



THE LANTERIAN

SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
STAFFED BY
THE OBLATES OF THE VIRGIN MARY

ENCOUNTER THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

MARCH 20, 2022

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

CHAPEL STAFF:

Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV
Fr. James Doran, OMV
Fr. Michael Warren, OMV

Sundays:

Fr. James Walther, OMV
Fr. Sean Morris, OMV

Pastoral Associate:

Isabelle Maria, CFP, CKA

Music: Saul Garcia, Cesar Garcia, Ngozi Ibe

Cleaning of Chapel

Environment: Nubia Viasus

The Pope's Prayer Intention for March:

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.



Cover Art:

Landscape with Moses and the Burning Bush. Painting by Domenichino (1581-1641). Metropolitan Museum of Art.

SCHEDULE

Sunday Masses:

Saturday Vigil 4:00PM,
5:30 PM, (en español)

Sun. 8 AM, 9:15AM, 10:30AM, 11:45AM,
1:15 PM (en español), 4:00PM, 5:30PM

Weekday Masses:

Mon.—Fri. 8:00AM, 12:05PM, 4:45PM
Saturday 9:00AM, 12PM

Confessions:

Mon.—Fri. 11:15 -11:50AM, 12:45-4:15PM
Saturday 9:30 - 11:45 AM, 12:45-3:30PM

Devotions:

Tuesday after Mass: Our Lady
Wednesday after Mass: St. Joseph
Thursday after Mass: St. Jude

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament:

Mon.—Fri. 8:30-11:50AM, 12:30-4:30PM;
Sat. 9:30-11:30AM, 12:30-3:30PM;
Sunday 2:30-3:30PM

Gift Shop Hours:

Monday—Friday 10:00AM - 5:30PM;
Saturday 9:30AM - 6:30PM*;
Sunday 8:45AM - 6:30PM*

(*Closed during Sun. and Sat. Vigil Masses)

CONTACT US

St. Francis Chapel
800 Boylston St., Boston MA 02199

617-437-7117
stfrancis@omvusa.org



SFChapel



stfrancischapel

stfrancischapel.org



Reflection by Fr. Isaac Abu, OMV

I would like to begin this reflection by recalling the words of Fr Jean Baptista. In his Trustful surrender to Divine Providence, he says: "We trust ourselves to a doctor because we suppose he knows his business. He orders an operation which involves cutting away part of our body and we accept it. We are grateful to him and pay him a large fee because we judge he would not act as he does unless the remedy were necessary, and we must rely on his skill." Today the Divine Physician calls for surgical intervention on every growth that has become an obstacle to our friendship with him. If we trust all that doctors do for us (even though they sometimes make poor judgments, as every human expert does), as noted by Fr Jean Baptista above, we need to trust that his/her call is for our benefit and respond accordingly. Jesus refers to two incidents that God permitted (not necessarily because the victims were the worst sinners): Pilate's abominable massacre of the vulnerable Galileans in the discharge of his duty and in the paranoid means of safeguarding his position, on one hand, and the unfortunate eighteen deaths as a result of the falling of the Tower of Siloam. Christ said: "But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" Brant Pitre opined that Christ used these words to get us thinking. There is a certain urgency and emphasis on the need for repentance.

The image of the barren fig tree in the gospel reminds us that God is patient and would go to any lengths to ensure that we repent. The human being is quick at getting rid of that which is not productive. But from the divine perspective, the inherent potentiality of fruitfulness is always considered and the means of actualization put in place. The lord is counting on our generous response to his request for repentance. We may ask ourselves a fundamental question, how often have we dashed the expectations for our repentance? Each time we are disappointed by someone we highly regard, the feeling is unpleasant. Let us imagine how God feels when we give a deaf ear to his call for repentance. Remembering how patient he has always been in the different stages of our salvation history, he sent different messengers to no avail and eventually sent his only Begotten Son. An important aspect that can help us to examine how unrepentance is really disappointing is the abundance of and easy access today, to materials that promote sanctity. With the help of the internet, we can have a day of recollection, have access to spiritual writings, have answers to some questions on overcoming vice, and growing in virtue answered. People testify to the gains of the internet regarding their successes in life from time to time. It is a massive failure if the internet cannot promote spiritual success.

The generosity of God was displayed immensely by the mandate given to Moses to lead His chosen people to freedom, and he revealed Himself as the One who is and will remain forever. This act of love that God constantly and continuously shows to all of humanity is enough to abandon our old ways that hinder our relationship with God and follow a new joyful way that leads to freedom.

Let us then make good use of the remaining part of this Lenten season as a unique opportunity from God to bring about that joy in heaven over one repentant sinner.

Prayer Exercises for the Third Week of Lent

Moses said to God, "But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?"

God replied, "I am who am."

Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you" (Ex 3:13-14).

Meditation: Moses had thought he had left Israel and its slavery in Egypt behind, a failed past. He had also thought that he found a new future without much passion or meaning. It is tempting to be in the past or in the future without ever living fully in the present. That is why we must never forget that God's name is not I Was, or I Will Be, but I AM.

Our Father...

Venerable Bruno Lanteri's Prayer to Our Lady:

O Virgin immaculately conceived, put into my heart those things of your Son most pleasing to him.

For Reflection: What would be different if you lived more in the present, acknowledging God's presence?

Pope Francis:

In our itinerary on the theme of prayer, we are realizing that God never liked to deal with those who prayed the 'easy' way'. And Moses was not a 'weak' conversationalist either, from the very first day of his vocation.

When God called him, Moses was, in human terms, 'a failure'. The Book of Exodus portrays him in the land of Midian as a fugitive. As a young man he had felt compassion for his people, and had aligned himself in defense of the oppressed. But he soon discovered that, despite his good intentions, it was not justice, but violence that flowed from his hands. Thus his dreams of glory were shattered: Moses was no longer a promising official, destined to rise rapidly in his career, but rather one who gambled away opportunities, and now grazed a flock that was not even his own. And it was precisely in the silence of the Midian desert that God summoned Moses to the revelation of the burning bush: "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'. And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God" (Ex 3:6).

MASS INTENTIONS THIS WEEK

Sunday, March 20

8:00 AM +Joseph & +Robert Stevenson
9:15 AM +Patrick Molloy (anniv of birth)
10:30 AM Maryanne West
11:45 AM +Kenneth West
1:15 PM Bennett & Darcy—health
4:00 PM +Roger McKean
5:30 PM +Edgar & +Odilia Castillo

Monday, March 21

8:00 AM +Tommaso Sasso
12:05 PM +Mary Nhien
4:45 PM +Philip Mulville

Tuesday, March 22

8:00 AM +Stella Lawrence & Oti
12:05 PM +Juan Madariaga
4:45 PM +Joseph Timilty

Wednesday, March 23

8:00 AM Cho Family
12:05 PM William Steele
4:45 PM +Jan & +Dariusz Litra

Thursday, March 24

8:00 AM Holy Souls in Purgatory
12:05 PM +Mr. & +Mrs. Stephen Tarsa
4:45 PM Residents & Staff of Our Lady's Guild House

Friday, March 25

8:00 AM +Maudie Morley (First anniv.)
12:05 PM Harley Auguste
4:45 PM Therese Belfort—Thanksgiving

Saturday, March 26

9:00 AM +Sister Norena
12:00 PM Hendricks Delva
4:00 PM Margaret Coughlan
5:30 PM +Consuela Torres de Bustamante—30th anniv.

Prayer Before Mass



by Ven. Bruno Lanteri

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to proclaim, honor and glorify your infinite greatness, and in recognition of the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration of him.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance. I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with all his virtues and with all the wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary are excited to announce that the OMV Gala is returning to the Seaport this year on April 30!

We are now taking sign-ups for volunteers. Our volunteers play an important role in the success of the Gala, and we thank you for considering offering your talents. We hope you will consider sharing your gifts with us this year. The form can be accessed [here: https://forms.gle/k1wxZUhvemMER7kt6](https://forms.gle/k1wxZUhvemMER7kt6).

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to email office@omvusa.org.

The New Carpet!

An anonymous donor paid for us to install our badly needed new carpet. We give thanks to God for the generosity that allowed this.

Operating St. Francis Chapel inside the Prudential Center Mall is an expensive venture but it also allows us to bring the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His Sacraments into today's marketplace.

St. Paul was eager to bring the Good News of Christ into the cities of the Roman Empire, please consider helping us to maintain this metropolitan mission with your generous financial support.

O God, bountiful in forgiving,
and lovingly desirous of man's salvation,
we humbly beseech Thy mercy on behalf of our friends,
relations and benefactors,
that, through the intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin
and all the Saints,
Thou wouldst permit them to come into your Divine favor and
to the full participation of everlasting happiness.
Through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Friday, March 25—Solemnity of the Annunciation

Canon 1251 of the Code of Canon Law:

*Abstinence from eating meat or some other food according to the prescripts of the conference of bishops is to be observed on every Friday of the year **unless a Friday occurs on a day listed as a solemnity**. Abstinence and fasting, however, are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.*

The Solemnity of the Annunciation celebrates the day of the Incarnation, when the Son of God became man in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Due to its nature as a solemnity, abstinence from meat is not required.

Catechism of the Catholic Church on the Annunciation:

484 The Annunciation to Mary inaugurates "the fullness of time", The time of the fulfilment of God's promises and preparations. Mary was invited to conceive him in whom the "whole fullness of deity" would dwell "bodily". The divine response to her question, "How can this be, since I know not man?", was given by the power of the Spirit: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you."

485 The mission of the Holy Spirit is always conjoined and ordered to that of the Son. The Holy Spirit, "the Lord, the giver of Life", is sent to sanctify the womb of the Virgin Mary and divinely fecundate it, causing her to conceive the eternal Son of the Father in a humanity drawn from her own.

486 The Father's only Son, conceived as man in the womb of the Virgin Mary, is "Christ", that is to say, anointed by the Holy Spirit, from the beginning of his human existence, though the manifestation of this fact takes place only progressively: to the shepherds, to the magi, to John the Baptist, to the disciples. Thus the whole life of Jesus Christ will make manifest "how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power."

487 What the Catholic faith believes about Mary is based on what it believes about Christ, and what it teaches about Mary illumines in turn its faith in Christ.