

# THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



MARCH 7, 2021

*Jesus found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip of cords and drove them all out.*

*John 2:14-15*

For pious Jews in first-century Palestine, the Mosaic Law prescribed the way every action in life is dedicated to God. Today's reading from Exodus tells how the Ten Commandments, the introduction to this larger legal code, is given to Israel as a gift from God.

In the Gospels Jesus is portrayed as a rabbi, or someone learned in the Law. A rabbi's learning ideally included both the precepts of the Law and its reverent contemplation as a divine gift, within which one could hear God's own voice. This was the way rabbis through the centuries used the Law to adapt to changing circumstances. This seems to be what Jesus was doing with the moneychangers in the temple.

## JESUS, THE LAW, THE JEWS—AND US

When Jesus accused the moneychangers of sacrilege and cleared them out of the temple, the onlookers asked for a sign of his authority to do such a thing. After all, wasn't it a sacrilege to purchase animals for sacrifice with pagan coins? Wasn't this how the Jews adapted to Roman rule? Jesus says nothing about that; he only knows that this commercial activ-

ity inside the temple was a sacrilege. Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus is criticized for not being strict enough with the Law, as when he ate with prostitutes and tax collectors, but here he is prescribing something stricter, something "more."

Jesus is doing something extraordinary, contrary to ordinary practice, prompting the onlookers to request a sign, evidence that God is acting here through Jesus. His insistence that the moneychangers depart, his clear vision regarding "my Father's house," and his cryptic reference to himself as a temple, are signs of his contemplative intimacy with his Father that is the source of his authority about the Law.

Catholics, like first-century Jews, have our regular means for living in God's presence. We have the liturgy, sacraments, devotions, and personal prayer. During Lent, we are asked to be a little stricter with ourselves, listening for God's own voice. If we do, we might discover that we, too, are being called to something "more."

Today's Readings: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

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**PASTOR:** Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

### MASS TIMES:

Sat., 5:00PM & Sun., 9:00AM

Tues. - Fri. 9:00AM

### CONFESSIONS:

Tues. & Wed., 9:00 - 10:00AM

Wednesday: 5:00 PM

### Reconciliation:

Saturday & Sunday: 45 minutes before Mass

### Marriage or Baptism:

Contact the parish office six (6) months prior to the anticipated date 903-769-3235

## Holy Spirit

## Catholic Church

1612 S. FM 2869

Holly Lake Ranch, TX 75765

**Church Phone:** 903-769-3235

**Fr. Mike Snider**

**Cell Phone:** 903-490-3883

[www.holyspirthollylake.com](http://www.holyspirthollylake.com)

[holy.spirit2@yahoo.com](mailto:holy.spirit2@yahoo.com)

**Welcome Visitors!**

*We hope that you have enjoyed celebrating Mass with us and felt welcomed in our church as your "home away from home." Whether you are new to the area or have lived here for years, you are invited to join our parish family. Please come again!*

## Third Sunday of Lent

### We remember in our prayers all the sick, especially the following:

Karee Haney. Yvonne Scott. Ulysses Cormier. Szczepanski Family. Bollinger Family. Kate Guthrie. Charlie Parker. Molly Dunn. Richard Schuetz. Regina Davies. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Gayle McCloskey. Shay Mikalonis. Wanda & George Duke. Fleming Family. Doris & Jo Hoffman. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Frankie Durst. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Ester Coronel. Ed & Diane Stanley. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Judy Fazio. Marsha & Marty Blahitka. Joshua & Chase Larsson. Avery Boultinghouse. Wanda & Mike Stephens. Jim & Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month. **We remember in our prayers all those who have recently died, especially: Caroline Edwards, Parishioner. Louise Laskoskie, sister of Charlie Clymer.**

### Please pray for the men and women active military service from our parish community:

New active recruit, Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 2LT Joseph Chandler, U.S. Army (Nephew of Mike & Margaret Jernigan) Seaman Logan Adkinson (great grandson of Fr. Mike). Jay Guajardo, Navy Rescue School (Great Nephew of Lex & Liza Forster). Senior Airman, Natalie York (Daughter of Steve & Julie York). Pvt First Class Randall Scheaffer US Army (Grandson of Carlos & Pat Gallardo). Lt. Col. William P. Shea. (Nephew of Deacon Sam and Nancy Mullen). Colonel John Anthony Fontana. U.S. Army (Son of John & Mary Fontana). Ensign Gary Buchanan; 2ndLt. Blake Gaughan (Nephews of Jess & Eva Corrigan). Paul Moreno E4 AMT 3rd Class (Grandson of Kathy & Dale Boman). Staff Sergeant Daniel Hodan. U.S. Army (Grandson of Ron & Barbara Emma). Warrant Officer Michael Hauck (Son of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & brother of Cathy Ellis) & Seaman Rainer Hauck (Grandson of Jerry & Vicki Hauck & nephew of Jeff & Cathy Ellis).

### 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.

**Psalms:** 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].

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

**Tuesday:** Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9; Mt. 18:21-35

**Wednesday:** Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday:** Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

**Friday:** Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday:** Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

**Sunday:** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

### Mass—Intentions

**Sat. 3/06** Ron Szczepanski+ (K of C)

**Sun 3/07** Laura & Jimmy Garrett (Ellis Family)

**Tue 3/09** Ron Szczepanski+ (K of C)

**Wed 3/10** Carlos Gallardo+ (Ellis Family)

**Thurs 3/11** Delbert & Louise Laskoskie+ (Bridget Rich)

**Fri. 3/12** Brandon Moore (M/M Bonicard)

**Sat. 3/13** Ron Szczepanski+ (K of C)

### PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through January 31, 2021

Expenditures \$ 2,719

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 2,164

**Attendance 2/27 Sat 36 2/28 Sun 40**

One can Give without Loving...But one cannot Love without Giving.

### March Pope's Intention:

Sacrament of reconciliation. Let us pray that we may experience the sacrament of reconciliation with renewed depth, to taste the infinite mercy of God.

### HEAVEN

Heaven is at present out of sight, but in due time, as snow melts and discovers what it lay upon, so will this visible creation fade away before those greater splendors which are behind it. —John Henry Newman

### REMINDERS

People more frequently require to be reminded than informed. —Samuel Johnson

### 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. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



**Dispensation:** The entire diocese of Tyler remains dispensed from the Sunday and holy day Mass obligation until further notice.

**An Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love You above all things, and I desire to receive You into my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace You as if You were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from You. Amen.

**Holy Spirit Garage Sale**  
**Rescheduled: June 4th & 5th**

We started pricing and you can **drop off items every Wednesday between the hours of 9:30—11:30am. NO CLOTHING or ELECTRONICS.** Call Jean Kelly 903-857-9868 if you have questions or unable to drop off items on Wednesday mornings.

**Cenacle of Life:** Cenacle of Life devotion each **Wed. from 3:30—4:30pm.** Please join us in church as we pray two rosaries for an end to abortion, euthanasia and all sins against the sanctity of human life. **Questions call Vicki 817-637-9382**

**Remember to spring forward one hour the evening of SAT., MAR. 14th**



**Vespers (evening prayers) every Friday during Lent at 4:00pm, followed by the Stations of the Cross**

**2021 Bishop's Annual Appeal**

Did you receive your letter and pledge envelope from the Diocese of Tyler? Have you mailed it in? If not we have pledge envelopes available in the Narthex by the parish hall. Fr. Mike will be glad to deliver yours to the Diocese. Or you can go online to [www.dioceseoftyler.org](http://www.dioceseoftyler.org), click on "Giving", then click "Bishops Annual Appeal" and fill in your information. Please make sure you do put down church "Holy Spirit-Holly Lake."

*Rev. Mike Snider*

While the hospitals have enough capacity at this moment, they do not have enough critical care staff to manage the overwhelming number of COVID-19 cases that are coming in.

Bishop Strickland is requesting that you offer your prayers for physicians, nurses, and health care workers during this time—for their protection and for the needs of our hospitals.

**Reminder: Bishop Strickland has instructed everyone to wear facial masks during liturgies in the Diocese of Tyler.**

**Temporary Weekend Mass held in parish hall: Sat., Mar. 6th at 5:00pm and Sun., Mar. 7th at 9:00am.**

**Protocols for weekend Masses:**

1. **Limitations on Attendance:** Limited seating maximum 81 seats are available. In order for the households to maintain at least 6-foot separation.
2. **Wear a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
3. **No socializing** in the parish hall. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed. **Enter & exist** double glass doors into the parish hall to the left of the overhang.
4. **Chairs** set-up 6-foot separation. Please **DO NOT MOVE CHAIRS.**

**March Second Collections: 6th & 7th: "Building & Maintenance Fund". 13th & 14th: "Hunger Relief in the Diocese". 20th & 21st: "Easter Flowers".**



Please join us as we pray the **patriotic rosary for peace in America**



**First Saturday of each month after the 9:00am Mass**  
**Saturday March 6th**

"Abortion is the ultimate exploitation of women." *Alice Paul*

"I believe every abortion is a tragedy." *Diane Abbott*

**Have you moved, changed a home/cell number or email address?** If you have please notify the church office, by emailing [holy.spirit2@yahoo.com](mailto:holy.spirit2@yahoo.com) or leave a message 903-769-3235. Thank You. *Fr. Mike*

Due to Covid restrictions, The **Legion of Mary** cannot do their routine weekly work. To fulfill their work obligation they are making information posters for our parishioners & visitors. The information will not be new to most of you, though some of it may be. It is their hope that each of you will find something in the information that encourages your spiritual growth. Look for these posters in the entrance to the parish hall. They may also be placed outside also be placed outside, weather permitting.

**Food Donations: Blessings to all our givers!** Urgent need: **canned vegetables, Ramen Noodle S Peanut butter, and 1lb spaghetti pasta.** Plastic container is located in the **parish hall** for now. Please call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or [theduckdude@att.net](mailto:theduckdude@att.net) if you know someone that needs help or if you have questions for Bob.

**CONFESSION ON TUES. MAR. 9th & WED. MAR 10th.**

**9:30—10:30AM. DUE TO THE COLD WEATHER FR. MIKE WILL HOLD CONFESSIONS IN HIS OFFICE BY THE WATER FOUNTAINS. PLEASE CALL HIM 903-490-3883 TO SET UP AN APPOINTMENT. WHEN YOU ARRIVE AND HIS OFFICE DOOR IS CLOSED PLEASE HAVE A SEAT IN CHURCH UNTIL HE IS READY FOR YOU.**

**If you have an emergency and need Fr. Mike call his cell # 903-490-3883.**

**Weekday Mass Tues. — Fri. of this week.**

**Protocols for weekday Masses:**

1. **Wearing a mask that covers mouth & nose.**
2. **No socializing** in the Narthex. Avoid touching door handles, restrooms closed Enter & exit same set of double glass doors into the church through the overhang.
3. **In church alternating every other pew.** Households must maintain at least 6-foot separation.
4. **Limited seating maximum 31.** In order for the households to maintain at least 6 feet separation.



Because of the progress being made against the COVID-19 pandemic in Texas, Governor Greg Abbott has announced that he is increasing the capacity of all businesses and facilities in the state to 100 percent and lifting his mask requirement for the state.

Governor Abbott said that COVID-19 has not disappeared and that “removing state mandates does not end personal responsibility.” The governor stressed that removing these mandates doesn’t abandon safe practices. The same applies to our churches. We are still in a pandemic that has tragically caused over 500,000 deaths in the United States and there is still a virus that can easily spread if we are not careful.

**I ask and expect all clergy and faithful to continue to take measures to keep everyone safe.** This is essential in order to protect the health of our communities and so that we do not lose the progress that, by God’s grace, has been made against COVID-19.

In light of the actions taken by the governor, I issue the following updates and instructions:

**Dispensation.** The general dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sundays and Holy Day of Obligation that I issued in March of 2020 is withdrawn as of **March 10, 2021**. Many have already returned to Mass, and I encourage everyone to do so now, aware of the centrality of the Mass to our lives as Catholics and the obligation attached to it.

One does not have an obligation to attend Mass if you are sick or in a high-risk category for COVID-19; if you were recently in contact with a sick person; if you care for the sick or homebound; if you are pregnant; or if you have a *significant* fear or anxiety of becoming ill by being at Mass.

**Seating at Mass.** Pastors may open additional pews in churches, but all must be responsible for observing social distancing (6-foot between households) according to CDC guidelines. Depending on the church, seating every other pew may still be the best way to maintain social distancing, per the Texas Minimum Standard Health Protocols for churches. Pastors should consider making special areas available for vulnerable persons.

**Masks.** While there is no requirement to wear masks, and it is an individual choice, I encourage all to continue to follow the recommendations of the CDC.

**Holy Communion.** Churches in the diocese will continue to distribute Holy Communion only under the form of bread. Ministers of Communion must continue to observe the practices that are currently in place.

**Holy Water and Hymnals.** Parishes may make holy water, hymnals, and missalettes available. Holy water should be changed, and fonts/stoups cleaned frequently.

**Events.** Parish social events, classes, and other activities are permitted if CDC guidelines can be followed.

**Other.** Parishes should continue to observe heightened sanitization and hygiene standards for common surfaces. Hand sanitizer should continue to be made available.

Let us continue to be mindful of the sanctity of the life of each person we encounter and, in love, do our part to keep our families, friends, and communities safe and healthy.



+ Joseph E. Strickland  
Bishop of Tyler



**40 Days for Life—Tyler** *Will you take up your cross and pray with us?*

40 Days for Life is a prayerful, peaceful, community-based campaign that draws attention to the injustice of abortion through prayer, fasting, and community outreach. Began February 17th through March 28th, you're invited to join other Christians in prayer and fasting to end abortion. The prayer vigil is held across the street from Planned Parenthood, located at 601 Turtle Creek Dr., Tyler. To sign up for vigil hours and for more information, please visit [40daysforlive.com/tyler](http://40daysforlive.com/tyler) or call Fr. Mike at 903-490-3883. Sponsored by the Sanctity of Life Office for the Diocese of Tyler.

**CET**

The Catholic East Texas will begin publishing weekly articles online.

Those with social media <http://www.catholiceasttexas.online/>

**2021 is the Year of St. Joseph**

**March is the month of St. Joseph**

Offer reflection on Joseph as a model of faith, hope and charity practiced under trying circumstances and a model of the heroic practice of virtue.

You can also find this information at <https://www.dioceseoftyler.org/yearofstjoseph>





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