

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 24, 2019

The LORD secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed.

— Psalm 103:6

MID-LENT CHECK-IN

God says to Moses, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you . . . The LORD, the God of your [ancestors], the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob" (Exodus 3:14, 15). As Jesus would later say, God is not a God of the dead, but of the living, and so we believe that the dead will one day rise. At this midpoint of Lent, we pause to consider how our repentance is leading us to the Resurrection, to our reunion with the great "I AM." Part of our repentance involves working to secure justice for all and helping our neighbor to live in God's ways. We encourage each other and nurture each other, like the compassionate gardener of today's Gospel, who tells the owner of the orchard that he will nurture the tree, fertilize it, and perhaps it will bear fruit.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have come to rescue them"

(Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15) or *Exodus 17:3-7*.

Psalm — The Lord is kind and merciful (Psalm 103) or *Psalm 95*.

Second Reading — Those who think they are standing secure should take care not to fall

(1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) or *Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*.

Gospel — I shall cultivate the ground around the fig tree and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future

(Luke 13: 1-9) or *John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]*.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$3,114.00	\$2,453.00
Number of Families contributing	109	91
Total Pledge for 2019	\$167,031.00	\$163,188.00
Pledged to Date (11 Weeks)	\$36,199.00	\$35,308.00
Received to Date	\$29,258.00	\$24,407.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$6,941.00	\$10,901.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2019
\$268.00	\$3,172.00

Twenty-seven ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2019
\$190.00	\$7,147.00

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

BICENTENNIAL CAMPAIGN

GOAL	\$165,000.00
Total Pledged	\$106,280.00
Total Received	\$3,821.00

19 **CHILDREN** contributed \$72.00.

POOR BOX totaled \$30.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 p.m. Mass was 85, 7:00 p.m. Mass was 120 and Sunday 10:00 a.m. Mass was 110.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

A young man was getting ready to graduate college. He had always admired a beautiful sports car in a dealer's showroom. Once he told his father that he liked to get this car as his graduation gift. On the morning of his graduation his father told him how proud he was to have such a fine son, and he handed his son a beautiful wrapped gift box. Curious, but somewhat disappointed he opened the box and found a Bible. Angrily, he raised his voice at his father and said, "With all your money you give me a Holy Bible?" and stormed out of the house, leaving the holy book. He never contacted his father again for a long time.

Many years passed and the young man was very successful in business. He had not seen his father since that graduation day. One day he received a telegram telling him his father passed away, and he needed to come home immediately and take care of things. When he arrived at his father's house, sudden sadness and regret filled his heart. He began to search his father's important papers and saw the old Bible, just as he had left it years ago. With tears, he opened the Bible and began to turn the pages, and suddenly a car key dropped from an envelope taped behind the Bible. It had a tag with a dealer's name, the same dealer who had the sports car he had desired. On the tag was the date of his graduation, and the words PAID IN FULL.

How many times do we miss GOD'S blessings because they are not packaged as we expected? God is our loving and caring father. Let us be ready to receive any gift God gives to us.

GOD'S GIFT IS PRECIOUS AND GREAT!!!

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Pat Riley and Teri in thanks for Savvy Riley on her 2nd Birthday;
2. Carrera, Amanda, Sissy and Claire in loving memory of Ned Anthony Carroll on his 42nd Birthday;
3. the Family of Faro in loving memory of him on the 1st Anniversary of his death;
4. the Family of Eric Riley in loving memory of him on the 7th Anniversary of his death;
5. the Family of High's Rosie in loving memory of her on the 3rd Anniversary of her death;
6. Eddie Joe and Family in loving memory of Bubby Ed on the 9th Anniversary of his death;
7. The Family of Blockey's Shirley in loving memory of her on her 80th Birthday;
8. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE

MORNING PRAYER Mon. thru Friday 9:30 a.m.

EVENING PRAYER Monday & Friday 6:30 p.m.
Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 4:15 p.m.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection next weekend will be for catholic Relief Services. Please be generous.

MASTER'S TABLE Ann T.'s Legion Group, Our Lady of Presentation, is scheduled to prepare and serve a hot meal to the clients of the Master's Table in Augusta on Thursday, April 4th. If you would like to participate in this very rewarding opportunity, please contact Ann. T.

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. 29: Lectors
Apr. 5: Youth Group & Young Girls Org.
Apr. 12: Society of Mary Immaculate
Apr. 19: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

THANK YOU to a three members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite and a member for a donation in thanks to St. Expedite and St. Joseph for the needy.

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.

JOKE OF THE WEEK During one "generation gap" quarrel with his parents, a young man cried,
"I want excitement, adventure, money, romance. I'll never find it here at home, so I'm leaving. Don't try to stop me!"
With that he headed toward the door, his parents close behind.
"Didn't you hear what I said? I don't want you to stop me!"
"Who's stopping you?" replied his parents. "We're going with you!"

IS IT TRUE?

The older you get, the tougher it is to lose weight, because by then your body and your fat have become good friends.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent; First Scrutiny
Monday: Annunciation of the Lord
Friday: Abstinence

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: Funeral.
Tuesday: For the repose of the soul of Eric Riley on the 7th Anniversary of his death.
Wednesday: For the repose of the soul of Kaiser's Lily on the 3rd Anniversary of her death.
Thursday: For the repose of the soul of P.A. Sherlock on the 25th Anniversary of his death.
Friday: For the repose of the soul of Kaiser's Lily on her Birthday.

I OWE IT ALL TO YOU

There are dark days ahead, bright and joyful ones, too.
No matter what the day may bring, You always see me through.

You guide me on my merry way: You lighten my heavy load.
No matter which way I go You're on that very road.

God, I lift my hands to You in eternal praise.
I'll sing You forever as my grateful voice I raise.

Dona M. Maroney

READERS

Sat. Mar. 23rd, 4:00 P.M. Karen & Cathy Lisa
Sat. March 23rd, 7:00 P.M. Jay & Mary Melissa
Sun. Mar. 24th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Theresa Maria
Sat. Mar. 30th, 4:00 P.M. Ritz & Ivana
Sat. Mar. 30th, 7:00 P.M. Christina & Natalie
Sun. Mar. 31st, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Theresa Maria

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday - Reed
Tuesday - Karen
Wednesday - Natalie
Thursday - Celia
Friday - Christina

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. Front Left Cup
March 23rd Bridget Ann Winnie Ann

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

March 24th Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie
March 31st Pete Man's Nora Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday Bridget Rita
Tuesday Pete Man's Nora
Wednesday Rosie Cat
Thursday Betty Jo
Friday P.A.'s Ann Marie

GETTING OLD

- You can't finish a conversation because you don't remember what you were talking about. People get out of my way much faster now.
- A passing funeral procession pauses to see if you need a lift.
- You wonder why everyone is starting to mumble.
- Everyone is happy to give you a ride because they don't want you behind the wheel.

UPLIFTING QUOTES

"God has *PERFECT TIMING*: never early, never late. It takes a little patience and a lot of *FAITH*, but it's worth the wait."

"God only puts us through as much as we can handle so the people who struggle the most have been *CHOSEN* by God to be the strongest ones."

PRAYER CORNER

LENTEN PRAYER

"O Lord, be not mindful of my many sins, but forgive me all my misdeeds, for Your mercy to me is without limit. You have been my help and my protection."

St. Ephrem of Syria