ENCOUNTERING THE HEART OF CHRIST IN THE HEART OF BOSTON

SAINT FRANCIS CHAPEL
Staffed by
The Oblates of the Virgin Mary

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 1, 2020
Christ became poor to make us rich. It’s part of the mystery of the incarnation. He goes into the desert and lives in poverty, Pope Francis says; “it shows us how God works. He does not reveal himself cloaked in worldly power and wealth but rather in weakness and poverty: "though He was rich, yet for your sake he became poor ...". Christ, the eternal Son of God, one with the Father in power and glory, chose to be poor; he came amongst us and drew near to each of us: he set aside his glory and emptied himself so that he could be like us in all things (cf. Phil 2:7; Heb 4:15). He makes Himself one of us, subject to temptation like Adam & Eve, you and me. He permitted Satan to tempt Him. “At the heart of all temptations, is the act of pushing God aside because we perceive Him as secondary, if not actually superfluous and annoying in comparison with all the apparently far more urgent matters that fill our lives.” Those are words written by Pope Benedict. When we are tempted, we kind of put God on hold, “I’ll get back to You God as soon as I take care of something” like the woman in the garden. God said they could eat from the trees of the garden, only the tree in the middle of the garden they were not to touch else they would die. But the serpent said to the woman, “You will not die. For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil. So the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and it was a delight to the eyes, and that it was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate and she gave to her husband and he ate.” Isn’t that the way the enemy works in our lives? He falsifies what God has said, raises suspicions about God’s plans and intentions, and finally, portrays God as man’s enemy. Throughout history there will be a constant pressure on mankind to reject God even to the point of hating Him.

St Augustine called it love of self to the point of contempt for God. Man will tend to see in God a limitation of himself, instead of seeing God as the source of our freedom and the fullness of good. Temptation takes on an attitude that is practical. “It does not invite us directly to do evil – no, that would be far too blatant. It pretends to show us a better way, where we finally abandon our illusions and throw ourselves into the work of actually making the world a better place. ” (Benedict XVI)

Temptations to contracept or abort or legalize assisted suicide pretend to show us a better plan than God’s. Temptation claims to speak for true realism: What’s real is what is right there in front of us – power and bread. By comparison, the things of God fade into unreality, into a secondary world that no one really needs. God is the issue: Is He real, reality itself, or isn’t He? Is He good, or do we have to invent good ourselves? A Jesuit named Alfred Delp who was executed by the Nazis, once wrote: “Bread is important, freedom is important, but most important of all is unbroken fidelity and faithful adoration”.

CCC 540 Jesus' temptation reveals the way in which the Son of God is Messiah, contrary to the way Satan proposes to him and the way men wish to attribute to him. This is why Christ vanquished the Tempter for us: “For we have not a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tested as we are, yet without sinning.”

By the solemn forty days of Lent the Church unites herself each year to the mystery of Jesus in the desert. We will be tempted to think we know a better way to do things but we must remember God’s plan is always the best plan. Only His plan brings everlasting happiness.
Feast Day: March 3  
Patron of: Educators

Teresa is the foundress of the Congregation of the Daughters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She was born in Italy in the first half of the 19th century, a time when the harsh Jansenist heresy still gripped much of Europe. Teresa was highly educated and was well-trained in spirituality by her mother and her spiritual director who was a priest. Using her great intelligence and her disciplined spiritual life, Teresa founded a congregation dedicated to keeping the heart attached to the love of Christ. With a balanced spiritual approach Teresa and her sisters taught in schools, led retreats, cared for the sick and the poor and spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. St. Teresa is a model of what someone from privilege is able to accomplish when the heart is focused on the Lord.

**Project Rachel: Hope and Healing After Abortion**  
Retreat — March 7

Project Rachel is a confidential Catholic outreach ministry offering hope and healing to women and men hurting from past abortions. Project Rachel is named after the Old Testament figure Rachel, who weeps inconsolably for her children "who are no more" until God came to her, offering hope for her future. (Jeremiah 31:15-17)

For more information: (508) 651-3100 or help@projectrachelboston.com

**The Friends of God: St. Teresa Eustochio Verzeri**  
Feast Day: March 3  
Patron of: Educators

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**Mass Intentions This Week**

**Sunday, March 1**
8:00 AM + Irene & + Michael O'Sullivan  
9:15 AM  Sister Confida  
10:30 AM Maria Estefania Ruiz — birthday  
11:45 AM Dolores O' Connor — health  
1:15 PM (esp.) + Anna Bertha  
4:00 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory  
5:30 PM + Edgar Castillo

**Monday, March 2**
8:00 AM + Patricia McLaughlin  
12:05 PM  Sister Confida  
10:30 AM Maria Estefania Ruiz — birthday  
11:45 AM Dolores O' Connor — health  
1:15 PM (esp.) + Anna Bertha  
4:00 PM Holy Souls in Purgatory  
5:30 PM + Edgar Castillo

**Tuesday, March 3**  
— St. Katharine Drexel
8:00 AM + James Savage  
12:05 PM + Kristine (Mikki) Jacobellis  
4:45 PM + Mercedes Sofia Ponte

**Wednesday, March 4**  
— St. Casimir
8:00 AM Fr. Kazimierz Chwalek, MIC  
12:05 PM + Kristine (Mikki) Jacobellis  
4:45 PM + Clara Arno

**Thursday, March 5**
8:00 AM + Patrick Molloy — birth anniv.  
12:05 PM Claudia Ortiz — in thanksgiving to the Blessed Trinity and the Virgin Mary  
4:45 PM + Elizabeth & + Seamus Doherty

**Friday, March 6**
8:00 AM + Thomas Decrescenzo  
12:05 PM Anna Marie Sorriso  
4:45 PM An End to Abortion in Colombia and the Whole World

**Saturday, March 7**  
— Sts. Perpetua & Felicity
9:00 AM Walter Taverna  
12:00 PM An End to Abortion in Colombia and the Whole World  
4:00 PM + Sales Pinheiro  
5:30 PM Ali Mansouri — health  
7:00 PM (esp.) + Olga Pablos

**Prayer Before Mass**

My God, I offer you this holy sacrifice to recognize, honor and glorify your infinite greatness and the supreme dominion which, as the first principle and last end, you have above all created things. I give you this homage for all those who still do not know you or do not want to recognize you.

I offer this too in thanksgiving for the benefits that I and all the world have received and will receive from your infinite goodness; in satisfaction for my sins and those of the whole world; to implore the graces that are necessary for my eternal salvation and for all mankind. Oh, my God, I offer to you the merits of Jesus Christ; grant me at this Holy Mass a profound adoration.

My God, my Creator, I implore you to grant me the grace of final perseverance, I know by faith that I do not deserve it, nor can I deserve it, but your Divine Son deserves it for me with so many praises, with so many wounds he shows you in his Most Holy Body, on behalf of my wounded love. Amen.
Even while the month of March falls completely within the season of Lent, it is dedicated to the foster father of Jesus, St. Joseph. In the midst of the season of fasting and penance, there are two feasts within March that involve St. Joseph. His own solemnity is on March 19 and the Solemnity of the Annunciation is on March 25. The Gospel of Luke records the annunciation to Mary, while the Gospel of Matthew records the annunciation to Joseph of the coming birth of Jesus.

The Chaplet of St. Joseph

This chaplet uses the mysteries of the rosary for contemplation. There are only 4 beads in each mystery of the St. Joseph Chaplet.

On one bead pray two Hail Mary’s while you meditate on one of the mysteries of the rosary. On the three other beads pray the following:

♦  Praised and blessed be Jesus, Mary, and Joseph!

Repeat this sequence for five mysteries of the rosary, then finish with the following:

♦  O, God, Who had predestined St. Joseph for all eternity for the service of Thine Eternal Son and His Blessed Mother, and made him worthy to be the spouse of the Blessed Virgin and the foster father of Thy Son: we beseech Thee, through all the services he has rendered to Jesus and Mary on earth, that Thou wouldst make us worthy of his intercession and grant us to enjoy the happiness of his company in heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Two Ways

By Ven. Bruno Lanteri, Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary

Consider to which you want to give up and declare yourself. Think that Christ is all goodness, who seeks only your own good; who seeks only that you live according to reason. His yoke is sweet and He is attentive to help you, yes to help you. It is very easy to satisfy Him; he accepts even your good will when the work cannot be done well. Jesus then promises rewards from God. His followers are those who live as reasonable people, and who live among true friends, children of God, heirs of paradise. They are the ones who take up the works that please God, which are counted to eternal merit, and who participate in all the good of the saints. They enjoy great peace and tranquility, the beginning of that eternal peace and tranquility that they will enjoy in eternal life.

Consider the opposite that the devil is an evil spirit intent on having you be lost. The devil’s commands seems easy, they seems sweet, but in truth they are hard. He seems to promise a lot, but in truth it is little, i.e., low, vile and momentary pleasures.

Lectio Divina

“Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.” — Psalm 51

Ask the Holy Spirit to open your heart and mind to receive the word of God with reverence and joy.

Notice the thoughts and emotions within you. As you prayerfully consider this passage, are you able to identify what thoughts and feelings are generated?

This is the word of God. Take time to consider it carefully. Clear from your mind all distractions. Does it bring you hope or frustration? Is it ever a blessing to have a downcast heart? When was the last time you went to confession? Does this prayer express confidence in the Lord?

How does your heart feel about this? Take time right now to let these words touch your heart. Might you ask Mary to help you listen with confidence to the Lord?

Ask the Holy Spirit, in your heart, to help you to apply this to your life.