

**Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 11, 2018**

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

— *John 3:17*



COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY

The people of God forgot the covenant and flouted God's laws. They did not listen to the prophets among them, who spoke for God in warning them. Prophets are sent from God to remind us why we are here, but they are often, even in our own time, mocked, disregarded, and mistreated rather than thanked and listened to.

The book of Chronicles tells the results of these sins: the destruction of the temple and all of Jerusalem, murder, mayhem, and finally exile to a foreign land. Why are these stories in the Bible? Just to inform us of what happened to our ancient forebears? What good would that be unless there were a message and a warning for us as well? Are we people who follow the teachings of God, who obey the words of Christ in the second covenant in his blood? Or do we continue to wreak works of darkness and violence? We are reminded by these readings that we will be judged as a people, not just as individuals.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the LORD are revealed in the exile and liberation of the Chosen People (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — God, who is rich in mercy, brought us to life with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-10) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — The Son of Man must be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life (John 3:14-21) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

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Mass Intentions

Monday 8:00 am	March 12 † Assunta Sant
Tuesday 8:00 am	March 13 † Margaret and † Frank Cruz
Wednesday 8:00 am 7:00 pm	March 14 Communal Service † Antonio C. Claudio † Anthony "Tony" Martinez
Thursday 8:00 am	March 15 † Joseph I. Bosso
Friday 8:00 am	March 16 † Tessie, † Joseph and † Saviour Schembri
Saturday 8:00 am 4:30 pm	March 17 † John DeLuca † Joseph A. Sant
Sunday 7:30 am	March 18 People of the Parish † Luigi and † Maria Casazza
9:30 am	Italian Catholic Federation
11:30 am	The Maltese Society † Tessa Spiteri Lencioni

† Denotes deceased – (L) Living

Sunday Collection March 4, 2018

Weekly Need:	\$ 5,000.00
Sunday Collection	\$ 4,029.00
Over/Under	\$ 970.25
Religious Education	\$ 1,139.00

If you make your offertory donation by check, without using parishioner envelopes, it would be most helpful if you placed your parishioner/envelope # in the "memo" section of the check. This helps us input your donation to the offertory data system. **We will not be responsible for donations not credited due to missing envelope numbers (or not having a Sunday collection envelope.)**



As in the past, the following regulations are in place for abstaining and fasting during Lent:

Abstinence: Everyone fourteen years of age and older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

Fast: Everyone eighteen years of age and older but under the age of sixty is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

On these two days, the law of fast allows one full meal a day, but does not prohibit taking some food during the day, so long as this does not constitute another full meal. Drinking liquids during the day is permitted. When health or the ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige. In doubt concerning fast or abstinence, a priest assigned to pastoral ministry or confessor should be consulted. In the spirit of penance, the faithful should not lightly excuse themselves from this obligation.

The Maltese Society Meeting will be on March 14th at 6:00 pm in Cantwell Hall, meeting room number one.

On Saturday, March 17th Devotion to the Two Hearts -1000 Hail Mary's and Divine Mercy will be recited after the 8:00 am Mass until 3:30 pm in the Rectory Chapel. Everyone is invited to attend. (Your attendance for any length of time will be welcome.)

Bring your Bells

You are invited to bring bells to the liturgies on Holy Thursday and the Easter Vigil. It is a Catholic tradition to ring the bells as we sing the Gloria at both of these liturgies.

Chrism Mass:

Thursday, March 22, 2018, 5:30 PM
Location: [St. Mary's Cathedral, 1111 Gough Street @Geary, San Francisco 94109](#)

Please join Archbishop Cordelione, the clergy and the laity of the Archdiocese for the Chrism Mass. Included in this annual rite, unique to a cathedral and only done once a year, is the blessing of the Oil of the Sick and Oil of Catechumens, as well as the Consecration of the Holy Chrism, all three of which are used in Sacraments and blessings in the parishes of the Archdiocese in the coming year. Also included in the full Mass is the Renewal of Priestly Promises by our presbyters. All are welcome.



As we prepare for the solemnity of the Passion we look forward to the joy of the Resurrection. We hope to express our joy by decorating our altar with a generous display of Easter flowers. We are asking parishioners to donate Easter Lilies for Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Please bring the flowers to the rectory or the Church (when open) beginning March 26th.



Pray for our Beloved Deceased
In your prayers this week, please remember the repose of the souls of our deceased parishioners, especially:

Carmelita Bloise
Elsie La

"Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord..."