

**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 6 - 7, 2021**

10 Commandments/Jesus Cleanses the Temple (overturns tables of the money-changers)

**Gospel reading**

John 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money-changers seated there.

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area, with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables, and to those who sold doves he said, “Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”

His disciples recalled the words of scripture, “Zeal for your house will consume me.” At this the Jews answered and said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?”

Jesus answered and said to them, “Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.” The Jews said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?”

But he was speaking about the temple of his body. Therefore, when he was raised from the dead, his disciples remembered that he had said this, and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing. But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all, and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well.

**Homily helper / connection to stewardship / giving / charity / almsgiving**

* The 10 Commandments -- 9 & 10
  + Do not covet
  + Do we compare ourselves to others? Others around us, at work, in the family?
    - Are we jealous or envious of what others have and we don’t?
    - Are we grateful for what we have?
  + We need to be thankful for what we have and know that God has given us exactly what we need and will always be with us.
* Distractions from God
  + What is keeping us from worshipping God?
  + Are we allowing our busy lives to get in the way of our relationship with God?
    - Are we spending time in prayer? Serving our family or others?
  + What are things in our lives that we need to cleanse in order to be more focused on God?

**Intercession**

For a cleansing of the temple of our hearts: that God will free us from all that enslaves us and help us to offer our self-sacrificing service to God and others.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

There are a lot of distractions in our lives; kids, sports, school, meetings, ministries, social media, cell phones, work, family, errands, driving, home repairs, shopping, and more! Where is God in all that? Do you take time to find Him?

We’re almost halfway through Lent. How is it going for you? Have you had to do a restart? Lots of us have. Take a moment to examine and assess the distractions in your life. What are the things you need to “take a whip to and drive from the temple”?

If you haven’t already, please make the Annual Diocesan Appeal part of your Lenten almsgiving.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Please don’t let the distractions in your life keep you from making a gift to the Annual Diocesan Appeal. See the bulletin for more details on Annual Diocesan Appeal.

**FIRST READING**

Exodus 20:1-17 --- The 10 Commandments

Then God spoke all these words: I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery.

You shall not have other gods beside me.

You shall not make for yourself an idol or a likeness of anything in the heavens above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or serve them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their ancestors’ wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but showing love down to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.

You shall not invoke the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished anyone who invokes his name in vain.

Remember the sabbath day—keep it holy. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is a sabbath of the LORD your God. You shall not do any work, either you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your work animal, or the resident alien within your gates. For in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.

Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land the LORD your God is giving you.

You shall not kill.

You shall not commit adultery.

You shall not steal.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.

You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, his male or female slave, his ox or donkey, or anything that belongs to your neighbor.

**Social Media Image & Post**

Photo: Thank You!

Copy: “Thank you to everyone who has supported the Annual Diocesan Appeal to date. If you haven’t yet made your commitment, do so today and help those in need by funding important Catholic ministries!”