

St. Philomena Chapel

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Rev. Fr. Christopher Spray | Rev. Fr. Matías Chimentón | Rev. Fr. Sergio Casas Silva

Laetare Sunday

- Monday, March 16 | **Feria - FAST**
7:30am – St. Philomena
RIP Angela Diaz – Rusich Family
- Tuesday, March 17 | **St. Patrick - FAST**
7:30am – St. Philomena
RIP Bp. George McLaughlin – Rusich Family
- Wednesday, March 18 | **St. Cyril of Jerusalem – FAST**
7:30am – St. Philomena
7:30am – St. Peter Claver
RIP Guadalupe Rojas – Rusich Family
- Thursday, March 19 | **ST. JOSEPH, Spouse of the BVM - FAST**
9:00am – St. Philomena
7:30am – St. Peter Claver
Pro Populo
- Friday, March 20 | **Feria – FAST AND ABSTINENCE**
7:30am – St. Philomena
7:30am – St. Peter Claver
6:00pm – St. Philomena followed by Stations of the Cross
RIP Bp. George Musey – Rusich Family
- Saturday, March 21 | **St. Benedict – FAST**
7:30am – St. Philomena
7:30am – St. Peter Claver
John Femineli – Anonymous
- Sunday, March 22 | **Passion Sunday, St. Isidore the Farmer**
9:00am – St. Philomena
9:00am – St. Peter Claver
Pro Populo

Announcements

Collection

St. Philomena – 3/8 - \$455

St. Peter Claver – 3/8 - \$230

4th Sunday of Lent

Today is *Laetare* Sunday, named for the first word of the Introit: "*Laetare, Jerusalem*" (Rejoice, O Jerusalem). For a brief moment, the violet of penance is softened to rose, the organ may be played, and the altar may be decorated with flowers. We rejoice not because the fast is over, but because we have reached the mountain peak of our Lenten journey and can finally see the light of the Resurrection on the horizon.

In today's Gospel (John 6:1-15), we witness the miracle of the loaves and fishes. In the traditional liturgy, this is placed specifically here to foreshadow the Easter Duty—the reception of the Holy Eucharist.

- The Desert: Like the multitude in the wilderness, we are often spiritually hungry and "faint" from our Lenten disciplines.
- The Provision: Our Lord does not merely provide enough; He provides an abundance (twelve baskets remaining). This reminds us that no matter how meager our own efforts at penance may seem, God's grace is superabundant.

The Epistle (Galatians 4:22-31) provides the theological heart of the day. St. Paul speaks of the two sons of Abraham: one born of a slave (Hagar) and one of a free woman (Sarah).

- The Old Covenant (Sinai): Represents a spirit of fear and legalistic bondage.
- The New Covenant (The Jerusalem Above): Represents the freedom of the children of God.

As we move toward Passiontide (which begins next Sunday), we are reminded that we do not perform our Lenten penances as "slaves" trying to earn God's love through the law. Rather, we fast as free children who love their Father and desire to be purified so we can dwell in the "Jerusalem which is above."