



Spring Cleaning Life

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

When Jesus cleansed the temple, he cleared it of all the sacrificial animals and foreign coins that cluttered that holy place. He also shifted the focus of where we find God made present—from a building to himself. "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up" (John 2:19). Saint Paul tells us that we, too, are God's temple because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. So it makes sense that Jesus also wants to clear our lives of all that clutters them so that we might grow in his image.

Such decluttering happens when youthful freedom and partying are left behind because we hear some inner call to settle down and contribute to life. It happens when young couples begin to raise a family and trade in sporty cars and fashionable lifestyles for baby furniture and SUVs. It happens in middle age when in the midst of building a life we change the blueprint. The weight of illness will shift our perspectives as well, when worries about life's details turn dispensable because what we once thought was important becomes clutter in need of being cleared out.

None of this comes about because of some user manual for daily living, but rather because we sense an invitation from Jesus to reassess our lives—to join him in clearing out the clutter in order to take care of what is essential. It is a strange sort of wisdom that flows from a source deeper than ourselves. If not for that powerful force of God's Spirit clearing the temples of our lives, we would never become the people God created us to be. ●

Reflect

*What might be cluttering
your life right now?*



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.

JOHN 2:23



Holy Trinity



St. Thomas More



St. Patrick

Holy Trinity Catholic Church
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Cherry, IL 61317-0159
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Pastor of the Three Churches
Fr. Thaddeus Tran

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Office Hours
Tuesday - Friday 9 am - 1 pm

St Thomas More Catholic Church
302 Chestnut St.
Dalzell, IL 61320
Phone 815-663-6201
Email
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Adoration Room at STM
Open Monday - Sunday
Regular Hours
9 am - 6 pm

Rav/Tort Group
Fundraiser will be ending for the yr @ end
of Mar. beginning of April. Please place
orders by March 15th. call 815-252-2215.
Leave name, phone number, & your order
Ravs/Tort are \$8.00/bag

St. Patrick Catholic Church
106 Church St.
Arlington, IL 61312
Phone 815-894-2006
Mail: PO Box 159 Cherry IL 61317

Website for the Three Churches
www.bureaucatholic.org
and on Facebook at
"Bureau Catholic Churches"

Facebook for the Three Churches
Use Link on Home Page
www.bureaucatholic.org

Emergency Number for all 3 Churches 779-248-2164



The family & friends of
Joyce Mitchell-HT
Remember them in prayer

Daily Mass Intentions for the Week of March 4, 2024

Monday	3/4			† No Mass
Tuesday	3/5	9:00 am	STM	† No Mass- Fr. In Peoria
Wednesday	3/6	5:30 pm	HT	† Jack & Theresa McCallum
Thursday	3/7	9:00 am	HT	† Gladys & Ivan Hassler
		6:00 pm	STM	† Traveling Monstrance
Friday	3/8	9:00 am	STM	† For Purgatory Souls
		6:00 pm	HT	† Stations of the Cross

Mass Intentions for the weekend of March 9 - 10, 2024

Saturday	3/9	4:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Special Intention
Sunday	3/10	8:30 am	Holy Trinity	† Rita Hoscheid
		10:30 am	St Patrick	† For the Parishioners
		5:00 pm	St Thomas More	† Temporarily Suspended

Life-Giving Water

In today's Gospel, the dialogue between Jesus and a woman from Samaria is among the most lengthy and most theological found in Scripture. The most startling aspect of the conversation is that it happens at all. The animosity between the Jews and the Samaritans should have prevented the conversation. The woman herself alludes to the break from tradition: "How can you, a Jew, ask me, a Samaritan woman, for a drink?" Yet Jesus not only converses with the woman, he also asks to share her drinking vessel, an action that makes him unclean according to Jewish law.

The initial conversation between Jesus and the woman is better understood if we consider the importance of water, especially in the climate of Israel. At first, the woman understands Jesus' promise of "living water" in a literal sense: "Sir, give me this water, so that I may not be thirsty or have to keep coming here to draw water." The women of the town would have traveled to the well in the early morning, but this woman came to the well at noon, the hottest time of the day. The timing of her visit is a clear sign that she is an outcast within the Samaritan community. We learn in her conversation with Jesus that she is an outcast because of her "many husbands."

Behind the conversation lies the animosity and rivalry between the Jews and the Samaritans. Samaritans shared Jewish ancestry, but Samaritans had intermarried with foreigners when they lived under the rule of the Assyrians. Samaritan religion included worship of Yahweh, but was also influenced by the worship of other gods. Like the Jews, the Samaritans believed that a Messiah would come.

The high point of the conversation is when Jesus reveals himself to her as the Messiah. His answer to the Samaritan woman's questions about worship is meant to predict a time when worshiping in truth and spirit will become the way to worship.

After the conversation, the Samaritan woman becomes a disciple. Even though she is an outcast and not a Jew, she returns to her town to lead others to Jesus and to wonder whether she has found the Messiah. The Samaritan townspeople return with her to meet Jesus for themselves, and many are said to come to believe in him.

(LoyolaPress.com)

Traveling Monstrance Reminder

On Thursday, March 7th the holy hour will begin at 6:00pm at STM. While eucharistic adoration is at the heart of the holy hour, it includes Scripture, a reflection, and Benediction.



Church Fundraisers

STM – FISH FRY Friday, March 15th at the church hall 4:30pm - 7:30pm | Adults \$14 – Kids 7yrs & under \$7 Menu: Fried Fish, Fries, Coleslaw, Drink, & Dessert Carry-outs available by calling Jyll @ 815-252-4377

SP – Pancake & Sausage Breakfast Sunday, March 17th 8:00am - 1:00pm | \$10 Adults, \$5.00 Children Breakfast Menu: Pancakes, Homemade Sausage (Nuco's Recipe), Eggs, Toast, & Beverage

Stations of the Cross Reminder

The Stations of the Cross during lent is meant for ALL members of our 3 churches, please consider making a lenten sacrifice by attending each Stations of the Cross no matter which church it's at.

LATEST OFFERING'S

FEB 25TH WEEKEND

HT – \$ 900.00
SP – \$ 512.00
STM – \$ 1,144.00

CONFESSIONS

CONFESSIONS WILL BE
SAT. MARCH 9TH
10:30 - 11:15 AM AT
ST PATRICK
IN THE CHAPEL

Dear Padre,

My thoughts are my worst enemy. Sometimes they turn to lust and anger. When I recognize what I am thinking, I pray to Jesus and Mary, but I still struggle. What else can I do?

When angry and lustful thoughts enter our consciousness, we should say a prayer and turn our mind to something else. Such thoughts become sins only when we deliberately encourage them or when we make plans to commit the sin. The thoughts themselves are temptations, not sins.

Continue to put your trust in Jesus and Mary, and try to focus on what is good and peaceful. You might also consider what you are letting into your thoughts or imagination: What are you watching on TV or the internet? What music are you listening to? What are you reading? Are those helping to shape your thoughts and imagination in a new direction, or are they contributing to the problem?

A good thing to turn your attention to is God's word in Scripture. You might want to memorize all or part of the following New Testament verse: "Whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things" (Philippians 4:8). Peacefully reflect on these words when troubled by temptation. ●

The Redemptorists / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to **DearPadre.org** to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7	March 8	March 9	March 10
Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Lenten Weekday	Fourth Sunday of Lent
2 Kgs 5:1-15ab	Dn 3:25, 34-43	Dt 4:1, 5-9	Jer 7:23-28	Hos 14:2-10	Hos 6:1-6	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23
Lk 4:24-30	Mt 18:21-35	Mt 5:17-19	Lk 11:14-23	Mk 12:28-34	Lk 18:9-14	Eph 2:4-10 Jn 3:14-21



A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

The Father sent [his Son] to cleanse the temple: not only the Temple of stone, but above all the temple of our heart. Jesus could not tolerate his Father's house becoming a marketplace (see John 2:16); neither does he want our hearts to be places of turmoil, disorder, and confusion.

HOMILY, IRAQ, MARCH 7, 2021