

ST. CALLISTUS CHURCH

ON THIS 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT,
PLEASE READ AND REFLECT ON THE PRAYERS BELOW
TO HELP US THROUGH THIS TIME OF THE
CORONA VIRUS CRISIS.

March 15, 2020

Jesus Christ, you traveled through towns and villages “curing every disease and illness.” At your command, the sick were made well. Come to our aid now, in the midst of the global spread of the coronavirus, that we may experience your healing love. Heal those who are sick with the virus. May they regain their strength and health through quality medical care.

Heal us from our fear, which prevents nations from working together and neighbors from helping one another.

Heal us from our pride, which can make us claim invulnerability to a disease that knows no borders.

Jesus Christ, healer of all, stay by our side in this time of uncertainty and sorrow.

Be with those who have died from the virus. May they be at rest with you in your eternal peace.

Be with the families of those who are sick or have died. As they worry and grieve, defend them from illness and despair. May they know your peace.

Be with the doctors, nurses, researchers and all medical professionals who seek to heal and help those affected and who put themselves at risk in the process. May they know your protection and peace.

Be with the leaders of all nations. Give them the foresight to act with charity and true concern for the well-being of the people they are meant to serve. Give them the wisdom to invest in long-term solutions that will help prepare for or prevent future outbreaks. May they know your peace, as they work together to achieve it on earth.

Whether we are home or abroad, surrounded by many people suffering from this illness or only a few, Jesus Christ, stay with us as we endure and mourn, persist and prepare. In place of our anxiety, give us your peace.

Jesus Christ, heal us.

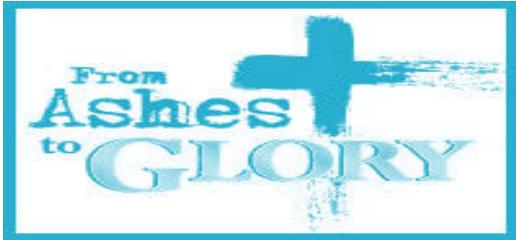
Fr. Dante

Let us be vigilant in our daily prayers, avoid making fun of or making jokes about the coronavirus. You may mean well but jokes may come across as insensitive, inappropriate and others might find them hurtful. If/When you feel the urge to make a joke about it, pause and say one Hail Mary instead.

The Bulletin Editor

Reminders: Read the news from reliable sources (and take breaks from the news). Recognize the things you can control, like having good hygiene. Practice self-care. Feelings of fear, anxiety, sadness, and uncertainty are normal during a pandemic: Seek professional help from a licensed mental health professional if necessary. (Source-Google) Also: <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/coronavirus-ten-reasons-not-to-panic>





BIBLE PASSAGE:

Exodus 17:3-7
Is God in our midst or not?

The Israelites were blaming Moses for leading them out of Egypt and bringing them to the desert, implying that he wants them to die of thirst. Their want of water was a great trial; their conduct amounted to chiding with Moses (Massah) and tempting God (Meribah). 'So Moses cried out to the Lord, "What shall I do with these people?" The Lord asked Moses to "go in front of the people with some of the elders of Israel, with the staff in your hand. I will be standing in front of you on the rock in Horeb. Strike the rock, and the water will flow from it for the people to drink."

REFLECTION:

This elegant story of human nature and divine character reminds us that the trials faced by the Israelites are not unlike the trials we face today. Like the people in the desert, we may meet with troubles for the trials of our faith when we journey through our own "wilderness". To lay blame of a difficult situation to another person is a huge satisfaction to an ordinary person. And, when want is not satisfied, we become doubtful of God's presence and mercy, born out of despair, frustration and exasperation. In times like these, let us be like Moses. Ask and receive with humility, trust and faith.

Our Rock is Christ himself - loving, merciful and forgiving. In His miracle of mercy, he did not bring a stream of blood to the people in the desert, but a current of pure refreshing water. He is the source of our constant living stream to refresh our souls until we come to glory.

ACTION: Our souls need constant refreshment. Let us atone for our sins by being compassionate in our treatment of other people's plight, most especially when we, as a community, help the poor among us. Pope Francis is constantly speaking about how we must find Christ among the poor, that's where He is present. So anything that we can do in this Lenten season to interact with the poor in compassion and love will certainly help to make the Kingdom of God a reality in our world. Prayer is the most powerful gift one can give a person in need of love, forgiveness, comfort and support. Say a silent prayer; offer a Mass intention; send a prayer card.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — When the people grumbled to Moses for water in the desert, the Lord heard and brought forth water from the rock for all to drink (Exodus 17:3-7).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit (Romans 5:1-2, 5-8).

Gospel — Ask, and you will be given living water so that you will never thirst again (John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]).

CATHEDRAL SHOP CLOSING

After 12 years of business, The Cathedral Shop is closing at the end of March. This will allow the Diocese to explore another purpose for this space. A purpose which will remain true to the mission of the Cathedral/Diocesan Community. We would like to thank you for your patronage that has helped to support our ministry.

Our Closing Sale begins on Wednesday, March 4, 2020. Doors open @ 10:00AM.



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All Fridays of Lent at 7:30 in the evening. Also, Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat and meat products.

Ministries to lead the Stations of the Cross prayers:

March 20: Young Adults & Faith Formation Catechists & Teachers

March 27: RCIA & Youth Confirmation Members

April 3: SVDP & Choir Members

CENSUS 2020

In mid-March, homes in the whole country will receive invitations to participate in the Census 2020. Participation in the Census is required by law, and people will be able to respond online, by phone or by mail. If there is no response, a Census worker will pay the home a visit to collect the information. Thank you for your support to ensure that everyone in our parishes and communities are seen, counted and ensured resources for the future.

*C. Hernandez, Office for the Life & Justice Coordinator
Diocese of Oakland*



