**FOR THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 2-3rd, 2024**

Third Sunday of Lent

**Gospel reading**

Jn 2:13-25

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves,

as well as the money-changers seated there.

He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area,

with the sheep and oxen, and spilled the coins of the money-changers and overturned their tables,

and to those who sold doves he said,

“Take these out of here, and stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”

His disciples recalled the words of scripture, “Zeal for your house will consume me.”

At this the Jews answered and said to him, “What sign can you show us for doing this?”

Jesus answered and said to them,

“Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up.”

The Jews said, “This temple has been under construction for forty-six years,

and you will raise it up in three days?”

But he was speaking about the temple of his body.

Therefore, when he was raised from the dead,

his disciples remembered that he had said this,

and they came to believe the scripture and the word Jesus had spoken.

While he was in Jerusalem for the feast of Passover,

many began to believe in his name when they saw the signs he was doing.

But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,

and did not need anyone to testify about human nature.

He himself understood it well.

**Intercession**

That, filled with Jesus’ zeal, we may work together to support our Diocesan Ministry Appeal to beautify His temple, the Church, physically and spiritually.

**Copy for bulletin announcement**

In today’s Gospel, zeal for His Father’s house consumes Jesus. He single-handedly drives out those who are making the Temple into a marketplace. The Jews asked, “What sign can you show us for doing this?” (John 2:18)

Jesus’ reply is that He is God. He is going to rise from the dead! He holds the power over life, death, and all things. His zeal for his Father’s house is one of many manifestations of who God is to the world. (God, apparently, likes a clean house!)

Zeal consumes Jesus for our parish. We are God’s house. Each of us is a Temple of his Holy Spirit. The way we handle money matters to God. Our parish needs your help for our Diocesan Ministry Appeal to succeed. Help us use the gifts he gives to beautify his house, adorning it with prayer and good works, and improve the lives of those entrusted to us. Jesus is zealous for us all to have the abundant life he offers—not a life suffocated by this world. Join us in living a better life—His life.

**Copy for pulpit announcement**

Our local parish is God’s house. When you give to our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, you help beautify it physically and spiritually by making it beautiful, sacred, and life-giving to our local community.

**Social media post/content**

Photo: The front façade of Notre Dame in Paris.

Text: “Zeal for your house will consume me.” – Psalm 69:9

Copy: Throughout the last two millennia, Catholics sought to make beautiful spaces for our Lord to dwell. We do this not only by beautiful churches, but by adorning them with good works and prayer. When you support our Diocesan Ministry Appeal, you help further beautify His home here in our local community.