

SAINT COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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

ST. COLUMBAN PARISH

506 First St. S. Yelm, WA 98597

360-458-3031

Office Hours

Monday—Thursday 9:00AM –2:00PM

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Website: www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

FORMED   

Mass Schedule

Saturday Vigil: 5:00PM

Sunday: 10:30AM

Daily Mass: Tues—Fri 9AM *except 1st Fridays

Rosary is said 30min prior to each Mass

Sacraments

Anointing of the Sick: Following First Friday Devotions or by Appointment

Confession: Saturdays 3:30—4:30PM

First Friday Devotions: 6:30PM

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

See Calendar on Page 3 for current schedule and updates

St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. Please contact the parish office to submit a request.

St. Vincent De Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Please leave your name, phone number, and details of your need.

ST. PETER MISSION

149 Keithahn St. S, Tenino, WA 98589

For administrative assistance please contact St. Columban

Mass Schedule

Sunday 8:00AM

Rosary is said 30min prior to Mass

Sacraments

Confession: Sundays 7:30 -7:45AM

Daily Mass (First Fridays): 9:00AM

Anointing of the Sick: by appointment



March 20 2022

3rd Sunday of Lent

1st Scrutiny for RCIA

Today's Readings

Entrance Antiphon: *My eyes are always on the Lord, for he rescues my feet from the snare.*

1st Reading: Exodus 17:3-7

Responsorial Psalm: *If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts.*

2nd Reading: Romans 5:1-2, 5-8

Gospel Acclamation: *Lord, you are truly the Savior of the world, give me living water, that I may never thirst again.*

Gospel: John 4:5-42

Communion Antiphon: *For anyone who drinks it, says the Lord, the water I shall give will become in him a spring welling up to eternal life.*

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.



Fr. Thompson's Reflections

History of Confession III

As I wrote about in previous weeks (again, a 30,000' view), the ancient Church had a 2-track process of penance: the Order of Penitents for serious public sins, and an open-ended private process for private sins. While the Order of Penitents did technically exist in the Church's documents until the 1960s, after Christianity was legalized and persecutions ended, it swiftly fell into disuse (if the bishop never denounced a sinner, he was never cast out and could use the private process, which was far less onerous).

The private process also underwent some level of deformation in late antiquity. Different regions emphasized different elements of the process of Reconciliation, and disunity arose in various parts of the Christian world. The need for massive numbers of priests as entire nations converted didn't help either, and the Church often had to find way to make do with clergy who were not well formed in theological or spiritual matters. In Continental Europe, a practice of publishing tables of sins and associated penances in books called "penitentials" arose. Priests would keep a ledger of their parishioners' assigned penances (but not the sins, obviously) as if they were debts, and give absolution when they were complete. This in turn led to odd situations such as people paying others to do penances for them, or people doing a penance (such as a pilgrimage) in advance of confessing sins in the expectation that the priest would judge that the already-done penance would suffice to "pay for" the sin and absolve the pilgrims immediately.

In Ireland, penances were treated as punishments to appease an offended God by offsetting the illicit pleasure of the sins with physical mortifications. In addition to spiritual works like prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, things such as sleeping in open graves or standing in frozen rivers were often assigned.

In both cases, and other practices in other countries I didn't mention, one big issue was that penances were treated like debts or penal sentences, rather than medicine to help heal and reorient one's moral life. Furthermore, because the debt to God was the focus, the Irish sometimes didn't always confess to priests (sometimes lay monks took confessions), and the Continental Europeans sometimes didn't return for Absolution after the penances were complete (thinking that they were square with God, having "settled the debt"). This only was intensified when Ireland sent missionaries to Northern Europe and multiple practices converged and got muddled.

Eventually, when Charlemagne established the Holy Roman Empire in Europe, he appealed to the Pope to correct this confusion, and the Pope obliged. The Pope clarified that while spiritual direction and discipline could be sought from holy people, Sacramental Confession requires the power of Holy Orders given to priests alone. The pope also clarified that a priest could not just implicitly reconcile a person by readmitting him to communion, but that he must give an explicit absolution in an approved form.

A little later, to combat the "penance as debt" misunderstanding that still persisted after Charlemagne and the Pope's intervention, the Absolution was moved to within the Confession itself, on the promise by the penitent that any penances assigned would be faithfully completed afterwards. A few other shifts and modifications continued over the years (e.g. screens for anonymity came in around the 16th century), but by the 11th-12th century or so, the familiar pattern of confession, counsel, assignment of penance, act of contrition, and absolution, became more or less the universal standard in the Roman Rite (the Eastern Christians have their own history and development of how they celebrate this, and each, sacrament).

In Christ,

Fr Thompson

Financial Stewardship

Weekly Offering

	St. Columban	St. Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,762	\$712
March 6	\$2,593	\$961
Online Giving	\$1,868.80	
Ash Wednesday	\$937.25	\$32.16
Ukraine	\$837.00	\$553.00

Thank You for Your Generous Support!

**CALLED TO
SERVE as CHRIST**

As of: November 15, 2021

3 Year Goal for St. Columban: \$307,368
Total Pledged: \$116,169 38% of Goal

3 Year Goal for St. Peter: \$54,327
Total Pledged: \$26,897 50% of Goal



Lenten Challenge of the Week

Give up watching your favorite show this week and instead spend that time in prayer and reflection on Jesus' time in the desert.

PARISH STAFF

Fr. Brian Thompson	<i>Priest Administrator</i>
Ext.6	frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Holly Dodd	<i>Bookkeeper</i>
Ext. 4	holly@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Katie Hennigan	<i>Faith Formation</i>
Ext. 2	katie@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Jennifer Langham	<i>Music, Liturgy & Admin Support</i>
Ext. 1	jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Chad Lucero	<i>Youth Ministry</i>
Ext. 3	chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Steven Slater,	<i>St. Columban Maintenance</i>
	steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Gilberto Espino	<i>St. Peter Maintenance</i>
	gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org
En Espanol	Ext. 5

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

Faith Formation



Lent is a time of repentance, fasting and abstinence. For the duration of lent, you will find a prayer of repentance to help you prepare yourself to make an honest confession during lent.

O my God! Source of all mercy! I acknowledge Your sovereign power. While recalling the wasted years that have passed, I believe that You, Lord, can in an instant turn this loss to gain. Miserable as I am, yet I firmly believe that You can do all things. Please restore to me the time lost, giving me Your grace, both now and in the future, that I may appear before You in "wedding garments." Amen. -St Teresa of Avila

Faith Formation: Grades K-12

- K-5 Sundays from 9-10:15AM
- Confirmation Classes on Sundays from 11:45AM –1PM

Please see the parish website for a complete class schedule

CHILDREN'S PRAYERS

For the month of February, an average of 11 children in our Faith Formation program prayed 580 prayers every week. Keep up the stellar work faithful young prayer warriors!



RCIA has ended for the 2021-2022 catechetical year. Please contact Katie Hennigan in the Faith Formation office to register for the 2022-2023 RCIA year beginning in September.

katie@saintcolumbanvelm.org
360-458-3031x3

PARISH MINISTRIES

For more information or to sign-up to volunteer with any of these ministries, please contact the parish office.



Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA
daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanvelm.org

April 12 Monthly Meeting
10:00A Religious Ed Bldg

April 30 Spring Bazaar
9AM—2PM Parish Hall



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 17152

April 20 Council Meeting
6:00PM Parish Hall

April 30 Car Wash
Parking Lot



St. Vincent de Paul

April 21 Monthly Meeting
7:00PM Parish Hall



St. Peter's Circle

May 10 Monthly Meeting
9:30AM St. Peter Mission/Tenino



ALTAR SOCIETY

Cleaning the Church
Every Thursday after Daily Mass



Please contact the parish office for more information, the latest updates, and schedule changes. Unless otherwise noted, all events are considered to be held at St. Columban.

March 21 Rosary Prayer Group
7:00PM St. Columban

March 22 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
Intentions of: Salvador Valencia

6:30PM Spanish Prayer Group
Parish Hall

March 23 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
In Memory of: Mark Wall RIP

March 24 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
In Memory of: Lance Laakso RIP

Bible Study
10:00AM St. Peter Mission (Tenino)
6:30PM St. Columban
RE Bldg. Rm. 103

March 25 Daily Mass
9:00AM St. Columban
In Memory of; Harmony Flom RIP

5:30PM Confession
6:00PM Stations of the Cross
at both locations
6:30PM Soup Supper
hosted by the Spanish Prayer Group

March 26 Confession
3:30PM St. Columban

5:00PM Vigil Mass
St. Columban

March 27 4th Sunday of Lent

ST. PETER MISSION TENINO

7:30-7:45AM Confession
8:00AM Mass

ST. COLUMBAN

9-10:15AM Religious Ed Classes
10:30AM Mass
2nd Scrutiny for RCIA
11:45-1PM Confirmation Class

In Our Prayers

Loving God, we join with others of your people here asking you to hold in Your hands all of our homebound brothers and sister and those who have asked for our prayers:

Jessica Nash

Maria Luisa Fregoso

Paul Hennigan

Pam Henslee

Mary Taylor

Lindy Parse

Tracy Slater

Brandi Chapman

Maria Teresa Siegemund

Rose Montgomery

+ All those in harm's way.

+ For the people of the Ukraine

Rest In Peace

Lance Laakso, Noella Novarra

All the souls in purgatory, especially those who have no one to pray for them.

To add a name please contact the parish office.

All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes.

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

Thanks to our advertisers listed on the back of this bulletin! They make this publication available to the Parish at no cost to us.



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English Teacher

&

Math Teacher



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pojej2hs.org | 360-438-7600

The joy of marriage is the
joy of the Church

Betrothed Retreat

A Weekend to Prepare Couples for the Sacrament of Marriage



Betrothed: A Preparation for the Sacrament of Marriage

April 1 @ 4:00 pm - April 3 @ 1:00 pm PDT

“Betrothed” invites engaged couples to prepare for a joyful, lifelong marriage. This marriage-prep retreat is designed to impact on the quality of a couples’ communication, conflict resolution, and shared sense of mission.

Archbishop Brunette Retreat Center Federal Way, WA
\$385 per Couple, or \$192.50 per Person

Register at <https://archseattle.org/event/betrothed-a-preparation-for-the-sacrament-of-marriage-2/>



Daughters of Mary

St. Columban Catholic Church Yelm, WA

Spring BAZAAR

Saturday April 30, 2022

9AM- 2PM In the Parish Hall

**Come browse for your favorite plant starts, books, and
delicious baked items!**

If you are able to donate or volunteer, please see Dawn Bauer or email
daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org.

CAR WASH FUNDRAISER

Saturday April 30th

during the Spring Bazaar



**KNIGHTS
OF COLUMBUS**

COUNCIL 17152

St. Columban Catholic Church
506 1st St. S. Yelm, WA 98597



Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle Welcomes New Auxiliary Bishop Appointed by Pope Francis Father Frank Schuster Appointed Eighth Auxiliary Bishop of Archdiocese of Seattle

SEATTLE – March 8, 2022 – Archbishop Paul D. Etienne today welcomed the appointment of Father Frank Schuster, current pastor of St. Vincent de Paul Parish in Federal Way, as the new auxiliary bishop for the Archdiocese of Seattle.

“I am very grateful to the Holy Father for trusting me in this way,” said Bishop-elect Schuster, who has served as a priest of the Archdiocese of Seattle for nearly 23 years. “I’m also especially grateful to Archbishop Etienne for his support of me. I am enthusiastic to do what he needs me to do as his auxiliary.”

“It is truly a blessing to have Father Frank Schuster appointed to this auxiliary role,” said Archbishop Etienne. “His love for Jesus and joy for the priesthood is expressed through his love of service and enthusiasm for the Gospel. As an auxiliary bishop, he will join Bishop Eusebio Elizondo, and together, as shepherds, they will extend the ministry of our Lord Jesus accompanying people in their faith life. He will join in this season’s confirmations, attend deanery events, celebrate with the faithful, and be a partner for the Gospel out in the field. As such, I intend to keep him with his parish community so that he may continue to be one with the people.”

“I’m delighted that his intention is for me to stay in parish ministry. The ability to stay rooted in a community of faith is going to be grounding for me and lifegiving,” added Bishop-elect Schuster.

The Request for an Auxiliary Bishop

Former Auxiliary Bishop Daniel Mueggenborg, who served in the Archdiocese of Seattle for four years, was appointed to the Diocese of Reno on July 20, 2021. After he moved, Archbishop Etienne requested a new auxiliary to help serve the Archdiocese of Seattle, which covers all of Western Washington, spanning from Canada down to the Oregon border and serving more than 600,000 Catholics.

“My vision is to restructure how we’re operating in the Archdiocese of Seattle,” said Archbishop Etienne, who has been eager to get out with the people. “Moving forward, the bishops will spend more time on their pastoral duties and less time on their administrative duties, which will be handled by the new leadership at the chancery.”

Father Frank Schuster

Father Frank Schuster was born in Mount Vernon, Washington, to John and Virginia Schuster. At age 6 he, along with his parents and two siblings, Carolyn and John, moved to Maple Valley, where they lived along the Cedar River. He enjoyed his family-focused, Catholic upbringing and admits to being a bit of a rascal as a child and while attending Kennedy Catholic High School, where his father was the principal for more than 20 years. At the University of Washington, Father Schuster earned his B.A. in psychology, but spent most of his time at the Newman Center in peer ministry. After college he moved to Illinois and attended Mundelein Seminary where he received his Bachelor of Sacred Theology and his Master of Divinity.

“After my third year of theology, I knew from the bottom of my heart that I had no other future. I knew it. I felt it,” said Father Schuster, who was ordained a priest on June 12, 1999. “I love being a priest. I’m just happy to be of service.”

Ordination

Bishop-elect Frank Schuster’s ordination will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2022, at St. James Cathedral. This event will be livestreamed on the Archdiocese of Seattle Facebook page.

To learn more about Bishop-elect Frank Schuster and enjoy his homilies, please visit his blog at <https://fatherfrankschuster.com>.

What Kind of Fig Tree are You?



In today's Gospel reading, we hear a parable about a fig tree. The owner waited three years for it to grow some figs, but it still wasn't producing any. He told the gardener to cut it down. But the gardener said he would try just for one more year to get it to bear fruit- and if it didn't give any then he would cut it down.

The fig tree is like a person who can do good things but doesn't. The owner shows the justice of God- he has given the tree enough chances so its time is up. But the gardener is like God's mercy. He wants to give the tree one more chance. And he's going to give it extra fertilizer to try to help it.



Lent is a good time to look at our own life and see if we are doing all the good things we can. Maybe there's something nice that we know we could do for someone but we just never bother to. Or maybe we aren't praying quite as much as we know we should. God is giving us a chance to become better people this Lent, and it's your job to make it happen!



Answer to Word-Find: Free land
www.thekidsbulletin.com

The Kids' Bulletin

Third Sunday of Lent
 March 20th, 2022



What's wrong with this fig tree?
 See what the two men want to do with it by reading what they say in a mirror.

The Annunciation March 25

MARY WAS A JEWISH GIRL IN THE TOWN OF NAZARETH WHO WAS ENGAGED TO MARRY A VERY GOOD MAN CALLED JOSEPH.

ONE DAY WHILE SHE WAS PRAYING...

Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with you.

Do not be afraid! God has chosen you to be the mother of His Son.

How can this be, since I am a virgin?

The power of God will come upon you. The Child will be the Son of God.

MARY ACCEPTED GOD'S PLAN AND BECAME THE MOTHER OF JESUS.

I am God's handmaid. May it be done as you have said.

SO JESUS GREW INSIDE MARY FOR NINE MONTHS. HE WAS BORN ON CHRISTMAS, AND MARY AND JOSEPH RAISED HIM.

WHEN IT WAS TIME FOR GOD TO COME TO EARTH AS A MAN, HE CHOSE MARY TO BE HIS MOTHER. BUT HE DIDN'T JUST TELL HER THAT SHE WOULD BECOME HIS MOTHER; HE GAVE HER A CHOICE. BECAUSE MARY CHOSE TO SAY "YES" TO GOD, JESUS CAME INTO THE WORLD AND DIED TO LET US INTO HEAVEN!

thekidsbulletin@gmail.com

The Burning Bush Word-Find

A F R A I D O F F R E E
 B D E L I V E R O M F S
 R G O D J E T H R O R U
 A L O R D E A O W S E F
 H A V E F S K L A E J F
 A N I L I H E Y R S A E
 M D S G R O U N D A C R
 F L A M E E G Y P T O I
 A O A B U S H O R E B N
 C O C N D B L A Z I N G
 E K M I S E R A B L E S

See if you can find all the words in CAPITALS in this story.



The left over letters tell what the Israelites in Egypt wanted:

A _____

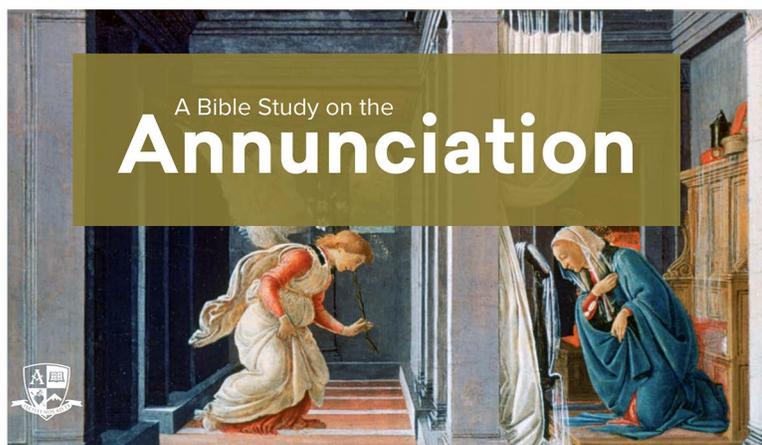
MOSES was looking after the sheep of his father-in-law, JETHRO, on Mount HOREB. Suddenly he noticed a BUSH that was BLAZING like FIRE, but it wasn't burning up! He came FORWARD to look closer, but GOD spoke from the FLAME, saying "Come no nearer. TAKE your SHOES OFF, for this is HOLY GROUND. I am the God of your fathers- of ABRAHAM, ISAAC and JACOB." Moses was AFRAID to LOOK at God, and covered his FACE. The LORD said, "I HAVE seen the MISERABLE state of my people in EGYPT and heard their cry to be FREE. I will DELIVER them from their SUFFERING and bring them to a new LAND."

March 20, 2022

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

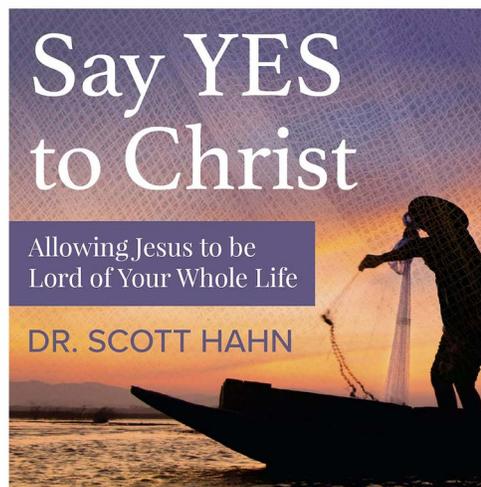
In this video, Dr. Ben Akers leads us through a brief study of Luke 1:26-38, highlighting some of the key Old Testament passages evoked by Gabriel's words. The reflection concludes with some thoughts on how we can imitate Mary's Yes in our own life, especially in this time of suffering.

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.

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ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE

At Home with Faith

This Sunday, we are reminded that God is a mystery. But we are also reminded that God is always with us, and always inviting us to draw near to him.



Photo: Adobe Stock

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.

Moses' encounter with God in the burning bush in the desert teaches us some very important things about God. First, it's God who calls Moses. God invites us into relationship.

Second, God has always been with us. God tells Moses "I am the God of your fathers . . . the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." God knows Moses intimately and has been with him through everything that happened.

At the same time, God is beyond all we or Moses can conceive. When Moses asks God for his name, God replies "I AM." God is more than we can imagine, but always close.

Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15

I am who am.

Psalm 103

The Lord has made known his ways to Moses.

1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12

Don't fall like those who disobeyed God in the desert.

Luke 13:1-9

The fruit tree must bear fruit or be cut down.

At Home with Faith

Talk

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

For more Lenten resources, including weekly reflections by Archbishop Etienne, visit archseattle.org/lent.

Let your child know that God is more than we can imagine, but also very close.

- **Describe something about God that is more than you imagined:** Share with your child how you learned something about God that made you feel amazed and surprised. For example: no matter where humans have travelled or studied, the laws of physics have always remained the same. Another example: there are over 30 trillion cells in our human body and they all work together to give us life. God holds all those things together through his love, and it is amazing.
- **Describe a time when you sensed God was paying attention to you:** Now, let your child know about a time when you sensed that God was really listening. Maybe a time that you prayed for help and you sensed God's answer. Or you might describe a sense of God's action of coming close to you in the sacraments. Either way, make sure your child knows that, in the same way he called Moses in the desert, God communicates with us in ways that often go beyond our expectations.
- **Encourage your child to keep your child's eyes open to God's presence in the world:** Do your best to leave your child with an openness to God communicating in unexpected ways.



It is essential that children actually see that, for their parents, **prayer is something truly important.**

For more on the Year of the Family, visit <https://archseattle.org/yof>

“Children need symbols, actions and stories. Since adolescents usually have issues with authority and rules, it is best to encourage their own experience of faith and to provide them with attractive testimonies that win them over by their sheer beauty. Parents desirous of nurturing the faith of their children are sensitive to their patterns of growth, for they know that spiritual experience is not imposed but freely proposed. It is essential that children actually see that, for their parents, prayer is something truly important. Hence moments of family prayer and acts of devotion can be more powerful for evangelization than any catechism class or sermon.”

Amoris Laetitia (The Joy of Love) #288

As Moses discovered in his encounter with God in the burning bush, we cannot “name” God or prove the faith to our children in a way that compels their obedience. Something we can do is reverence God with prayer that acknowledges how he can be so far beyond our comprehension and yet very near and very familiar to us.

For more resources, visit us online at:

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



SUNDAY, MARCH 20, 2022

3RD SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" - Lk 13:2-3

WEEKLY PRAYER

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2022

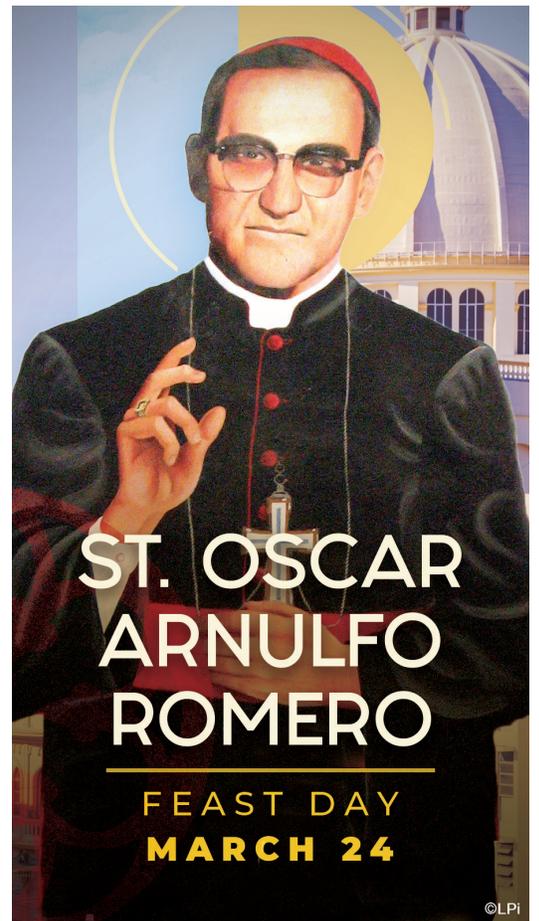
- Sunday:** Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 [8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
- Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
- Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35
- Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
- Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
- Friday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
- Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
- Next Sunday:** Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2022

- Sunday:** 3rd Sunday of Lent
- Wednesday:** St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop
- Friday:** The Annunciation of the Lord
- Next Sunday:** 4th Sunday of Lent

LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

God clearly reveals his identity as “I am who am.” God, who is really beyond all names, is the One who simply “is” as the ground of all being. This ever-existing, uncreated, and all-encompassing presence of unconditional God, who is Love, is very patient as he waits for us to grow and change. God is so near to us that it is easy to miss his presence. As true love requires, God seeks a devoted, intimate, free, and exclusive relationship with each of us. As we walk through the parched, desert experiences of our lives it is easily in our thirst for water and a respite from the heat that we reach for and construct idols that will bring us immediate relief and satisfaction. These false gods, made out of our comforts and earthly desires can quickly take the place of the One who really has first dibs on our hearts. Humans have often wandered far away from God as St. Paul reminds us. In helping each other cultivate and fertilize the ground upon which we walk, God gives us yet another chance to bear fruit and return.



SAINT OF THE WEEK

When St. Oscar Romero was appointed Archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, his country was in chaos. Many people in El Salvador were living in poverty, while a smaller elite group controlled all political and economic power. In 1980, El Salvador broke out in a 12-year civil war that left over 75,000 people dead. St. Oscar Romero set up pastoral programs to assist the victims of oppression. He also became an outspoken advocate for human rights, appealing to the Salvadoran military to stop killing their own citizens.

On March 24, 1980, St. Oscar Romero was murdered while celebrating Mass in El Salvador. A car pulled up outside, and a gunman fired a single shot straight into St. Oscar Romero’s heart.

Calling him a “a martyr for the faith” nearly 40 years later, Pope Francis canonized him in 2018. For the occasion, Pope Francis chose to wear the same blood-stained belt that Romero was wearing at the altar when he died.

WORSHIP & MEDITATION



FIRST READING

"This is what you shall tell the Israelites:
I AM sent me to you." (Ex 3:14)



PSALM

The Lord is kind and merciful. (Ps 103)



SECOND READING

These things happened to them as an
example,
and they have been written down as a
warning to us,
up on whom the end of the ages has
come. (1 Cor 10:11)



GOSPEL

"But I tell you, if you do not repent,
you will perish as they did!" (Lk 13:5)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,
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GOSPEL MEDITATION

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Deserts can be lonely, isolated, and treacherous places. When a person wanders in a desert, they can easily get disoriented, dehydrated, confused, lost, and vulnerable. Temptation is at its peak, especially when confronted with something that may offer some respite or relief, even a mirage. Deserts can bring us to our weakest moment and tempt our faith. The Christian journey can be described as a desert experience as we vacillate back and forth, falling victim to the mirages of our lives versus the true, life-giving water offered by God. We need a burning bush experience in our lives that convinces us of the power of God and reveals Him as the "I am" of all existence.

Moses was leading his flock across the desert when he found himself at Mount Horeb. Mountains give us a fuller perspective of life, a panoramic view of what would otherwise be hidden from the limitations of our sight. That's when Moses met God. We have to find our way to a mountain experience where our vantage point can take on a wider view of life. Many things can do this for us: the birth of a child, the death of someone we love, the joy that comes from marveling at the beauty of God's work, the pondering of life's mysteries, and the ache of longing found deep within our souls. There are many things in life that can wake us up, give us a clearer, better view of things and become occasions where a bush may burn and God's presence as the eternal uncreated One is revealed.

God is very patient and gives us the time and space we need to figure things out and bear some good fruit. He doesn't rush to cut us down or get frustrated with our barrenness. But we have to remember that the desert journeys of our lives come with some risks. The major risk is that we will mistakenly believe that the mirages are real. Thus, we fall victim to thinking that the respite and refreshment we seek is discovered in a place other than where it actually is. Our faith and the life of the Church are the safeguards we need to keep us properly orientated so that we don't get lost or confused and stay on course.

LITURGICAL LIFE

RESPONDING *to the Call*

EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP

Recognize God In Your Ordinary Moments

Stoking the Lenten Fire

I think we all can acknowledge that there's a certain fatigue that comes over us all as we near the end of the Lenten season. Next week is Laetare Sunday, and I find that as soon as those pink vestments start coming out of storage, our collective motivation begins to wane.

I get that. Maybe you're fatigued — I am, too. Maybe you're doing well in your resolutions and devotions but you're in danger of coasting. Or maybe, like many of us this year or in past years, you don't feel that you have even really begun your Lenten journey. Either way, chances are that the fire that was in your belly on Ash Wednesday is burning a bit low. All fires eventually do, once they consume whatever fuels them. So here we would do well to remember what fuels our Lenten fire.

Sometimes we make resolutions that have the appearance of being spiritual, but also have an earthly motive. We give up chocolate hoping to lose weight. We stop gossiping so our friends may like us more. There is nothing wrong with these sacrifices — just with their motivations.

As Moses removes his sandals to approach the burning bush, he sees that the fire burns brightly, strongly — but does not consume. It is propelled by something inexhaustible, something which is not of this world.

Is your Lenten fire fueled by God? Are you daily surrendering yourself to the same voice that boomed from the bush in Genesis — the voice that commanded the Israelites to do what seemed like the impossible?

— Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

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WHY DO WE DO THAT? Catholic Life Explained:

Question:

Why do priests wear vestments? Do they have a special meaning?

Answer:

Vestments are clothes worn for a specific purpose. Priests will joke that they cover a thousand flaws. But our own manner of dress often corresponds to what we do. We dress up for special occasions, and for special guests. We wear certain clothes for golf, for outdoor activities, and years ago, we even had our “Sunday best” clothes we wore just for Church. Vestments are much the same, and each one has a meaning. The alb is a reminder of the baptismal garment. The stole is a symbol of ordained ministry and authority within the Church. The chasuble reminds us that we are on a pilgrimage of faith, passing through this life towards heaven.

Priests wear vestments for two basic reasons. First, they draw attention to the importance and solemnity of the act of worship. The color of the vestments indicates the season of the year or the feast being celebrated. Secondly, vestments draw attention to what the priest does, rather than who he is. In the celebration of the Mass, the focus is on what we do together, on our common unity, and on the mystery and person of Christ.

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And he told them this parable: "There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'"

- Lk 13:6-7

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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QUESTIONS OF THE WEEK

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

In his initial encounter with the Lord, Moses learns the name of God, "I AM." What insight does this give us into the nature of the divine?

Second Reading

Paul believed that the past mistakes of the ancient Israelites in the desert served as an example of the dangers of too much self-confidence. How can one best avoid arrogance in faith?

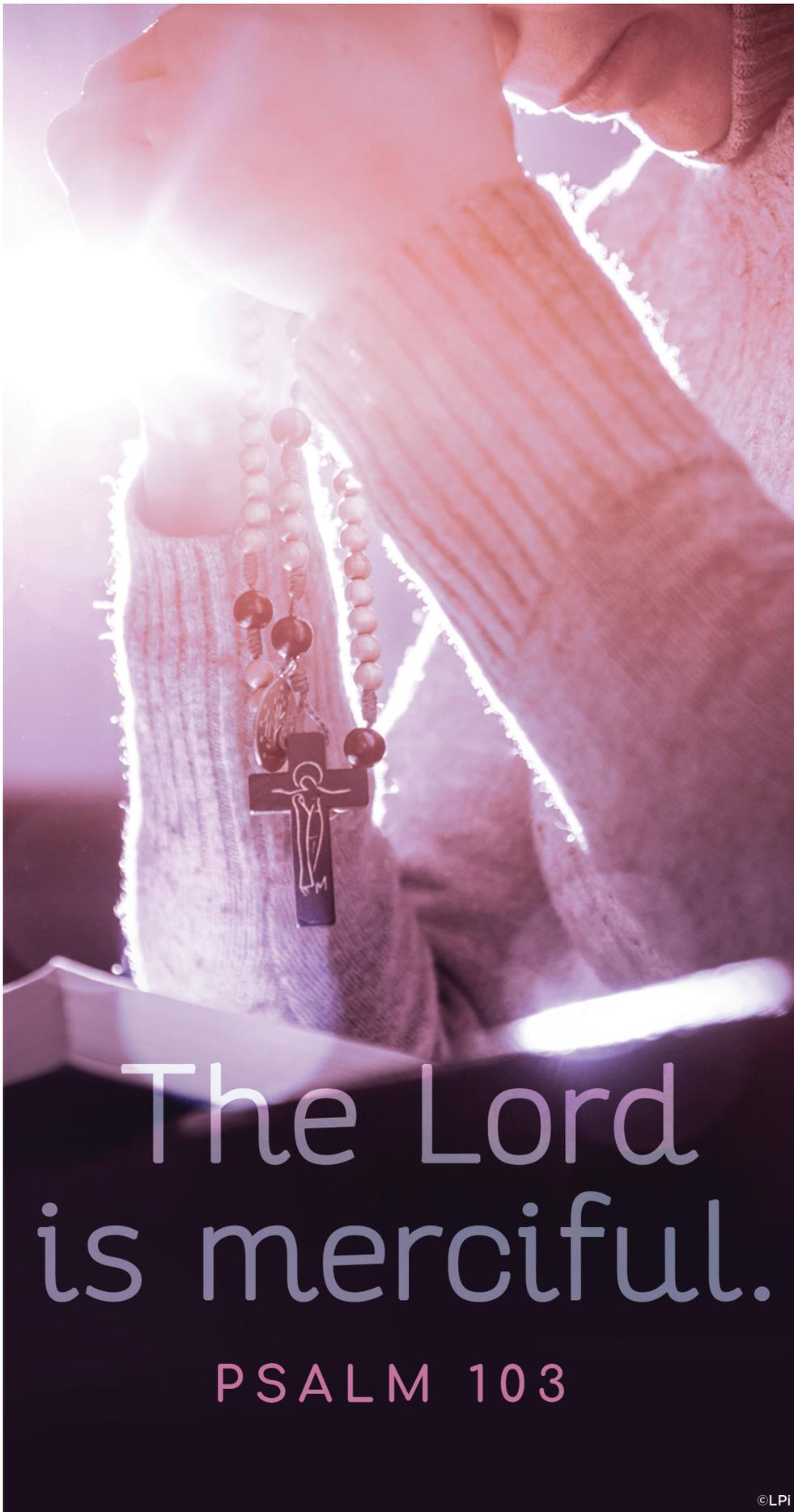
Gospel Reading

In the parable of the barren fig tree, Jesus taught the crowds of the need to repent in order to bear good fruit. For what do you need to repent in this season of Lent?



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT





The Lord is merciful.

PSALM 103

Jesus said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

- Lk 13:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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KIDS CORNER

READ THE GOSPEL AND COMPLETE A PUZZLE!

Find and circle these words from today's Gospel:

PILATE
GALILEE
KILLED

SACRIFICES
SINNERS
SILOAM

WORSE
TREE
GARDENER

B O U S T H T O M S
G A L I L E E I J A
A D S L A O L D T C
R H W O R S E A H R
D G E A V T N P O I
E R D M S R T I R F
N K I L L E D L S I
E O M P F E O A M C
R G A L T B K T I E
L D E S I N N E R S

SHARING THE GOSPEL

I sin. You sin. Everybody sins. God knows that we cannot be perfect like God. But God wants you to love him and talk to him. God wants you to be sorry for your sins, learn from your mistakes, and grow closer to him every day.

PRAYER

Dear God, help me to grow closer to you with every day you give me.

MISSION FOR THE WEEK

When you get into trouble, ask God to help you change so that you do not do it again.





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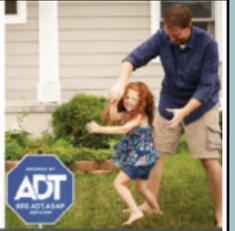


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