

The Church's Calendar This Week

Sunday, March 14

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/4:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Monday, March 15

Monday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after Mass

Tuesday, March 16

Tuesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Wednesday, March 17

Wednesday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Masses at 6:30 a.m. and 12:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Thursday, March 18

Thursday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Masses at 6:30am & 12:00pm

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Friday, March 19

Solemnity of St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Day of Abstinence

Stations of the Cross at 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Masses at 6:30am & 12:00pm

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Saturday, March 20

Saturday of the Fourth Week of Lent

Mass at 7:00 a.m.

Sacrament of Reconciliation at 10:00 – 11:00 a.m.

Mass at 12:00 p.m.

Vigil Mass at 5:00 p.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Sunday, March 21

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Masses at 6:00/8:00/10:00a/12:00/4:00/6:00p

Live-Streamed Mass at 10:00 a.m.

Cathedral closed after each Mass

Stewardship of Treasure

Offertory Collection

3/1 – 3/7

Sunday Offering	\$ 4,511.46
Weekday	\$ 1,448.35
Online Giving	\$ 1,355.20
Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 117.00
Coffers	\$ 289.50
Total Offertory	\$ 7,721.51

Other Collection

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 55.00
Retirement Fund for Religious	\$ 2,500.00
Diocesan Collection	\$ 1,506.84
Others (Gallery, Candles, Intention etc.)	\$ 673.86
Total	\$ 12,457.21

Living the Liturgy

- At sports events, you often see signs proclaiming “John 3:16.” Why is that verse so beloved? Spend five minutes memorizing the text and keep it fresh by reciting it at the start of your day throughout the week.
- List the number of times you have “started over” in your life: a new school or college, a new job, a new friendship or romantic relationship, a new house, a child added to the family, and so on. Does remembering all those changes make it easier to envision God as a merciful and forgiving?
- Cut small crosses from sand paper for each family member to carry in a pocket or hang from yarn around his or her neck. When temptations arise, touch the rough cross as a reminder of Jesus’ example of faithfulness.

Sharing the Faith

- The Old Testament connects world events with the divine will and finds a cause-effect relationship. Are there realities today a biblical writer might see through this same lens?
- God uses a pagan king to return Israel to the promised land. We might say that God is writing straight with crooked lines. Has God ever used unexpected means to get you where you were meant to be?
- Jesus said he came not to condemn us but to save us. How have you experienced God’s saving you from your own selfishness, thoughtlessness, or carelessness?

Quote of the Week

“Early and often did the Lord, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them” (2 Chronicles 36:15).

March 14, 2021 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23 | Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 | Ephesians 2:4-10 | John 3:14-21

In creating his enduring nocturnal character, Count Dracula, Bram Stoker may have taken his cue from John's account of the Gospel: "everyone who does wicked things hates the light" (3:20). Light and evil are incompatible, John tells us. Evil seeks out dens of darkness so the nature of its works won't be exposed. Christ came as pure light into a world that had grown accustomed to darkness. Like Stoker's vampires, the evildoers of Jesus' day were not eager to have their wickedness exposed. So with capes and nets of darkness they moved against the light, trying to extinguish it.

It was nothing new. God sent messengers to the Chosen People, but their reward was anger, mockery, and ridicule. Priests, people, and princes all ran from the light, and all polluted the Lord's temple and themselves. It doesn't take long to learn to prefer darkness to light. The eyes adjust. Memory is weak. We get good at fooling ourselves. The wonder is that God puts up with it. For a time, God may become "inflamed" (2 Chronicles 36:16), but his anger never lasts. The God who brought exile upon the Israelites also raised up a foreign king who set them free. Paul marvels at such goodness. While we were dead and steeped in our transgressions, God brought us to life in Christ, not because of any good works we did, but because of his grace and mercy and love. By lifting up the Son of Man, God revealed the shape of love: a cross.

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Next Sunday's Readings: "Fifth Sunday of Lent"

Ezekiel 37:12-14 | Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 | Roman 8:8-11 | John 11:1-45

From the Rector's Desk

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

***"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life." John 3:16***

The verse quoted above from John's Gospel is one of the most common verses that we know. It is often quoted for reflections and for preaching. It is a statement of fact and a source for spiritual enrichment. It is very appropriate for all of us to understand and reflect deeply about this verse and its meaning during this Lenten season. We often get used to hearing this or read this verse but never have another thought about what it means. Also, how profound it can affect our life and faith. When we so often hear this verse, it can become ordinary, and the true meaning loses its depth.

Let us take a moment to ask ourselves if we have truly realized the meaning of this wonderful verse from Sacred Scripture. Let us ask ourselves if we have genuinely realized how much God loves us. Is it enough that we know who Jesus is and what He did for us? Or is there something more to it in understanding how this love had been manifested?

From the beginning of time, God already showed how much He loved. He created this world and prepared everything. He saved the people of Israel from their bondage in Egypt. He provided food and water on their journey to the Promised Land. And how did people respond to Him? They wandered into this world. They adhered to false gods and endeavored for worldly pursuits. But God did not stop loving them. He continued to send them leaders to guide them to the path of light and life. Still, they chose to live in darkness and sin. And when that time came, He sent His Son to live in this world to teach and show the path to salvation.

If we are to look around what is happening in our world today, many still adhere to the path of darkness. Many still prefer to embrace the way of the world rather than the way of God. It is no wonder that we still experienced so much division and pain, hatred, and injustice. We cannot just blame anyone other than ourselves because we have not embraced God's love for us wholeheartedly.

God sent His only Son into this world to show us how to live and love and be able to transform this broken world we live in. The depth of this love of Jesus had been manifested by His passion, death, and resurrection. And for someone to do that for us shows how He cares for us.

During this season of grace, let God's love enrich and mold us. And allow His love for us to be the source of inspiration to love others in return.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual