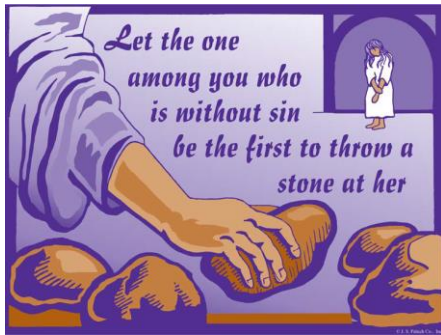


April 6, 2025

Fifth Sunday of Lent



REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

The stone probably didn't feel that heavy when it was first picked up. But it was a stone, not a pebble, and there were many of them. They would do damage, especially when hurled in self-righteous anger. Perhaps it helped the people to believe that no one stone could be blamed for her death. This was an act of the community, all of them in it together, standing up for the Law of Moses, and bringing down God's wrath upon an adulteress.

While things were starting to heat up, no one was paying much attention to the woman. They were all watching Jesus. What was with the crouching down and drawing in the dirt? You really couldn't tell whether he was writing or drawing or maybe he was just stalling for time.

Some said he had tricked them, worked some kind of magic, proof that he was indeed in league with Beelzebub. The more thoughtful ones were silent. One even said he thought Jesus was praying. Where else could his words have come from, words that redirected their gaze from the woman to themselves, words that caused stones to drop and feet to shuffle off?

His words continue to echo any time we find ourselves about to cast stones of condemnation at one another: "Let the one among you who is without sin . . ." After taking these words to heart, we might hear more clearly Jesus' final words, meant not only for her, but for us: Go and sin no more.

—James A. Wallace, C.S.S.R.

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GOD'S ACTIONS NOW

When Jews celebrate the Passover, they always tell the story of the Exodus in present terms, as if they themselves experienced those events: when we were prisoners in Egypt; when God brought us out of slavery and through the waters of the sea. We would do well to follow their example and see the works of Jesus and his sacrifice as being in the present, as happening to us now. We believe that Christ's work, his teachings, and his sacrifice on the cross were not just for his followers in the past, but for all people at all times. When we think of this in our prayers, we become one in faith with that great cloud of witnesses, the saints.

We have been striving through Lent to repent of our sins and failings, and to follow Jesus more closely. Today in the story of the woman caught in adultery, we see Jesus forgiving the woman, saving her from a horrible death, and urging her not to sin any more. This is new, and brings out something for which the law had not allowed—forgiveness. Of course one can sin no more if one is dead, caught in one's sins forever. But Jesus introduces the concepts of forgiveness and reconciliation.

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Celebrate the Baby by Helping Babies!

The parish will be collecting baby items during the month of April to donate to the Women's Pregnancy Crisis Center.

► **BABY DONATIONS to include:**

- Diapers – Sizes 4-6, Wipes,
- New or gently used Baby Clothes, preferably 12 months and up,
- Baby Lotions, and Baby Shampoo.

You can bring your donations to any of the Masses.

¡Celebra al Bebé ayudando a los bebés!

La parroquia estará recolectando artículos para bebés durante el mes de abril para donarlos al Centro de Crisis de Embarazo de Mujeres.

► **DONACIONES PARA BEBÉS para incluir:**

- Pañales - Tallas 4-6, Toallitas húmedas,
- Ropa de bebé nueva o poco usada,
- preferiblemente de 12 meses en adelante,
- Lociones para bebés y Champú para bebés.

Puedes llevar tus donaciones a cualquiera de las Misas.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

- Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:12-20
- Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
- Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42
- Thursday: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
- Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
- Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
- Sunday: Lk 19:28-40 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Lk 22:14 — 23:56 [23:1-49]

UPDATED INFO - PASTORAL PLANNING – A new listening session for the San Angelo deanery has been added; April 14 at 6:30pm at Holy Angels. Any parish or group is welcome to host their own listening session. The outline on how to run a listening session, as well as the focus questions, will be provided. Email Alison Pope (apope@sanangelodiocese) to request these materials. The deadline to submit listening session results and surveys is April 22.



I have formed my people

Saturday, April 5th

5:00PM-IHM – Guadalupanas vivas y difuntas;
+Daniel Grimaldo;

+Antero Rostro
7:00PM – **St. Albert** - Por la gente de Nolan County

5th Sunday of Lent, April 6th

8:30AM - +Margarito, Carlotta y Ray Gomez

11:00AM – +Martina Herrera;

+Claudia Solis, Maria del Refugio Salamanca

Tuesday, April 8th 9:00AM – HF

+Si and Gloria Acuña

Wednesday, April 9th 6:00PM–IHM

In thanksgiving for José and Clementina Hernandez’s Anniversary

Thursday, April 10th 9:00AM-HF

+Ricardo Velez

Friday, April 11th 9:00AM-HF

In thanksgiving for Nick Tovar’s birthday

Saturday, April 12th

5:00PM-IHM – +Belinda Gomez, Tomas y Guadalupe Morales; +Noah Alcalá;

In Thanksgiving for Juan Francisco Solis’ birthday

Palm Sunday, April 13th

8:30AM - +Cirilo, Victoria y Lucia Chavira;

En acción de gracias por los cumpleaños de Adam, Cynthia y Charlie Galvan

11:00AM – For the People of Nolan County

PENANCE SERVICES in the surrounding area:

* All Penance Services begin at 6:30pm.

April 08 – St. Mary’s, Brownwood

10 – St. Francis, Abilene

16 – Holy Spirit, Sweetwater

March 29/30, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....\$3766.00

LOOSE PLATE.....1162.00

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES.....781.00

TOTAL COLLECTION.....\$5709.00

Thank you for your generosity

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

April 12 –Cursillo April 19 – Finance

¡ATENCIÓN! ¿Quiere aprender más sobre la fe?
Entonces, está invitado a participar en las clases de catecismo para adultos en español. El curso comenzará a finales de abril y se prolongará durante todo el verano hasta que se hayan impartido todas las clases. La primera clase será miércoles 30 de abril, 2025, a las 7:00p.m. en el Salón de Inmaculado Corazón en 507 W. Alabama Ave. El catequista será Victor Rubio Jr. Note mas informacion en la entrada de la iglesia.

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS to all our April celebrants!

►**HOLY WEEK** begins next week, April 13th, Palm Sunday. Masses begin in the parish hall.

HOLY THURSDAY CANDLES – may be purchased in the parish office beginning Monday, April 7th, for \$5.00.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE – The Guadalupana members will be selling Raffle tickets after the weekend Masses. Proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund. Applications are available in the parish office. Deadline is May 2nd.

MANUEL & REFUJIA HEREDIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP–Applications are available in the parish office. You must be a 2025 Graduating High School Senior and a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Sweetwater, Texas to apply. Deadline is April 25, 2025 by 6:00 p.m.

WHY AM I CATHOLIC? Deacon Bill’s sharing session is Tuesday at his home, @6:00pm. All are invited!

WEDNESDAY – Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 8:30pm @IHM.

GRUPO MISIONERO - Meets on Thursdays, at 7:00pm at Immaculate Heart Hall.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Via Crucis - all Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm @Immaculate Heart, followed by a light meal and reflection in the parish hall.

ULTREYA DIOCISANA– This Sunday, April 6th, 3:00pm at Immaculate Heart Hall. You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. All are welcome!

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets at Holy Family Hall, this Sunday, April 6th, from 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE – Our Parish Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th, 6:30pm.

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

NOTE: MASS CHANGES –

- Beginning Sunday, June 22, 2025, the 8:30AM Spanish Mass will be moved up to 8:00AM
- Mass will be celebrated @ Holy Family at 9:30AM beginning June 22nd and every 3rd Sunday of the month thereafter.
- No Sunday morning confessions on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Same schedule for the other weekend Masses

BLESSED OLIVE WOOD CREATIONS, a Christian group from Bethlehem in the Holy Land, will be visiting our parish next weekend, April 12 &13. They will speak to us about the Christian struggle in the Holy Land. The purpose of this visit is to help maintain the existence of the catholic people in the Holy Land. They will be selling beautiful handmade Olive Wood carvings after all Masses.

#23 – Behold the Lamb of God and Receiving Communion

Before raising Jesus, the priest prays a prayer quietly, “Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the living God, who by the will of the Father and the work of the Holy Spirit, through your Death gave life to the world, free me by this your most holy Body and Blood, from all my sins and from every evil; keep me always faithful to your commandments and never let me parted from you.” Then priest genuflects and raises the Body and Blood of Christ proclaiming the words of John the Baptist. Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Then the priest continues with a verse from Revelation. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb. The people respond with the words of the centurion, “Lord I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the words and my soul shall be healed.”

The priest prays for forgiveness, faithfulness, and union before he receives Holy Communion. Basically the priest asks to become like Jesus as he receives his Body and Blood. The priest uses the word, “behold,” which means more than, “Look at this!” To behold something means to gaze upon it, to love it, to contemplate it. It is a lover looking at their beloved. The second part of the statement from Revelation tells us what Communion is all about.

The phrase in Revelation says, “Blessed are those who are called to the wedding supper of the Lamb.” At the Mass, we are celebrating the marriage ceremony of Christ with his Church. He unites himself to each one of us as we receive Holy Communion. You are not a random person at the wedding. Each one of us is the bride, ready to walk down the aisle and be received by the bridegroom – Jesus Christ. This is why missing Mass is so significant. We leave Christ waiting at the altar. We don’t simply receive Jesus in communion, Jesus receives us!

When we receive Holy Communion, we must be in a state of grace (not aware of any unconfessed grave sin), and we must have fasted at least 1 hour from food or drink (besides water). If we do not do either of these things, we may end up receiving the Body and Blood of the Lord unworthily, and St. Paul says that those who do that eat and drink judgement on themselves. (1 Corinthians 11:27-29)

Finally, be aware of any crumbs that may remain on your hands if you receive on the hands. Each crumb is Jesus, and we do not want to wipe Jesus on our clothes, or even brush him off onto the floor where people may step on Him. If you receive on the hand, make sure your hands are clean, and you check your hands carefully after receiving Him. If you receive on the tongue, simply stick out your tongue. It is safer to receive on the tongue, as there will not be any crumbs on your hands or the floor.

#23 – He Aquí el Cordero de Dios y Recibiendo la Comunión

Antes de elevar a Jesús, el sacerdote reza una oración en voz baja, “Señor Jesucristo, Hijo de Dios vivo, que por voluntad del Padre, cooperando el Espíritu Santo, diste con tu muerte la vida al mundo, líbrame, por la recepción de tu Cuerpo y de tu Sangre, de todas mis culpas y de todo mal. Concédeme cumplir siempre tus mandamientos y jamás permita que me separe de ti.” Luego, el sacerdote hace una genuflexión y eleva el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Cristo proclamando las palabras de Juan Bautista. Este es el Cordero de Dios, que quita el pecado del mundo. Luego, el sacerdote continúa con un versículo del Apocalipsis. Dichosos los invitados a la cena del Señor. El pueblo responde con las palabras del centurión, “Señor, no soy digno de que entres en mi casa, pero una palabra tuya bastará para sanarme.”

El sacerdote pide perdón, fidelidad y unión antes de recibir la Sagrada Comunión. Básicamente, el sacerdote pide ser como Jesús al recibir su Cuerpo y su Sangre. Lo que dice el sacerdote significa más que “¡mira esto!” Más que sólo mirar con los ojos este momento es para verlo, amarlo, contemplarlo. Es la amante mirando a su amado. La segunda parte de la declaración del Apocalipsis nos dice de qué se trata la Comunión.

La frase del Apocalipsis dice: “Dichosos los invitados a la cena de las bodas del Cordero.” En la Misa, celebramos la ceremonia nupcial de Cristo con su Iglesia. Él se une a cada uno de nosotros cuando recibimos la Sagrada Comunión. No eres una persona cualquiera en la boda. Cada uno de nosotros es la novia, lista para caminar por el pasillo y ser recibida por el novio - Jesucristo. Por eso es tan significativo faltar a la Misa. Dejamos a Cristo esperando en el altar. No solo recibimos a Jesús en la comunión, ¡Jesús nos recibe a nosotros!

Para recibir la Sagrada Comunión, debemos estar en estado de gracia (sin tener conciencia de ningún pecado grave no confesado) y haber ayunado al menos una hora sin comer ni beber (excepto agua). Si no hacemos ninguna de estas cosas, podemos terminar recibiendo el Cuerpo y la Sangre del Señor de manera indigna, y San Pablo dice que quienes comen y beben así se condenan a sí mismos (1 Corintios 11:27-29).

Por último, ten cuidado con las migajas que puedan quedar en tus manos si recibes en ellas. Cada migaja es Jesús, y no queremos limpiar a Jesús en nuestra ropa, ni siquiera sacudirlo y tirarlo al suelo, donde la gente podría pisarlo. Si recibes en la mano, asegúrate de que tus manos estén limpias y revísalas cuidadosamente después de recibirlo. Si recibes en la lengua, simplemente saca la lengua. Es más seguro recibir en la lengua, ya que no habrá migajas en tus manos ni en el suelo.