

## The Church's Calendar This Week

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**

Monday, March 22

### **Monday of the Fifth Week of Lent**

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

**Cathedral closed after Mass**

Tuesday, March 23

### **Tuesday of the Fifth Week of Lent**

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

**Cathedral closed after each Mass**

Wednesday, March 24

### **Wednesday of the Fifth 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 25

### **Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord**

Masses at 6:30am & 12:00pm

**Cathedral closed after each Mass**

Friday, March 26

### **Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent**

*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 27

### **Saturday of the Fifth 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 28

## **Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion**

**Due to COVID, please bring your own Palms**

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**

**3/8 – 3/14**

Sunday Offering	\$ 4,354.00
Weekday + Ash Wednesday	\$ 678.75
Online Giving	\$ 1,750.75
Feasts & Solemnities	\$ 130.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 6,913.50</b>

### **Other Collection**

Repair & Maintenance	\$ 80.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$ 1,145.96
Operation Rice Bowl	\$ 27.25
Diocesan Collection	\$ 38.00
Others (Gallery, Candles, Intention etc.)	\$ 5,137.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 13,342.22</b>

## Living the Liturgy

- The word *obedience* sometimes wrongly connotes a robotic compliance. Find and discuss some examples of contemporary people whose “obedience” you find noble and inspiring.
- Using different colors of paper, trace and cut out several small heart shapes. On each write an aspect of God’s law that you seek to live out more fully. Place them, like seeds, within the pages of your Bible and pray that rich soil will help them root and grow.
- Prepare your family for today’s readings by talking a little about some of the people in your faith community who have given up things for themselves in order to help others. Many people give their time, talent, and treasure to keep your parish vibrant for all who come there.

## Sharing the Faith

- The phenomenon of death leading to new life is embedded within all of nature. How have you experienced it in your life? Have the experiences built or challenged your faith?
- Is God’s law as apparent to the human heart as Jeremiah asserts? Why do we so easily forget God’s willingness to forgive and forget?
- Jesus freely accepted death to bring us eternal life. Is there something difficult that you need to accept, or something that you need to give up for the sake of God’s Kingdom? How can the suffering you experience in your faithfulness to God lead to more abundant life for yourself and for others?

## Quote of the Week

*“... he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:9).*

# March 21, 2021 – Fifth Sunday of Lent

## Exegesis on this Sunday's readings

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

“Forgive and forget” was probably derived from this text, and probably because only God can do both at the same time. Human hearts have a harder time letting go. God’s attitude is all hope and optimism as he asserts that, under the new covenant, people won’t need instruction in God’s ways. This new covenant won’t be broken like the stone tablets of the old law, for it will be written not on stone but on human hearts. But can God be so naïve? Does God not realize that hearts are broken as easily as stone? Does God forget that people don’t always listen to their hearts, that resistance to law and even to love is writ so deeply into the human soul that it resists light, scorns love, and shuns forgiveness? Of course he does. He made the human heart and knows its contours better than we do.

God’s hope flows from the fact that the new covenant won’t take the form of tablets but of a Son, a human person with a heart of flesh like ours. The Son will, through his suffering, “become the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him” (Hebrews 5:9). Obeying him means learning that forgiving and forgetting requires dying. We have to let go of hurts and anger and resentment, let them rot away in the grave of forgetfulness, in order to rise to a life of freedom, hope, and light. When we climb the cross as Jesus did, we, too, will be glorified and our lives, like his, will produce much fruit.

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### **Next Sunday’s Readings: “Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion”**

*Mark 11:1-10 or John 12:12-16 | Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 | Philippians 2:6-11 | Mark 14:1-15:47 or 15:1-39*

## From the Rector’s Desk

Dear Cathedral Basilica Ohana,

Greetings of peace, love, and joy!

***“Sir, we would like to see Jesus.” John 12: 21***

To know someone through one’s achievements, family background, referrals of other people, and self-revelation can give us a glimpse of who the person is. It gives us an idea of who might be this person and how one can relate to them. But to know someone by heart does not only give us an idea of the person. It also enables the person to be engaged and enter into a relationship with him or her.

Jesus had been known by many. They were His disciples, people whom He performed miracles, and those who listened to His teachings in the synagogues, mountains, and roads. The account of the Gospel of John that we hear or read on this 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent tells us that some Greeks went to Philip, who in turn asked the assistance of Andrew that they would like to see Jesus. What is there to see from Jesus? Would it be His physical appearance, stature, clothes, and things that may be seen with the sense of sight? It may be so, but in the Gospel of John, “to see” means more, and that is “to know Jesus in-depth” or to “discover His identity.”

Jesus answered their desire to see Him differently. He manifested Himself as grain that falls to the ground and dies to bear much fruit. Someone to be lifted from the earth and people would draw everyone to Himself. Thus, it came true through His crucifixion.

It is sad to think that many of those who wanted to see and follow Him abandoned Jesus in the end. Only a few left. Why? Because they did not see in Jesus what they were looking for. But the few did see, knew, and believed in Him as the Son of God who manifested the greatest love of offering one’s life for the salvation of all. That is, salvation from sin and to live in grace and become true sons and daughters of God.

As we are in the remaining days of Lent, let us continue to search for Jesus and know Him truly well by heart. Let us aim that when we celebrate Easter, we have grown deeper in our relationship with Him. So that knowing Him, we will be able to give witness to Him to the people around us and eventually change our world into a community of Disciples of Christ.

Knowing Him by heart can help us understand and deepen our love for our brothers and sisters regardless of what faith they embrace or what culture they have. It will stir us also to serve those who are in need just as Jesus served everyone.

The Lenten Season is a time to grow in faith, hope, and love. Let our Lord Jesus inspire us and move us to be the best person we can be.

Your friend in Jesus,

Fr. Pascual