



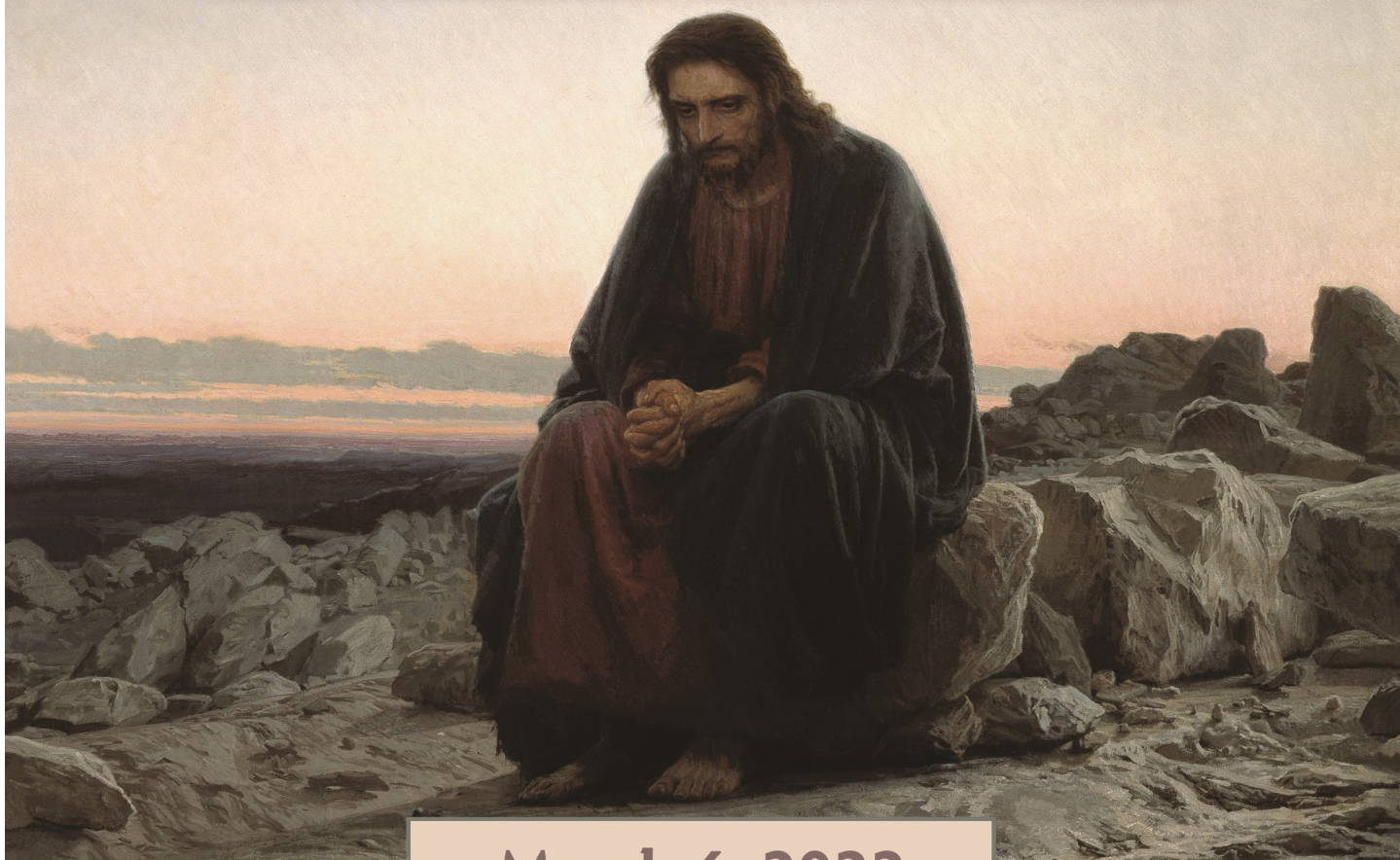
SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH
DISCALCED CARMELITE FRIARS



First Sunday
of
LENT

Filled with the Holy Spirit,
Jesus returned from the Jordan
and was led by the Spirit into
the desert for forty days,
to be tempted by the devil.

Luke 4:1-2



March 6, 2022

“Do not perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them”

As we begin our Lenten journey of faith, the church encourages us to intensify our participation in what are known as the three practices of lent, prayer, alms giving, and fasting or penance as outlined by Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew which we read this Ash Wednesday. Notice that there is an underlying theme of humility, “don’t do these things so others can praise you”. Humility is above all a letting go of the emphasis on the self, the ego. As Bishop Barron often states, “your life is not about you, it is about God and His plan in your life”. Let us consider entering into the three practices of lent but from a new perspective, namely that of letting go of self and allow God to lead us, literally living the life of God through our actions.

Perhaps it would help by first exploring the meaning of the word “lent”. The word “lent” originates from an older English word “*lencten*” which means to make longer or to lengthen. It refers to the fact that daylight hours are increasing which thereby refers to springtime. Lent then means spring which is a time for renewal and growth. To understand how we can renew and grow in our faith, it helps to see what is happening during spring, in particular with plants and specifically with say a rose bush. What does the rose bush need to grow? Three things.

First the rose bush needs sunlight. We can equate this to our need for prayer (yes it is a need). Notice that the rose cannot initiate or control the sunlight, it only responds to it. This is our initial lesson in letting go. Prayer is not about us wanting to please God or thank Him or asking Him for a need. Prayer is always a response to His call. He initiates prayer and we respond. Whenever you get the feeling “I need to pray” realize that God has already planted that impulse within you, He is calling, He is initiating this loving dialogue.

Second the rose bush needs water and nutrients. But plants in general convert that which they receive into something that is of value and use to us. Plants give us food, fuel, material for building our homes, and in the case of the rose they provide beauty. Consider this as alms giving. Alms giving is not an act of the ego, I in my great magnanimity am giving to some poor unfortunates. Instead consider it this way. God has gifted you, He has bestowed on you three things, time, treasure, and talents. When you give alms, you are distributing what God has **already** given you. Alms giving is not about you, the superior, helping the poor, the inferior. It is about God providing for those in need through you. He is using you as the conduit or instrument by which he provides his loving care for the other. This is not about you it is about Him and them.

Finally for a rose bush to reach its full potential in spring it must first be pruned. This is fasting or acts of penance. Again, notice the plant has no control over the pruning process that is in the hands of the gardener. Fasting is not about you performing some sacrificial deed to show off how holy you are, it is about allowing the gardener, God, to prune you. Consider fasting not as giving up chocolates or coffee or alcohol. Instead, this lent, spend time to take inventory. Recognize those things in your life that need to be pruned. Perhaps I gossip too much. Perhaps I have a tendency to be impatient with others. Perhaps there is some vice that must be addressed, gambling or heavy alcohol use. Through prayer allow God to point out to you that which needs to be pruned. And as you begin to abstain or correct that unhealthy behavior realize that this is God working on you and in you. He is the one that prunes so that you may bring forth the fruit of good works.

This lent may we enter more deeply into the three Lenten practices, but may we do this in the spirit of letting go the self and allowing God to act in us, to take over our lives. As St. Paul said, “the life I live is no longer I but Christ who lives in me”.

Let us journey together in faith this Lent. **~Rico Chapa**

**Santa Cruz Catholic Church
Parish Lenten Mission**

**Save the date
March 20th – 23rd, 2022**

Given by:
Fr. Thomas Reeves, O.C.D.



**Santa Cruz Parish
Friday Fish Fry Is Back!!!**



Enjoy Good Food And Fellowship

**Every Friday during Lent @ 5pm
March 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th &
April 1st and 8th**

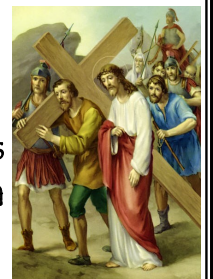
**Hosted by:
Knights of Columbus #14139
Fr. Bach ~ Bro. Angel de Santa Cruz**

Stations of the Cross

You are invited to join us for Stations of the Cross every Friday during Lent at 6:30pm in the church.

Villa crucis

Los invitamos a que nos acompañen al villa crucis todos los viernes durante la cuaresma a las 6:30pm en la iglesia.



Fiesta De La Familia 2022

Our Fiesta De La Familia this year will be **Saturday, May 14th and Sunday, May 15th!** Our Fiesta Committee will be having a meeting on **Wednesday, March 16th** in the Music room at 6:30 pm. **Everyone is invited!** For more information please call Becky Lujan (520) 256-9438.

Fiesta De La Familia 2022

¡Nuestra Fiesta de la Familia este año será el **Sábado, 14 de mayo y el domingo, 15 de mayo!** Nuestro Comité de la Fiesta de la Familia tendrá una junta el **miércoles, 16 de marzo** a las 6:30 pm en el cuarto Carmelita. **¡Todos son bienvenidos!**

Altar Society of Santa Cruz

Is searching for creative reliable volunteers to help care for and decorate the altar. Contact the parish office **623-3833** for more info.



– Catholic Men –

Support the Church and your community by joining the **Knights of Columbus Fr. Ignacio / Bro. Angel Santa Cruz Council 14139** For more information on upcoming meetings please call the parish office 520-623-3833.

Santa Cruz School News

Santa Cruz Catholic School Now Enrolling for the 2022-2023 School Year!

Santa Cruz Catholic School has been serving the Tucson community for over 100 years! We work hard to provide a high-quality Catholic education to as many students as possible. If you or someone you know is interested in joining our Santa Cruz family, please contact our Scholarship Director, Erica Otero at (520) 624-2093 or eotero@santacruzschool.org OR you can visit our website at: (santacruzschool.org)



Saturday, March 5th

8:00am Special Int./Fr. David Costello, O.C.D.
5:30pm Joey Bernal & Fernando G. Burrell/R.I.P.

Sunday, March 6th

6:30am Santa Cruz Parishioners
8:00am Hector Carlos Valenzuela/R.I.P.
10:00am Bianca Bracamontes/Happy Birthday
12:00pm Special Int./Pueblo High School, Administration & Community
6:00pm Marcella & Gabriel Zepp/R.I.P.

Monday, March 7th

In Thanksgiving to Our Lady of Guadalupe
8:00am Phillip & Lucy Woo/R.I.P.
7:00pm Dolores Bonillas/R.I.P.

Tuesday, March 8th

In Thanksgiving to Saint Joseph
8:00am In Honor to Santa Lucia
7:00pm “Paddy” Ward/R.I.P.

Wednesday, March 9th

In Thanksgiving to Saint Joseph
8:00am Julia Lopez/R.I.P.
7:00pm In Honor to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel

Thursday, March 10th

In Thanksgiving to Saint Joseph
8:00am In Honor to Santa Lucia
7:00pm Rene Canchola/R.I.P.

Friday, March 11th

Abelardo Franco/R.I.P.
8:00am Deacon Richard Ornelas
7:00pm Lucia Reyes/R.I.P.

Parish Collection February 27th, 2022

Collection: \$ 4,339.34

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

Santa Cruz Catholic Parish
1220 South Sixth Avenue
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ Website santacruzchurchtucson.com ~

~ Email santacruzparish@hotmail.com ~

Sign up for Flock Notes text santacruzaz to 84576

Business Hours Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

Closed for lunch 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor: Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.
In Residence: Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in the church.

***Please note that the 12 noon Mass is following full COVID protocols: social distancing, masks required and distancing in pews**

Masses: Sun. 6:30 am, 10 am, *12 noon & 6 pm
8 am Spanish at Capilla de Guadalupe (409 E. 31st Street)

Mon. - Fri. 8:00 am, Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

Confessions: Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

Baptisms: Call the parish office for more information / Llame a la oficina parroquial

Matrimony: Please call at least six months in advance.

Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: (520) 624-2093

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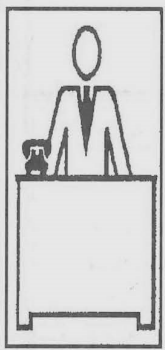
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