

**Welcome to Holy Mass at Holy Cross Church
3rd Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday, March 6, 2010
5:00 pm**

**Holy Cross Church
3690 Armstrong Road, PO Box 318
Syracuse, NY 13209-0318**

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Intention: +Catherine Salensky

Requested by Ed and Ida Salensky

| | | |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| Healing Intentions: | Michelle Mallory | Lu Luch |
| | Martha Shuman | Diane Spina |
| | Lois Bogacki | Ruth Matson |
| | Judy Pazdzierski | Father Marian Pociecha |

and all those in need of healing in our parish community

The Liturgy of the Word

Reading I

Exodus 3: 1-8, 13-15

A reading from the book of Exodus

This is what you must say to the sons of Israel: "I am has sent me to you."

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the Lord appeared to him in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not consumed. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

When the Lord saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "*Moses! Moses!*" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "*Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your father,*" he continued, "*the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob.*" Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the Lord said, "*I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their slave drivers, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey.*"

"But," said Moses to God, "when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "*I am who am.*" Then he added, "*This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you.*"

God spoke further to Moses, "*Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The Lord, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.*"

"This is my name forever; this is my title for all generations."

This is the Word of the Lord.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 103: 1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Bless the Lord, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name. Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

He pardons all your iniquities; he heals all your ills. He redeems your life from destruction; he crowns you with kindness and compassion.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

The Lord secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed. He has made known his ways to Moses, and his deeds to the children of Israel.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Merciful and gracious is the Lord, slow to anger and abounding in kindness. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so surpassing is his kindness toward those who fear him.

R: The Lord is kind and merciful.

Reading II

I Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

All this that happened to the people of Moses in the desert was written for our benefit.

I want you to remember this: our fathers were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea; by the cloud and the sea all of them were baptized into Moses. All ate the same spiritual food. All drank the same spiritual drink (they drank from the spiritual rock that was following them, and the rock was Christ), yet we know that God was not pleased with most of them, for "they were struck down in the desert."

These things happened as an example to keep us from wicked desires such as theirs. Nor are you to grumble as some of them did, to be killed by the destroying angel. The things that happened to them serve as an example. They have been written as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. For all these reasons, let anyone who thinks he is standing upright watch out lest he fall!

This is the Word of the Lord.

Gospel

Luke 13: 1-9

A reading of the holy gospel according to Luke

Unless you repent you will all perish as they did.

At that time some were present who told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. He said in reply: *"Do you think that these Galileans were the greatest sinners in Galilee just because they suffered this? By no means! But I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you reform. Or take those eighteen who were killed by a falling tower in Siloam. Do you think they were more guilty than anyone else who lived in Jerusalem? Certainly not! But I tell you, you will all come to the same end unless you begin to reform."*

Jesus spoke this parable: *"A man had a fig tree growing in his vineyard, and he came out looking for fruit on it but did not find any. He said to the vinedresser, 'Look here! For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree and found none. Cut it down. Why should it clutter up the ground?' In answer, the man said, 'Sir, leave it another year while I hoe around it and manure it; then perhaps it will bear fruit. If not, it shall be cut down.'"*

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Thoughts from the Pulpit

[Luke 13: 1-9]

UNLESS YOU REPENT...

On this 3rd Sunday of Lent, Jesus utters the Word of God without any compromise: "Unless you repent, you will likewise perish."

We always begin Holy Mass, the Celebration of the Eucharist, with a call to repentance, asking God to forgive all our guilt, heal our wounds, forgive our sins... This is like taking off our boots and entering into the Holy Place, "barefooted." Moses was asked for the same thing in order to experience God's presence in the burning bush. (Moslems remove their shoes before entering a mosque).

We Christians don't take off our shoes before entering a church, but are asked to enter "barefooted." This is much more than just removing real shoes.

The Word of God in today's Gospel rejects the popular belief that accidents, misfortunes, and human miseries which befall people are inflicted by God as punishment for sin. Still, sin calls for repentance. Repentance "cures" the wounded and afflicted life of a human being. Repentance brings the fruits of faith, hope, and love, and it opens the ears and eyes for the Presence of God!

The "burning bush" and a fruitful fig tree speak of God who sustains our flame of His life in us.

A person who walks with his "boots" into the Holy Place of God's presence is a person who doesn't need the repentance, because he is fine, he has no sins, and "mistakes", or "bad deals", (not sins) he makes are the consequence of psychological-social-cultural-family background inherited, that he is not responsible for. That person is a barren tree that doesn't belong in the Holy Ground. Worse, he takes a priceless spot for his own selfish agenda.

A barren tree is a tragedy. It is destined to be cut off from the holy soil. Because a barren tree exploits, abuses, mistreats, wastes the sacred soil. And it does it for the purpose to strive to be a beautifully looking tree, a tree with shining leaves, healthy bark-skin, a very selfish tree, but no fruits.

Let us enter into the Presence of God, and let's enter with repentance. Then we will experience the Sacrifice of our Savior for our Salvation! Amen

The Communion

Welcome to participation in the Holy Eucharist. By receiving Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, we fully participate in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist.

We are encouraged to receive Communion devoutly. In order to be properly disposed to receive Communion, participants should be baptized, should not be conscious of grave sin, and normally should fast for one to two hours. A person who is conscious of grave sin is not to receive Communion without prior Sacramental Confession.

We always welcome our fellow Christians to this celebration of the Holy Eucharist and Holy Communion. We pray that our common Baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another and begin to dispel the sad divisions separating us.

Announcements for March 6, 2010

Happy March birthday to Bobbi Lasinski on March 10 and Mary Ann Greenfield on Marcy 22. STO LAT!!

At last week's annual meeting, the following officers and trustees and other positions were elected:

Parish chairman: Steve Zalewski Financial Secretary: Pat Zalewski
Parish vice-chair: Bobbi Lasinski Treasurer: Dave Greenfield
Recording secretary: Maureen Navatka

Trustees: Sue Bednarek, Mary Ann Greenfield, Joe Kolonko, John Lasinski, Bill Ostroski, Jr. and David Peelar
Auditors: Mike Bednarek, Rick Navatka, David Peelar
Parish Tribunal: Bill Ostroski Sr. and George Sabotka
Seniorate Delegates: Joe Kolonko and Steve Zalewski
General Synod Delegate: Steve Zalewski (John Lasinski, alternate)

A full report of the annual meeting will be forwarded to each member soon.

Weekly Calendar

Wednesday, March 10 6:00 pm Choir practice
Thursday, March 11 5:30 pm Weight Watchers meeting
Saturday, March 13 **Spaghetti Dinner at Solvay Methodist Church**
5:00 – 7:00 pm 206 Center Street, Solvay
To benefit summer camp for underprivileged children (see notice in foyer)
DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME! Set clocks one hour ahead before going to bed! *Spring forward!*

Sunday, March 14 Lent 4
Intention: +Leona Navatka Requested by Rick and Maureen Navatka
Intention: +Stanley Kotula Requested by Mike and Sue Bednarek
10:30 Bible Study for children
11:00 Holy Mass
12:15 Coffee Hour
 Monthly pickup of pierogi
12:45 Parish Committee Meeting

Saturday, March 20 Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner
4:30 – 7:00 pm
Saturday, April 17 Ham dinner 4:30 – 7:00 pm
Sunday, April 18 Swieconka dinner following Holy Mass
Saturday, May 15 Meatloaf dinner 4:30 – 7:00 pm

Monthly Financial Summary

| Week of | Weekly Income | Weekly Income Needed | Balance |
|----------------|----------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| February 7 | \$535 | \$642 | -\$107 |
| February 14 | \$522 | \$642 | -\$120 |
| February 21 | \$457 | \$642 | -\$185 |
| February 28 | \$951 | \$642 | \$309 |
| TOTAL | \$2465 | \$2568 | -\$103 |