

Christi simus, non nostri

We belong to Christ, not ourselves

ST COLUMBAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

A Parish of the
Archdiocese of Seattle

March 10, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Lent

St. Columban Church

506 First St. S | Yelm, WA 98597

Sunday Mass: 10:30 AM

Saturday 5:00 PM

Daily Mass 9:00 AM (*Tuesday-Friday, Except First Fridays*)

Eucharistic Adoration First Fridays 6:30 PM

Confessions Saturday 3:30-4:30 PM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Baptism & Wedding Preparation Contact the Parish Office

St. Peter Mission

149 Keithahn St S | Tenino, WA 98589

Sunday Mass 8:00 AM

First Friday Mass 9:00 AM

Confessions Sunday 7:30-7:45 AM

Anointing of the Sick By request

Society of St. Vincent de Paul

Providing emergency assistance for those in need.

Help Line: 360-458-1904

Parish Office Hours at St. Columban Mon.-Thurs. 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM Friday by appointment

Sacramental Emergencies: 208-572-5251 *The church may be open for prayer during office hours upon request.*

2nd Scrutiny: Readings are from Year A

Entrance Antiphon: *Rejoice Jerusalem, and all who love her.
Be joyful, all who were in mourning.*

First Reading: 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 23 The Lord is my shepherd, there
is nothing I shall want.

Second Reading: Ephesians 5: 8-14

Gospel Tract: Those who trust in the Lord are like Mount Zion,
the inhabitants of Jerusalem shall never be shaken.

Gospel: John 9: 1-41

Communion Antiphon: *The Lord anointed my eyes; I went, I
washed, I saw and I believed in God.*

On the Cover: Cathopic.com

www.saintcolumbanyelm.org

360-458-3031

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Welcome to St. Columban

Weekly Calendar & Mass Intentions

All events are at St. Columban unless otherwise noted.

MONDAY March 11

Rosary Prayer Group 7:00 p.m. Church

TUESDAY March 12

Mass 9:00 a.m. + *In mem: Patricia Ellwood RIP* Church

St. Peter Circle 9:00 a.m. St. Peter

Spanish Prayer Group 6:30 p.m. Hall

WEDNESDAY March 13

Mass 9:00 a.m. + *In mem: Dalmacio O. Gimenez RIP* Church

Bible Study 10:00 a.m. St. Peter

THURSDAY March 14

NO DAILY MASS

Funeral for Drew Loyer 11:00 a.m. Church

Choir Practice 6:00 p.m. Church

Bible Study 6:30 p.m. Small Hall

FRIDAY March 15

Mass 9:00 a.m. Church

Homeschool Enrichment 9:45 a.m. RE Bldg

Stations of the Cross & Soup Supper 6:00 p.m. St. Peter

Stations of the Cross & Confession 6:00 p.m. Church

Soup Supper 6:30 p.m. Hall

Hosted by St. Vincent de Paul

SATURDAY March 16

Confession 3:30 p.m. Church

Anticipatory Sunday Mass 5:00 p.m. *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

St. Patrick's Day Dinner 6:00 PM

Hosted by our Knights of Columbus; join us in the parish hall after Mass for great food and live music!

A limited number of tickets will be available at the door.

SUNDAY March 17 FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Confession 7:30-7:45 a.m. St. Peter

Sunday Mass 8:00 a.m. *Int.: Pro Populo* St. Peter

Religious Ed 9:15 a.m.-10:15 a.m. RE Bldg

Confirmation 9:15 a.m.—10:15 a.m. Sm. Hall/Youth Space

Sunday Mass 10:30 a.m. *Int.: Pro Populo* Church

Daughters of Mary Fellowship 11:45 a.m. Hall

We proclaim the Roman Catholic faith to the communities of McKenna, Nisqually, Rainier, Roy, Tenino, and Yelm in southeast Thurston and southwest Pierce counties.

Our community has grown since its origins at the former St. Margaret Mary Church in McKenna, and our current church in Yelm is named for the Irish-born 6th century missionary to Europe St. Columbanus of Bobbio. We have also been present in Tenino since 1891 through St. Peter Mission, named for the apostle and first pope.

Are you registered? Registration ensures that we know you are here, makes us aware of your needs and gifts, but most of all it helps us to welcome you to the parish! Stop by and introduce yourselves! The Parish Office is open Monday through Thursday, 9:30am to 2:00pm or call us for an appointment on Fridays. You may also register online at saintcolumbanyelm.org/

Announcements

Please be aware of email scams! Official emails will only originate from our staff emails with our domain saintcolumbanyelm.org or from flocknote.com, or ccbchurch.com. We will never directly solicit for non-official donations or items to purchase by email or text. Donations and fundraisers will always be announced during Mass.

Fasting and Abstinence During Lent

The current law of the Church obliges those age 14 and over to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent. Those age 18 through 59 are also obliged to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. Fasting is defined as one full meal and two other meals which, when combined are less than a full meal.

The Veiling of Statues

The main statues and crucifixes in the church will be veiled in violet during the day Thursday March 14, in preparation for the Fifth Sunday of Lent on March 17. The practice of veiling statues and crucifixes follows from the Gospel in which the Scribes and Pharisees are ready to put the Lord to death, so He hides Himself from them. His hour has not yet come, but as that hour draws near, we hide Him from our view by veiling his crucifixes and the images of saints in the church. You may also observe this at home.

Announcements continue on page 4.

Connect with us

WEBSITE saintcolumbanyelm.org
LIVESTREAM

youtube.com/@stcolumbanyelm

SOCIAL MEDIA

facebook.com/saintcolumbanyelm

ONLINE GIVING

pushpay.com/g/saintcolumbanyelm

PARISH STAFF

(360) 458-3031

Fr. Brian Thompson In Office: Tu-Th/AM
Priest Administrator

frthompson@saintcolumbanyelm.org x6

Jennifer Langham In Office: M-Thu

PA for Admin, Liturgy, & Music
jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org x1

Matthew Tolar In Office: M-Tu/AM

PA for Admin, Bookkeeping & Records
matthew@saintcolumbanyelm.org x4

Gabriela Makinster In Office: Tu-Th
Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,
gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org x2
**habla Español*

Chad Lucero

Youth Ministry & Confirmation
chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org x3

Steven Slater *St. Columban Maintenance*
steven@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Gilberto Espino *St. Peter Maintenance*
gilberto@saintcolumbanyelm.org

St. Columban Parish Pastoral Council Judith Cusick (Chairperson), Sheila Johnson, Jerome Didier, Joseph Judge, Dennis Stumpf

St. Peter Advisory Commission Sherry Bachmann (Chairperson), Marilyn Ritter, Bernie Schwarz, Bob Bacon, Diane Weston

stpeteradvisory@saintcolumbanyelm.org

Parish Finance Council Joseph Judge (St Columban), Mari Evans (St Peter)

A Word from Father Thompson



While during Lent, I have been using the Eucharistic Prayer for Reconciliation, you may notice that on Sundays in other seasons of the year, I essentially invariably use the Roman Canon (or Eucharistic Prayer I), AKA the “long” Eucharistic prayer with additional bowing, signs of the Cross (alas, greatly—and shamefully—reduced from its authentic traditional form), long lists of saints, and explicit mentions of the Mass Intention (Living or dead). Because of this last feature of the Canon, you may notice on Sundays that I add the line “the people of this parish” during one of these moments—the Memorial for the Living. I realize that perhaps not everyone understands why I do this and what it means, or even precisely for whom I am praying.

Canon Law (the Church’s internal legal code) requires that priests who have *cure animarum* (the care of souls; so, pastors and equivalent) have an obligation to offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—or cause it to be offered if they cannot do so personally—*pro populo* (for the/his people) on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation. So, at least one Sunday Mass each weekend must have the Mass Intention be for the people of the parish generally: for their spiritual and material wellbeing and their conversion or deeper conversion to Christ. In this parish, we generally have all the weekend Masses *pro populo*, though technically I am only obliged to say one of them with that intention.

But who is this *populus* (the people) for whom the Sunday Mass is offered? This is really my point this week, as I think understanding that fact better might help us as a parish community and in our Christian mission to evangelize the world; “The people of this parish” is a broader group than you may think. First and foremost, it does not *per se* mean the congregation present at that given Mass, as if the Saturday Mass is for those people, the 8am is for St Peter Mission’s attendees only, and the 1030am is only for them. No, each Mass is for the whole of St Columban Parish, whether one attends Mass at the parish church—which almost always shares the name of the Parish—or its mission; we are all in the same parish, a parish that just happens to contain two churches. (Incidentally, this is also why you might notice that I tend to take a wholistic view of the parish in most things rather than treating it as two unrelated communities.)

However, it is even broader than understanding our identity as members of the parish rather than our specific Mass time or physical place of worship, “the people of the parish” actually includes everyone in our territory, Catholic or not. Every single soul, whether they know it or not, want it or not, are St Columban parishioners. So, when you hear me voice aloud that Mass is being offered “for the people of the parish” keep in mind it is more than those at Mass with you, even more than those who worship at the other church in the parish, or at a different Mass time, but even for those who are not (yet) Catholic or even Christian. Join your prayer to mine in that moment with proper understanding, therefore, and let that spill out into your actions at attitudes toward your neighbors—who, though not (yet) Catholic are still your fellow parishioners, and *maybe* it might even prompt you to invite your neighbors to come and see the blessings God has ready to give them.

In Christ

F. Thompson

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



FOR THE SICK AND HOMEBOUND*

Stan Villadelgado,
Robert Fisher, Tina
Wilson, Marcella
Thornton, Gary Henslee,
Theresa Gonzales, Cecilia
Gerardo, John O’Callahan,
& Betty Tretheway.

FOR THE DECEASED

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

FOR OUR EXTRAORDINARY INTENTIONS

All those in harm’s way,
especially those
experiencing natural
disasters and terrorism.

PRAYER INTENTIONS OF THE POPE FOR MARCH:

For the new martyrs - We
pray that those who risk
their lives for the Gospel
in various parts of the
world inflame the Church
with their courage and
missionary enthusiasm.

Our Father..., Hail
Mary..., Glory Be...

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

*To add a name to this list or request a Mass Intention please contact the parish office. All submissions must have permission from the named individual or an authorized family member for privacy purposes. St. Columban Prayer Chain: Confidential and private prayer chain. To join, contact the parish office.

Act of Contrition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins because of thy just punishments, but most of all because they offend Thee, my God, who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve with the help of Thy grace to sin no more and to avoid the near occasion of sin. Amen.

Ministries & Events

Whether you are new to the parish or have been here for many years, we encourage you to share your time, talents and treasures in support of the mission of our parish community. Contact Jennifer Langham at the Parish Office for more information about events and to connect with a group: 360-458-3031x1 / jennifer@saintcolumbanyelm.org



Outside Events & Notices



Worldwide Marriage Encounter Retreats:

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him." Bring God into your marriage to honor Him by going on the next Worldwide Marriage Encounter Experience on: April 12-14, 2024 at LaQuinta in Tacoma, WA, [Apr 26-28, 2024 in Everett, WA](#). For more information about Worldwide Marriage Encounter, please visit www.wwme.org. For questions, or to find out more about a Virtual Encounter Experience, feel free to contact: Jeff and Sandy Corneil 360-930-2321. Follow WWME on Instagram and Facebook!

Project Rachel—Hope and Healing After Abortion English: (206) 920-6413 / Español: (206)-450-7814 projectrachel@ccsww.org If you are suffering from the experience of an abortion, you do not need to walk alone. We offer a compassionate and confidential environment for those who suffer the effects of an abortion. Find hope and healing after abortion at Rachel's Vineyard Retreat.

Financial Stewardship Report

	Feb 26	
Ordinary Income	St Columban	St Peter
Weekly Goal	\$5,800.00	\$1,000.00
Collection (Cash & Envelopes)	\$2,853.50	\$911.00
Online Giving	1,320.00	\$540.00
Net	(\$1,626.50)	\$451.00
Special Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00
St Vincent DePaul	\$10.00	\$0.00
Sacramentals	\$19.25	\$24.00
(Candles, Beeswax tapers, Salt)		
Flowers	\$0.00	\$0.00
Building Fund	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mass Intentions	\$0.00	\$0.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$273.00	\$70.00

Altar Society

A team of talented parishioners beautifully maintain and clean the Church every Thursday after Daily Mass.

Daughters of Mary

daughtersofmary@saintcolumbanyelm.org
All women of the Parish are invited. Next monthly meeting is **Tuesday, Mar 26th at 6 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. Bring your favorite snack to share!

Liturgical Ministries

parishoffice@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Altar Servers, Choir, Greeters/Ushers, Readers

Knights of Columbus

kofc@saintcolumbanyelm.org
Council 17152 and Assembly 3742 meets monthly third Wednesdays of every month. Next meeting **Mar. 20, 5:30 p.m.**
Open to all Catholic gentlemen committed to the exemplification of charity, unity, fraternity, and patriotism and to the defense of the priesthood.

Next Sunday Breakfast Feb. 25 following the 10:30 Mass. Knights please come help starting at 8 a.m. All Parishioners are welcome to eat; donations accepted.

St. Patrick's Dinner Saturday March 16 following the 5 p.m. Mass. Tickets are on sale after Sunday Masses next month.

Society of St. Vincent de Paul 360-458-1904

Our chapter is composed of parishioners who provide assistance and prayerful healing to those in need in our community. Members meet monthly on the third Thursday and monitor the helpline daily.

St. Peter Circle 360-264-4856

Second Tuesdays every other month, beginning in January at St. Peter Tenino. Next meeting is Tuesday March 12.

Prayer Groups

Rosary group Mondays 7 PM in the Church,
Spanish Group Tuesdays 6:30 PM in the Parish Hall

Faith Formation

Elementary Religious Education

Links to related articles & blogs will be posted in the emailed bulletin and on our social media channels.



Faith Formation: Grades K-12

March 17 Class (Reconciliation will be encouraged for those who can participate)
 March 24 NO Class (Palm Sunday)
 March 31 NO Class (Easter)

Easter egg hunt after 10:30 am Mass
 Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

Childrens Prayers

For the Month of February we had **77** children in our Faith Formation program prayed **1513** prayers. Excellent job. These prayers help with memorization and the bond of the family. Keep up the good work young prayer warriors!



RECONCILIATION

Quick—what words come to mind when you think of going to Confession? How about conversion, healing, forgiveness, reconciliation, honesty, courage, or even celebration?

If you haven't been to the sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation as a family, give it a try. Better yet, try making it a habit. Like any healthy practice (think of exercise or flossing), getting started might be a challenge, but if you stick with it, you'll be pleasantly surprised by the results.

Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA)/Adult Faith Formation

RCIA classes have come to an end. Please stay tuned for the 2024-25 registration link.



For the next couple of weeks we will share what the **Catechism of the Catholic Church** says about the Precepts of the Church. What are the Precepts and what do they mean?

The Precepts of the Church are set in the context of a moral life bound to and nourished by liturgical life. The obligatory character of these positive laws decreed by the pastoral authorities is meant to **guarantee the faithful the very necessary minimum in the spirit of prayer and moral effort**, in the growth in love of God and neighbor: CCC-2041-2043

1. You shall attend Mass on Sundays and on holy days of obligation & rest from servile labor.
2. You shall confess your sins at least once a year (unless there is mortal sin)
3. You shall receive the sacrament of Eucharist at least during the Easter Season.
4. You shall observe the days of fasting and abstinence established by the Church.
5. You shall help to provide for the needs of the Church

Youth Ministry & Confirmation (Grades 6-12)

Saint of the Week St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690) was born Margaret Alacoque in a small village in France. After her father died when she was eight years old, she was sent to a convent school run by the Poor Clares where she became bedridden with rheumatic fever. For four years she was confined to her bed until she made a vow to Mary, Mother of God, to consecrate herself to religious life. Following this vow, her health was restored. Throughout her childhood and early adulthood, Margaret continued to have religious visions of Jesus.

In 1671, at age 24, Margaret entered the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary and took the name Mary when she professed her vows. During her time in the convent, she had series of mystical experiences — most notably, her encounters with the Sacred Heart of Jesus. According to her accounts, Jesus appeared to her and revealed his Sacred Heart, burning with love for humanity and instructed her to devote herself to adoration of the Eucharist every Thursday night during a holy hour which she immediately incorporated into her routine. He also instructed her to celebrate a new feast, the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

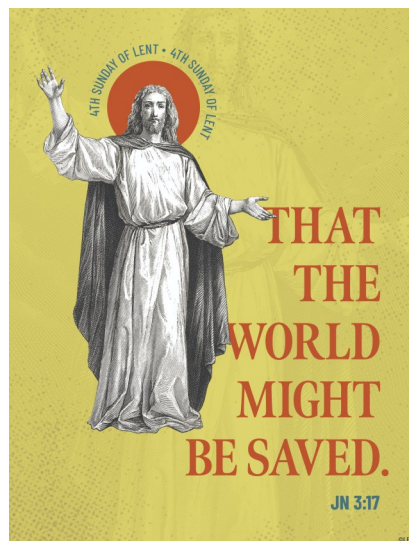
St. Margaret Mary dedicated herself to promoting the feast and adoration of the Eucharist. Her visions and messages were met with skepticism initially, but she trusted God's guidance. In 1688, just two years before she died, the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus was celebrated for the first time in the Church's liturgical calendar. Eventually, her holy hour of adoration also became a popular tradition among Catholics worldwide. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, pray for us!

© LPi

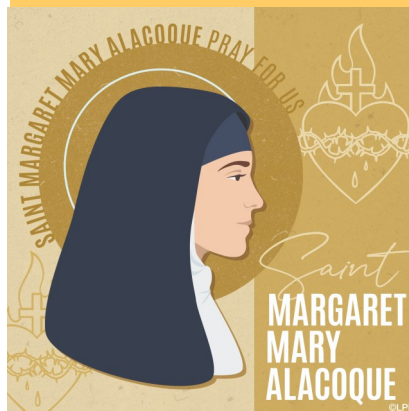
St. Margaret Mary Alacoque is the namesake of our original church in McKenna.

Mrs. Makinster
 Elementary & Adult Faith Formation,
 gaby@saintcolumbanyelm.org
 360-458-3031 x2 *habla Español*

At St. Columban, we provide an opportunity for children and youth to learn about their Catholic faith and grow in their relationship with Jesus Christ through study, prayer, and community service.



Mr. Lucero
 Youth Ministry & Confirmation
 chad@saintcolumbanyelm.org
 360-458-3031 x2 x3



From the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*

154 Believing is possible only by grace and the interior helps of the Holy Spirit. But it is no less true that believing is an authentically human act. Trusting in God and cleaving to the truths he has revealed is contrary neither to human freedom nor to human reason. Even in human relations it is not contrary to our dignity to believe what other persons tell us about themselves and their intentions, or to trust their promises (for example, when a man and a woman marry) to share a communion of life with one another. If this is so, still less is it contrary to our dignity to "yield by faith the full submission of... intellect and will to God who reveals", and to share in an interior communion with him.

Reflect and Respond to the Sunday Mass Readings:



First Reading: *Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. (2 Chr 36:15-16)*

We hear how God reacted strongly against Israel's disobedience and infidelity, ultimately sending them to exile in Babylon. But God also showed mercy to Israel in sending king Cyrus of Persia to rescue them. As we enter the fourth Sunday of Lent, for what do you need God's mercy in your life?

Psalm: *Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Ps 137)*

Second Reading: *God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ. (Eph 2:4-5)*

Paul taught the Ephesians that by God's mercy and grace, we have been saved through Christ for the good works that God has prepared for us. Where in your life do you feel like you are doing God's work?

Gospel: *For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)*

Jesus taught Nicodemus that God loves the world and desires to save it. In what ways do you show love and respect for our world?

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD. Reflections, select clip art and content are ©LPi, our bulletin publisher.



Q&A Question: Is it ever Ok to leave Mass before it ends?

Answer: This is an interesting question because beneath the surface there seems to be an assumption that if it's okay, then why do we have to stay after we receive communion? The short answer is "no," but we definitely want to go a bit deeper as we consider why.

First, when we think about questions like this, we must consider this in adult terms. If there is something gravely important that we need to do, then we must attend to that. However, if it is a matter of convenience or preference, then we really have to stop and think again. First, while we always want to recognize the importance of sacramental communion in the Mass, we also need to understand how important the time of thanksgiving and prayer after communion is. This is summarized in the Prayer After Communion offered by the celebrant and then we are also commissioned to "Go forth" during the Dismissal of the Mass, reminding us that we have been entrusted with a gift — the Word of God and the Presence of Christ in the sacrament — and that we are to share that gift with others.

If we simply leave after we receive communion, we risk two things. First, there is the possibility that we will turn our reception of communion into a purely personal, individual experience that is separated from our common experience of worship — and communion in the fullest sense — and, second, we lose an opportunity for gratitude and serious reflection if we simply leave after communion. This time of thanksgiving, reflection, and, ultimately, missioning, are important and, in the end, an essential part of the celebration of the Mass. ©LPi

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

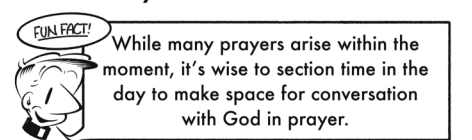
Father Flood © LPi



"How did the solar system make enough time to pray?"



"They had to PLANET."



A celebration of
diversity in our Catholic
faith community

DISABILITY INCLUSION MINISTRY Mass & Dance

APRIL 20

Mass | 11am | St. James Cathedral
Dance & lunch | 12-2:30pm | O'Dea Gym

EVERYONE IS WELCOME.

The Archdiocese of Seattle's Disability Inclusion Ministry serves and works collaboratively with parishes and schools to promote the inclusion and meaningful participation of people with disabilities in the life of our Catholic faith community.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Wong at jennifer.wong@seattlearch.org

ARCHDIOCESE OF SEATTLE | Disability Inclusion Ministry



REVEAL Crist's LOVE



After years of tension between Ukraine and the Russian Federation, Russian forces began a devastating war in February 2022 by invading Ukraine. In addition to killing and wounding many, the conflict has forced millions of Ukrainians to flee the country. Many refugees went to neighboring countries in Europe, but many others came to the United States. For decades, the Migration and Refugee Services (MRS) department of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has assisted refugees fleeing wars and persecution, and in 2022 it responded to the Ukrainian refugee crisis with two initiatives to help local communities welcome refugees.

The first initiative, Welcome Circles, is a community-led program that helps local groups work together to provide financial support and connect refugees to services such as health care and education. Although Welcome Circles are locally led, they are certified, vetted, and given ongoing guidance by MRS staff or local affiliate experts. MRS's support and guidance help each Welcome Circle accompany refugees effectively during the resettlement process. As of early 2023, the Welcome Circles program already had 25 circles engaging more than 200 volunteers and had expanded to welcome refugees from Haiti, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela in addition to Ukraine.

Since 2010, MRS has led the second initiative, Parishes Organized to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees (POWIR), a program that works with select diocesan resettlement programs to empower parishes and local Catholic institutions so they can welcome and assist immigrants and refugees at the diocesan level. From May 2021 to January 2023, this diocesan support helped nearly 10,000 local volunteers, working in Catholic communities in 23 active POWIR

programs nationwide, to spend more than 100,000 volunteer hours working with and on behalf of about 24,000 clients.

Funds received through The Catholic Relief Services Collection allow MRS to help victims of war and oppression begin new lives in welcoming, supportive communities through innovative initiatives like Welcome Circles and POWIR. In addition to MRS, the collection supports other Catholic organizations that aid victims of persecution and natural disasters, provide legal services to poor immigrants, and advocate for the powerless.

Your Donations Help Our Brothers and Sisters . . .

In the United States

Feed Jesus' hunger in suffering refugees . . . through the **USCCB Department of Migration and Refugee Services (MRS)**.

Offer legal assistance to Jesus in struggling immigrants . . . through the **Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC)**.

Reach out to comfort Jesus' loneliness in isolated workers . . . through the pastoral work of the **USCCB Secretariat of Cultural Diversity in the Church**.

And Around the World

Give water to quench Jesus' thirst in the people of Kenya and Zambia . . . through the humanitarian work of **Catholic Relief Services (CRS)**.

Advocate on behalf of Jesus in the poor and marginalized . . . through the public policy work of the **USCCB Department of Justice, Peace and Human Development**.

Send aid to Jesus in the victims of natural disaster . . . through the **Holy Father's Relief Fund**.



The Catholic Relief Services Collection

OFFICE OF NATIONAL COLLECTIONS • 3211 FOURTH STREET NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20017-1194 • 202-541-3400 • FAX 202-541-3460 • WWW.USCCB.ORG/NATIONALCOLLECTIONS

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REVELA EL AMOR DE *Cristo*



En febrero del 2022, después de años de tensión entre Ucrania y la Federación Rusa, las fuerzas rusas invadieron Ucrania dando inicio a una devastadora guerra. Este conflicto, aparte de matar y de herir a muchas personas, ha forzado a millones de ucranianos a huir de su país. Muchos de los refugiados huyeron a países vecinos en Europa, pero muchos otros han venido a los Estados Unidos. A lo largo de muchas décadas, Migration and Refugee Services (MRS), un departamento de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos (USCCB), ha socorrido a los refugiados que huyen de las guerras y la persecución y, en el 2022, respondió a la crisis de los refugiados ucranianos con dos iniciativas para ayudar a las comunidades locales a fin de recibir y acoger a los refugiados.

La primera iniciativa, Welcome Circles, es un programa dirigido por la comunidad, el cual ayuda a grupos locales a trabajar juntos para proporcionar ayuda financiera a los refugiados y a conectarlos con servicios como el cuidado para la salud y la educación. Aunque los Welcome Circles están dirigidos a nivel local, estos están certificados, aprobados y reciben orientación continua de parte del personal de MRS o de expertos afiliados locales. El apoyo y la orientación que proporciona MRS ayuda a cada Welcome Circle a acompañar eficazmente a los refugiados durante el proceso de reasentamiento. A inicios del 2023, el programa Welcome Circles ya contaba con 25 círculos, involucrando a más de 200 voluntarios y se ha ampliado para recibir a refugiados de Haití, Cuba, Nicaragua y Venezuela, aparte de los refugiados provenientes de Ucrania.

Desde el 2010, MRS ha dirigido una segunda iniciativa, Parishes Organized to Welcome Immigrants and Refugees (POWIR), un iniciativa que trabaja con programas diocesanos seleccionados para empoderar a parroquias y a instituciones católicas locales para que puedan recibir y ayudar a inmigrantes y refugiados a nivel diocesano. Desde mayo del 2021 hasta enero del 2023, este apoyo diocesano ha ayudado a cerca de 10,000 voluntarios locales, trabajando en comunidades católicas en 23 programas POWIR a nivel nacional, sumando más de 100,000 horas de voluntariado trabajando con y a favor de cerca de 24,000 clientes.

Los fondos recibidos a través de The Catholic Relief Services Collection permite que MRS ayude a las víctimas de guerra y opresión a empezar una nueva vida en comunidades acogedoras y solidarias mediante iniciativas innovadoras como Welcome Circles y POWIR. Además de MRS, la colecta proporciona ayuda financiera a otras organizaciones católicas que socorren a las víctimas de persecución y de desastres naturales, ofrece servicios legales a los inmigrantes de bajos recursos y aboga por los más necesitados.

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FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

LIGHT CAME INTO THE WORLD.

— JOHN 3:19 —

SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2024

Weekly Prayer

Sunday's Readings

First Reading:

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers,
send his messengers to them,
for he had compassion on his people and his
dwelling place.

But they mocked the messengers of God,
despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets,
until the anger of the LORD against his people was
so inflamed
that there was no remedy. (2 Chr 36:15-16)

Psalm:

Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Ps 137)

Second Reading:

God, who is rich in mercy,
because of the great love he had for us,
even when we were dead in our transgressions,
brought us to life with Christ. (Eph 2:4-5)

Gospel:

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish
but might have eternal life. (Jn 3:16)

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Live The Liturgy Inspiration of the Week

Out of love for us, God sent His son into the world, to illuminate the truth that brings salvation. But light can be blinding to eyes that have only seen darkness. Pray that God will teach us to walk bravely in the light.

Observances for the week of March 10, 2024

Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent, Daylight Saving Time begins

Next Sunday: 5th Sunday of Lent



Saint of the week

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque was a French nun who had visions of Jesus and his Sacred Heart. She devoted her life to promoting Eucharistic adoration and the Feast of the Sacred Heart. Her Thursday night holy hours are still a common practice among modern Catholics!

Prayer for Laetare Sunday

Dear Jesus,

We've been in this season of Lent for a few weeks now. I want to re-commit myself in this time — renew and strengthen my resolve. Help me to use these last few weeks to grow closer to you. Amen.

Worship & Meditation

Readings for the week of March 10, 2024

Sunday:

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 (6ab)/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 *Scrutiny:*
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 (1)/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

Monday:

Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b/Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday:

Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday:

Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/Jn 5:17-30

Thursday:

Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn 5:31-47

Friday:

Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday:

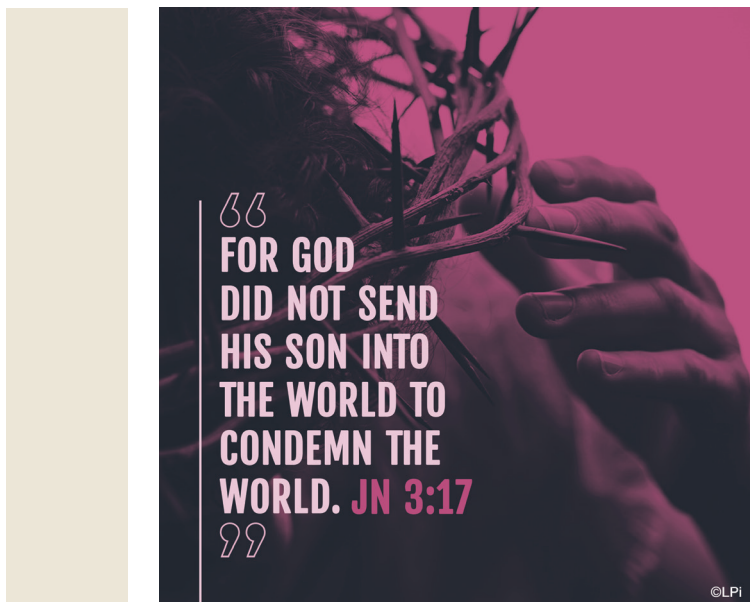
Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn 7:40-53

Next Sunday:

Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 (12a)/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 *Scrutiny:* Ez 37:12-14/Ps 130: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 (7)/Rom 8:8-11/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45



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Gospel Meditation

Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Our national pastime isn't baseball. It's what the Bible calls "condemning the world." We generally enjoy pronouncing curses upon those whom we see as trouble, wrong, or evil. Don't believe me? Listen to almost any podcast, cable news network, or social media platform to hear it. It will be some version of: "We all agree that if *they* are eradicated, things will be great." Condemning is almost always clothed in virtue. It basks in its good intentions. That's why it is so attractive. Condemning seems like our best path to saving what is good.

What a shock, then, to hear Jesus announce: "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him" (Jn 3:17). He comes to save the world, as we all want, but he will accomplish it *without an act of condemnation*. How hard it is to accept this! Condemning feels godlike. I judge who and what must be lost to protect the good. But in the light of Jesus' endless mercy and love, this is the least godlike thing we can do.

Lenten challenge: This week, I invite you to give up the delicious experience of condemning whomever in the world you most would like to see gone. Perhaps write down their names. Secondly, I invite you to consider fasting from any media that feeds the tasty but deadly tendency to condemn.

— Father John Muir

(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC

The Uncomfortable Life in The Light

If you have ever been a woman over the age of 30 who stayed in a budget motel, you know the horror of awakening in a dark room, switching on the bathroom lights and screaming at the shriveled-up she-witch you find hiding there.

And you know the feeling of disappointment that blooms in the pit of your stomach as you realize the shriveled-up she-witch is your own reflection staring back at you beneath the merciless glare of overhead fluorescent lighting.

You may also know the relief of visiting a nice restaurant after dark and catching sight of yourself in the mirror. You lean forward, mesmerized by how different — how matte! How smooth! — the contours of your face look in what we call “forgiving light.” But this turn of phrase is simply not correct. It is not light, and it does not forgive. It is darkness, and it merely conceals.

But it feels so much better, doesn’t it? Salvation can feel like condemnation, when being lost is all you know. Sometimes it is so much more comfortable to live lost in the shadows.

It is possible to yearn for darkness. Darkness gives cover to so many things. The light has a harshness that can almost seem demanding, exposing. Light can bleach. Light can burn.

“Is this really me?” you think in that budget hotel bathroom, examining acne scars you never saw before and crow’s feet that seem to have developed overnight. The answer is yes. Yes, that is really you, all of it, every inch. There’s nothing to be afraid of, just step into the light and own it.

“And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.” — John 3:19

Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Why do we do that? Catholic Life Explained

Question:

What’s the difference between priests and brothers, friars, etc.?

Answer:

The distinctions titles and categories used for priests and the male members of religious communities can be confusing, especially since the categories can sometimes be intertwined as a man can be both a priest and a monk, or a brother and a friar. So, to help to piece the puzzle together, it’s important to begin by noting some basic distinctions:

The distinction between priests (who are ordained for sacramental ministry) and brothers (who are non-ordained members of religious communities and who are committed to lives of prayer and service).

Priests: A priest is a man who has been ordained for sacramental ministry and these fall into two categories: A) Diocesan (or Secular) Priests can either be attached to a diocese and who serve under a bishop. Their ministry is usually oriented toward pastoral service. B) Religious Priests are members of religious communities (like the Franciscans, Jesuits, Salvatorians, or Carmelites) and their lives are guided by the special mission and charism of their community. While both kinds of priest practice sacramental ministry, their spirituality and how they live out their priesthood can be very different.

Brothers: Brothers are non-ordained members of religious communities (such as those mentioned above) who live lives committed to prayer and service. Religious priests and brothers serve together in their communities and their ministries include much more than the care of parishes.

Monks, Friars, and Canons: These are broad categories that include religious priests and brothers, and each of these is connected to specific ways of life and spiritualities.

“For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.”

- Jn 3:20-21

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Questions of the Week

Invite Parishioners to Reflect and Respond to Scripture

First Reading

We hear how God reacted strongly against Israel's disobedience and infidelity, ultimately sending them to exile in Babylon. But God also showed mercy to Israel in sending king Cyrus of Persia to rescue them. As we enter the fourth Sunday of Lent, for what do you need God's mercy in your life?

Second Reading

Paul taught the Ephesians that by God's mercy and grace, we have been saved through Christ for the good works that God has prepared for us. Where in your life do you feel like you are doing God's work?

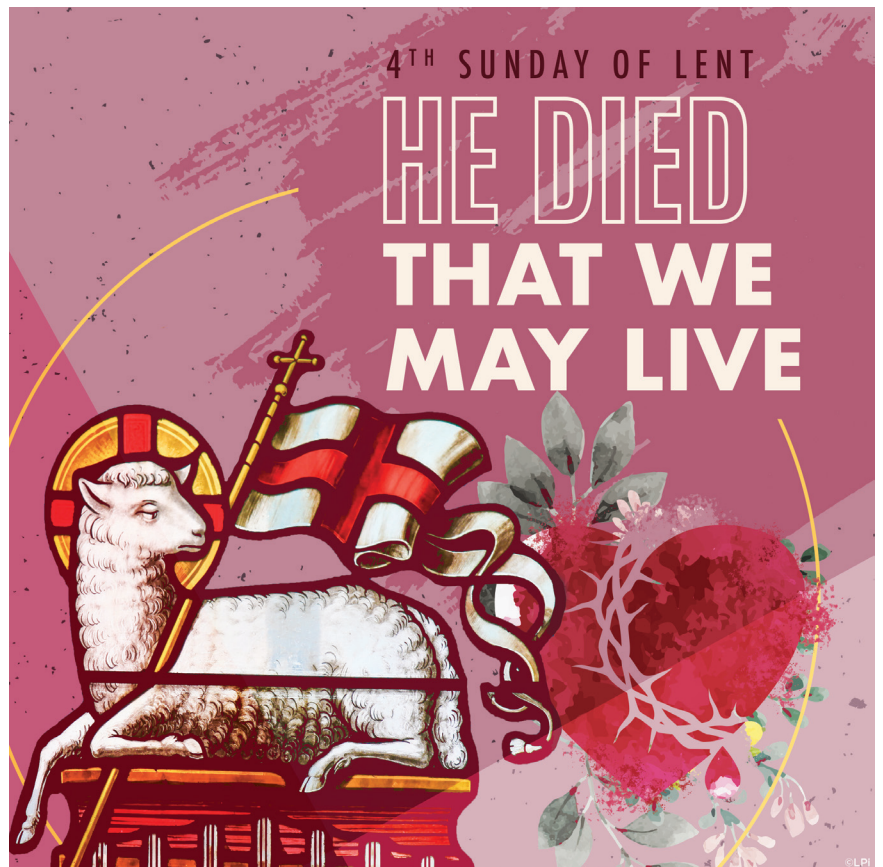
Gospel Reading

Jesus taught Nicodemus that God loves the world and desires to save it. In what ways do you show love and respect for our world?



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IF I EVER
FORGET YOU,
LET ME BE
silenced.

PSALM 137

And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. - Jn 3:19-20

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Prayer

God, thank you for sending Jesus to wash away my sins.

Mission for the Week

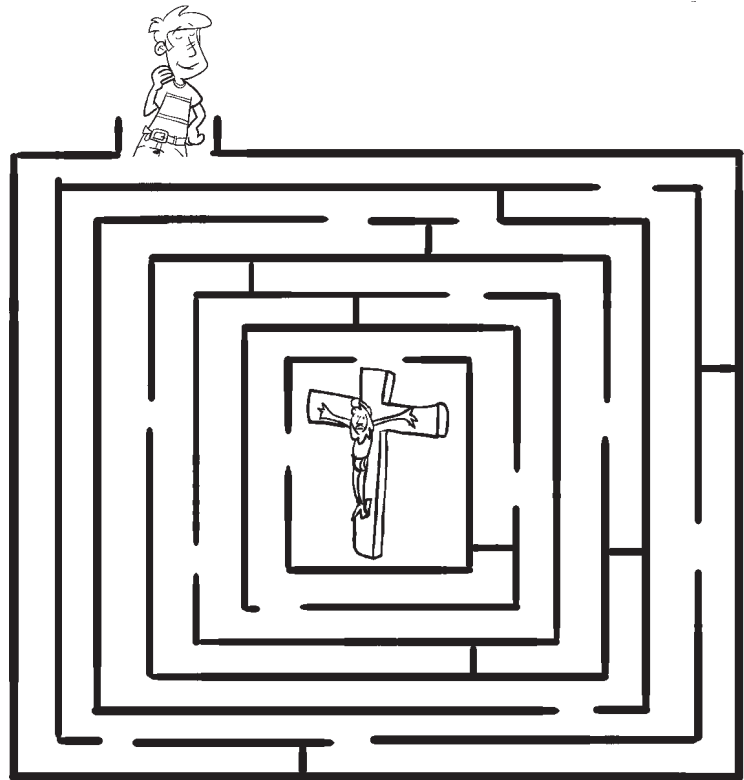
Help your parents wash dishes. As you take dirty dishes and wash them clean, talk about how Jesus washed our sins away on the cross.

Sharing the Gospel

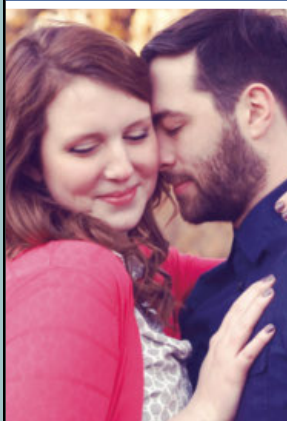
When the Hebrews sinned in the desert, snakes came to bite them. Moses lifted up a metal snake in the desert. If God's people looked at the metal snake, their painful snake bites would be healed. Instead of dying from their snake bites, they would live. Our sins are a lot like those snake bites. Sins turn us away from God, hurt us, and hurt other people. When Jesus was lifted up on the cross, he washed our sins away. Jesus gave us healing and forgiveness. We don't need to die from our sins. We can believe in Jesus, follow God with our whole hearts, and live forever.

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