

St. Agnes Catholic Church

Terrier & Cherry Rd. Intersection, Sarcoxie, MO

March 7, 2021 Third Sunday of Lent

St. Agnes Catholic Church
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MASSES FOR March 7 – March 14

Saint Agnes

Sunday 10:30 a.m.
Tuesday 8:30 a.m.
Thursday 8:30 a.m.
Sunday 10:30 a.m.

St. Agnes Parish Family
Justice & Peace
Poor Souls in Purgatory
St. Agnes Parish Family

St. Mary's

Mon. 8:15 a.m. Rosary & Service
Wed. 8:15 a.m..
Fri. 8:15 a.m.
Sat. 4:00 p.m.
Sun. 8:30 a.m.

EVENTS OF THE WEEK:

Friday, March 12

Fish Fry at St. Mary's 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8 Kids \$3 (ages 6-12) 5 & under Free. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus – Day of Abstinence (No Meat)(Dine-in or carry out)
Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. Lead by Father Matt

UPCOMING EVENT:

Wednesday, March 17

Friday, March 19

Bishop Liebrech's 65th Priesthood Anniversary

Fish Fry at St. Mary's 5-7 p.m. Adults \$8 Kids \$3 (ages 6-12) 5 & under Free. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus – Day of Abstinence (No Meat)(Dine-in or carry out)

Stations of the Cross at 7:00 p.m. Lead by a volunteer

Solemnity of Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Friday, March 19

Your Gift to the Church:

\$ 2,085.00

Catholic Education \$300.00

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

READERS

March 7 Sandy Thorn
14 Martin Wagner
21 Doug Pickering
28 Cheryl (R) Elbert

MONEY COUNTERS

James Campbell & Doug Pickering
Ron Wagner & Steve Schmitt
Cheryl (K) Elbert & Jane Kutz
James Campbell & Doug Pickering

PLEASE KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS Kathy Heidlage, Sharon Wolfe, Theresa Heidlage, Paul Mettlach, Marie Jasumback, Mary Lenore Droska, Jim and Veda Perrin, Marion Tomlinson Williams, and all the sick and shut-ins of our parish.

February Church Cleaners: Marilyn Henderson, Margie Calentine, Kathy Eck

MARCH BIRTHDAY REMEMBERENCES: Bernadine Adamson, Mark Adamson, Robert Campbell, Levi Chorum, Cheryl (R) Elbert, Kevin Feather, Sally Heidlage, Tricia Heidlage, Gideon Ocheltree, Jenifer Ochletree, Steven Schmitt, Janice Sommer, Kylin Wagner & Hunter Williams.

THIRD WEEK OF LENT – The Cleansing of the Temple

Today we read of Jesus cleansing the Temple. This story has a sense of urgency. It is not about anger: it's about transformation. Jesus is saying: "No more business as usual. There is not much time left. Be converted, be cleansed because the reign of God is at hand."

3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20:1-17
Ps 19:8-11
1 Corinthians 1:22-25
John 2:13-25

Monday March 8
2 Kings 5:1-15b
Ps 42:2-3; 43:3-4
Luke 4:24-30

Tuesday March 9
Daniel 3:25,34-43
Ps 25:4-9
Matthew 18:21-35

Wednesday March 10
Deuteronomy 4:1,5-9
Ps 147:12-13,15-16,19-20
Matthew 5:17-19

Thursday March 11
Jeremiah 7:23-28
Ps 95:1-2,6-9
Luke 11:14-23

Friday March 12
Hosea 14:2-10
Ps 81:6c-11ab,14,17
Mark 12:28-34

Saturday March 13
Hosea 6:1-6
Ps 51:3-4,18-21
Luke 18:9-14

The final paragraph of the Gospel reading is very revealing: Jesus did not "trust" himself to the converts whose faith in him was based on the signs and wonders that he had done. The reason: He did not want anyone to testify (i.e., spread the faith) about the limitations of human nature.

Faith based on signs and wonders is human nature: It's easier to put faith in what we can humanly see, touch, and hear than to believe in a God who is invisible and who usually sounds very silent. There is nothing supernatural about this kind of faith, but God is very supernatural.

What happens to our faith when we pray and pray and pray for God's intervention and there are no signs indicating that we'll get what we want? Our reaction to unanswered prayers is an indicator of how natural or supernatural our spiritual life really is.

Jesus knew that his physical presence was the greatest sign of all, but it would soon be taken away. Don't we sometimes wish that Jesus would appear in front of us and make himself audible to our human ears? We think it would make our faith stronger.

Typically, we base our faith on many signs: prayers being answered, love being evidenced, peace and happiness filling our hearts, etc. But what happens to our faith



when we enter the dark night of trials and difficulties? Do we continue to trust God when we can no longer see or feel signs that he cares?

The kind of faith we need when faith matters most comes from trusting God for who he really is and how much he really cares, rather than on what the evidence seems to say.

To succeed in this, we need supernatural faith. When we're united to the divinity of Christ, we join ourselves to his faith. We then trust him so much that we don't need signs.

Remember this the next time you receive Jesus in the Eucharist. Not only are you consuming his body, you are also uniting yourself to his divinity. And he is uniting himself to you! What he wants to give you most of all is HIS ALL.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. What signs do you rely on to believe that God truly cares?
2. How do you feel when those signs are taken away? Are these feelings based on the reality of God's love or on fear?
3. Have you ever wished that Jesus would appear to you? Why? Did God provide what you needed some other way?
4. How do you remind yourself that God cares during those difficult times when you can't see it or feel it?