

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT, YEAR C

March 6, 2010

QUEEN OF PEACE CATHOLIC COMMUNITY
GAINESVILLE, FLORIDA
Rev. Jeff McGowan

1ST READING: EXODUS 3:1-8, 13-15

This is my name forever; thus am I to be remembered through all generations.

PSALM 103

The Lord is kind and merciful.

2ND READING: 1 CORINTHIANS 10:1-6, 10-12

Therefore whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

GOSPEL: LUKE 13:1-9

"Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means!"

+++++

A man was telling his neighbor: "I just got a new hearing aid. It cost me \$4,000, but it's state of the art." "Really?" answered the neighbor. "What kind is it?" "Twelve-thirty."

Morris, an eighty two year old man, went to the doctor to get a physical. A few days later the doctor saw Morris walking down the street with a gorgeous young lady on his arm. A couple of days after that, the doctor ran into Morris alone. The doctor said, "You're really doing great, aren't you?" Morris replied, "Just doing what you said, Doctor. 'Get a hot mamma and be cheerful'." The doctor said, "Morris, that's not what I said. I said you have a heart murmur. Be careful."

Time and timelessness; among team sports there's a game where time doesn't matter. Players and fans are allowed the luxury of ignoring temporal limits and living free of the bonds of time. It is one of the game's stronger attractions to its followers.

We all yearn to break free of the limits time places upon us. It makes us regret what we have wasted and worry over what to do with what's left. Time reminds of our dependence on its cycles:

The book of Ecclesiastics (3:2-3) reminds us:

A time to be born;

A time to die;
A time to plant;
A time to harvest;
A time to heal;
A time to rebuild.

In this game time is irrelevant. We never watch the clock anxiously counting off the seconds. Though each particular contest is finite, in the course of play, time is meaningless. The length of games varies depending on the players' efforts and actions. Time becomes subject to them, not vice versa.

Trailing teams are never under pressure of a clock to come through. Under most game circumstances the phrase "too late" does not exist. Even if a team is far behind there is still hope for a rally; the chance of salvation lies not in how much time is left but on the quality of the play. As long as players have faith that they can get the job done, the game will allow them to try. Can any of you name the games? [Baseball, Softball, Volleyball] **LIFE!**

The third week of Lent is often called the week of second chances. Moses was out tending sheep because he was a criminal "*on the lamb*." The voice in the burning bush turned his life around. In the Gospel, Jesus said we all need to repent. Like the fig tree, with a little help from good teammates, we can turn our lives around as well. The present is never too late to turn to God if our hearts are true and directed towards Him. The life of God is always about "second chances", about growth and discovery, about the grace to make things right. Though life is finite; God keeps giving us opportunities to rise to life's challenges and make our lives purposeful. And that's good news.