



Journeying Through Lent A Time to Develop Zeal for God

The Gospel reading for the third Sunday of Lent startles us. It is confrontational not comforting. We often image Jesus as meek and humble of heart. We believe he was nonviolent, after all he told his disciples to turn the other cheek. But in this Gospel text he comes across as Indiana Jones with whip in hand. Jesus is down right mad and angry.

Jesus lunges through the temple with a whip in his hand, driving out animals, turning over the moneychangers' tables spilling thousands of coins all over the place and yelling at the top of his lungs: Get out of here! You are turning my Father's house into a shopping mall, not a place of prayer. Jesus knew what it meant to be angry. Not the anger that takes the next step toward violence. Violence is a sin and Jesus would never tolerate it.

But there is another kind of anger. It is that natural human emotion that boils up in our veins whenever we meet injustice and hypocrisy. This kind of anger is natural and keeps us from despair. Such anger can be the doorway to hope for it responds to what must not be and cannot be. This is the kind of anger Jesus felt that day in the Temple. The money changers were in the Temple because people had to pay the Temple tax for sacrifices carried out each day. But pious Jews who came to the temple had coins minted with Roman images of the emperor or a deity in their wallets. They therefore had to exchange their coins for Jewish coins, the only ones acceptable in the Temple. This religious practice (cont. p. 2)

ELEMENTARY FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ Saturday Faith Formation meets March 21 & 28
- ◆ Sunday Faith Formation meets March 22 & March 29
- ◆ Monday Faith Formation meets March 23 & March 30
- ◆ March 17: St. Patrick's Day 
- ◆ April 5: PALM SUNDAY
- ◆ April 6-10: Spring Break for Poway & San Diego Schools
- ◆ April 12: EASTER SUNDAY 

MIDDLE SCHOOL FAITH FORMATION

- ◆ Sunday 5/6 meets March 29 (special Thursday class March 26th) and April 26
- ◆ Sunday 7/8 meets March 22nd & April 19th
- ◆ Thursday 5/6 meets March 26 & April 16
- ◆ Thursday 7/8 meets March 19 & April 2
- ◆ Middle School Movie Night:
April 17: 6:00pm—8:30pm
May 1: 6:00pm—8:30pm
- ◆ 8th Grade Lock-In March 27-28—
Pre-Registration is mandatory



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Registrations
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turned into a lucrative business since the money changers charged the people an exchange fee.

In our culture and world today, what activities, events or situations make you really angry?

Jesus' anger that day brought to fruition the prophecies of Zechariah and Jeremiah who maintained that in the days of the Messiah all will be holy in Jerusalem and no merchant will be found in the Temple. That's why Jesus' opponents were so upset with Jesus and demanded a sign or proof that he was indeed the Messiah. Jesus' response seems absurd to his opponents. "Destroy this temple [Jesus' body] and in three days I will raise it up." His listeners are thinking pragmatically devoid of faith: it took forty-six years to build the Temple, and he is going to destroy it and build it up in three days? Jesus' answer is laden with resurrection clues and images---and his disciples and believers will remember it after Jesus' death and resurrection. They will put the pieces together then. What happens to Jesus' body happens to the body of Christ, the temple of God now---in us, individually and collectively.

Jesus was zealous in defending God's house as a place of prayer. For what or whom are we zealous? Are we zealous for God's house for the public worship of God, and for God's honor and glory? What really consumes us---time, work, money, worries, sports, children, acquiring things, marriage, and health?

Ask Yourself: **How do you express your zeal for justice and what is right, in the face of injustice and evil?**

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WE LIFT THEM UP TO THE LORD

For Father Nick Clavin, Deacon Ron Diem, Deacon Ferris Bell, Father Ed Gallagher and Father John Gubbins, that the Lord lift them and make their daily loads light;

That those with an abundance of this world's goods will share with those who are chained by poverty;

For Fr. Nick Clavin, that he continue to heal and recuperate;

For Tom Hobbib who is undergoing treatment for cancer;

For the catechists and children of Faith Formation, that their hearts be open to the wonder of God.

For all these intentions and those in our hearts, we pray to the Lord.

To submit a prayer intention for our Faith Formation family, please e-mail Cheryl@stgg.org