

HOLY SPIRIT SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

Celebrating faith, inclusive welcome and service, because it is about relationships, not rules!

08 MARCH 2020 – 2ND SUNDAY OF LENT

TODAY'S LITURGY

Mass Intention: For Our Parishioners, living and deceased

Prelude: "From Ashes to the Living Font" #402

Welcome and "Good News" (Deb S.)

Gathering Song: "Tis' Good, Lord, to Be Here" #771

Introductory Penitential Rite:

℣. We confess

℟. to almighty God, and to one another,

that we have sinned

in our thoughts and in our words,

in what we have done, and in what we have left undone.

We have not loved you with our whole heart.

We have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. (Matt 22:37-39)

In your mercy, forgive what we have been,

help us to amend what we are, and direct what we shall be;

that we may do justice, love mercy,

and walk humbly with you, our God. Amen. (Micah 6:8)

Kyrie: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #201

Opening Prayer

Reading I: Genesis 12:1-4 (Jo D.)

Psalm Response: Psalm 33, #32

Reading II: II Timothy 1:8-10 (Sr. Linda)

Gospel Acclamation: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #204

Holy Gospel: Matthew 17:1-9 (Dcn. Jan)

Homily: (Bp. Steve)

Profession of Faith: Alternative Creed (hymnal inside back cover)

Intercessions: ℣. **God, in Your mercy, hear us!** (Donna L.)

Kiss of Peace

Preparation of Gifts: "Transform Us" #770

Eucharistic Prayer: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #205-209

Lord's Prayer: #7

Lamb of God Litany: Mass of Love and Mercy, WN #210

Communion Procession: "Remembrance" WN #148

(Mthr. Sharon, Fr. Lionel; Dcn. Jan)

All are truly welcomed to reverently receive Holy Communion with us!

Song of Praise: "Open My Eyes" #569

Prayer after Communion & Blessing

Sending Song: "The Glory of These Forty Days" #397

THE ROAD AHEAD

Ministry Team Meetings:

-Stewardship: 2nd Sunday

-Finance: 2nd Weds, 7pm

-Landscape: 3rd Sunday.

-Outreach: 4th Sunday.

Way of the Cross, Fridays of Lent, 7pm, chapel

Spiritual Practice: Work it!

Wednesdays, March 4th thru April 1, 7-8:30pm. Save the dates and gather with your church family.

"Dig in the Dirt" Lenten Party!

NEXT Saturday, March 14th, 8-10:30am.

Parish Council Meeting,

Thursday, March 26th, 7pm, conference room.

Annual Pet Fair and Blessing,

Saturday, April 25th. Save the date!



FROM WHERE I STAND

Blessed Sunday,
dear Community and Friends!

When God told Abraham to leave home, God was asking a lot of him. The world was not a global village then. Travel wasn't easy; there were no planes, taxis, or hotels. Furthermore, leaving home was a decisive break with all the good of home, because going back for a visit was difficult or just out of the question entirely. So leaving home then was a loss that we can't imagine well anymore, in our era of video calls and texting.

Still, when God told Abraham to leave, Abraham went.

Why did he go? Presumably because he wanted what God offered him. If Abraham left, God told him, then Abraham would become a great nation, and all the communities of the earth would find blessing in him. That is a fairly stunning reward.

So Abraham, who had a great desire for that reward, obeyed God, left what was familiar and beloved to him, and wandered off as a stranger in a strange land.

And then notice what happened.

Abraham lived a very long time after this promise of God's and he stayed faithful to God's commands his whole life. But by the time Abraham died, this is all Abraham had: one son to carry on his posterity under this promise and two grandchildren.

By anybody's estimation, this is a very small family. Certainly, one son and two grandsons is not a great nation.

Furthermore, hardly any communities knew Abraham at all, let alone found a blessing in him. The idea that all the communities of the earth would find blessing in Abraham really would have been completely laughable at that time, wouldn't it?

Of course, as we now see it, all Jews, Christians, and Muslims are the Abrahamic peoples. Many great nations are included among the Abrahamic peoples. All of them know Abraham and think that they find blessing in Abraham.

And so God's stunning promise to Abraham has been completely fulfilled. But Abraham did not live to see it. He had to take the fulfillment of God's promise to him on faith.

So maybe Abraham is the father of faith because he was willing to stake his life on a promise whose fulfillment did not come in his lifetime on earth. In this, he is not only the patriarch of the family of faith but also a pattern to follow for all those in his family.

May our Second Week of Lent be a budding forth in Christ. Buds are tiny but become something wonderful and beautiful before the eyes of all.

With my love and prayers,
Bp. Steve

OUR STEWARDSHIP



In gratitude for our many blessings and gifts from God, we share our time, talent, and treasures with others at worship and throughout the week. On Sunday, March 1st, 50 people gathered as the Body of Christ to joyfully celebrate the Holy Eucharist in gratitude to God for our many gifts, the mission and ministry of our parish community.

“Go forth from the land of your kinsfolk and from your father's house to a land that I will show you.” (Genesis 12:1) God calls all of us to leave behind our old ways and to follow Him, placing our complete trust in Him. Some of the old ways that we may have to struggle to leave behind might be materialism, selfishness, and greed. Yet God promises to show us a new land and a better way to live. Remember what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, “God does not call us to be successful, God calls us to be faithful.”

For a full monthly update on our finances, visit our parish website: www.holyspiritscc.org/treasure.html

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to:

Kathy J. 3/8, Lana W. 3/11,
Diane P. 3/15, Nicole T. 3/20,
Dcn. Jan 3/25; Lee W. 3/27.

Happy Anniversary to:

Katy and Taffy 3/15,
Paul and Nicole 3/18.

*May the brilliance of
the light of Christ
continue to shine brightly
in you in your living
and in your loving!*

WHEN WE GATHER

Sunday, March 15th, 10:30am
3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 17:3-7

Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9

Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

John 4:5-42

Altar Bread Baker: Gil M.

Greeters: Pat P. and Chris P.

Councilor Welcome: Donna C.

Presider & Homilist: Mthr. Sharon

Acolyte: Sr. Louise

Lectors: Wayne C. (1), Walt B. (2)

Intercessions: Diane P.

Eucharistic Ministers:

Fr. Jacques, Fr. Sam; Dcn. Jan

Social Hall Service: Last Names L-Q

*Thank you for your faithful and loving
service at the altar of the Lord.*

Our Lenten Giving

There are small currency boxes available in the chapel foyer for you to take home and place at your place of personal prayer or your table as a reminder. This year, our parish family will offer these gifts of our Lenten sacrifice and growth for the benefit of **Pinellas Hope**. Pinellas Hope is an inter-faith venture, hosted by the Roman Catholic Diocese of St. Petersburg, providing a safe living environment and the necessary support for homeless adults to become self-sufficient. Since its formation in 2007, Pinellas Hope has served over 10,000 people and served over 1.6 million meals. May the Lord renew our hearts in generous compassion for those most in need.



Come, My Light

Come, my Light,
and illumine my darkness.
Come, my Life,
and revive me from death.
Come, my Physician,
and heal my wounds.
Come, Flame of divine love,
and burn up the thorns of my sins,
kindling my heart
with the flame of thy love.

-Dimitrii of Rostov



- For the intentions of our parish and diocesan communities, for our holiness, growth and generous service.
- For the persecuted Christians of the Middle East.
- Those who are homeless, hungry, helpless, unemployed, underemployed, addicted, imprisoned and hopeless: *that they do not remain invisible to us.*
- For those discerning their life, ministry, and future with our Diocese.
- + The victims of gun violence, *eternal rest and delight in God's arms.*
- Ellen M., *strength and healing from cancer.*
- David S.'s daughter, *mental healing.*
- Deb. S. & Sr. Linda, *healing strength*
- For the youth of our End 68 Hours of Hunger Project.
- Bp. Chuck, *liver cancer challenges*
- Br. Tom W., *healing from follow-up surgeries and restoration*
- Harry, *father of Donna L., hospice care*
- Fr. Joseph, *his strength and healing.*
- Mary S., *healing strength during cancer therapy.*
- Cindy K., *ankle surgery healing*
- + Dorothea, *Fr. Sam's mother, R.I.P., 3/3/2020*

Lord, hear our prayer!





HOLY SPIRIT

SYNODAL CATHOLIC CHURCH

3265 State Road 580

Safety Harbor, FL 34695-4929

Bishop Steven M. Roszczewski

Deacon Jan E. Hartman

Fr. Samuel J. Babbish

Fr. Jacques L. Labelle

Mthr. Sharon M. Mucci, csd

Fr. Lionel J. Repasky, csd

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The phrase

"do not be afraid"

is written in the Bible

365 times. That's a daily

reminder from God to live

every day being fearless ♥

Save the Date...

“DIG in the DIRT” Party

NEXT Saturday, March 14th

8am-10:30am

Goal: to spruce up our parish

campus in preparation for

Easter!

Our Online Giving Continues to Grow

I want to thank all of our parishioners for your generous support of our transition to electronic giving. In February 2020, we received our highest ever giving through ETF (electronic transfer of funds). The \$4,921 received through EFT (plus our other giving) resulted in much higher February income as compared to previous years. Church income varies significantly from month to month, and February is traditionally one of our lowest months for donations. Higher February donations in 2020 show that we are progressing toward our goal of more even cash flow throughout the year.

Again, many thanks to those who are giving electronically. If you are not yet giving online, please prayerfully consider doing so. Electronic giving forms are available on the bulletin board in our Fellowship Hall and on the parish website.

- Michael Havener,
Parish Treasurer

Coronavirus and Holy Communion...

The news of these recent weeks has been filled with turmoil created by the spread of the coronavirus COVID-19, roiling financial markets, causing increasing concern throughout the world about transmission, and otherwise raising concerns about the spread of infectious disease.

Invariably, the first question asked of the church in moments like this is: What about the common cup at Mass?

The simple answer is this - peer reviewed studies and Centers for Disease Control guidance since the 1980s have consistently shown that "no documented transmission of any infectious disease has ever been traced to the use of a common communion cup" and "the risk for infectious disease transmission by a common communion cup is very low, and appropriate safeguards--that is, wiping the interior and exterior rim between communicants, use of care to rotate the cloth during use, and use of a clean cloth for each service - would further diminish this risk." American Journal of Infection Control (*Vol. 26, No. 5, 1998*).

We do all these things at Holy Spirit! Our clergy and Eucharistic ministers are trained to wipe the rim of the chalice between each communicant, to rotate the purificator (the cloth), and the sacristan ensures a clean purificator is used for each liturgy.

If you're feeling "under the weather", please, stay home and take care of yourself. There's no gold star for coming to Mass when you're sick.

Wash your hands, repeat!