

**Third Sunday of Lent
March 15, 2009**

A. This Year – our faith formation focus: Following Jesus – Discipleship

1. To keep our focus, we begin every staff meeting and all of our committee meetings with a prayer asking Jesus to help us grow in our knowledge of him:
 - Jesus, the teacher of the Good News
 - Jesus, the Prophet and the Bread of Life
 - Jesus our Messiah and Son of God
 - Jesus our Healer and Risen Lord
 - Jesus our Philosopher and Good Shepherd
2. After pondering the Gospel, we might add to this list: Jesus the Psychologist
 - Gospel reminds us that Jesus understood human nature ... what it is that makes us tick: our motivation, our struggles, our unconscious lives
 - Jesus knew why his Father's house was turned into a marketplace
Jesus was deeply upset that the Passover event – the great liberation of the people was being obscured by the greed of the money changers
3. As a psychologist our God knows that we need guidelines, principles, indeed, commandments ... act like a GPS to get us back home ... when not lived we keep hearing: “recalculating, recalculating . . .!

B. Our First Reading ... the Decalogue: the ten commandments: three in reference to our relationship with God; seven in our relationship with one another.

1. First Commandment: “I am the Lord your God: you shall not have strange Gods before me.”
 - our idols: power, possessions, prestige, pleasure
 - good things ... but not to consume our attention (obsessions)
 - statement: we all genuflect to someone or something ...what /who is it?
2. Second commandment: “You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain.”
 - Monday night at our parish mission: Fr. Kratz spoke of the name of God: Friend
 - God actually likes us / Ps. 149:4 For the Lord loves his people ... he likes us
 - 7 years old: drug store with my day ... high school junior ... she winked at me
Dad ... that girl ... she likes me (“Don't get any big ideas, Buster)
3. Third commandment: “Remember to keep holy the Lord's Day.”
 - time: seven days a week / 168 hours / how do we use that time?
 - Sunday: the Lord's day ... time for prayer ... time for leisure ... time for family
I know a family ... every Sunday night (except on rare occasion) grandparents come over and they have pizza, conversation, maybe watch a movie

C. Human nature: complex, mysterious / dark side ... bright side God is good psychologist ... understands us / how we tick ... grateful today for the Decalogue ... the GPS that point the way home.