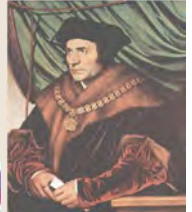




# SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

51 MARKETPLACE IRVINE, CA 92602 · 949-551-8601 · WWW.STMIRVINE.ORG



Saint Thomas More Welcomes All

**Welcoming all**, we, the Spirit-filled parish of St. Thomas More, value our Roman Catholic faith by celebrating the sacraments, breaking open the Scriptures, and joyfully offering ourselves in service to others. Under the inspiration of our patron saint, we seek to build a caring community that embraces the values he modeled of friendship, integrity and courageous love of God.

#### Pastor

Parochial Vicar  
Parochial Vicar Emeritus  
Weekend Assistants

#### Deacons

#### Rev. John E. Janze

Rev. Kiet Ta  
Rev. William Krekelberg  
Rev. Joseph Horn, O Praem  
Rev. Joseph Justice  
Deacon Tony & Mrs. Mary Patronite  
Deacon Stan & Mrs. Fran Necikowski  
Deacon Tin & Mrs. UyenLan Nguyen  
Deacon Leonard & Mrs. Nancy Sun  
Deacon John & Mrs. Michelle Selig

#### Office Information:

Office: 949-551-8601  
After hours emergency: 949-228-2127  
Fax: 949-551-5879  
Religious Education: 949-551-8029  
Youth Ministry: 949-551-8602

#### Office Hours by Phone:

The parish office is closed to the public, and answering the phones during the following times:  
**Monday-Saturday: 9:00am-2:00pm**

## FIRST SUNDAY OF

# Lent

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the  
desert for forty days,  
tempted by Satan.  
He was among wild beasts,  
and the angels ministered to him.

Mark 1:12-13



FEBRUARY  
**21** 2021

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**Daily Mass:**  
**Monday – Saturday**  
 8:00 AM

**Vigil Mass Times**  
 4:00 PM Vietnamese/English  
 6:00 PM English

**Sunday Mass Times**  
 8:00 AM English  
 10:00 AM English  
 12:00 PM Spanish/English  
 5:00 PM English

**Morning Prayer:** Wed & Fri 7:30am to 7:50am

**Adoration:** Every Friday 9:00am to 10:00am

**Saturday "Drive-Up" Confessions:**  
 12:00pm to 2:00pm

**We will continue to livestream all Masses**  
**For spiritual advisement, please contact the**  
**priest to schedule an appointment.**

*Welcome! We are glad you are here.*

- ◆ Masses have moved indoors with a maximum occupancy of 25% or approx. 200 people. This includes Ash Wednesday, Adoration, Stations of the Cross, weddings, baptisms and funerals.
- ◆ The patio will be available for any overflow. Please bring your own chair.
- ◆ The church will not be open for individual prayer, however, the Blessed Sacrament Chapel will be open for individual prayer Monday – Friday from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm.
- ◆ In-person gatherings of prayer groups, Bible studies, ministry meetings, etc. are still not allowed.
- ◆ Face coverings must be worn.
- ◆ Please maintain physical distancing.
- ◆ Our Bishop's special dispensation still applies. If you are over 65, or if you have an underlying health condition, or if you are truly afraid of catching the virus, you are not obligated, but you are always welcome to attend Mass in person. If you think you are sick, especially if you think you may have COVID-19 or have been exposed to someone who tested positive, please join us via livestream.
- ◆ We ask for your cooperation and patience as we navigate the directives in response to the pandemic. Even during these challenging times, we continue to worship our Lord as a faith-filled community.
- ◆ Please check our website and social media for updates.

### **MASS INTENTIONS**

*Please call the front desk to request a Mass Intention*

Monday 2/22	8:00am	†Ramon Martinez
Tuesday 2/23	8:00am	†Gordon Maurer
Wednesday 2/24	8:00am	†Robert and Mary Feagans
Thursday 2/25	8:00am	†Joan Lebrun
Friday 2/26	8:00am	†Andrea Maciel
Saturday 2/27	8:00am	Robert Arnold Rull
	8:00am	†Debbie Marvin
	8:00am	Chris, Brian, Jon Hughes
	8:00am	Jim Skudlarski
	8:00am	Ryan Herzog Family
	8:00am	†Pinky Kelsey
	8:00am	†Maryanne Santiago
	8:00am	†Pam McEnhill
	8:00am	†Brendan Buckley
	8:00am	Nicholas Jordan
Sunday 2/28	4:00pm	Elizabeth Cabral
	6:00pm	†Anton Durdovic
	8:00am	†Janet Hart
	10:00am	Lubos Durdovic
	12:00pm	Christopher Gonzalez
	5:00pm	Pro Populo



**Rest in the Love of Christ**

Gloria Aiello



As Jesus fasted for 40 days in the desert, the Church traditionally fasts during Lent. A form of bodily prayer, fasting and abstinence in union with other Christians reminds us of our utter dependence on and love for God. A gesture of repentance, fasting is symbolic of a change of heart as we turn away from sin to live in fidelity to the Gospel.

#### **Lenten Regulations:**

**Fasting:** Ages 18-59 fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, limiting themselves to one full meal and two smaller meals each day, with no snacking between meals.

**Abstinence:** Catholics age 14 and older abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

My Dear People,

**Today's theme on the Readings: REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL**

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism. Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

In Christ,  
Father John

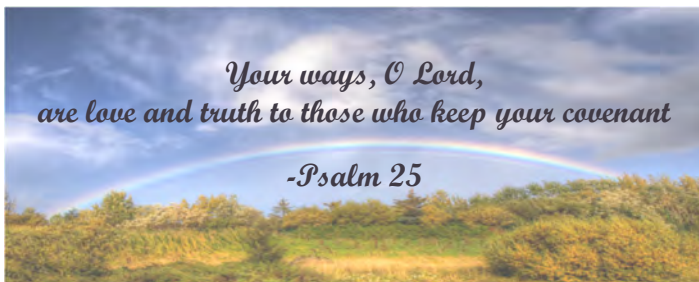
**Collections and Expenses**

2-8-2021 to 2-14-2021

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$9,195	\$8,316	\$17,511
Believe & Grow	\$911	\$1,035	\$1,946
BGT- Phase 2	\$50,950	\$2,755	\$53,705
Building Fund	\$326	\$137	\$463
Total	\$61,827	\$12,961	\$74,789

Regular Expenses \$51,702

We appreciate your continued financial support of the parish during these challenging times. If you would like to give, please click on the e-giving link in the top corner of the STM website to set up or update your e-giving. If you have questions, please call the office. All donations to the *Believe & Grow Together Campaign* will be used exclusively to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church. Moreover, Building Fund donations can be used to pay for the construction costs to build the new Parish church and for the maintenance and repairs of the existing Parish buildings and property. **Thank you for your generosity!**



**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19  
Tuesday: Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15  
Wednesday: Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32  
Thursday: Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12  
Friday: Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26  
Saturday: Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48  
Sunday: Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

**TODAY'S READINGS**

First Reading — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:8-15).

Psalm — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).

Second Reading — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

Gospel — Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him (Mark 1:12-15)

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**PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING**

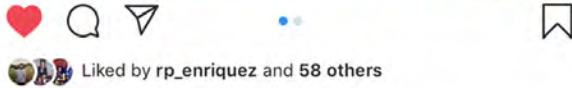


- |                          |                     |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| Sally Acosta             | Baby Johanna Harris | Ramon Navarro, Jr.        |
| Stacey Allen             | Mike Harvey         | Benjamin Nicanor          |
| Richy Altuna             | Shirley Hecker      | Karen Norton              |
| Mary Amato               | John Heffernan      | Nam Van Nguyen            |
| Mike Anderson            | Robert Henry        | Thuy-Lieu Nguyen          |
| Renee Andrade            | Annette Hills       | Kyle Osbourne             |
| Judy Anselmo             | Margaret Hills      | Agnes Pamintuan           |
| Alicia Arrellano         | Clara Honea         | Dcn Tony & Mary Patronite |
| Sam Baniqued             | Dominador Hontucan  | Regina Park               |
| Zicky Baniqued           | Sue House           | Norma Jeanne Parrish      |
| Jesus Barragan           | Linda Hughes        | Mary Jane Parsons         |
| Blanca Bermudez          | Angela Jack         | Gabby Paz                 |
| Maria Botello            | Elsa Jatwani        | Charlie Perrea            |
| Michele Bradley          | Theresa Johnston    | Ngocle Phung              |
| Bill Burk                | Sharon Jones        | Frank Quevedo             |
| Lisa Busch               | Doris Jordan        | Zachary Quick             |
| Mary & Joe Bush          | Quinn Kelly         | Norma Quyang              |
| Baby Zane Cabazon        | Jim Kendall         | Fr. Jim Reis              |
| Linda Carter             | Houman Khaghani     | Paula Reno                |
| Ellen Chang              | Jett Knight         | Lorraine Reyes            |
| Cyrus Charna             | Ty Vivian Knisely   | Ponciano Reyes            |
| Marietta Charbonneau     | Elizabeth Kulas     | Robert Arnold Rull        |
| Hui-Mei Chen             | Richard Kulas       | Sheila Russo              |
| Clara Connor             | Deborah Kurilchyk   | Terry Rute                |
| Alexandra Conti          | Larry Lathrum       | Anita Ruwaldt             |
| Petra Cordova            | Damian Ledesma      | Jackson & Gerri           |
| Ellie Dainko             | Todd Leeds          | Scharff                   |
| Jim Danaher              | Jack Light          | Michelle Suh              |
| Rick Denham              | Minerva Lopez       | Tara Summers              |
| Diana & Liberato DeVeyra | Aida Lopez-Tan      | Liz Thomas                |
| Larry Doan               | Cari Maas           | Gail Tierney              |
| Chela Echenique          | Gloria MacCormack   | Maria To                  |
| Meynard Encarnacion      | Betty Mackintosh    | Xuan Tran                 |
| Jacob Espinoza           | Mercedes Mantilla   | Denise Trujillo           |
| Howard Frankel, MD       | Cherry Marinas      | Jack Troung               |
| John Frisch              | Cavan McGaffney     | Kimberly Truong           |
| Cynthia Fox              | Kathleen McKinley   | David Valentine           |
| Claudia Fuentes          | Anne McNally        | Daniel Villareal          |
| Mike Garibay             | Connie Mellott      | Jim Vessey                |
| Lillian Gibson           | Durvalina Menezes   | Hanh Vu                   |
| Jose Gonzales, Jr.       | Stephanie Mispagel  | Alicia Walters            |
| Marisela Gonzalez        | Linda Moore         | John Weber                |
| Lois Gorman              | Agnes Motley        | Bill Westlund             |
| Alice Green              | Marie Moya          | Mike Winchester           |
| Emma Hager               | Susan Navarrete     | Jim Wood                  |
| Tina Halberg             |                     | Linda Yipp                |

**Please call the office when it is time to remove a name.**



stmirvineym.org

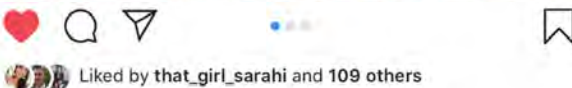


Liked by rp\_enriquez and 58 others

**Bible Studies** will continue to meet on Mondays at 7pm. If you would like to attend the bible studies, please email confirmation@stmirvine.org and we will send you the ZOOM Link.

**Core Team** meetings will begin in February. Thank you to all the core team who have continued to minister to teens throughout the pandemic.

**Virtual Life Nights** will return late February. A big thank you to all the teens who have participated in the last few months.



Liked by that\_girl\_sarahi and 109 others

**Confirmation Classes** continues to take place online. We are no longer accepting registrations for classes..

**Confirmation 1 Classes Dates Are**

- Wednesday, February 3 at 7pm
- Wednesday, February 24 at 7pm
- Wednesday, March 10 at 7pm

**Confirmation 2 Classes Dates Are**

- Wednesday, February 10 at 7pm
- Wednesday, March 3 at 7pm
- Wednesday, March 17 at 7pm

# R.E.P. CORNER



During Lent, we invite our 3<sup>rd</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> Grade REP classes and their families for Drive Up/Walk Up Reconciliation on Saturdays from 12:00-2:00 PM. Call the REP Office for more information.



## CIRCLE OF GRACE

### Safe Environment Training

In order to follow the current guidelines, our Circle of Grace Safe Environment training for our students will be all home-based this year. All families should have received their packets this past week. Please make sure to take some time to complete these valuable lessons with your children. Contact the REP Office with any questions or if you have not yet received your grade level lesson packet.



For any questions, call the REP office at (949) 551-8029.

## The Library Corner

First Sunday of Lent

The St. Thomas More Parish Library staff would like to wish all our parishioners a Happy First Sunday of Lent. The Library will be closed until further notice.

St. Luke tells us how Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan, and was led by the Spirit for forty days in the wilderness and tempted by the devil. Christ shows us in this passage how we are to confront the devil when we are tempted. As Catholics, we know by this example that we should not expect to travel the road to heaven without meeting obstacles and temptations. Only by God's grace and mercy can He lead us not into temptations and deliver us from evil.



## LENTEN SPIRITUAL OPPORTUNITY

**This Lent, we invite you to journey with us and with Dr. Tim Gray by signing up for FREE Daily Lenten Reflections.**

**Each day you will receive in your inbox a short video featuring Dr. Gray commenting on the daily Mass readings, explaining the Scriptures, and providing you with concrete ideas on how to apply them to your Christian life.**

**To sign up, just visit:**

**FORMED.ORG/LENT**

*Stations of the Cross*

**Every Friday during Lent**  
**7:00pm to 8:00pm**

*Stations will be held in the church and livestreamed*

*The Blessed Sacrament Chapel*

**open for individual, private prayer**  
**Monday - Friday**  
**7:00am to 2:00pm**

**Your ways, O Lord, make known to me**

**HOW DO I GET MY CHILD BAPTIZED AT STM?**

To have your child baptized at St Thomas More you must be registered in this parish. Call the parish office at 949-551-8601 to schedule an appointment to meet with our Baptism Coordinator, Windy. Parents and godparents are required to take a Baptism Class. We offer two styles of classes. We offer an in-person class on the first Saturday of the month at 9:00am or a virtual zoom class on the second Saturday of the month at 9:00am. Pre-registration for the class is necessary. Certificates of attendance will be provided as needed. Parents will also have a conference with the deacon. Godparents must be confirmed, practicing Catholics and, if married, married in the Catholic Church. Baptisms are held on the third Saturday of the month at 9:30am.



To view upcoming dates, times, and to register, visit [OrangeCatholicFoundation.org/estate-planning](http://OrangeCatholicFoundation.org/estate-planning)

saint snippets

I have accepted this life of sacrifice because I know that Christ is in the poor.

Bl. Mariam Vattalil

20th-century Indian religious sister who devoted herself to catechetical formation and social justice

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February 25

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Sunday: First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election; Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending
- Monday: Washington's Birthday; Julian Calendar Lent begins
- Tuesday: St. Polycarp
- Thursday: Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset
- Friday: Abstinence
- Saturday: St. Gregory of Narek



### Ways to Give to STM:



Secure e-giving on our website: [www.stmirvine.org](http://www.stmirvine.org)



In basket after Mass



Mail your check or drop it off in our parish lobby



GivePlus app on Smartphone (Vanco)



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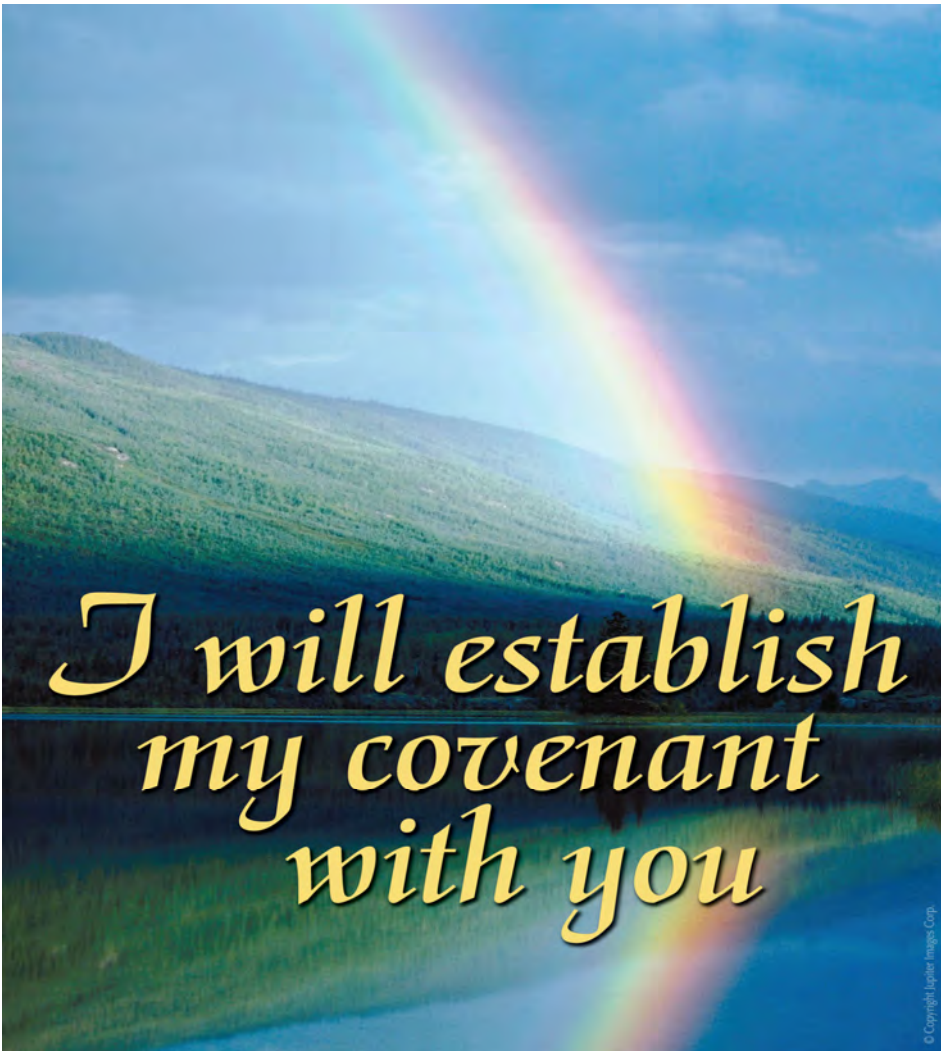
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[stmirvine.org](http://stmirvine.org)





*I will establish  
my covenant  
with you*

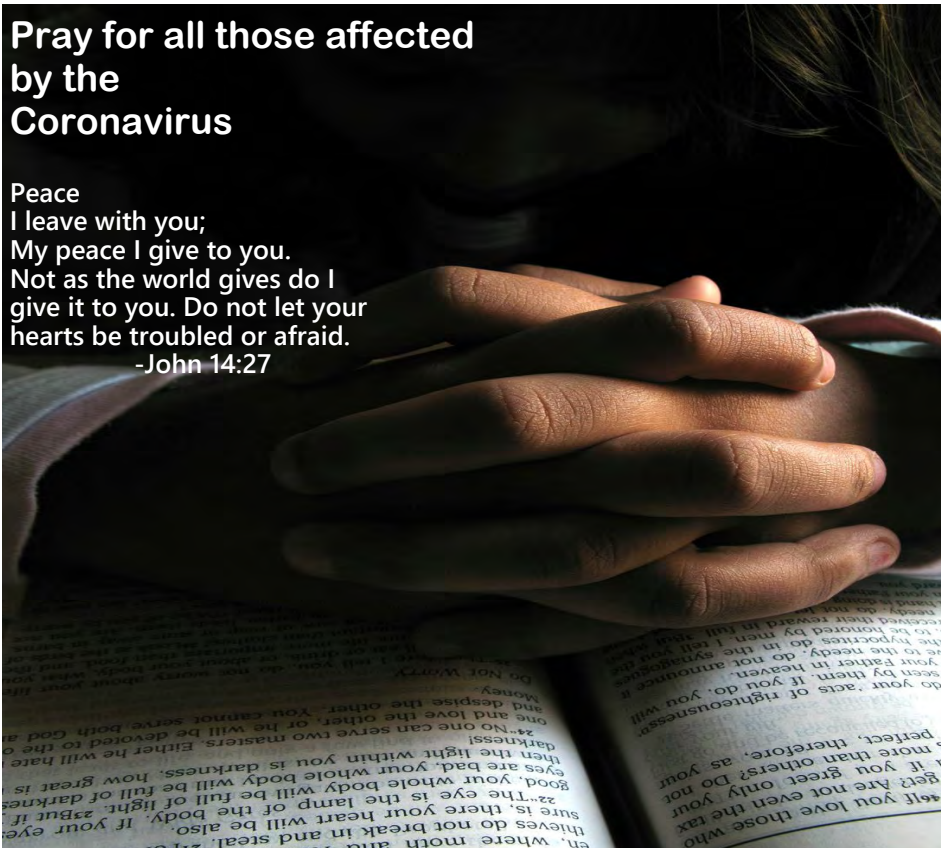


**FEAST OF FAITH**  
**Seasonal Changes for  
the Liturgies of Lent**  
Today is the First  
Sunday of Lent.

During this season of preparation for Easter, our churches look stark and simple—no flowers at the altar, no festive banners or decorations. And our liturgies feel different, too. The organ is quiet except to accompany the singing of the assembly. The Gloria, our Sunday song of rejoicing, is not heard except on solemnities, and we will not sing the Alleluia, our joyful acclamation of praise, until the Easter Vigil. “Alleluia cannot always / Be our song while here below,” says an eleventh-century hymn. “Alleluia our transgressions / Make us for a while forego; / For the solemn time is coming / When our tears for sins must flow” (Alleluia dulce carmen, J. M. Neale, trans.).

These changes in the liturgy will catch our attention, and make us eager for the festive outpouring of joy that will return with Easter. This year, may the stripped-away liturgies of Lent remind us to strip away what is not essential in our lives to make space for the crucified and risen One, and thus to be ready to sing “Alleluia” once again when Easter returns.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



**Pray for all those affected  
by the  
Coronavirus**

Peace  
I leave with you;  
My peace I give to you.  
Not as the world gives do I  
give it to you. Do not let your  
hearts be troubled or afraid.  
-John 14:27

*Old palms can be  
dropped off in the  
box in the parish  
office lobby.*



# CATHOLIC CORNER

## THOSE WHO KEEP YOUR COVENANT

At every Sunday liturgy, throughout the year as well as during Lent, we hear four passages from scripture. We sit and listen to the first reading from the Old Testament and the second reading, usually from one of the Letters. We stand to hear the reading from the Gospel. Between the first and second readings we pray one of the psalms. We usually sing the psalm but sometime we recite it. The beautiful words of the psalms remind us of God's love. This week's psalm response is:

*Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth  
to those who keep your covenant.*  
(Psalm 25:10)

A covenant is an agreement between two parties. Both parties promise to do certain things in order to keep the agreement. The covenant mentioned in this psalm is between God and God's people. You are one of the people of this covenant. The prophet Jeremiah said that God would write the covenant upon our hearts so that we will never forget it (Jeremiah 31:33).

On one side of this heart, think of what God has promised us. On the other side, think of ways that we can keep our part of the covenant. How can we be God's people? These examples will help you get started.



*If you sing the psalm at Mass today, listen carefully to the melody of the response.  
Try to remember it and sing it during the week.*

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## The Little Ones

Jim Burrows

Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel." Mark 1:14-15

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Scripture from the New American Standard Bible © C.A.S.B. © by the Lockman Foundation. Used by permission. www.Lockman.org

God protected Noah and his family during the terrible flood.  
To see where they lived, follow the directions.

1. Color all spaces with numbers 1-10 brown.
2. Color all spaces with numbers 11-20 blue.

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### First Sunday of Lent

God told Noah that the whole earth would never be flooded again.  
God put a rainbow in the sky as a sign of that agreement.  
You can read the story in your Bible at Genesis 9:8-15.  
To find what God called this promise, finish writing the names of the pictures shown.  
Then start at the star and read across to see what the boxes spell.

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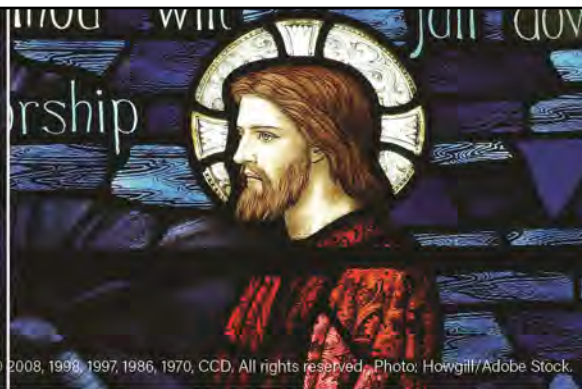
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The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

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## BAPTISM

Today's readings suggest two different meanings and experiences of baptism. The second reading (from 1 Peter) makes an analogy between Noah's ark and Christian baptism: just as Noah and his family were saved from death by going through the waters of the flood in the ark, Christians are saved from sin and death by going through the waters of baptism. The first reading, from Genesis, portrays the world after the flood: washed clean of its prior wickedness, embraced by God's promises that the world will never again be destroyed by water. The psalmist expresses a desire to follow the ways of God, as if re-establishing the harmony between God and humanity destroyed by sin. This peaceful scene is very different from the drama and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus after his baptism. Jesus battles demons, receives sustenance from angels, and begins preaching: "Repent. The kingdom of God is at hand."

### GOOD MORNING! WELCOME TO LENT!

You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn't Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no "Alleluias"? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one's relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church's retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus' urgent preaching in today's passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person's life: they have responded to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God's reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

### A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God's promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God's kingdom.

### TODAY'S READINGS

Genesis 9:8-15  
Psalm 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9  
1 Peter 3:18-22  
Mark 1:12-15

FIRST LENT  
SUNDAY OF  
FEBRUARY 21, 2021