

THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 7, 2021

*I, the LORD, am your God . . . You shall not have other gods besides me.
— Exodus 20:2a, 3*

TOTAL ALLEGIANCE

In previous weeks we have seen how the theme of covenant—as a preparation for the baptismal covenant celebrated at Easter—occupies an important place in our cycle of Lenten readings. The notion of covenant as a relationship between two parties carries with it an expectation of mutual accountability and fidelity to the terms of the covenant. When God forged the covenant with the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, it was a pledge of God’s protection, and it would forever permit them familiar access as the Chosen People. For their part, the Jewish people were to observe the dictates of the law, summarized most succinctly here in the form of the Ten Commandments. To be in a covenantal relationship with the Lord God requires an exclusive relationship, just as discipleship with Jesus—ritualized in baptism—demands a total allegiance to him and none other.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) or *Exodus 17:3-7*.

Psalm — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19) or *Psalm 95*.

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) or *Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*.

Gospel — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25) or *John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]*.

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week’s Collection	\$2,296.00	\$1,765.00
Number of Families contributing	83	98
Total Pledge for 2021	\$161,051.00	\$162,928.00
Pledged to Date (8 Weeks)	\$29,083.00	\$29,370.00
Received to Date	\$23,269.00	\$17,256.00
Envelopes Outstanding	\$5,814.00	\$10,114.00

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$290.00	\$1,910.00

Twenty-six ladies made a contribution last week.

PARISH LIFE CENTER HALL FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2021
\$6,910.00	\$63,482.00

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 \$86.00.

31 **CHILDREN** contributed \$143.00.

BAA totaled \$116.00.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus said in his Sermon on the Mount, “Do not think I have come to abolish the law or the prophets. I have come not to abolish but to fulfill.”

—Matthew 5:17

Ancient synagogue services began with a procession of the Scroll of the Law around the congregation.

This is a small example of the reverence Jews had for the Law of Moses. Yet Jesus says he came to fulfill the Law. The New Testament Greek word *exousia*, which we translate “authority,” means “power to add or subtract from a thing.”

It’s this kind of power Jesus claimed and exhibited in his Sermon on the Mount. Jesus had to be either a madman or the Son of God to do what he did.

Small wonder he was always in hot water with religious leaders. It took Herculean courage for him to carry out his Father’s mission.

What in my Christian commitment takes the most courage to carry out? Why?

God’s grace within me and God’s strength behind me can overcome any hurdle ahead of me.

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. Michael Jude and Alaina in thanks for Mike Thomas on his 11th Birthday;
2. Johnny Gallon and Mary Jude in thanks for Ocean on her 1st Birthday;
3. Catherine Jabber and Family in loving memory of Tommy Jabber Riley on the 28th Anniversary of his death and his Birthday; Joseph Pio Riley on the 44th Anniversary of his death and his 52nd Birthday; and Jack Speedball Carroll on the 14th Anniversary of his death;
4. Mary Jean and Family in loving memory of Ned Sherlock on his 72nd Birthday;
5. Sutton, Chi and Tess in loving memory of Tommy Gerard Sherlock on his 48th Birthday;
6. The Family of Bryan L. Gorman in loving memory of him on the 2nd Anniversary of his death;
7. and a Parish Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

FEAST OF ST. PATRICK will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 17th at 10:00 A.M. Mass. To prepare ourselves spiritually for the feast we will begin a Triduum Prayer on Sunday, March 14th. The Society of Mary Immaculate will take care of the Feast.

FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH will be celebrated on Friday, March 19th at 7:00 P.M. Mass. As a spiritual preparation for the Feast of St. Joseph, a Novena will begin on Tuesday, March 9th. The Young Girls Organization will take care of the Feast.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection next weekend will be for *Catholic Relief Services*. Please be generous in this collection.

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.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER SCHEDULE

<u>MORNING PRAYER</u>	Monday thru Friday	9:30 a.m.
<u>EVENING PRAYER</u>	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. 12: Lectors**
- Mar. 19: Youth Group & Young Girls Org.**
- 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.

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

JOKE OF THE WEEK A man bought a new refrigerator and put the old one outside on the curb with a sign that read. "Free to a good home. You want it, you take it." For three days the refrigerator sat there, and no one picked it up. He decided that people were too untrusting of a deal too good to be true. So, he changed the sign. "Fridge for sale: \$50," it said.

The next night, someone stole it.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

- Monday:** St. John of God
- Tuesday:** St. Frances of Rome
- Friday:** Abstinence

MASS INTENTIONS

- Monday:** For the repose of soul Mary Lisa McNally on her Birthday.
- Tuesday:** In thanks to the Blessed Mother.
- Wednesday:** In honor of the Infant Jesus for the sick and the Holy Souls.
- Thursday:** For the repose of the soul of Ann Shirley Carroll on her Birthday.
- Friday:** For the repose of the soul of Brian Benedict Carroll on his 32nd Birthday and for Bryan Jude Carroll.

OFFER UP A PRAYER

*Did you wake today feeling well?
Did you seem to be free of care?
That was our Father lifting you –
Offer up a prayer.*

*Did all your burdens seem light?
Was each one easy to bear?
That was our Father carrying you –
Offer up a prayer.*

*Were you surrounded by loved ones?
Was there happiness to share?
That was our Father touching you –
Offer up a prayer.*

*As you lay your head on your pillow
Could you feel God's presence there?
He never left you once today –
Offer up a prayer.*

READERS

- Sat. Mar. 7th, 4:00 P.M.** Cathy Lisa & Reed
- Sat. Mar. 7, 7:00 P.M.** Dayna & Leah
- Sun. Mar. 8th, 10:00 A.M.** Jimmy Joseph & Jersey
- Sat. Mar. 13th, 4:00 P.M.** Julie & Natalie
- Sat. Mar. 13th, 7:00 P.M.**
- Sun. Mar. 14th, 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 6th
Front	Mary Margaret
Right	Cathy Pole
Left	Kim Gallon
Saturday 7:00 P.M.	
March 6th	March 13th
Mary Cat	Rosie Cat
Sunday 10:00 A.M.	
March 7th	March 14th
Rose Marie	Rose Marie
Mary Cat	Mary Cat

MEANING OF LENT

- PRAY:** *Is love for God.*
- FAST:** *Is love for yourself.*
- GIVE:** *Is love for others.*

GOD'S PROMISES TO PETER

- ❖ *I will never leave you nor forsake you. —Joshua 1:5*
- ❖ *I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go; I will counsel you and watch over you. —Psalm 32:8*
- ❖ *I will sustain you and I will rescue you. —Isaiah 46:4*
- ❖ *I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous hand. —Isaiah 41:10*
- ❖ *I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go. —Genesis 28:15*
- ❖ *I have engraved you on the palms of my hands. —Isaiah 49:16*
- ❖ *I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people. —Leviticus 26:12*

~~~~~**PRAYER CORNER**~~~~~

**A LENTEN PRAYER**

*Lord Jesus Christ, you have all power to heal and deliver from harm. There is no trouble, nor bondage you cannot overcome. Set me free to serve you joyfully and to love and serve others generously. May nothing hinder me from giving myself wholly to you and to your service. Amen.*