

Third Sunday of Lent
February 28, 2016

Salesian Perspective

Today's parable of the barren fig tree can make us very uncomfortable.

What is Jesus telling us?

God expects something from you; so get busy doing it? God certainly desires that we bear fruit. But it's important that we remember that fruit comes not so much from what **we do** but from what **God does** through us.

Jesus uses the fruit tree for a purpose. Think about how fruit comes about. The roots of the tree receive nutrients from the earth, and the leaves receive energy from the sun. The tree produces flowers that are pollinated by wind and insects -- all outside sources -- and fruit is the result.

The main work the tree has to "do" is **remain receptive** to everything that God provides for it. In the same way, God makes us fruitful through his presence in us. God wants to fill our talents and abilities with his power so that we can bear fruit for the kingdom.

In today's first reading, Moses is attracted to the burning bush not because it's on fire, but because the fire wasn't destroying the bush. In the same way, as God dwells in us and shows his life through us, we will burn with the brightness of the Lord. Our natural personalities and gifts won't be destroyed. They will have a new power to draw other people to the Lord who lives in us.

God's great desire is to live in us so that we can be fruitful. God wants us to do the works of Jesus today so that God's kingdom becomes more evident in today's world. Lent is a time to let God nourish his fire within us through prayer, reading Scripture, and serving our brothers and sisters. When we allow Jesus to live in us more fully, our lives become more and more fruitful because Jesus is living and loving through us.

Let us continue to seek our Lenten nourishment from our God. Let us ask him to bear the fruit that he has destined for us.

Rev. Michael S. Murray, OSFS, is the Executive Director of the De Sales Spirituality Center

All that is not eternal is not worthy of a thought.
- St. Francis de Sales



We need **volunteers for our Masses**. If you know you can help to assist at the Mass please step up. Thank you

Pope Francis has again this year called for the Church throughout the world to participate in the "**24 Hours for the Lord**" initiative, which is to be observed on Friday and Saturday, March 4-5, 2016. Our participation this year has particular emphasis, as it occurs not only during the Sacred Season of Lent, but also within the Jubilee Year of Mercy. Encounter the mercy of Our Lord and to be renewed in the spiritual life by participating in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, which will be celebrated in our parish. Look in the parish bulletin for more information next week.

Healing Mass for ALL Parishioners



Healing service with the Anointing of the Sick will be held **right after the Vigil Mass on Saturday, March 5th**. This

sacrament celebrates and carries out the healing ministry of Jesus. If you are in need of the grace that this sacrament offers, then please plan to attend.



Bilingual Stations of the Cross
Estaciones de la Cruz

Wednesdays during Lent at 5:30 pm. Fr Fred will hold the **BI-LINGUAL STATIONS OF THE CROSS**

~ COMMUNITY LENTEN DINNERS ~



Wednesday evenings everyone on Hatteras Island is invited to "OLS LENTEN SUPPER" We are **serving soups & bread. Starting at 6:00 pm thru 7:30 pm.** Come together as "one community" where

we can share our cultural soups & fellowship. **It is Open to ALL of our Hatteras Island Community & it's FREE**- Come join us. Interested in making one of your homemade soups, please contact: Claudia @ 252-995-6662 (English)

THE COLOR PURPLE. LENT: The liturgical color is purple, which not only represents the sovereignty of Christ but also his suffering and death. Before his Crucifixion, Jesus was mocked for calling himself King. (Mark 15) by being striped, then wrapped in purple cloth (historically an expensive dye for royalty). This sacrificial season of Lent calls for priest to wear this color to indicate penance and preparation.

Music for the Liturgy at 9:00 am

Processional: # 471 Hosea

Psalm Response: "The Lord is kind and merciful ."

Gospel Acclamation: "Praise and honor; honor and glory; glory to you, Lord, Jesus Christ." (# 11)

Offertory: # 591 Dwelling Place

Communion: # 585 All That Is Hidden

Recessional: # 622 Lord of All Hopefulness

Explaining the Catholic Faith

TODAY... Fr Fred will continue with the program of **Explaining the Catholic Faith**. It will take place at the rectory following the 9 am Mass. There will be a CD presentation followed by a discussion. **All are welcomed**

even if you did not participate in any of the last episodes.

A Reason for the Jubilee



"Here, then, is the reason for the Jubilee: because this is the time for mercy. It is the favorable time to heal wounds, a time not to be weary of meeting all those who are waiting to see and to touch with their hands the signs of the closeness of God, a time to offer everyone, everyone, the way of forgiveness and reconciliation. May the Mother of God open our eyes, so that we may comprehend the task to which we have been called: and may she obtain to us the grace to experience this Jubilee of Mercy as faithful and fruitful witnesses of Christ." - Pope Francis, homily at First Vespers on Divine Mercy Sunday

Reading for today's Mass are found in the

Glory & Praise at number 763

1st Reading ~ Exodus 3:1 – 8a, 13 – 15

2nd Reading ~ 1 Corinthians 10:1 – 6, 10 – 12

Gospel Reading ~ Luke 13:1 – 9

WHAT IS THE YEAR OF MERCY!!!

Seeing the great need for mercy and healing in the world, Pope Francis called for the Year of Mercy—a special period, also known as a Holy Year or Jubilee Year, for the Catholic Church. It is a time for the Church across the world to take approximately a year to focus on forgiveness and healing in a special way.

Pope Francis has asked us as individuals and as a Church "to be a witness of mercy" by reflecting on and practicing the spiritual and corporal works of mercy (Pope Francis' Announcement of the Year of Mercy). Beginning December 8, 2015, the Holy Year of Mercy will focus on studying and reflecting on mercy, receiving mercy, and being merciful towards others.

The Jubilee Year was inaugurated 700 years ago. Today is the 29th time that we celebrate the jubilee, "Jubilee with the Year of Mercy".

WITH THE JUBILEE COMES THE DOOR!

~ Mass Schedule ~

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 am

Friday 4:00 pm (Ocracoke)

Saturday 6:00 pm

Sunday 9:00 am

Sunday 6:00 pm (Spanish)

MASS ON OCRACOKE MAY TEMPORARILY BE SUSPENDED DUE TO WEATHER. PLEASE CALL 252.995.6370

Sacrament of Penance

Pope Francis writes, "Let us place the Sacrament of



Reconciliation at the center once more in such a way that it will enable people to touch the grandeur of God's mercy with their own hands. For every penitent, it will be a source of true interior peace."

Fr Fred will minister to the Sacrament of Reconciliation on Saturdays, starting at 4:45 pm, to provide sufficient opportunities for the faithful to receive the grace of the Sacrament of Penance.