

THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 21, 2021

I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

— Jeremiah 31:33

THE NEW COVENANT

Today's first reading is an enormously important passage, not only in the history of the Jewish people, but also for us as disciples of Jesus, who see in it a foreshadowing of the Christian dispensation. The prophet announces that God has chosen to forgive the people, and that as a sign of divine forgiveness a new covenant will be established. Contrasting the new covenant with the one made with Moses on Mount Sinai, Jeremiah says that the new covenant will be written on the people's hearts rather than on tablets of stone. No longer will the community's tradition be the sole bearer of the covenant; henceforth, God will speak directly and personally to each individual, forgiving sin and calling for a return to God in faithfulness. No longer will mere outward compliance with the dictates of the Law suffice; henceforth, God asks for an obedience that springs from the depths of one's heart.

Precisely that kind of obedience is highlighted in today's second reading, where the author of the Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant whose obedience has made him the source of salvation for all who, in turn, obey him.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34) or *Ezekiel 37:12-14*.

Psalm — Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51) or *Psalm 130*.

Second Reading — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:7-9) or *Romans 8:8-11*.

Gospel — If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33) or *John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]*.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$3,468.00	\$2,422.00
Number of Families contributing	87	67
Total Pledge for 2021	\$161,051.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (10 Weeks)	\$35,257.00	\$35,630.00
Received to Date	\$28,528.00	\$23,175.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$6,729.00	\$12,455.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$172.00	\$2,203.00

Eighteen ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$170.00	\$72,837.00

Three people made a P.L.C. contribution last week.

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$210,300.00
Total Received	\$63,780.00

POOR BOX totaled \$50.00.

9 **CHILDREN** contributed \$65.00.

BAA totaled \$87.00.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES totaled \$69.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

An old man saw a scorpion drowning and decided to pull it out from the water. He calmly extended his hand to reach the creature. When he did, the scorpion stung him. With the effect of the pain, the old man let go of the creature, and it fell back into the water. The man, realizing that the scorpion was drowning again, got back and tried to rescue it, but then still it stung him. He let go of it again.

A young boy standing by, approached the old man and said, "Excuse me, Sir, you are going to hurt yourself trying to save the evil-vicious creature. Don't you realize that each time you try to help the scorpion, it stings you?" The man replied, "The nature of the scorpion is to sting, and mine is to help. My nature will not change in helping the scorpion." So, the old man thought for a while and used a leaf from a nearby tree and pulled the scorpion out from the water and saved its life.

Do not change your nature. If someone hurts you, just take precautions. Some pursue happiness, while others create it. Let your conscience be your guide in whatever you do. Start caring for the less fortunate even in the simplest of ways. When life presents you with hundreds of reasons to cry, show it that you have a thousand reasons or more to smile. More importantly, always try to be the reason for someone's smile!

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Thomas and Cathy Lisa in loving memory of Ned Anthony on his Birthday;
2. the Family of High's Rosie in loving memory of her on the 5th Anniversary of her death;
3. The Rouks in loving memory of Mary Francis on the 2nd Anniversary of her death and Pete Rouk on the 52nd Anniversary of his death;
4. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE will be held this Wednesday, March 24th at 6:00 P.M. Five priests will be available to hear confessions. Please be in the Church 5 minutes early.

FRUITS & ROOTS

POWER and MONEY are FRUITS OF LIFE.

FAMILY and FRIENDS are ROOTS OF LIFE.

We can manage without FRUITS,

But can never stand without ROOTS.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE

MORNING PRAYER	Monday thru Friday	9:30 a.m.
EVENING PRAYER	Monday thru Thursday	3:30 p.m.
	Friday	6:30 p.m.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent, will be held every Friday after 7:00 p.m. Mass. The Stations of the Cross will be led on Friday:

Mar. 26: Society of Mary Immaculate

Apr. 2: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

DIVINE MERCY NOVENA will be held daily at 3:00 P.M. in the Church during Lent.

EASTER LILIES It is asked that each family donate \$10 for the Easter lilies. Please give your donation to Mary Rita O'Hara, Bridget Rita, or the Church Office.

SOME FUNNY ACTIONS

- **Height of Laziness:**
Asking lift for morning walk.
- **Height of Craziess:**
Get blank paper xeroxed.
- **Height of Honesty:**
Pregnant woman taking 2 tickets.
- **Height of Stupidity:**
Looking through key hole of glass door.

THANK YOU to a member for a donation in honor of the Infant of Prague for a special intention; a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite and St. Joseph; and to a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite.

ACT OF KINDNESS

A boy in a wheelchair saw me desperately struggling on crutches with my broken leg and offered to carry my backpack and books for me. He helped me all the way across campus to my class and as he was leaving he said, "I hope you feel better."

JOKE OF THE WEEK "Hello? Is this the State Mental Hospital?"

"Yes, it is."

"Can I speak to Mr. Russell in room twenty-seven?"

"One moment and I'll connect you...(pause) I'm sorry, Mr. Russell is not answering."

"Good. That means I must have really escaped."

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Third Scrutiny
Tuesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo
Thursday: The Annunciation of the Lord
Friday: Abstinence

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: For Tommy McGuire on his 18th Birthday.
Tuesday: For Pete Suedle and Mary Louise.
Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of Ned Anthony Carroll on his Birthday.
Thursday: In honor of the Infant Jesus for the sick and the Holy Souls and for the repose of the soul of Pat Major Sherlock on the 1st Anniversary of his death.
Friday: For the repose of the soul of Eric Riley on the 9th Anniversary of his death.

THE BEST THING YOU CAN DO

***When someone has a problem,
The best thing you can do,
Is to be right there beside him;
They need someone like you.***

***You don't have to say a word,
Or state your point of view.
You'll help more if you listen;
The best thing you can do.***

READERS

Sat. Mar. 20th, 4:00 P.M. Ritz & Savannah
Sat. Mar. 20th, 7:00 P.M. Bridgette Anna & Carolyn

Sun. Mar. 21st, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Jersey

Sat. Mar. 27th, 4:00 P.M. Julie Ann & Mary Martha
Sat. Mar. 27th, 7:00 P.M. Leah & Dayna

Sun. Mar. 28th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Jersey

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday	-	Reed
Tuesday	-	Christina Apple
Wednesday	-	Bryce
Thursday	-	Allison
Friday	-	Mary Cabrina

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday	-	Cathy Pole
Tuesday	-	Kim Gallon
Wednesday	-	Rosie Cat
Thursday	-	Mary Cat
Friday	-	Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M.	March 20th
Front	Mary Margaret
Right	Cathy Pole
Left	Kim Gallon

Saturday 7:00 P.M.

March 20th	March 27th
Melissa Penn	Kim Gallon

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

March 21st	March 28th
Rose Marie	Rose Marie
Mary Cat	Mary Cat

LOOK AHEAD

Why is a **CAR'S WINDSHIELD** so **LARGE** and the **REARVIEW MIRROR** so **SMALL**? Because our **PAST** is **Not** as **IMPORTANT** as **OUR FUTURE**.
So, **LOOK AHEAD** and **MOVE ON**.

FRIENDS ARE LIKE PERFUMES

Company of good people is like walking into a shop of perfume. Whether you buy the perfume or not, you are bound to receive the fragrance.

~~~~~PRAYER CORNER~~~~~

A PRAYER FOR PROTECTION

Dear God, I pray for Your protection as I venture forth into this day. I know that in Your light, I can always find refuge.

When darkness and evil are near, help me remember that You are my protector and that when You are with me, no one can be against me.

Your goodness and mercy surround me, so I will not fear whatever might come against me. My faith is in You, and I give thanks to You for Your love and protection.

In Jesus' name, Amen.