



**Saint Joseph's, Saint Anne's & Holy Family And Saint Patrick's**  
**Sunday Mass Readings Homily - 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, Third Sunday of Lent, Year B**  
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**Sunday Mass Readings for 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024, Third Sunday of Lent, Year B**

1 <sup>st</sup> Reading	Exodus 20:1-17 Or Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17
Responsorial Psalm	Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11
2 <sup>nd</sup> Reading	1 Corinthians 1:22-25
Verse Before the Gospel	John 3:16
Gospel	John 2:13-25

**1st Reading - Exodus 20:1-17**

1 In those days, God delivered all these commandments:  
 2 "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.  
 3 You shall not have other gods besides me.  
 4 You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth;

5 you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the LORD, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers' wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation;  
 6 but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation on the children of those who love me and keep my commandments.  
 7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.  
 8 "Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.  
 9 Six days you may labor and do all your work,  
 10 but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you.  
 11 In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the LORD has blessed the sabbath day and made it holy.  
 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.  
 13 You shall not kill.  
 14 You shall not commit adultery.  
 15 You shall not steal.  
 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor.  
 17 You shall not covet your neighbor's house. You shall not covet your neighbor's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

**Or Exodus 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17**

1 In those days, God delivered all these commandments:  
 2 "I, the LORD, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery.  
 3 You shall not have other gods besides me.  
 7 "You shall not take the name of the LORD, your God, in vain. For the LORD will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.  
 8 "Remember to keep holy the sabbath day.  
 12 "Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the LORD, your God, is giving you.  
 13 You shall not kill.  
 14 You shall not commit adultery.  
 15 You shall not steal.  
 16 You shall not bear false witness against your neighbour.  
 17 You shall not covet your neighbour's house. You shall not covet your neighbour's wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything else that belongs to him."

**Responsorial Psalm – Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11.**

R. (John 6:68c) Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.

8 The law of the LORD is perfect,  
refreshing the soul;  
The decree of the LORD is trustworthy,  
giving wisdom to the simple.

*R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

9 The precepts of the LORD are right,  
rejoicing the heart;  
the command of the LORD is clear,  
enlightening the eye.

*R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

10 The fear of the LORD is pure,  
enduring forever;  
the ordinances of the LORD are true,  
all of them just.

*R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

11 They are more precious than gold,  
than a heap of purest gold;  
sweeter also than syrup  
or honey from the comb.

*R. Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.*

**2nd Reading – 1 Corinthians 1:22-25**

Brothers and sisters:

22 Jews demand signs and Greeks look for wisdom,  
23 but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles,  
24 but to those who are called, Jews and Greeks alike, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.  
25 For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

**Verse Before The Gospel – John 3:16**

16 God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,

so that everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

**Gospel – John 2:13-25**

13 Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem.  
14 He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there.  
15 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,  
16 and to those who sold doves he said, "Take these out of here, and stop making my Father's house a marketplace."  
17 His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me.  
18 At this the Jews answered and said to him, "What sign can you show us for doing this?"  
19 Jesus answered and said to them, "Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up."  
20 The Jews said, "This temple has been under construction for forty-six years, and you will raise it up in three days?"  
21 But he was speaking about the temple of his body.  
22 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.  
23 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.  
24 But Jesus would not trust himself to them because he knew them all,  
25 and did not need anyone to testify about human nature. He himself understood it well

**Saint Of The Day**

**St Katharine Drexel (Catherine Mary Drexel) was born on November 26 1858 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, U.S. She died on March 3 1955 at the age of 96 in Bensalem, Pennsylvania, U.S.**  
She was the foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament and the second U.S born citizen to be canonized as a saint in the Catholic Church.  
We celebrate her feast day on **March 3** every year in the Catholic Church.  
Saint Katharine Drexel is the Patron Saint of Philanthropy, racial justice





<b>Date of Birth</b>	26 <sup>th</sup> November 1858
<b>Place of Birth</b>	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, United States
<b>Profession</b>	Philanthropist, religious sister, educator, and foundress
<b>Place of Work</b>	Pennsylvania, U.S.
<b>Date of Death</b>	March 3 1955 (aged 96)
<b>Place of Death</b>	Bensalem, Pennsylvania, U.S
<b>Feast Day</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>Beatification</b>	By Pope John Paul II 20 <sup>th</sup> November 1988
<b>Canonization</b>	By Pope John Paul II in October 1 2000
<b>Patron Saint of</b>	Philanthropy, racial justice

### St Katharine Drexel Life History

Katharine Drexel was born on November 26, 1858, in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA. She was the second child of Francis Anthony Drexel and Hannah Langstroth. Francis Anthony was a prominent banker and philanthropist. Katharine was brought up with the belief that their family's wealth was not solely theirs and should be used for the benefit of others, a value instilled by both of her parents. During a family trip to the western region of the United States, Katharine Drexel, while still a young woman, witnessed the difficult living conditions and poverty faced by Native American communities. This experience fueled her desire to take action and provide assistance to these communities. It marked the beginning of her lifelong commitment to financially and personally support various missions and missionaries throughout the United States. In 1887, Katharine Drexel established the St. Catherine Indian School in Santa Fe, New Mexico, which was her first school. While visiting Pope Leo XIII in Rome and seeking missionaries to help with the Indian missions that she was funding as a layperson, she was taken aback when the Pope suggested that she become a missionary herself.

Following discussions with her spiritual advisor, Bishop James O'Connor, she made the decision to devote her life and inheritance to God through service to Native Americans and African Americans.

After dedicating herself to a life of service to Native Americans and African Americans, Katharine Drexel renounced her wealth and embraced a life of simplicity, where only basic necessities were enough for her.

She took her first vows as a religious on February 12 1891, and founded the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. The mission of the order was to spread the teachings of the Gospel and the importance of the Eucharist among Native American and African American communities.

Katharine Drexel was a woman of deep faith and spent much of her time in prayer. She found solace and inspiration in the Eucharist, which fueled her passion for helping the poor and marginalized and combating the impacts of racism.

She recognized that many African Americans still faced significant challenges and were often forced to live in substandard conditions as sharecroppers or low-wage workers.

They were also denied the same rights to education and constitutional protections as others. This realization sparked a deep sense of compassion within her and an urgent desire to transform racial attitudes in the United States. During that time, plantations were deeply entrenched in society, and people of color were still subjected to oppression. This deeply offended Katharine's sense of justice. She recognized the pressing need for quality education among African Americans and began discussing the issue with like-minded individuals who shared her concerns about the inequality of educational opportunities for people of color living in urban areas. In addition to facing social oppression, people of color in the rural South were also restricted by laws that prevented them from obtaining a basic education. As a result, Katharine Drexel made it her top priority to establish and staff schools for both Native Americans and African Americans throughout the country. Over the course of her lifetime, she established, staffed, and supported nearly 60 schools and missions, with a particular emphasis on those located in the western and southwestern regions of the United States. One of her most significant accomplishments in the field of education was the establishment of Xavier University of Louisiana in 1925, which is the only predominantly African American Catholic institution of higher learning in the United States. In addition to founding and supporting schools, Katharine and her congregation also engaged in other ministries, including religious education, social service, visiting homes, hospitals, and prisons. Katharine was a determined activist who combined prayerful dependence on Divine Providence with joyful incisiveness and attentiveness to the Holy Spirit. Her prophetic witness raised awareness in the Church about the urgent need for an apostolate among Native Americans and African Americans. She was not afraid to speak out against injustice and publicly stood up against racial discrimination. In the last 18 years of her life, Katharine was almost completely immobile due to a serious illness. During this time, she devoted herself to a life of adoration and contemplation, as she had desired since childhood. At the time of Katharine Drexel's death, she had mentored and brought to her fold more than 500 Sisters who were teaching in 63 schools throughout the United States. Additionally, she had founded 50 missions for Native Americans in 16 different states. At the age of 77, Katharine Drexel suffered a heart attack, which forced her to retire. She spent the rest of her life in quiet and intense prayer, recording her prayers and aspirations in small notebooks.

### Her Death


Katharine Drexel passed away on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 1955 at the age of 96 and was buried at her order's motherhouse. Following her death, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament lost the Drexel fortune that had supported their ministries, as Katharine's sisters had no children to inherit it. Nonetheless, the order continues to pursue Katharine's mission of serving African-Americans and Native Americans in 21 states and in Haiti. Following her death on 3<sup>rd</sup> 1955, Katharine bequeathed a powerful and multifaceted legacy to her order, the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, who continue to uphold her mission, as well as to people worldwide. This legacy includes her profound devotion to the Eucharist, her unwavering commitment to prayer, and her belief in the Eucharist's unifying power across all cultures and communities. Katharine also left behind a legacy of fearlessness and bold initiative in confronting social injustices that affected minority groups, a passion that emerged a century before such concerns became widespread in the United States. Additionally, she championed the importance of providing access to high-quality education for all, and dedicated herself entirely to selflessly serving those who were victims of injustice, giving up her inheritance and all material possessions.

**Beatification and Canonization**

20<sup>th</sup> November 1988, Pope John Paul II beatified Drexel after her first miracle was accepted. The miracle involved the healing of a severe ear infection in a teenager named Robert Gutherman through Drexel's prayer in 1974. She was later canonized on October 1 2000, after her 1994 miracle of reversing congenital deafness in a 2-year-old named Amy Wall was recognized.

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2024 Catholic Sunday Readings Homily Theme: My House Shall Be a House of Prayer - Luke 19:45-48, John 2:13-16, Mark 11:15-16

**Sick Of the Parish:**

	<p>Please pray for all the Sick in our three Parishes "My Payers and Good Wishes to All."</p>
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