

Sunday, March 24, 2019. Morning. In today's first reading, Moses witnessed something of God the Father, in the burning bush. Everlasting. The bush burns but is not consumed. God is eternal, without beginning or end.

Afternoon. The very presence of God in the bush makes the ground around it Holy. The very presence of Jesus in our church makes this St Jude Church Holy.

Evening. In today's first reading, we hear how God cares. "I have heard their cries and witnessed their affliction and have come to rescue them." But God acts in his own time. We must be patient. God waited decades (for Moses to grow from a newborn into an adult) before he freed the people of Israel.

Monday, March 25, 2019. Morning. Today we celebrate the first mystery of the rosary: the Annunciation. In response to the words of the Angel Gabriel, the Blessed Virgin Mary agrees to become the mother of Jesus. March 25 is exactly nine months before Christmas day. As we appreciated something of the beauty of the Bible on this past Saturday, so let us appreciate something of the beauty of the Church's calendar. Today, exactly nine months before Christmas day, we celebrate the Annunciation.

Afternoon. Our Lady was deeply troubled and the Angel asked her not to be afraid. So we too will experience apprehension and even fear when we accept our calling to do God's will.

Evening. Our Lady did not fully understand. "How can this be?" So we too will not fully understand what God asks of us, and yet, in imitation of the Blessed Virgin, we too are called to say "yes" to God.

Tuesday, March 26, 2019. Morning. As we continue our Lenten journey, we are repeatedly called to repentance. Let us turn to the ten commandments to help us repent. God is all Holy and everything begins with and returns to God. The ten commandments do not start with a focus on our actions but rather on the reality that God is God.

Afternoon. We repent for the times that we may have acted as if everything did not begin with and return back to the reality that God is God, especially we Priest and Deacons, who heard the Bishop say at our ordination, "May God who has begun the good work in you bring it to fulfillment." Let us all act out of the belief that all things begin with and return back to God.

Evening. We are creatures of imitation. Unless we make an effort, we will simply parrot the curse words we hear all around us, as we walk through the Trumbull mall, as we sit in the theater and watch a movie. We repent for the times we have used the Lord's name in vain.

Wednesday, March 27, 2019. Morning. Let us make a conscious effort to use God's name once a day in a prayerful way. "God the Father, thank you for the beauty of creation. Lord Jesus Christ, thank you for dying on the cross for our salvation." By using God's name in a Holy way, we will be less likely to use God's name as a curse.

Afternoon. The beginning of the Bible shows us that all of the work was done previously, before God created humankind on the sixth day. As tempting as it is to grind on 24-7-365, we are called to rest one day out of the week. And if we fear that everything will fall apart if we back away to rest for a while, let us be reminded that it was God who created everything before humankind came into existence. And God can keep creation going for a minute or an hour or an entire sabbath day, as we step aside to rest, according to the third commandment.

Evening. Honor father and mother. A transition has taken place. The first three commandments speak of God. The last seven commandments, beginning with the fourth, speak of our relationship to one another. Let all young children appreciate that God has entrusted them to their parents—and thereby honor them by not fighting and by doing immediately whatever their parents ask.

Thursday, March 28, 2019. Morning. Let all of us adult children honor our father and mother by taking care of them as they age. For the first part of our lives, our parents take care of us young children... for the second part of our lives, we take care of our aging parents.

Afternoon. Car keys. When we are teen-agers, our parents determine whether or not we can have the car keys. As adult children, we one day become responsible for taking the car keys away from our aging parents.

Evening. All the other commandments have a static character about them, but Honor father and mother is dynamic. It changes over a lifetime as children grow into adults and parents age.

Friday, March 29, 2019. Morning. Thou shall not kill. We cannot even get through the fourth chapter of the first book of the Bible without a murder, within the first family. And we could not get through the last century without World War Two claiming sixty million lives. Let us do everything we can to create a world free from killing, and let us also pray fervently for Jesus to return in his Second Coming when he will establish his kingdom in which there will be no more bloodshed.

Afternoon. For our young ones, let the sixth commandment be one of commitment to family members. And for adults let the sixth commandment be one of respecting the commitment that married couples make to one another. For those of us who are married, let our focus be solely on our spouse. And for those of us who are not married, let us not put pressure on another's marriage.

Evening. God in his infinite wisdom gives each of us what he wants us to have. Our life is a journey that begins from a point of our being dissatisfied with what we consider to be the little that God has given us and, hopefully, ends with our complete satisfaction with what God gives to us.

Saturday, March 30, 2019. Morning. Thou shall not steal. Sure, you may get arrested for stealing. But let us rather avoid stealing for the simple reason that we are fully satisfied with what God has given to us.

Afternoon. Rather than take what another has, let us be happy for what they have. Let me not see myself and what I have as separate and divided from everybody else and what they have. Rather let us all see ourselves as part of a world-wide human family. I benefit by what she has. He benefits by what I have. There is not need for us to steal from one another.

Evening. We have journeyed halfway through the penitential aspect of Lent. Let us step back and take a breath and Rejoice. This evening and all day tomorrow is Laetare Sunday, laetare meaning to rejoice. Sit back. Take a breath. Rejoice