. As pilgrims walked the path, they stopped to reflect on what happened to Jesus along the way; it is likely they marked the places for those who came after.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, several reproductions of the holy places in Jerusalem were set up in different parts of Europe. Pilgrims who could not make the journey to Jerusalem could visit these reproductions as a sort of miniature pilgrimage. This practice grew and by the end of the17th century, had become a common practice, found in almost every church. Initially the number of stations and their content varied considerably; in the 18th century, however, the number of stations was authorized at 14.

The object of the Stations is a spiritual pilgrimage to the chief scenes of Christ's suffering and death. No other devotion enables us to obey literally Christ's injunction to take up our cross and follow him. Modern liturgists have emphasized that devotion to the Passion is incomplete without reference to the Resurrection and in response many churches have added an optional 15th station, the Resurrection. If so, this station is omitted during Lent.

A PRAYER FOR THE WORLD

Let the rain come and wash away the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds held and nurtured over generations. Let the rain wash away the memory of the hurt, the neglect.

Then let the sun come out and fill the sky with rainbows. Let the warmth of the sun heal us wherever we are broken. Let it burn away the fog so that we can see each other clearly...so that we can see beyond labels, beyond accents, gender or skin color.

Let the warmth and brightness of the sun melt our selfishness...so that we can share the joys and feel the sorrows of our neighbors. And let the light of the sun be so strong that we all see all people as our neighbors.

Let the earth, nourished by rain, bring forth flowers to surround us with beauty. And let the mountains teach our hearts to reach upward to Heaven. Amen.

—H.S. Kushner

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

Mar 25	Sat	9 a.m.	All Parishioners
		5 p.m.	Maria Machado (L)
Mar 26	Sun	7 a.m.	All Parishioners
		9 a.m.	All Parishioners
		11 a.m.	Marietta Gloria Martinez +
		5 p.m.	Rose & Alex Lenarduzzi +
Mar 27	Mon	8 a.m.	All Parishioners
Mar 28	Tue	8 a.m.	Vicente Santiago, Jr. +
Mar 29	Wed	8 a.m.	All Parishioners
Mar 30	Thu	8 a.m.	All Parishioners
Mar 31	Fri	8 a.m.	Anthony Lau (L)
Apr 01	Sat	9 a.m.	Jennifer Weeks (L)
		5 p.m.	Frank C. Pereira +
Apr 02	Sun	7 a.m.	All Parishioners
		9 a.m.	All Parishioners
		11 a.m.	Leo Fiorentino +
		5 p.m.	Bette Fiorentino +

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

No feast days of saints are observed this week; however, next Sunday is Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, the beginning of Holy Week.

THANK YOU

Mar. 19, 2023	Our Weekly Offering
NEEDED	$6,500
COLLECTED	$3,248
WESHARE	$2,477
CRS Coll.	$1,313

While the world changes, the cross stands firm.
—St. Bruno

ADA 2023

The ADA 2023 theme is:
"Supporting Our Mission Together."

Our parish goal is **$74,109** and we are happy to say that we are within a couple of thousands towards our goal!

We are grateful to all the families who have so far pledged/donated to our Mission.

We are so close—almost there!
If you have not yet made a pledge/donation, please help us reach our parish goal.