

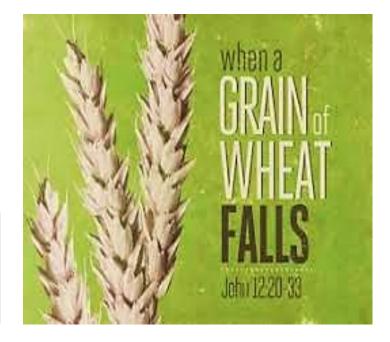
FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 18, 2018

Volume 2, Issue #12

Celebrants: Father Victor Ray and Father Martin dePorres





Many of us experience restlessness and stress because we are divided within ourselves, we lack focus and so we are not in one piece. There is conflict within us. This inner conflict in us, which St. Paul describes as "the law of sin that dwells in my members" (Rom 7:23), is what makes us restless and divided. "For I do not do the good I want, but I do the evil I do not want. Now, if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me" (Rom 7:19-20).

When we are in sin, we are troubled. We lose our peace for we become divided within. But when we turn away from sin, and conform ourselves according to God's will, we have peace for there is harmony and wholeness within. That is why Jesus taught us in the Beatitudes: "Blessed are the clean of heart, for they will see God!" (Mt 5:8). Being clean of heart or single- hearted simply means being in one piece. And when this happens, we distinctly feel the presence of God in us. Indeed, peace is the presence of God.

The famous Archbishop Fulton Sheen said something about why people have this feeling of emptiness and restlessness. He said that God designed the human heart in the shape of a valentine heart. (We see a lot of these in February.) But God decided to divide it into two. He took half of this heart with Him to heaven, and the other half He placed in the chest of man. So, while man remains in this world, there is always that feeling of something lacking inside him, which he cannot fully comprehend. Total peace and fullness of life will only be attained when we become united with God. This is what Jesus came for: "I came so that they might have life and have it more abundantly" (Jn 10:10). The Son of God became man like us, He descended into this world to make it possible for us to be united with God and have the fullness of life.

There is a famous song by Frank Sinatra entitled "I Left My Heart in San Francisco." At times, when we are stressed and feel so exhausted and empty, we may as well remember this song and say: "I Left my Heart in Heaven." As God's beloved children, we belong to heaven. In this world, we long for heaven because it is where our heart will have its wholeness. But while we are still here in this world, we will have anxieties, stress and the feeling of something lacking in us. St. Augustine had a timely realization of this: "My soul (or my heart) is restless until it rests in you, O Lord!"

The best image we can have of ourselves is that of a boy walking in the field with his father. All along the way, the boy holds the hand of his father, and with his other hand he picks up stones, or picks grains and flowers, or tries to catch butterflies passing by. His eyes are all over the vast field, and his feet are at times going in different directions. But he never let go of his one hand holding on to his father.

As we walk in this vast field we call the world, we encounter countless distractions, varied directions and attractive choices. But let us never, even for a moment, let go of the hand of our heavenly Father. That is what Jesus did. No matter how busy and exhausted He was, He always had time to be alone and pray. That was His way of being united with the Father – and of finding peace, inspiration, direction and inexhaustible strength to continue and fulfill His mission.

When we are stressed and feel that the burden of life is just too much, perhaps it is a symptom that we are drifting away from the Father. We have to stop and find time to be with God in silence and in prayer. Jesus always invites us: "Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest" (Mt 11:28) "Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you" (Jn 14:27). May the peace and the loving presence of God be with us now and for always.

The Daily Prayer of Saint Teresa

Dear Jesus, help me to spread your fragrance everywhere I go. Flood my soul with your spirit and love. Penetrate and possess my whole being so utterly that all my life may only be a radiance of You. Shine through me and be so in me that every soul I come in contact with may feel Your presence in my soul. Let them look up and see no longer me but only Jesus. Stay with me and then I shall begin to shine as you shine, so to shine as to be a light to others. **Amen.**



Let's Pray For: Byrley, Becky Harper, Richard Hartwig, Bill Kovar, Lyn Little, Ron Marx, D.A. Ray, Father Victor Retke, Wayne Spano, Dee Talboom, Mark Villafana, Ivy Wilhelm, Birgit



For all of our Parishioners that follow us through Electronic Media. Prayers for your specific request that you have sent us. For all those that need a Prayer, <u>Raise</u>, your Right Hand Toward Heaven and know that the Parish of Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community is beside you in your Prayer.

CHURCH CALENDAR

- March 18, Mass, Sunday, 10:30 am Fifth Sunday of Lent
- March 18, Sunday, After Mass St. Patrick's Feast
- March 23, Friday, 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
- March 25, Mass, Sunday, 10:30 am Palm Sunday
- March 28, Wednesday
- March 29, Mass, Thursday, 7:00 pm Holy Thursday with Hand Washing and Adoration through the night
- March 30, Mass, Friday, 7:00 pm Good Friday of the Lords Passion
- March 31, Mass, Saturday, 7:00 pm Easter Saturday
- April 1, Mass, Sunday, 10:30 am Easter Sunday

All of us at Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community want to take a moment to extend a very warm welcome to everyone who is visiting us for the first time this morning. Whether you are just having a look, or are searching for a place to worship, we are delighted to have you here. Enjoy the rest of your worship time with us, and

May God Bless You!







BRING YOUR EASTER FLOWER DONATIONS TO CHURCH. Drop off your Easter flowers at church during Holy week, as follows: Hardy Flowers – Sunday, March 25th Wed. evening, 3/28, 6:30-7 Holy Thursday afternoon, 3/29, 1PM-4pm Holy Thursday evening, before Mass.

Donate your favorite Easter flowers: Easter lilies, hyacinth, daffodils, tulips, other potted spring flowers. The flowers will be used for the Altar of Repose, beginning Holy Thursday evening, and then on the altar for Holy Saturday and Easter Sunday. Thank you for your generosity.



Celebrations

Jim Villafana Birthday 3/24

Ivy and Jim Villafana Anniversary 4/8

Ebba Grimm Birthday 5/1

Father Martin dePorres Birthday 5/7

For all those Celebrations that I have missed, Forgive Me and I sincerely hope they were all Wonderful and Wishing

For more detailed Church information, read the STOCCC Gazette which is found on the Website: www.stoccc.org or the APP: Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community

MONTHLY FINANCIAL STATEMENT

3/11/18 ATTENDEES: 30 ACTUAL MONTHLY EXPENSE: \$1,562.61 COLLECTIONS: \$401.00 MONTHLY INCOME (PLUS/MINUS): (- \$1059.70)

This Weeks Chuckle



An Irishman moves into a tiny hamlet in County Kerry, walks into the pub and promptly orders three beers.

The bartender raises his eyebrows, but serves the man three beers, which he drinks quietly at a table, alone.

An hour later, the man has finished the three beers and orders three more.

This happens yet again.

The next evening the man again orders and drinks three beers at a time, several times. Soon the entire town is whispering about the Man Who Orders Three Beers.

Finally, a week later, the bartender broaches the subject on behalf of the town. "I don't mean to pry, but folks around here are wondering why you always order three beers?"

'Tis odd, isn't it?" the man replies, "You see, I have two brothers,

and one went to America, and the other to Australia. We promised each other that we would always order an extra two beers whenever we drank as a way of keeping up the family bond."

The bartender and the whole town was pleased with this answer, and soon the Man Who Orders Three Beers became a local celebrity and source of pride to the hamlet, even to the extent that outof-towners would come to watch him drink.

Then, one day, the man comes in and orders only two beers. The bartender pours them with a heavy heart. This continues for the rest of the evening - he orders only two beers. The word flies around town. Prayers are offered for the soul of one of the brothers.

The next day, the bartender says to the man, "Folks around here, me first of all, want to offer condolences to you for the death of your brother. You know-the two beers and all..."

The man ponders this for a moment, then replies, "You'll be happy to hear that my two brothers are alive and well.

It's just that I, meself, have decided to give up drinking for Lent."



GATHERING

Lead Me, Lord



Reading 1

The days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the LORD. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the LORD. All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church

Thanks be to God

Responsorial Psalm

PSALM 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me. Cast me not out from your presence, and your Holy Spirit take not from me.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me. I will teach transgressors your ways, and sinners shall return to you.

R. Create a clean heart in me, O God.

Reading 2

In the days when Christ Jesus was in the flesh, he offered prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to the one who was able to save him from death, and he was heard because of his reverence. Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; and when he was made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation for all who obey him.

Hear what the Spirit is saying to the Church Thanks be to God

SING RIGHT AWAY	Gospel Acclamation	JOHN 12:26
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory		
Whoever serves me must follow me, says the Lord; and where I am, there also will my		
servant be.		
R. Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory		

Gospel

JOHN 12:20-33

Some Greeks who had come to worship at the Passover Feast came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we would like to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew; then Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.

"I am troubled now. Yet what should I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name." Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." The crowd there heard it and said it was thunder; but others said, "An angel has spoken to him." Jesus answered and said, "This voice did not come for my sake but for yours. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." He said this indicating the kind of death he would die.

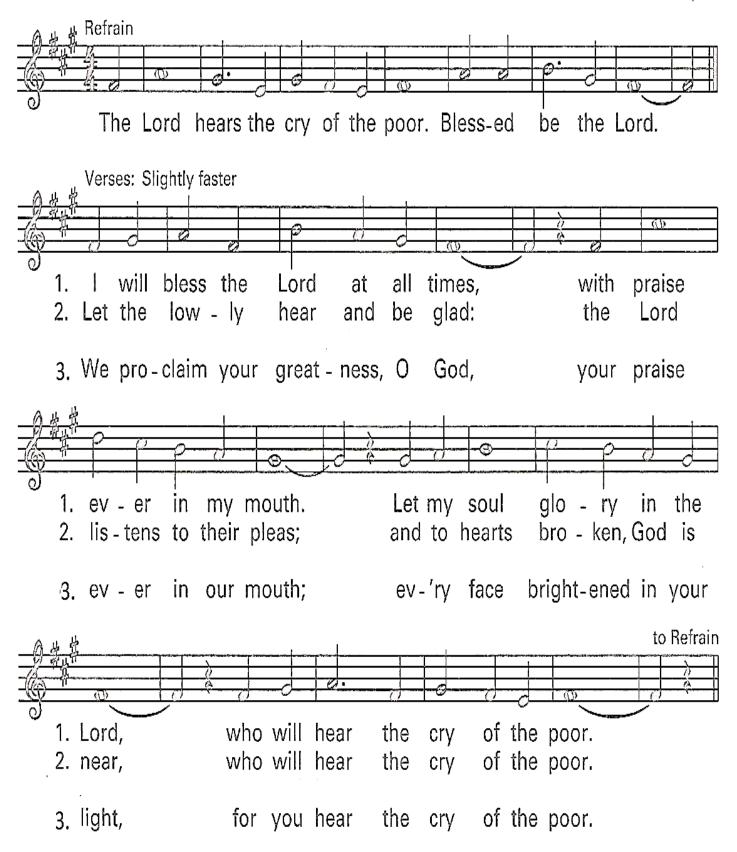
This is the Gospel of the Lord

Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ

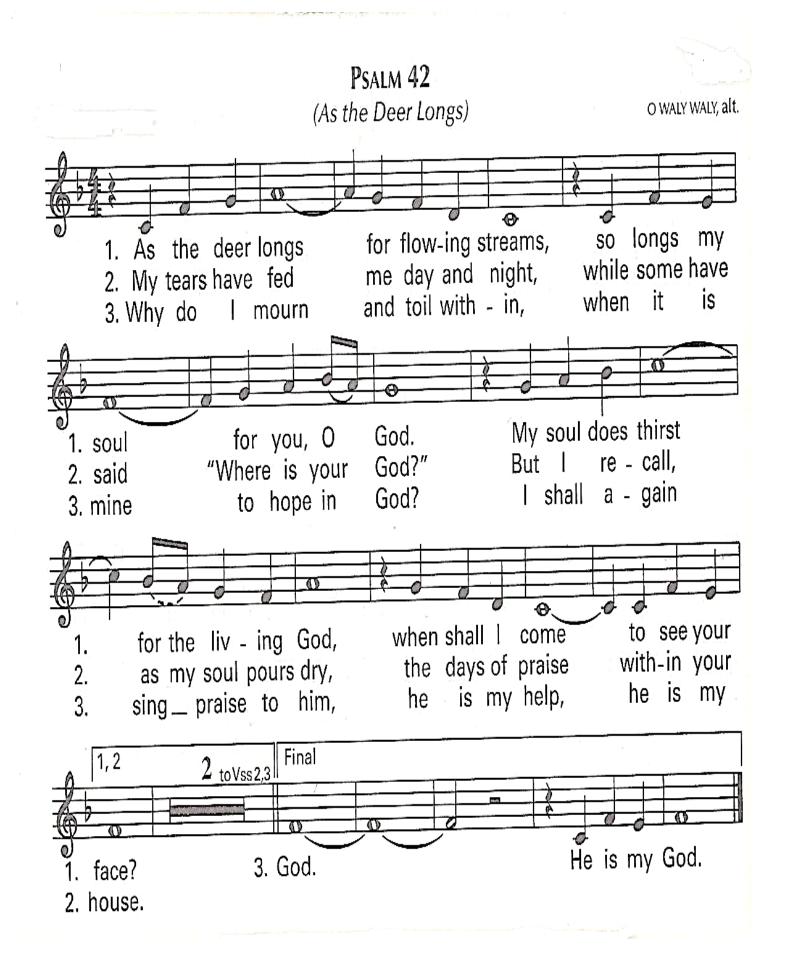
OFFERTORY

THE CRY OF THE POOR

John Foley, S.J.



COMMUNION



POST COMMUNION SONG (IF NEEDED TO STRETCH)

SANCTUARY

Lord, prepare me to be a sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true With thanksgiving, I'll be a living. Sanctuary for You

> It is you, Lord. Who came to save The heart and soul. Of every man It is you Lord. Who knows my weakness Who gives me strength. With thine own hand

Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary. Pure and Holy, tried and true With thanksgiving I'll be a living. Sanctuary for you

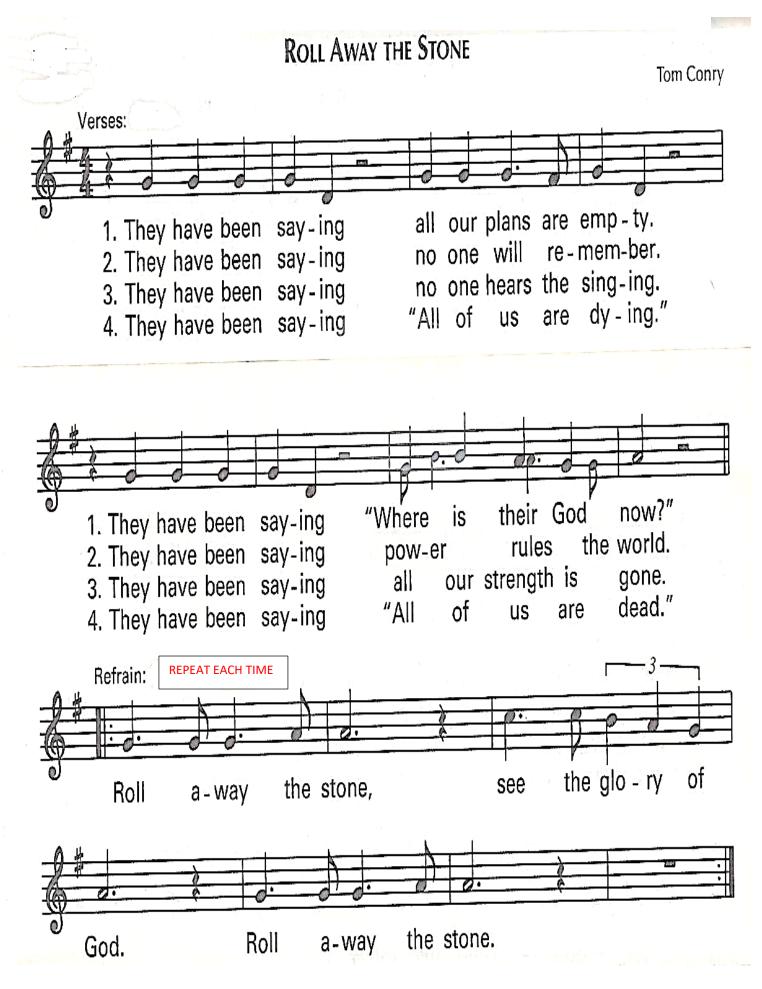
> Lead Me on Lord. From temptation And Purify me. From within Fill my heart Lord. With Your holy spirit And Take away, Take away all my sin

Lord prepare me to be sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true With thanksgiving, I'll be a living. Sanctuary for You

Lord prepare me to be sanctuary. Pure and holy, tried and true With thanksgiving, I'll be a living. Sanctuary for You

> Sanctuary for You Sanctuary for You

SENDING



Please join us for Fellowship and Coffee. Have a Blessed Week!



Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community

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Phone: 727-245-0102 Line 1 is Church Office Line 2 is Father Victor Ray Line 3 is Prayer Request Line 4 is Healing Ministry

Website: STOCCC.org APP: Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community Youtube: Saint Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Community Facebook: FACEBOOK.COM/STOCCCLOVE Instagram: STOCCCLOVE Twitter: STOCCC2

Bulletin Submissions due by Thursday at Midnight. Email to: media.stoccc@gmail.com or by calling Bill Schwartz at PH: 727-350-3778