

## **Reflection for the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent**

This third week of Lent we have three readings taken from the Old and the New Testaments and each can and does stand on its own with a message for us, in our world today. The Old Testament reading this Sunday is taken from the Book of Exodus and presents us with the Ten Commandments that God gave to the Hebrew people through Moses. These Commandments from God are a guide for how to live in this world. The Ten Commandments to this day provide a basic moral framework for anyone striving to live a good moral life.

Our Second Reading this Sunday is taken for the New Testament, Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians. In this reading we hear of St. Paul speaking about how Christ crucified, is a stumbling block for the Jews and foolishness to the Gentiles. Our Savior is not the stately King that has His legends fight for Him, rather our Savior is a Carpenter's Son who lays down His life so that others can have eternal salvation. To embrace Christ crucified, one being Jew or Gentile must be willing to let go of preconceived notions of who God is and just be open to embracing the Savior that comes to us. Our Savior is a humble servant and not a stately King. It is this Savior that promises us salvation through taking up our crosses and following Him.

In our Gospel reading this Sunday taken from the Gospel of John, we read of Jesus going to the temple and driving out all who were turning the Temple into a marketplace. In the conversation that follows Jesus says, "*Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.*" Jesus was not speaking about the Temple but about Himself. After Jesus had been raised from the dead, His disciples remembered what He had said and came to believe. All our readings this Sunday taken from the New and Old Testaments provide us with a message and a lesson that can help us journey in this world, looking forward to the heavenly kingdom.

### **Prayer for the Third Week of Lent Virtual Fish Fry**

Dear Lord, this 40-day Season of Lent, a season of denial, is a time that you gifted us with, so that we can prepare ourselves to meet our Lord, the risen one. May every moment of this Season of Lent be time of preparing to meet our Lord, the risen one at the end of our journey of 40 days. O Lord please bless this food that is before us this day, and may it sustain us as we continue to prepare ourselves in the Season of Lent to meet our Lord, the risen one. Amen