

Saint Augustine Catholic Church

Oakland, California

• Third Sunday of Lent •

March 3rd, 2024

CLEANSING THE TEMPLE

“Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace” (John 2:16).

Large buildings are one way to establish the permanence of governments and churches. The Lateran Basilica in Rome, whose dedication in the fourth century is commemorated today, was first the palace of a wealthy Roman family, later given to the popes by Emperor Constantine and now designated as the pope’s parish church. Its long history reflects the inevitable danger of entanglement of money and power with spiritual institutions that today’s Gospel is about.

The second temple in Jerusalem, successor to Solomon’s temple, was built by King Herod in order to gain acceptance by his subjects. It was central to Jewish worship and animal sacrifice. It was also controversial in Jesus’ time as the perceived nexus of money and power divided among the high priestly and aristocratic classes, Herodians and the Roman occupation because it was a source of commerce and taxation. Jesus’ dramatic act of cleansing the temple highlighted the corruption of its spiritual purpose as a sacred symbol of God’s presence. It is not hard to see how this public protest roused official reactions that eventually contributed to Jesus’ death.

Jesus called it a “marketplace” and a “den of thieves.” He emphasized that God’s spiritual presence was not confined to any building and that real worship was in “spirit and truth.” The four Gospels developed the theme that Jesus himself was the true locus of God’s presence. His death was compared to the destruction of the temple, but he surpassed it in glory by his resurrection and the power of the Holy Spirit. His body, the church, became the new temple not built by human hands and indestructible in history.

The cleansing of the temple is a work in progress. Pope Francis is currently engaged in efforts to ensure financial accountability during yet another scandal involving Vatican funds, ordering the removal of a cardinal and shifting oversight to outside experts. Dependence on philanthropy to maintain churches and ministries in the church is a perennial challenge that has entangled some bishops with wealthy donors tied to their own financial and political interests. The simplicity of Jesus and the early church contrasts with the complexity of financing a world church.

We all share in the dilemma when we discover that material possessions can possess us and limit our commitment to live simply. Readiness to cleanse our own lives of preoccupation with money and things is not easy in our wealth focused culture. Good people can be caught up in a “marketplace” idolatry that impacts their decisions, priorities and relationships. Today’s commemoration reminds that one way to celebrate God’s gifts is by being authentic temples of the Holy Spirit, houses of prayer and centers of generous service to others.

This article was originally published by the National Catholic Reporter on November 9, 2020
<https://www.ncronline.org/spirituality/pencil-preaching/pencil-preaching/cleansing-temple>

400 Alcatraz Ave Oakland, CA 94609 • www.staugustineoakland.com

Weekend Mass schedule

Saturday: 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
Mass: Sunday, 10:00 am & 6:00pm

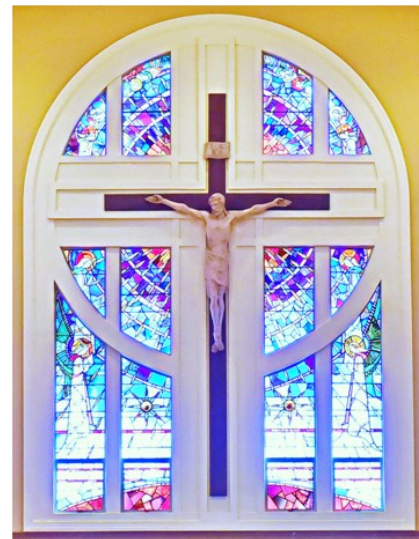
• Weekday Eucharist •

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, 8:30 a.m.
Communion Service: Wednesday, 8:30 a.m.

• Sacrament of Reconciliation •

Saturday at 4 p.m.
Also upon Request

“ We are called by Christ to love Him, to follow Him and to bring Him to the world.”



St. Augustine Catholic Church

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PARISH NEWS

National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month.

To help combat this tragedy, here are some of the signs to look for:

Signs of being controlled

No identification documents

Unable to leave job or residence

Not in control of their own finances

Is under 18 and provides commercial sex acts

At any age unwillingly provides commercial sex acts

Is afraid of law enforcement or receiving help

In a relationship with someone who is dominating

Never is alone and/or always has someone translating or answering questions on their behalf

Signs of trauma

Inconsistent details when telling their story

Seems anxious, fearful or paranoid; avoids eye contact

Tearfulness or signs of depression

Unexplained bruises or cuts or other signs of physical abuse

Is evasive or unable to answer questions about where they live

For more information, go to <https://humantraffickinghotline.org/en> If you or someone you know needs help call the National Human Trafficking Hotline 1-888-373-7888 or text the hotline's BeFree textline: Text "BeFree" (233733).

Peaceful, Prayerful 40 Days for Life Vigil

Bishop Barber invites us to join the 40 Days for Live Vigils. He writes: "Let us be beacons of hope for the mothers and fathers struggling with a difficult pregnancy, to know they have support and an alternative to abortion.

February 14 – March 24

El Cerrito Planned Parenthood, 8000 El Cerrito Plaza, El Cerrito

7am-7pm Daily

Lovebabies21670@gmail.com

www.40daysforlife.com/ElCerrito

Next week's second collection is for Catholic Relief Services.

Question of the Week

For Adults: When has the message of the cross seemed absurd to you, and when have you seen its wisdom?

For Children: What puzzles you in the gospel stories? Which story makes you the most hopeful?

Cleaning House

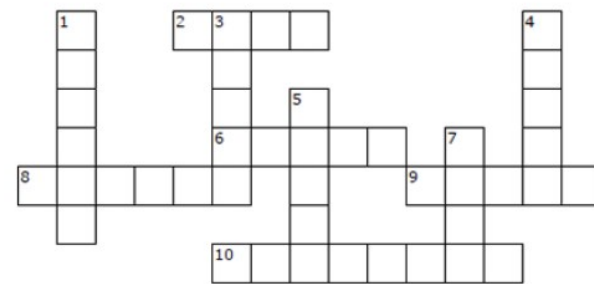
So he made a whip out of cords, and drove all from the temple area, both sheep and cattle; he scattered the coins of the money changers and overturned their tables. John 2:15 (NIV)

Based on John 2:13-16 (NIV)



C W C M C P A S S O V E R U N
 H F O B A Y D M O N E Y J A V
 A F U F T R K Y G E Q H K M S
 N O R G T P K I F F F G E G C
 G T T T L U I E C G K L S G A
 E E S E E Q N D T T A E N X T
 R C O M J D O V E S L I S B T
 S R B P S B B G U B L E P R E
 H D G L G Z N R A L E E I X R
 J L R E Y I E T E Z E I W E E
 P E K O T J X S C H F X H W D
 E E W T V J N M S E H K I W V
 W D I I P E H O U S E G P I Z
 N S D R S C D U C O R D S M S
 K V C X C H N A T I M E E G G

DROVE	SCATTERED	JERUSALEM	PASSOVER	SITTING
TEMPLE	COURTS	DOVES	SHEEP	CATTLE
TIME	MARKET	CHANGERS	JEWISH	MONEY
SELLING	HOUSE	TABLES	WHIP	CORDS



ACROSS

- 2. A strip of leather or cord fastened to a handle
- 6. An animal raised for its wool
- 8. A building dedicated to the worship of God
- 9. Coins or bills used to pay for something
- 10. A Jewish holiday celebrating being freed from slavery in Egypt

DOWN

- 1. A place where people gather to buy and sell things
- 3. A building where a family lives
- 4. A piece of furniture with a smooth, flat surface and four legs
- 5. The Son of God
- 7. A small, wild pigeon

WHIP	MARKET	PASSOVER	SHEEP	TEMPLE
HOUSE	TABLE	MONEY	JESUS	DOVE

WEEKLY CALENDAR

- 8:30 am Holy Mass
Thursdays
- 4 pm Reconciliation
Saturdays
- 5:00 pm Vigil Mass
Saturdays
- 10:00 am Sunday Holy Mass
- 6:00 pm Sunday Holy Mass
- 7:00 pm Weekday Rosary on Zoom

February 25th Collection: \$1,044. Thank you for your generosity.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Please remember in your prayers those who are ill:
 Sam Wolfe, Laura Patterson, Laura Ferreira, Anabelle Espe, Pat Redis and Kate Dole

And those who have died:
 Fr. Alex Snyder, Craig Zimmerman, and all the souls in Purgatory who have no one to pray for them.

Mass Intentions

- 5 pm Saturday Mass
Alejandro Marcelino
- 10 am Sunday Mass
Parishioners and Benefactors

Will You Follow Jesus to Calvary?

Our Lenten Study this year is *No Greater Love*. We will meet on Zoom on Friday evenings at 7:00 pm. Our first meeting will be Friday, February 23. Please send an email to april.mcneely@gmail.com if you would like to participate.

Filmed on location in the Holy Land, *No Greater Love* is a biblical pilgrimage that reveals Christ's amazing love for us. Best-selling author Edward Sri guides you through the last hours of Christ's life. You will walk step-by-step with Jesus from the garden of Gethsemane to Mount Calvary. Every step of the way, Old Testament prophecies, messianic expectations, biblical symbolism, and historical context shed light on the mystery of Christ's suffering and death. Experience a deeper understanding and appreciation of God's immeasurable and unconditional love for you—grow closer to Jesus than you ever have before.

Authored and presented by Edward Sri, *No Greater Love* also features Fr. Mike Schmitz, Jeff Cavins, Jennifer Fulwiler, Curtis Martin, Teresa Tomeo, Fr. Josh Johnson, and Elizabeth Sri.

<https://ascensionpress.com/collections/no-greater-love>

