

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



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*

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.

## 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 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

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

**MASS TIMES**  
**TUES. - FRI. 9:00AM**  
**SAT. 5:00PM**  
**SUN. 9:00AM**

**CONFESSIONS**  
**TUES. & WED. 9:30—10:30AM**  
**SAT. 4:15—4:45PM**  
**SUN. 8:15—8:45AM**

Wednesday: 5:00 PM

**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!*

**Holy Spirit  
Catholic Church**

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**Fr. Mike Snider**  
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## Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Garry Fetsch. 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 Fazzio. 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: Jeff Quinn, son of Bob & Jean Quinn. Caroline Edwards, Parishioner.**

### 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 Eamma). 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 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].

### 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

### Mass—intentions

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

**Sun 3/14** Harrington Family (Ellis Family)

**Tue 3/16** Ron Szczepanski+ (M/M Janick)

**Wed 3/17** Ron Szczepanski+ (Ellis Family)

**Thurs 3/18** Mike Boyd+ (M/M Laudt)

**Fri. 3/19** Beulah Tischler+ (M/M Laudt)

**Sat. 3/13** Ron Szczepanski+ (M/M Janick)

### PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through February 28, 2021

Expenditures \$ 4,051

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,745

Attendance 3/06 Sat 36 3/07 Sun 53

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.

### 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

### 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.

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**4/1 HOLY THURSDAY:**

7:00PM Mass of our Lord's Supper

**4/2 GOOD FRIDAY:**

Parish Hall Open from Noon-3:00PM for visitation/prayers.  
3:00PM Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross & Communion.

**4/3 HOLY SATURDAY:**

8:30PM Vigil Mass

**4/4 SUNDAY:**

9:00AM Mass of the Resurrection

*All the above will be held in our parish hall*

**March Second Collections:** 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 Due to Holy Saturday, rescheduled to Saturday April 10th**

**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**

**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*



**SPRING FORWARD ONE HOUR BEFORE YOU GO TO BED ON SATURDAY, MARCH 14th!**



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

To fulfill the **Legion of Mary** 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.



**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*

**Food Donations: Blessings to all our givers!** Urgent need: **canned vegetables, Ramen Noodles 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.



**Holy Spirit Garage Sale 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.

**FR. MIKE IS HEARING CONFESSIONS**



**TUESDAYS & WEDNESDAY S 9:30—10:30AM**  
**SATURDAYS 4:15—4:45PM & SUNDAYS 8:15—8:45AM BEFORE MASS ON WEEKENDS**

**Temporary Weekend Mass held in parish hall: Sat., Mar. 13th at 5:00pm and Sun., Mar. 14th at 9:00am.**

**Protocols for weekend Masses:**

- Limitations on Attendance:** Limited seating maximum 81 seats are available. In order for the households to maintain at least 6-foot separation.
- Masks: read page three**
- No socializing** in the parish hall. Enter & exist double glass doors into the parish hall to the left of the overhang.
- Chairs** set-up 6-foot separation. Please **DO NOT MOVE CHAIRS.**

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

**Protocols for weekday Masses:**

- Masks: read page three**
- No socializing** in the Narthex. Enter & exit same set of double glass doors into the church through the overhang.
- In church alternating every other pew.** Households must maintain at least 6-foot separation.
- 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-feet 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



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