

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church Newsletter

February 14, 2021

My Dear Parishioners,

As I am sure you already know, Lent begins this week. From the earliest days of the Church, Lent was the final period of preparation for catechumens before they would be baptized on Easter, and it was also seen as a period of decision: the decision as to whether or not to become a Catholic. For the rest of us, it is a period for us to prepare for our celebration of the Resurrection: a period of penance and reparation for our sins. Lent is also a moment of decision for us: a moment of whether or not to embrace God on a deeper level. As God calls us into the desert, He does not abandon us. No, He walks with us as we grow in character, grace, and virtue through our practice of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. May we enter Lent as good Catholics and come to celebrate Easter as great Catholics.

Daily time with the Sacred Scriptures is a powerful way to pray. In this week's newsletter, I have included a teaching on reading and understanding the Sacred Scriptures by St. Bonaventure. St. Bonaventure was the second Superior General of the Franciscans, succeeding St. Francis himself. He was also an extremely intelligent and well educated man who excelled in his understanding of all of the sciences, most especially the science of Theology. St. Bonaventure stresses that the most important thing necessary for reading and understanding the Sacred Scriptures is not a degree in theology but the gift of our Catholic Faith. Our Catholic Faith gives each of us the power to pick up the Sacred Scriptures and gain something from them. Through the intercession of St. Bonaventure, may we approach the Scriptures with ever greater confidence and may our prayer with them help us grow in character, grace, and virtue as we enter and leave the desert of this Lent.

To assist us on our Lenten journey, we are again providing the "Magnificat Lenten Companion" which may be picked up in the Narthex after this weekend's Masses. We are also providing a Day of Reflection on Saturday, February 20. Please see the schedule in this week's newsletter and bulletin and please sign up.

Let us continue to pray our Rosaries and our Chaplets for first responders, for the sick, for the deceased, and for the end of the pandemic.

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

St. Joseph, pray for us!

Fr. Michael J. Pawelko



From the **BREVILOQUIUM** of St Bonaventure



From the knowledge of Jesus Christ flows the understanding of the whole of Holy Scripture

The stream of holy Scripture flows not from human research but from revelation by God. It springs from *the Father of lights, from whom all fatherhood in heaven and on earth takes its name*. From him, through his Son Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit flows into us; and through the Holy Spirit, giving, at will, different gifts to different people, comes the gift of faith, and through faith Jesus Christ has his dwelling in our hearts. This is the knowledge of Jesus Christ which is the ultimate basis of the solidity and wisdom of the whole of Holy Scripture.

From all this it follows that it is impossible for anyone to start to recognize Scripture for what it is if he does not already have faith in Christ infused into him. Christ is the lamp that illuminates the whole of Scripture: he is its gateway and its foundation. For this faith is behind all the supernatural enlightenments that we receive while we are still separated from the Lord and on our pilgrimage. It makes our foundation firm, it directs the light of the lamp, it leads us in through the gateway. It is the standard against which the wisdom that God has given us should be measured, so that *no-one should exaggerate his real importance, but everyone must judge himself soberly by the standard of the faith God has given him*.

The substance and fruit of Holy Scripture is very specific: the fullness of eternal happiness. For this is what Scripture is – its words are words of eternal life, and it is written not just so that we should believe, but specially so that we should possess eternal life in which we may see, and love, and have all our desires fulfilled. When they are fulfilled, then we shall know the superabundant love that comes from knowledge, and so we shall be filled with all the fullness of God. God's Scripture tries to lead us to this fullness, and to the truth of the preaching of the apostles. It is to this end, with this intention, that we should study Holy Scripture, and teach it, and hear it.

If we are to follow the direct path of Scripture and come straight to the final destination, then right from the beginning – when simple faith starts to draw us towards the light of the Father – our hearts should kneel down and ask the Father to give us, through his Son and the Holy Spirit, true knowledge of Jesus and of his love. Once we know him and love him like this, we shall be made firm in faith and deeply rooted in love, and we can know the breadth, length, depth and height of Holy Scripture. That news can then lead us to the full knowledge and overwhelming love of the most holy Trinity. The desires of the saints draw them towards the Trinity, in which all that is good and true is and finds its completion.



Sunday Mass Readings

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1: [Leviticus 13:1-2, 44-46](#)

The LORD said to Moses and Aaron, “If someone has on his skin a scab or pustule or blotch which appears to be the sore of leprosy, he shall be brought to Aaron, the priest, or to one of the priests among his descendants. If the man is leprous and unclean, the priest shall declare him unclean by reason of the sore on his head. “The one who bears the sore of leprosy shall keep his garments rent and his head bare, and shall muffle his beard; he shall cry out, ‘Unclean, unclean!’ As long as the sore is on him he shall declare himself unclean, since he is in fact unclean. He shall dwell apart, making his abode outside the camp.”

Responsorial Psalm: [Psalm 32:1-2, 5, 11](#)

R. (7) I turn to you, Lord, in time of trouble, and you fill me with the joy of salvation.

► Blessed is he whose fault is taken away, whose sin is covered. Blessed the man to whom the LORD imputes not guilt, in whose spirit there is no guile. **R.**

► Then I acknowledged my sin to you, my guilt I covered not. I said, “I confess my faults to the LORD,” and you took away the guilt of my sin. **R.**

► Be glad in the LORD and rejoice, you just; exult, all you upright of heart. **R.**

Reading 2: [1 Corinthians 10:31-11:1](#)

Brothers and sisters, Whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do everything for the glory of God. Avoid giving offense, whether to the Jews or Greeks or the church of God, just as I try to please everyone in every way, not seeking my own benefit but that of the many, that they may be saved. Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ.

Alleluia

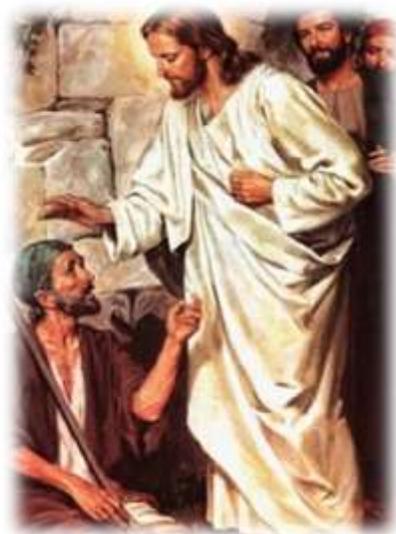
R. Alleluia, alleluia.

A great prophet has arisen in our midst, God has visited his people.

R. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel: [Mark 1:40-45](#)

A leper came to Jesus and kneeling down begged him and said, “If you wish, you can make me clean.” Moved with pity, he stretched out his hand, touched him, and said to him, “I do will it. Be made clean.” The leprosy left him immediately, and he was made clean. Then, warning him sternly, he dismissed him at once. He said to him, “See that you tell no one anything, but go, show yourself to the priest and offer for your cleansing what Moses prescribed; that will be proof for them.” The man went away and began to publicize the whole matter. He spread the report abroad so that it was impossible for Jesus to enter a town openly. He remained outside in deserted places, and people kept coming to him from everywhere.



Parish Lenten Day of Reflection

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 20 2021

10:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart School Cafeteria

10:30am

Welcome

11:00am

Reflection by Msgr. Flanigan

12:00pm

Break & Lunch

1:00pm

Holy Hour (Church)

Reflections by Msgr. Flanigan (Church)

Lenten Confessions (Church)



Retreat Master:
Rev. Msgr. Thomas P. Flanigan
Church of St. Joseph
Aston, Pennsylvania

If you are planning on attending our Parish's Lenten Day of Reflection, please detach this portion, and drop it in the Collection Box OR Drop it off at the Rectory by Monday, February 15th.

Name _____ Phone _____

Email _____

Number of Family Members Attending _____