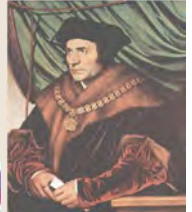




SAINT THOMAS MORE CATHOLIC PARISH

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

MARCH 14, 2021

*Just as Moses lifted up
the serpent in the desert,
so must the Son of Man
be lifted up, so that everyone
who believes in him
may have eternal life.*

John 3:14-15

FOURTH
SUNDAY OF **LENT**



Copyright © J.J. Finkell Co., Inc. - Photos: © iStock / Adobe Stock
Excerpts from the Liturgy for Mass # 2001, 1988, 1987, 1986, 1970, CCD.

**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.



MASS INTENTIONS

Please call the front desk to request a Mass Intention

Monday 3/15	8:00am	†Carlos Jimenez
Tuesday 3/16	8:00am	Anthony Cervantes
Wednesday 3/17	8:00am	Deacon Stan Necikowski
Thursday 3/18	8:00am	†Mary Feagans
Friday 3/19	8:00am	†Herlinda Regalado
Saturday 3/20	8:00am	Baby Johanna Harris
	8:00am	Christopher Hughes
	8:00am	†Malcolm Craycroft
	8:00am	†Phyllis Hammond
	8:00am	Peter Jensen
	8:00am	Mary Claire Jensen
	8:00am	†Angela Andrade
	8:00am	Steve & Teresa Lemire
	8:00am	†Eloina Adame
	8:00am	†Lenida Ventus
	4:00pm	†Trung Quang Nguyen (John the Baptist)
	6:00pm	ProPopulo
Sunday 3/21	8:00am	†Andrea Maciel
	10:00am	†Teri Kreyche
	12:00pm	†Romeo Pimentel
	5:00pm	Natalie Bergler

Welcome! We are glad you are here.

- ◆ Masses have moved indoors with a maximum occupancy of 25% or approx. 200 people. This includes 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.



TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of the chosen people (2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or 1 Samuel 16: 1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — By grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-10) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — The Son was sent by God so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:14-21) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

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

My Dear People,

Today's theme on the Readings GOD'S MERCY

Today's reading from the second book of Chronicles contains a sort of "mini-history" of Israel. It highlights God's mercies in choosing Cyrus the Persian to be an instrument of deliverance when the people were in captivity in Babylon. Despite their sinfulness and the deserved punishment they were undergoing, God's mercy was lavished on the people in the form of a miraculous act of liberation.

The Letter to the Ephesians, in much more theological terms, gives a similar account of a God "who brought us to life with Christ—by grace you have been saved." The author stresses that it was when we were "dead in our transgressions" that God saved us, an act of pure grace. He emphasizes that it is not our own efforts that freed us from sin ("this is not from you"); rather, "it is the gift of God." This, of course, is the heart of the entire Pauline corpus, that salvation comes to us by faith in God's mercy, revealed in the death of Jesus. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

In Christ,
Father John

Collections and Expenses

3-1-2021 to 3-7-21

	Collection	E-Giving	Total
Sunday Collection	\$17,673	\$13,982	\$31,655
Believe & Grow	\$310	\$2,336	\$2,646
BGT- Phase 2	\$1,060	\$2,023	\$3,083
Building Fund	\$460	\$805	\$1,265
Other income	\$1,665	\$1,137	\$2,802

Regular Expenses \$33,013

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: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; 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 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11;
Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]



There will be a second collection this weekend for the Church in Africa, Latin America and Eastern Europe. Funds from this

collection support pastoral care, catechesis, building renovations, and seminary formation. For those who wish to donate electronically, please go to stmirvine.org, click on the e-giving button and click on special collections. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection.

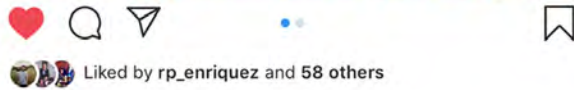


PLEASE PRAY FOR HEALING



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

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

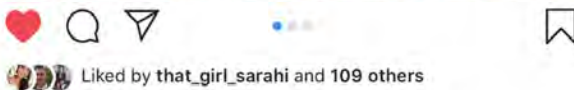


Life Teen Bible Studies meet on Mondays at 7pm. Please go to www.stmirvineym.org/live to join in.

Live Nights are on Sundays at 7 pm. Please go to www.stmirvineym.org/live to join in.

Live Nights dates for the rest of the semester are:

March 14	April 11	May 2
March 21	April 18	May 16
	April 25	May 23



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

Confirmation 1 Classes Dates Are

- Wednesday, March 24 at 7pm
- Wednesday, April 21 at 7pm
- Wednesday, May 5 at 7pm

Confirmation 2 Classes Dates Are

- Wednesday, March 17 at 7pm
- Wednesday, April 14 at 7pm
- Wednesday, April 28 at 7pm

R.E.P. CORNER



First Communion Families:
 First Reconciliations are set for March 30th & 31st at 6:00 PM. Please keep reviewing prayers (especially the Act of Contrition) & steps to Reconciliation with your children. Please check with your student's REP teacher for any further details.



During Lent, we invite our 3rd-8th 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.



Please keep all of our young people and adults receiving sacraments this coming Easter season in prayer as they continue their preparation.

The Library Corner

Fourth Sunday of Lent
 Laetare Sunday

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

The gospel of St John tells us how 'God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, so that whosoever believeth in him may not perish, but have life everlasting.' As Catholics, we have accepted Christ with our whole heart and our whole soul and our whole mind. It is through Jesus that we learn to love God and to understand God's infinite love for us. This Sunday is Laetare Sunday. This day is important because it is one of 'Hope' and 'Rejoicing' that Easter is near.

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Hebrews: The New and Eternal Covenant

an 8-week video study program highlighting the critical distinctions between the Old and New Covenants.

St. Thomas More will begin a brand new Saturday Bible Study on

March 20th at 9 AM

Participants will view a video during the week and meet via Zoom every Saturday for a lively group discussion and fellowship.

To register, contact Deacon Tony at tpat7747@gmail.com

Join us for a communal Penance Service
and individual Confession.

Penance Service

St. Thomas More
Parish Hall

March 23 & 24
7pm to 9pm



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

"Drive-up" Lenten Confessions

Every Saturday
Noon to 2:00 p.m.



*Lenten donations for
St. Vincent de Paul
can be made online at
stmirvine.org*



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

PRAY for the UNBORN

www.40daysforlife.com

Join this worldwide effort to protect babies at risk of being killed! Through prayer, fasting, and peaceful vigils outside of abortion facilities we bring the Light of Christ to those in crisis, praying for ALL of God's Precious Little Ones.

Here's how you can take part:

- **Vigil hours:** 6 am to 6 pm daily from February 17th through March 28th.
- Click or copy/paste the link below to sign up to pray for a one time or a weekly one-hour time slot.

Learn more and get involved by visiting our campaign:
<https://www.40daysforlife.com/orange>

"Any Country that accepts abortion is the poorest of the poor"
— Saint Mother Teresa of Calcutta





Young Ladies Institute SEE'S CANDY SPRING FUNDRAISER



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Otherwise, shipping charges are as follows:
Up To \$34.99: \$6.95 or \$35 - \$64.99: \$4.95

*Please be advised: All funds raised from this campaign will be applied to YLI. However, should this function no longer be viable for any reason—including a force majeure or act of God incident—or should any funds remain after the function has been paid for in full, then the balance of the fundraised money shall be transferred to the Parish's general operating fund to be used at the discretion of the Parish to further its mission.



FEAST OF FAITH Lent, a Season of the Word

Each year on the First Sunday of Lent we hear one of the Gospel accounts of the temptation of Jesus.

In Luke's account, the devil cites the scriptures repeatedly, urging Jesus to interpret them in a false, self-serving way—if God sends angels to protect those whom God loves (as it says in Psalm 91), then prove it! But Jesus resists this insidious temptation by turning to scripture passages that tell of right relationship with God—living by God's word, trusting in God, and worshipping God alone.

Jesus himself listened to the inspired word of God and let it shape and form him. Through the liturgy, we do the same. The readings we hear at Mass can teach us, but that is not their primary function. Rather, the scriptures are meant to reveal the Lord to us, to let us experience his presence, and to form us in our Christian identity. Christ's presence is realized by his spoken word, "since it is he himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church" (Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy, 7). In the readings proclaimed at Mass, we hear the voice of Christ himself.

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




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.



Stations
of the
CROSS

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

*Stations will be held
in the church
and livestreamed*

Holy Week



Holy Thursday, April 1

8:00 am Morning Prayer

7:00 pm Mass

Adoration following Mass until 10:00pm

Good Friday, April 2

8:00 am Morning Prayer

8:10 am Divine Mercy Novena

11:00 am Stations of the Cross

1:00pm Prayer Service & Veneration of the Cross

7:00pm Prayer Service

Holy Saturday, April 3

8:00 am Morning Prayer

8:10 am Divine Mercy Novena

7:45 pm Easter Vigil

Easter Sunday, April 4

6:00 am Outdoor Sunrise Mass

8:00 am English Mass

10:00 am English Mass

12:00 pm Spanish/English Mass

2:00 pm Vietnamese/English Mass



PASTORAL SERVICES APPEAL

Our faith. Our future.

PSA pledges start this weekend.

Where does my PSA money go?

*Provide retirement income for **44 retired diocesan priests.** (New in 2021)

*Provide formation for **24 seminarians** and ongoing education for our priests and deacons.

*Provide support services to more than **342,000 families** through Catholic Charities.

*Provide education and learning support to **over 17,000 families** through our Catholic Schools.

All excess funds are returned to STM!

Saturday night, April 13th



Daylight Saving Time

Set clocks forward one hour



Hey Teens! Join us for "LIVE" night!

This night will be rooted in the theme of prayer. As the pandemic took us all by surprise, it became easy for us to lose that rhythm of prayer. This LIVE night will highlight the importance of involving scripture more in our prayer life. It will allow us to look introspectively as to where we are in our relationship with the Lord, and will hopefully reignite that childlike pursuit of God as our Father.

JOIN US ON OUR LIVESTREAM!

EVERY SUNDAY @ 7:00PM

WE'RE HERE TO HELP YOU FIND COMMUNITY AND CONNECT TO JESUS.

stmirvineym.org/live



LED BY THE SPIRIT

40 DAYS TO GRACE AND GLORY

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

saint snippets

Christ in every eye that sees me,
Christ in every ear that hears me.

St. Patrick
5th-century British missionary known as "The Apostle of Ireland"

March 17

Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny;
Daylight Saving Time begins
Wednesday: St. Patrick
Thursday: St. Cyril of Jerusalem
Friday: St. Joseph; Abstinence
Saturday: Spring begins

GOD UPHOLDS ME

*I take for my sureties:
The power of God to guide me,
the might of God to uphold me,
the wisdom of God to teach me,
the eye of God to watch over me,
the ear of God to hear me,
the word of God to give me speech,
the hand of God to protect me,
the way of God to go before me,
the shield of God to shelter me.*

—St. Patrick

The Blessed Sacrament Chapel

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

PARISH SURVEY

The Disciple Maker Index (DMI) is an anonymous survey of parishioners that provides insights into the level of missionary discipleship in the parish in addition to the effectiveness of the Mass experience, preaching and other aspects of the parish. Bishop Vann has invited all parishes throughout the Diocese of Orange to take part in the Disciple Maker Index survey. The survey will be open for responses through March 22nd. Please visit stmirvine.org and follow the link to the parish survey through the Catholic Leadership Institute. Please call the office if you have any questions.

Ways to Give to STM:

- Secure e-giving on our website: www.stmirvine.org
- In basket after Mass
- Mail your check or drop it off in our parish lobby
- GivePlus app on Smartphone (Vanco)
- Donate stock, life insurance or retirement plans
- Employer Matching Gifts
- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the eligible purchases to STM!
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/33-0711481>

Thank you for your continued support!

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

— John 3:17

We apologize for the recent delay of bulletins. They are currently printed in Chicago and due to weather, they have been delayed.

Get the bulletin emailed to you each week!

Sign up at: ebulletin.jspaluch.com or follow the bulletin link on stmirvine.org

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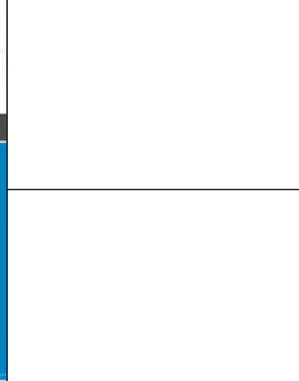
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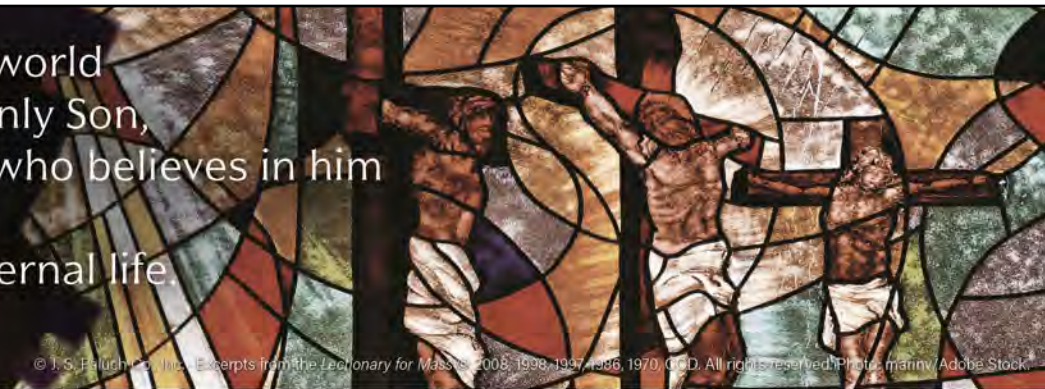
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God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son,
so that everyone who believes in him
might not perish
but might have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

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REDEEMING HUMANITY

The end of Second Chronicles claims that “all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people” were continuously unfaithful to their covenant with God. This infidelity ultimately led to seventy years of exile in Babylon, after which Cyrus, the Persian ruler who conquered Babylon, allows the people of Israel to return home and rebuild their temple; the Psalmist reflects on the bitterness of those seventy years. Paul is lyrical in praising God “who is rich in mercy” and who “brought us to life” with Christ, while the evangelist recounts preaching by Jesus on this same theme. This is the section of John that includes the oft-memorized John 3:16: “For God so loved the world . . .” All three readings emphasize God’s desire to rescue—or redeem—humanity from pain and suffering.

HUMAN HISTORY . . .

Today’s reading from Second Chronicles is the conclusion of these two volumes, a brief summary of Judah’s infidelity under a sequence of kings and the subsequent seventy years of exile in Babylon. This abbreviated sequence recaps the events treated in earlier chapters, concluding with Jerusalem being conquered and its inhabitants deported by to Babylon.

After the Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus and the Persians, Cyrus built the great Persian Empire that covered almost the entire ancient Near East. Unlike the earlier Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus did not rule by deporting and enslaving peoples he defeated. Instead, he organized his empire into regional governments and funded their construction projects, ruling over all with the title King of Kings (among others). In this spirit, Cyrus urged the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and their native culture. In Jewish terms, Cyrus was a “messiah” (Hebrew), or a *christos* (Greek), someone anointed by God to carry out this divine mission.

. . . AND DIVINE RESCUE

The return from exile in Babylon was second only to the Exodus from Egypt as a founding narrative shaping the Jewish identity into which Jesus was born and in which his church took root and began to grow. If we read between the lines of the two New Testament readings from today, we can see the outlines of this same pattern of God bringing humanity from sorrow into joy: The Hebrews’ slavery in Egypt and the Judeans’ exile in Babylonia reveal a universal truth, that we belong to the God who is “rich in mercy,” and we are assured that “when we were dead in our transgressions,” God “so loved the world” that he sent Jesus to be the way of our redemption, our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called “Laetare Sunday,” or “Rejoice! Sunday.” Even if we feel overwhelmed by the darkness of sin (our own and others’), wondering whether God really is working on our behalf, we can put our faith in today’s Word that it is so. For this, we can truly rejoice—we are more than halfway to Easter!

TODAY’S READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23
Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6
Ephesians 2:4–10
John 3:14–21

FOURTH LENT
SUNDAY OF
MARCH 14, 2021