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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



MARCH 21, 2021

*Unless a grain of wheat falls
to the ground and dies,
it remains just a grain of wheat;
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.*

John 12:24

The readings today remind us how close we are to Easter—only two weeks from now. They also remind us that the path to resurrection and Easter always includes suffering and death. The prophet Jeremiah spent his whole life proclaiming the word of God to kings who would not listen. As an old man, he saw Jerusalem defeated and the inhabitants taken into exile. Jeremiah himself suffered in being left behind, but in today's reading, he is looking beyond those sufferings to a time when the previously disobedient people would be transformed and live in harmony with God's law.

LOOKING FOR JESUS, FINDING THE CROSS

In the Gospel reading, friends of Philip come to him and ask about meeting Jesus. When Philip and Andrew take the request to Jesus, he begins a cryptic discourse on discipleship, transformation, and divine judgment. We never hear whether Philip's friends got to personally meet Jesus. Perhaps they simply blended in with the crowd.

Jesus says, "[W]hen I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." The narrator says that Jesus' words

indicate how he will die; the readers already know Jesus will be crucified. Jesus also speaks of divine judgment driving out the world's rulers and of the need to be transformed, like a seed growing into a productive plant. He warns about loving our life and losing it. Unlike Jeremiah's detailed vision, Jesus only hints at what kind of transformed life his death will bring.

What if we, like Philip's friends, want to get close to Jesus? Does that mean that the discourse on death and judgment is addressed to us? If Jesus will draw everyone to himself as he is "lifted up," does being closer to him mean joining him on his cross? (Do we want to be that close to Jesus?) Do we want to be transformed? If we say "yes," the liturgy these next two weeks can show us the only way the Church knows to get closer to Jesus: to be willing to be "lifted up" with him in his suffering—and in our own.

Today's Readings: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15;
Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

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PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider
PERMANENT DEACON:

MASS TIMES:

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

Tues. - Fri. 9:00AM

CONFESSIONS:

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

Wednesday 9:30-10:30 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
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!

Fifth 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).

Mass—Intentions

Sat. 3/20 Ron Szczepanski+ (M/M Janick)

Sun 3/21 Jeff Quinn+ (M/M Quinn)

Tue 3/23 Garry Fetsch (M/M Hansen)

Wed 3/24 Jeff Quinn+

Thurs 3/25 Angie LaBarbra+ (JoAnn Listi)

Fri. 3/26 Angie LaBarbra+ (M/M Hansen)

Sat. 3/27 Suzanne Miller (M/M Bonicard)

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts through February 28, 2021

Expenditures \$ 4,051

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,745

Attendance 3/13 Sat 60 3/14 Sun 41

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.

RISKS: I risk being wrong if I trust too much. But I risk living in torment if I don't trust enough. —Anonymous

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.

Psalms: 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].

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]

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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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:
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**

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.



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



⇒ **Volunteers needed to help with our Meditation Garden, Sat., Mar. 27th at 9:00am.** We only need 5 to 10 volunteers for only a few hours to help cut back dead plants from frost damage, pull some weeds and refresh our garden before Easter. Please show up at 9:00am on Sat., Mar. 27th with your gloves, pruners, etc. 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, 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**



EASTER Food Donations: We are expecting to have 20 food boxes for Easter. We are in need of **box pudding mix** for (pie shells we already have), **canned meats, soups, instant potato's, pkgs of gravy, canned fruit**, etc by 3/31/21. **Delivery of the boxes will be on 4/2/21 starting at 9:00am. Volunteers are needed for delivering boxes.** Plastic container is located in the **parish hall** for food. **Please call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or theduckdude@att.net.** Many blessings to all that help us to feed needy family's at Easter.



**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 & WEDNESDAYS
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. 20th at 5:00pm and Sun., Mar. 21st 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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