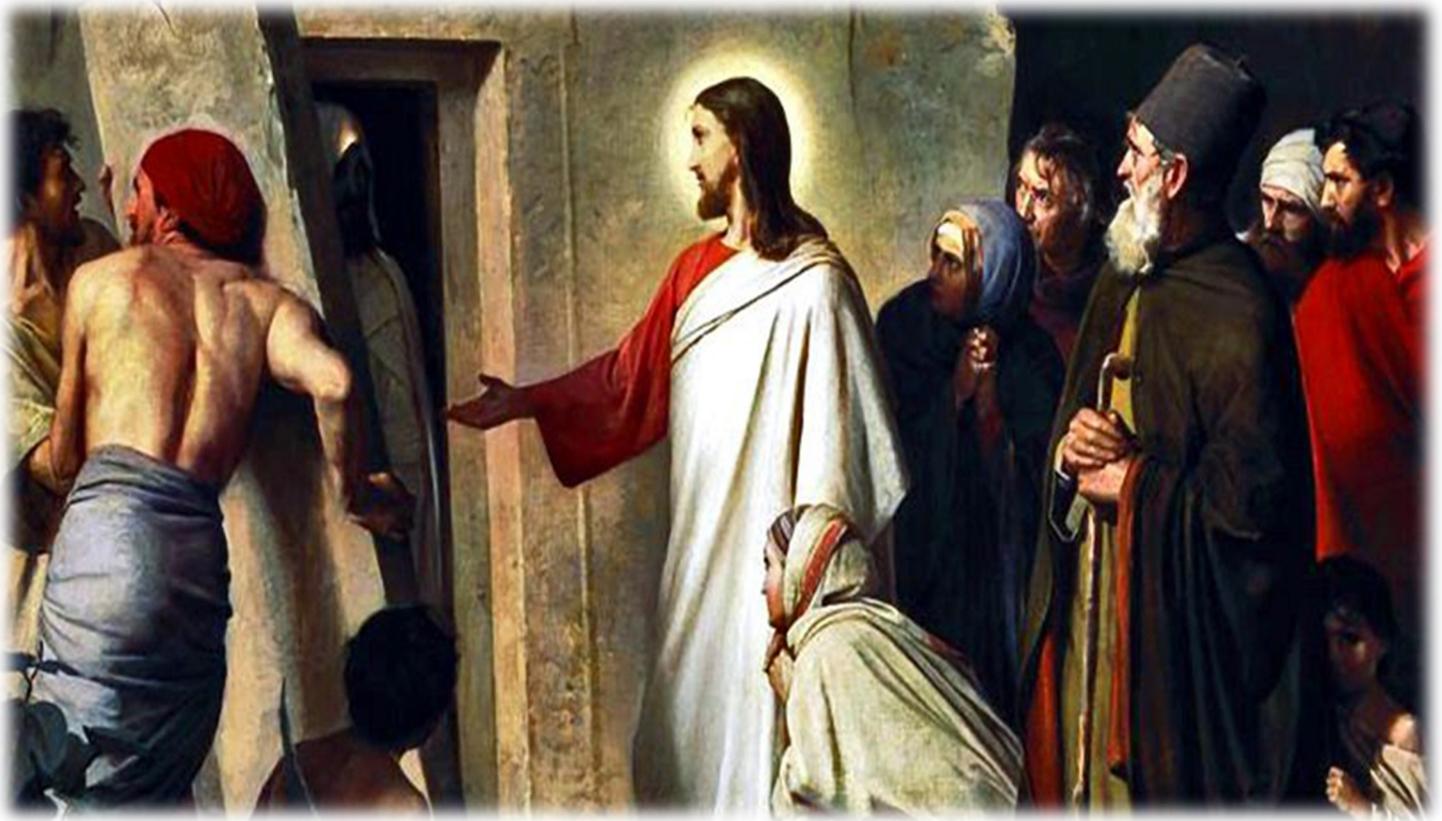


Christi simus, non nostri. + We belong to Christ, not ourselves.



March 21, 2021—5th Sunday of Lent

ST. COLUMBAN PARISH

506 First St. S, Yelm, WA 98597

Parish Office

360-458-3031

Hours: Monday—Thursday
9AM-12PM; 12:30-2PM

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

Mass Schedule

Sunday: 10:30AM

Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM

Daily Mass: Wednesdays 9:00AM

Rosary is said 30min prior to each Mass

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: By Appointment

Confession: Fridays 4:00—5:00PM

****5:30—6:30PM during Lent****

The church may be opened upon request during office hours for private prayer

Faith Formation

Offered Sundays before and after the
10:30AM Mass, depending on grade

RCIA: Tuesdays 6:30PM

Adult Education & Outreach

Contact the parish office for more information

Bible Study

Thursdays 6:30PM

Hispanic Prayer Group

Tuesdays 6:00PM

Rosary Prayer Group

Mondays 7:00PM

ST. PETER MISSION

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589

Mission Office

360-264-2124

Hours: Wednesdays & Fridays
10:30AM – 2PM

gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00 AM

Rosary is said 30min prior to Mass

Sacraments

Confession: Sunday 7:30 -7:45AM

Anointing of the Sick: by Appt.

Adult Education & Outreach

Contact the mission office for more information

Bible Study Thursdays 10:00AM

MISSION STATEMENT - WE ARE A CATHOLIC FAITH COMMUNITY THAT SEEKS TO PLACE GOD FIRST, TO KNOW HIM, AND TO GROW IN HOLINESS TOGETHER. WE STRIVE TO LIVE THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE EUCHARIST, IN OUR TEACHING AND WAY OF LIFE.

For emergency assistance contact the Society of St. Vincent de Paul at 360-458-1904. Please leave your name, number, and details of your need.

Winter Clothes Closet Hours: Tuesdays & Thursdays 6:00PM—8:00PM

SAINT COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

WELCOME! Please contact the office to register as a parishioner, for questions about any announcement, how to prepare for a sacrament, schedule a funeral or Mass Intention or to update your contact information.

PARISH OFFICE: (360) 458-3031

Fr. Dean Mbuzi, *Priest Administrator*
Ext.6 frdean@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Patricia Selsor, *Bookkeeper*
Ext.2 pat@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Katie Hennigan, *Faith Formation*
Ext. 3 katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Chad Lucero, *Youth Ministry & Confirmation*
Ext.4 chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Jennifer Langham, *Liturgy & Admin Support*
Ext. 5 jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Chris Bixby, *Director of Music*
chrisb@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Steven Slater, St. Columban *Custodian*
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

ST. PETER OFFICE: (360) 264-2124

Gaby Makinster, *St. Peter Admin*
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org



FORMED

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

Mass Intentions

Pray for all those affected by Covid-19 and for first responders and caregivers.

March 24—Billie Seffern Ludders RIP

In Our Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands Joseph Waters, Jess & Jessica Nash, Maria Luisa Fregoso, Ray Wilson, Paul Hennigan, and all those in harm's way.

Rest in Peace: Russ Baker

Financial Stewardship

St. Columban St. Peter

Weekly Goal	\$5,762	\$712
March 14th	\$3,374	\$365
Online	\$4,718	\$571

From an Easter letter by Saint Athanasius, Bishop

We keep the coming feast of the Lord through deeds, not words

The Word who became all things for us is close to us, our Lord Jesus Christ who promises to remain with us always. He cries out, saying: *See, I am with you all the days of this age.* He is himself the shepherd, the high priest, the way and the door, and has become all things at once for us. In the same way, he has come among us as our feast and holy day as well. The blessed Apostle says of him who was awaited: *Christ has been sacrificed as our Passover.* It was Christ who shed his light on the psalmist as he prayed: *You are my joy, deliver me from those surrounding me.* True joy, genuine festival, means the casting out of wickedness. To achieve this one must live a life of perfect goodness and, in the serenity of the fear of God, practice contemplation in one's heart.

This was the way of the saints, who in their lifetime and at every stage of life rejoiced as at a feast. Blessed David, for example, not once but seven times rose at night to win God's favor through prayer. The great Moses was full of joy as he sang God's praises in hymns of victory for the defeat of Pharaoh and the oppressors of the Hebrew people. Others had hearts filled always with gladness as they performed their sacred duty of worship, like the great Samuel and the blessed Elijah. Because of their holy lives they gained freedom, and now keep festival in heaven. They rejoice after their pilgrimage in shadows, and now distinguish the reality from the promise.

When we celebrate the feast in our own day, what path are we to take? As we draw near to this feast, who is to be our guide? Beloved, it must be none other than the one whom you will address with me as our Lord Jesus Christ. He says: *I am the way.* As blessed John tells us: *it is Christ who takes away the sin of the world.* It is he who purifies our souls, as the prophet Jeremiah says: *Stand upon the ways; look and see which is the good path, and you will find in it the way of amendment for your souls.*

In former times the blood of goats and the ashes of a calf were sprinkled on those who were unclean, but they were able to purify only the body. Now through the grace of God's Word everyone is made abundantly clean. If we follow Christ closely we shall be allowed, even on this earth, to stand as it were on the threshold of the heavenly Jerusalem, and enjoy the contemplation of that everlasting feast, like the blessed apostles, who in following the Savior as their leader, showed, and still show, the way to obtain the same gift from God. They said: *See, we have left all things and followed you.* We too follow the Lord, and we keep his feast by deeds rather than by words.

Pax et bonum,
Fr. Dean.

SAINT COLUMBAN PASTORAL COUNCIL

Judith Cusick (Chairperson),
Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier,
Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf
parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

SAINT PETER ADVISORY COMMISSION

Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson),
Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz,
Bob Bacon, Diane Weston,
stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

For daily Mass readings and Event Calendar please see our Monthly Insert, found in the narthex and on our website.

Faith Formation



*All Adult Learners
Welcome!*
R.C.I.A.
March 23rd
Escatology: The Last Four Things

Tuesdays at 6:30PM in the Religious Ed Bldg. Rm. 103.
Also available via Zoom



CHILDREN'S PRAYERS
We took a break from Faith Formation classes last week, so stay tuned next week for the tally of prayers over the break.

"The way of fools is right in their own eyes, but those who listen to advice are the wise."
-Proverbs 12:15

Living Out the Pillars of Lent



PRAYER
Table Time
Theology

The Catechism says that parents have the first responsibility for the education of their children in the faith, prayer, and all the virtues. What are virtues and how do we strengthen those in our family?



ALMSGIVING
Acts of Kindness

Clean up a common area at work, in the neighborhood, or at home. Do it as your gift for the good of all.



FASTING
Family Fasting

Fast from hitting the snooze button. Get up and use the extra time for prayer.

All Masses will resume with modifications, see below for details

MASS RESERVATIONS

In obedience to the COVID Safety Guidelines from the Archdiocese, public Mass at our parish has resumed with the following safety measures in place.

- ♦ Masks will be required. Those with a medical exemption will be seated according to Archdiocesan guidelines.
- ♦ Attendance will be limited to 90 people per Mass at St. Columban and 40 people per Mass at St. Peter.
- ♦ The cry room at St. Columban is limited to one family per Mass and will be reserved on a first come-first served basis.

Reservations at St. Columban: call the parish office at 360-458-3031 ext. 5

Reservations at St. Peter: call the mission office at 360-264-2124

If you are unable to call during office hours, please leave your name, phone number, and how many will be in your party and we will call you back to confirm your reservation.

Please note that leaving a voicemail does not confirm your reservation

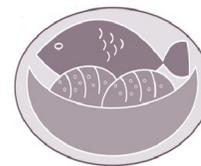
Important Things to Remember

- ♦ Only persons who are under the same reservation will be seated together.
- ♦ **Please arrive at least 20 minutes early for Mass.** You will be checked in by a Greeter and then seated by an Usher. Seating is first come, first – served.
- ♦ We recommend you bring your own missal with you for the readings as they will not be provided.
- ♦ Please do not sing along with the Cantor in accordance with COVID-19 guidelines.

Bonus Bulletin Content!

To save on printing, some extra bulletin content will now be exclusively found in the online edition of our bulletin, which is also emailed weekly to parishioners.

Sign up at flocknote.com/saintcolumbanvelm or visit our website saintcolumbanvelm.org



In place of our customary Soup Suppers during Lent, we are accepting donations to St. Vincent de Paul.

Please mark your envelope "for SVDP" and place it in with the regular offering.



March 26 6:00PM	Stations of the Cross Both Locations
March 28 8:00AM 10:30AM	PALM SUNDAY St. Peter St. Columban
April 1 7:00PM	HOLY THURSDAY St. Columban
April 2 3:00PM 7:00PM	GOOD FRIDAY Stations of the Cross at both locations **No Confession** Mass @ St. Columban



CALLED TO SERVE as CHRIST
A campaign for our
PRIESTS, SISTERS & FAMILY OF FAITH

3 Year Goal for St. Columban: \$307, 368

As of: January 7, 2021

Total Pledged: \$164,000 53% of Goal

Number of Families Participating: 292
Potential Share: \$24,600

3 Year Goal for St. Peter: \$54,327

As of: January 7, 2021

Total Pledged: \$105,000 193% of Goal

Number of Families Participating: 45
Potential Share: \$43,350

Thank You for Pledging Your Support!



Soup of the Week

on behalf of our Faith Formation/Youth Ministry

Copycat Panera® Broccoli Cheddar Soup

(from AllRecipes.com)

Ingredients

1 tablespoon butter
½ onion, chopped
¼ cup melted butter
¼ cup flour
2 cups milk
2 cups chicken stock
1 ½ cups coarsely chopped broccoli florets
1 cup matchstick-cut carrots
1 stalk celery, thinly sliced
2 ½ cups shredded sharp Cheddar cheese
salt and pepper to taste



Directions

Melt 1 tablespoon butter in a skillet over medium-high heat. Saute onion in hot butter until translucent, about 5 minutes. Set aside.

Whisk ¼ cup melted butter and flour together in a large saucepan over medium-low heat; cook until flour loses its granular texture, adding 1 to 2 tablespoons of milk if necessary to keep the flour from burning, 3 to 4 minutes.

Gradually pour milk into flour mixture while whisking constantly. Stir chicken stock into milk mixture. Bring to a simmer; cook until flour taste is gone and mixture is thickened, about 20 minutes. Add broccoli, carrots, sauteed onion, and celery; simmer until vegetables are tender, about 20 minutes.

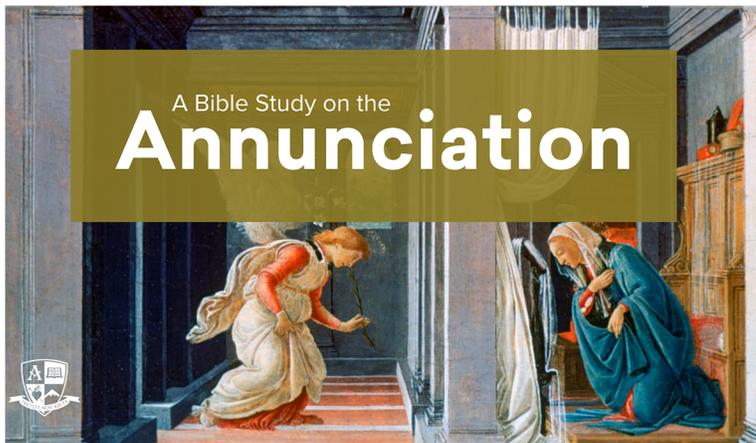
Stir Cheddar cheese into vegetable mixture until cheese melts. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

March 21, 2021

WATCH

THE SANCTUARY COURSE FOR CATHOLICS

Misconceptions surrounding mental illness can prevent us from responding well to those suffering. This eight-session course explores the realities of mental illness, as well as the need for faith-based conversations about this topic. Featuring stories of Catholics living with mental health challenges, along with the insights of archbishops, theologians, and psychologists.



A BIBLE STUDY ON THE ANNUNCIATION

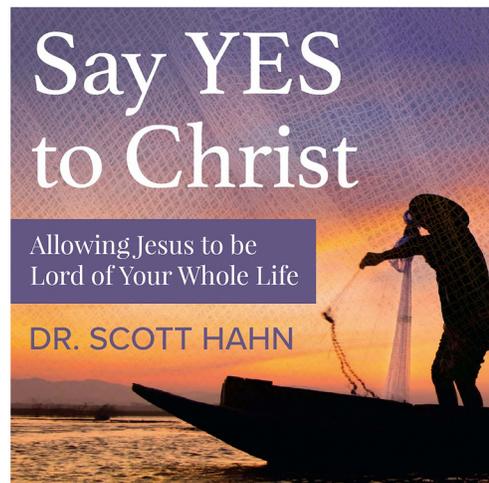
In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26-38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

LEARN

LISTEN

SAY YES TO CHRIST: ALLOWING JESUS TO BE THE LORD OF YOUR WHOLE LIFE BY SCOTT HAHN

Mary conformed the entirety of her life to the Divine Will. In doing so, she became the model of perfect discipleship. In this talk, Dr. Scott Hahn discusses why we too should surrender our lives to the Lord.



Our parish has a FORMED subscription.

To set up your free account visit formed.org/signup and select our parish.



Love is God's Law in Our Hearts

March 21, 2021
5th Sunday in Lent

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

God promised to write his law in our hearts. That law is the love shared between the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We can see and express that law in our love for our family.



Our first reading from Jeremiah promises a time when God will place his law within our hearts so that following him will become something that flows naturally from within us as opposed to something that must be imposed on us from the outside. That's the kind of obedience that Jesus offers in the Gospel reading. He willingly accepts his passion and crucifixion, despite all the pain it will bring, because he naturally longs to obey the Father's will.

Pope Francis declared a special Year of the Family that begins on March 19, 2021 - the Feast of St. Joseph. During this special year, we will continue to pay attention to the liturgical calendar while including ways to celebrate this special year.

Read

Take time to read and reflect on the Scriptures for this day.

Don't have access to a Bible?

Visit www.usccb.org/bible/readings or download an app such as *Laudate* or *iBreviary* to access the Mass readings.

Jeremiah 31:31-34

I will place my law within their hearts, says the Lord.

Psalms 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15

Create a clean heart in me, O God!

Hebrews 5:7-9

Jesus is the source of salvation for all.

John 12:20-33

I will draw all people to me, says Jesus.

At Home with Faith

Talk

Here are some reflection questions to help you have **Great Conversations** with the whole family.

Do these four things to teach our our children how love is God's law written in our hearts:

- **Ask your child what they believe love is.** See what comes to mind for them. See if they describe love as an emotion or feeling. See if they describe it as doing something for someone.
- **Tell your child that Jesus taught that love has two parts: 1) seeing the other person as good, and 2) doing what is good for them.** This means you can affirm them if they talked about the emotional aspects of love and you can affirm them if they talked about being kind to another person. Let them know that you always see them as good and you do what is good for them, even if it doesn't make them happy at the time.
- **Let them know love is a gift from God.** God gives us the ability to love. In fact, it's God's love that brings us into being. Also, God always does the good thing for us, even if it might not feel like it at the time.
- **Encourage them to ask God for help in loving better.** If we ask God, he can help us love more. We can pray to him to help us love our brothers and sisters more. We can also pray to him to help us choose the right way to direct our love. This is one of the ways he fulfills his promise to write his law within our hearts.



March 19, 2021 – June 26, 2022

CELEBRATE WITH YOUR FAMILY



During this special Year of the Family, Pope Francis encourages us to revisit his apostolic exhortation Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) on the 5th anniversary of its publication. We will use this space to take a closer look at the many ways our family life can reflect this vision for The Joy of Love.

In the 11th Paragraph of Amoris Laetitia, Pope Francis writes “The triune God is a communion of Love, and the family is its living reflection.” In this, he is echoing the writings of Pope John Paul II and the Second Vatican Council which describe the family as “a school of deeper Humanity.” (GS 52) In other words, the way the family lives (or should live) reflects the way that the Father, Son and Holy Spirit love with complete freedom and generosity.

Though none of our families fully realize God's plan, we are all called to a conversion of heart that lets us love our family more and more as God does. We are also called to let our children know that our love for them flows from the love God has placed within our hearts. Everything we do for them is a gift from God.

For more resources, visit us online at:

<https://marriagefamilylife.seattlarchdiocese.org/athomewithfaith>

HE MADE HIS DWELLING AMONG US

The Annunciation and the Gospel of Life

The Annunciation celebrates the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary to inform her that she was to be the mother of Jesus. On this great feast day, we not only recall Mary's courageous "yes" to God, we also celebrate the Incarnation of Christ, our Savior. For it was there, in the womb of a woman, nine months before the celebration of the manger, that "the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us" (John 1:14).

The celebration of the Annunciation coincides with the anniversary of the papal encyclical *Evangelium vitae* (*The Gospel of Life*). This prophetic document on the dignity and inviolability of every human life was put forth by Pope John Paul II on the Solemnity of the Annunciation in 1995. The intimate connection of these two events highlights a profound reality about the identity and value of every human person.

Luke's Gospel tells us that by the power of the Holy Spirit, Christ would be conceived within the womb of Mary. It was there, in the womb of the Blessed Mother, that Christ first took on human flesh and made his dwelling among us. Like us, the unborn child Jesus grew and developed beneath the shelter of his mother's loving heart. Through Christ's Incarnation, God chose to share fully and intimately in our humanity and bridge all distance between God and man, so that we may dwell together.

The Church teaches us that "by His incarnation the Son of God has united Himself in some fashion with every man."¹ God desired to dwell among us, as one of us, in order to bring us salvation. This truth "reveals to humanity not only the boundless love of God... but also the incomparable value of every human person."²

Each of us is made in the image and likeness of our Creator, to share in the very life of God himself. This reality "reveals the greatness and the inestimable value of human life."³ The human person is "a manifestation of God in the world, a sign of his presence, a trace of his glory."⁴ Created through the love of the Father, each one of us bears "an indelible imprint of God."⁵ By sharing in our humanity, Christ invites us to share in his divinity, that we might dwell with him for eternity.

Therefore, "the Gospel of God's love for man, the Gospel of the dignity of the person and the Gospel of life are a single and indivisible Gospel."⁶ Through Christ's descent to earth God desires to raise each one of us to the heights of heaven. May we recognize that to proclaim the Gospel of Life is to proclaim Christ, the one who *made his dwelling among us*.



1 Pope Paul VI, *Gaudium et spes: Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1965), 22.

2 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, (Vatican City: Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1995), 2.

3 *Ibid.*

4 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 34.

5 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 35.

6 Pope John Paul II, *Evangelium vitae*, 2.



SUNDAY, MARCH 21, 2021

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit." - Jn 12:23-24

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

- SUN 3/21** Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
- MON 3/22** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
- TUE 3/23** Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30
- WED 3/24** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
- THR 3/25** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- FRI 3/26** Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42
- SAT 3/27** Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56
- SUN 3/28** Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39

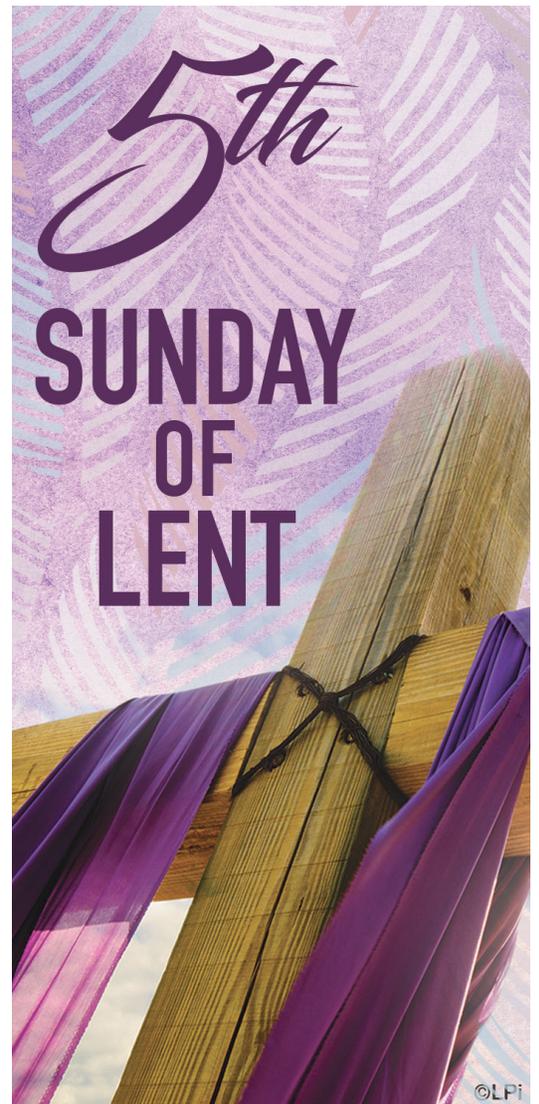
OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 21, 2021

- Sunday:** 5th Sunday of Lent
- Tuesday:** St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Thursday:** The Annunciation of the Lord
- Sunday:** Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord; Holy Week begins

LIVE THE LITURGY

Inspiration for the week

How do we convince people that God's law is written upon their hearts? God is wedded to God's people. This is a simple and fundamental fact of life. Yet, many ignore this truth and carry on as if they, or humanity as a whole, are the center of the universe. As a grain of wheat has to fall to the ground and die in order to become what it really is, we too must die to our secular images and ideas of ourselves so that we can become who God really made us to be. If all of us kept our focus on God's deep bonded love with human beings, indeed with our very self, then there would be no need to teach others this fundamental life lesson. They would simply know this truth, as Jeremiah tells us. Somehow, perhaps through original and personal sin, we have lost sight of this reality. We have lost our way and our axis. It is time to find our way back, to learn the virtue of obedience, to pay attention to what God is saying and become aware of the Divine Love that is the reason for all creation. Then, even in our darkest hour when all may seem to be lost, we can say as did Jesus, the model of obedience, "Father, glorify your name," By this perseverance, people can come to know the Lord and what God has done.



*"Bloom
where you
are planted."*

— ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

All, from least to greatest, shall know me,
says the LORD,
for I will forgive their evildoing and remember
their sin no more. (Jer 31:34)



PSALM

Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Ps 51)



SECOND READING

Son though he was, he learned obedience
from what he suffered; (Heb 5:8)



GOSPEL

Amen, amen, I say to you,
unless a grain of wheat falls to
the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (Jn 20:24)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm
Responses from Lectionary for Mass © 1969, 1981,
1997, International Commission on English in the
Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved.*



GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

When Our Own Hour Comes

We parents know that it's tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it's okay to be scared, that it's something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being "troubled" and he speaks of "the time of judgment." There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

"Yet what should I say?" he asks them. "Father, save me from this hour?" But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

PLEASE CONSIDER ONLINE GIVING

Our parish is grateful for your continued support. Thank you!



WHY DO WE DO THAT?

Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

Answer:

The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion. Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way.

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Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit."

- Jn 12:23-24

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

Around 600 BC, Jeremiah prophesied that God would establish a new, unbreakable covenant with his people, one written "upon their hearts." In what ways is your faith heart-felt?

Second Reading

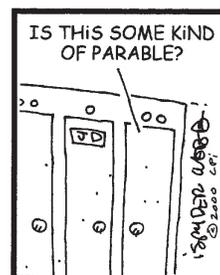
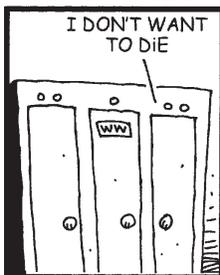
The author of Hebrews teaches us that Jesus learned "obedience" from his suffering. What have been some fruits from the suffering in your life?

Gospel Reading

We hear today of Jesus' own struggle with his impending death. During this Lenten season, what has been a struggle for you?



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

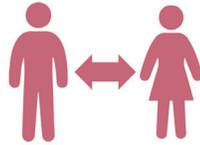


LITURGICAL LIFE

3 EASY STEPS

To Keeping Yourself & Others Healthy!

We are cautioned to be especially careful during the Coronavirus outbreak. Here are some simple ways to keep sickness away.



Wash Your Hands

Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds using soap and water. If you can't wash your hands, use hand sanitizer frequently.

Don't Touch Your Face

Especially around the eyes, nose and mouth. If you must sneeze, use a tissue or your arm.

Keep Your Distance

Practice social distancing during this epidemic and stay away from large groups. Instead, call, email or check up on family and friends using social media.



“Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Now is the time of judgment on this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself.”

- Mk 9:7-8

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Unscramble words from today's Gospel:

grain
suffer
give

wheat
glory
life

dies
voice
serve

raing

g r a i n

wehat

desi

iveg

lefi

serev

fuser

glyro

oicev

SHARING THE GOSPEL

When you act bossy, selfish, or rude, no one will want to spend time with you. You will be lonely and unhappy. Follow the example of Jesus instead.

Be strong in your faith. Do all that God asks you to do, even when it is not easy. Be honest. Be kind.

Share what you have been given.

Be helpful. Forgive. Show everyone what God is like. When you follow Jesus' example, you won't be lonely.

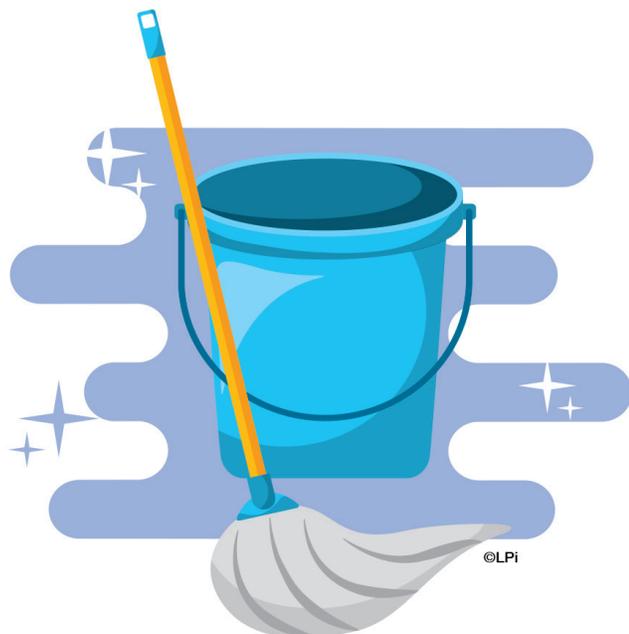
When people around you see that your faith is real, they will come to you for help. They will want to know what makes you different. Then you can point them to Jesus.

PRAYER

God, help me to follow Jesus.
I want to show everyone how great you really are.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

Look for ways to be helpful in your family. Help set the table. Take the trash out. Put away your toys and books without being asked. When your family notices you being so helpful, tell them you are trying to follow Jesus' example.





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