SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
Staffed by the Oblates of the Virgin Mary
Encountering the Heart of Christ in the Heart of Boston

Fifth Sunday of Lent — April 7, 2019

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE 2019

Palm Sunday, April 14 - Regular Sunday Schedule
Boston Marathon Runners' Mass - April 14 at 10:30 AM

Holy Thursday, April 18: Mass of the Lord’s Supper - 5:10 PM; 7:00 PM (en español)

Good Friday, April 19:
Stations of the Cross - 12:30 PM
Divine Mercy Chaplet - 2:30 PM
The Passion of Our Lord - 3:00 PM; 6:00 PM (en español)
The Tenebrae Service - 8:30 PM

Holy Saturday, April 20: Misa de Vigilia Pascual - 8:30 PM (en español)

Easter Sunday, April 21 - Regular Sunday Schedule
If you would like an offertory envelope sent to you on a regular basis, please fill out one of the blue cards in the chapel entrance and drop it off at the Gift Shop. Thank you for your continued support. God bless you!

April 7 2019

They wanted to trap our Lord. Dt 22:22 says: If a man is discovered lying with a woman who is married to another, they both shall die, the man who was lying with the woman as well as the woman. Thus shall you purge the evil from Israel. In light of this text, they want Jesus’ opinion. “Teacher, this woman was caught in the very act of committing adultery. Now in the law, Moses commanded us to stone such women. So what do you say?” If Jesus says to let her go. He would be accused of breaking the Law of Moses. If He says to go ahead and stone her, He would be arrested for violating the Roman Law. Only the Romans could put someone to death. His enemies think they have Him trapped.

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Jesus bent down and began to write on the ground with his finger. Does Jesus do this to show indifference? Perhaps He is fulfilling Jeremiah 17:13: O Lord, the hope of Israel, all who forsake thee shall be put to shame; those who turn away from thee shall be written in the earth, for they have forsaken the Lord, the fountain of living water. Perhaps He is writing the names of those men who have turned away from Him the Fountain of Living Water. He straightened up and said to them, “Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her.” Again, he bent down and wrote on the ground. And in response, they went away one by one, ...

There is no accuser left to condemn her. He has no sin but according to the Law one person cannot condemn someone to death. Our Lord has created a situation so she cannot be condemned to death. He does not break the Law. He gives her another chance, as He does for us every time we confess. “Neither do I condemn you. Go, and from now on do not sin anymore.”

Look at the way our Lord’s answer upheld justice without forgoing clemency. He was not caught in the scare his enemies had laid for him; it is they themselves who were caught in it. He did not say the woman should not be stoned, for then it would look as though he were opposing the law. But he had no intention of saying: ‘Let her be stoned’, because he came not to destroy those he found but to seek those who were lost. Mark his reply. It contains justice, clemency, and truth in full measure... What is this, Lord, are you giving approval to immorality? Not at all. Take note of what follows: “Go and sin no more.” You see then that the Lord does indeed pass sentence but it is sin he condemns, not people. One who would have approved of immorality would have said: ‘Neither will I condemn you. Go and live as you please; you can be sure that I will acquit you. However much you sin, I will release you from all penalty, and from the tortures of hell and the underworld’. He did not say that. He said: ‘Neither will I condemn you’: you need have no fear of the past, but beware of what you do in the future. ‘Neither will I condemn you’: I have blotted out what you have done; now observe what I have commanded, in order to obtain what I have promised. — Augustine, Homilies on the Gospel of John, 33.6-7
Oblates of the Virgin Mary — USA

The Oblates of the Virgin Mary is an international religious community of priests and brothers serving in Italy, France, Austria, Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United States and the Philippines. The Oblates are involved in retreat and parish missions, spiritual direction, parish work, the mass media, clergy formation, and the foreign missions.

The US Province of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary is dedicated to St. Ignatius of Loyola, and includes communities in Massachusetts, Illinois, Colorado, California and the Philippines.

The OMV US Province House is at St. Clement’s in Boston.

The OMV motto, "MARIAM COGITA, MARIAM INVOCA" "THINK OF MARY, CALL ON MARY" is taken from a homily by St. Bernard.