



(Perfect Image Photography – Danny Doctor)

Historic St. Benedict the Moor Catholic Church

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March 7, 2021

Third Sunday of Lent, Year B

Rev. Romanus Obiora Ezeugwu, MSP, Pastor
Shirley West, Admin Secretary
Bea Betworth, Accounts Secretary
Sharon Carson, Supt. of Religious Education
Dianne Williams, Parish Council Chairperson
Carl Hayes, Finance Chairperson
Jerome Grayson, Bldg/Maintenance

Please remember to follow our Parish Covid-19 safety guidelines:

1. Please read carefully the Covid-19 information provided at the entrance of the church.
2. For your protection and for the safety of others, masks are highly recommended at Mass.
3. Sanitizer is available for use at the entrance of the church. Please use it before coming into the church. There is also a sanitizer bottle in each pew.
4. There is social distancing seating arrangement. Please it is critical that you follow the directions of the Ushers.
5. Please observe social distancing also when leaving the church. Please do not socialize outside the church. Stay at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other people. Do not gather in groups.

Introduction to the Liturgy of the Day

We fail. We sin. We fall. We humans are weak, so we turn to God for strength. During this penitential season, we are keenly aware of our need for mercy and forgiveness. God's mercy and forgiveness came to full fruition in Jesus, who redeemed us by taking on our failings, our sins, our mortality. God has the words of everlasting life, as we sing in the psalm today, so we look to God this day for words of mercy and love as we recommit ourselves to our Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving.

Mass Intentions

All Masses:

In loving memory of & the repose of the soul of Andrea Herman who passed away 02/17.

*offered by Clarence & Ann Davis.

5:30pm: For the repose of the soul of Mattie Glover on the anniversary of her birthday. *offered by Prince A. Jackson, III.

For the repose of the soul of Prince A. Jackson, Sr. on the anniversary of his passing. *offered by Prince A. Jackson, III.

For the repose of the soul of Kim Elaine Chaney on the anniversary of her passing.

9:30am: For the repose of the soul of Clarence John Bailey on the anniversary of his birthday. *Mariah Bailey & Family.

For the repose of the soul of Bernitha German Vaughn n the anniversary of her birthday & death. *offered by Helen G. Odums.

(Prelude, Intro, Hymn, Penitential Act)

Gloria

Glory to God in the Highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you; we bless you; we adore you; we glorify you; we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, You take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; You take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; You are seated at the right hand of the father, have mercy on us. For You alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord, You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, With the Holy Spirit, In the glory of God the Father, Amen.

First Reading: A reading from the Book of Exodus 20:1-17.

In those days, God delivered all these commandments:

"I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.

You shall not have other gods besides me.

You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them.

For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.

"You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.

"Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.

Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

"Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him".

The Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm:

[Psalm 19:8-11]

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

Second Reading: A reading from the 1st letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians 1:22-25.

Brothers and sisters: Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom, but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom,

and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

The Word of the Lord.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: ALL STAND

From the shining cloud the Father's voice is heard: This is my beloved Son, listen to him.

Response: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory.

GOSPEL:

✠ A reading from the gospel of St. John 2:13-25.

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace". His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, *Zeal for your house will consume me*. At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?" Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up". The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?" But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the Scripture and the word Jesus had spoken. 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. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all

things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven: (At the words that follow, all bow) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man. (end bow). For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day, in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets. I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one baptism for the forgiveness of sins, and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Parish Giving
February 28, 2021

Offertory	\$ 5002.00
Deanery Schools	\$ 5.00

"Thank You for Your Generosity"



Please Pray for our Sick & Homebound

Michael Allen, Joe Battle, Henry Blount, M. Marie Blue, Carmen Broussard, William & Odessa Bryant, James Cain, Shawn Chaney, Anne Chappell, Josefa Citizen, Lillian Dilworth, Morris Elliott, Juanita Fields, Anthony Hall, Laura Harris, Jessica Jackson, Charlotte Jenkins, Clevon Johnson, Margaret Jones, Bobby Locke, Michelle Lovewine, Margie McNeal, Dawud Patterson, Adriene Perry, Sr., Adriene Perry, Jr., Janice Quinn, Marilee Short, Lucille Singleton, Inez Walthour, Frankie Washington, Jeanette Westley Margaret Weston, Deveira Wiggins, Louise Wiggins, Nathaniel Wiggins, Arlene Wiley, Ellen Williams, Tambra Williams, Yvonne Williams, Crystal Williams, Narvia Williams, Julie Porter-Winfrey.

2021 STATIONS of the CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be held every

Friday at 6:00pm

Make this service a part of your Lenten journey!

March 12 – AMSP, Lectors

March 19 – New Horizons and Traveling Moors

March 26 – CCW and Friends of SBM
April 2 – Legion of Mary and Choirs

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

**Penance services will be held on Wednesday
March 17, 2021 at 6:00pm.**

2021 ANNUAL CATHOLIC APPEAL

This year's theme of the ACA is "Steadfast in Faith". Your sacrificial gift and prayers will help make this year's appeal a success. Our parish target is \$30,839 and we can do this, after thoughtful consideration and prayer, everyone participates according to our ability.

RECONCILIATION WEDNESDAYS

The Cathedral of St. John the Baptist – 4:00-5:00 PM
Resurrection of Our Lord – 5:00 – 6:00 PM
Sacred Heart – 4:30 – 5:30 PM
St. Anne, Richmond Hill – 6:00-6:45 PM
St. Benedict the Moor – 5:00-6:00 PM
St. Boniface, Springfield – 5:30-6:30 PM
St. James – 6:00 – 7:00 PM
St. Michael's, Tybee Island – 4:30 – 5:30 PM
Blessed Sacrament 4:00-5:00 PM.

THANK YOU

Lorraine Debnam and the Cain Family would like to thank Father Romanus and everyone for their phone calls and any other acts of kindness shown during their passing of their loved one, William Cain.

PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Our Bodies are the Temple of God:

The Feast of the Passover is an annual commemoration of the liberation of the Jews from the slavery in Egypt, when the Angel of God struck down the firstborn in every Egyptian family, but "passed-over" the houses of the people of Israel whose doorposts were smeared with the blood of the lamb sacrificed that evening at God's command. The Jews traveled from all parts of the country to Jerusalem for this annual celebration of the Feast of Passover. Some animals or birds, such as oxen, sheep, pigeons were required for sacrifices and since it would be almost impossible for those who were coming from faraway places to bring such animals or birds all the way to Jerusalem for sacrifices, the synagogue officials decided to be selling such animals and birds within the domain of the temples. The currency used in the country at the time was the pagan Roman coinage, and since only Jewish shekels could be used for buying the animals or birds for sacrifices, the money changers were also there in the Temple to change the Roman coinage to Jewish shekels. The environment became more of a business center than a place of worship.

For this reason, Jesus was upset and made a drastic move to restore his Father's house, getting rid of the money changers and the animal sellers who had turned the Temple into a marketplace rather than a house of prayer and worship. Jesus made it clear that the Temple; the Church is God's own house – the dwelling place of God, and we must be aware of the sacredness of, and God's presence in the Church. Like the Jews, sometimes we are carried out by our effort to have a wonderful celebration of the liturgy to the extent that we lose sense of the very essence of worship – the presence of God among us in His house, the Church which obliges reverence, prayer, and devotion. Whenever we are in the house of God distracting ourselves and other by having conversation in the Church, chewing gums, reading newspaper, checking our phones and tablets, simply put, doing things that would take our attention or others attention away from focusing on the presence of God and showing reverence, we are turning God's house into a marketplace.

Furthermore, St. Paul tells us that our bodies are also God's own Temples. "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies". This is because the Spirit of God dwells in each one of us. To keep God's Temple – our bodies holy is to remain in Christ, and to do his will; to obey the commandments of God by loving our God above all things and to love our brothers and sisters as ourselves. This is the summary of the whole laws and the prophets. The first reading presented us with the Ten Commandments. If we fail to keep the commandments of God, we are defiling the temple of God because, since the Holy Spirit lives in us, we are the temple of the Holy Spirit! Ask yourself today: "Do I really love God; am I on the right road to heaven"? "Do I love my neighbor as myself"?

Your Pineapple for the Week:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'. All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments".

(Matthew 22:37-40).