

Third Sunday of LENT



March 20, 2022

"Remove the sandals from your feet,
for the place where you stand
is holy ground."

Exodus 3:5

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Photos: © PD-Wikimedia, Moses before
The Burning Bush by Domenico Falli
Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass
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In the Rule of Saint Benedict, the monks are told that their lives should be a "continuous Lent." At first, this may sound like a negative, difficult thing, or entirely depressing. Rather, it is simply a call to be open and continue growing. In fact, one of the vows that Benedictines profess is *Conversatio Morum*, that is, "conversion of life." In a nutshell, that is what Jesus is saying this week. We are being called to change our lives. Some people came to Jesus with gossip and a gruesome story about Pilate; Jesus challenged them with a couple of pointed questions, and then related the parable of the fig tree. To put it in context, usually figs blossom within two years, and then can be harvested twice a year. When a tree has been barren three years, it might be best just to remove it, but this is not the approach that Jesus suggested. Rather, the gardener in the parable chose to nurture the tree, fertilizing it with dung. He was not willing to give up on it.

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GROWTH

There are times when we may feel our lives are covered in dung, and we lie dormant through a plethora of difficult and painful moments. But Jesus is calling us to use this time, to draw strength from it, to use the dung in our lives as fertilizer, to begin a slow and steady transformation to a new and better place, until we too can bear fruit. Growth is always a process, and we have to start somewhere. While there is always a call to repentance and conversion, we are blessed with a God who is loving enough and patient enough to wait for us to come to our senses, however long that may take. This Lent we are being called to life. We are called to repent. We are called to be nurtured and fertilized and take the time and effort to grow.

Today's Readings: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11;
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

PASTOR: Rev. Michael T. "Mike" Snider

Celebration of the Sacraments:

Mass: Saturday: 5:00 PM
Sunday: 9:00 AM
Tues - Fri: 9:00 AM

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

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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:

Mike Stephens. Yolanda & Eldon Boyd. Gayle & Jim Hickey. Doris Hoffman. Wanda & George Duke. Lonnie & Tammy McClung. Jean Hamilton. Randy & Louise Beard. Sven Sterner. Kathy Gravatt. Nancy Rasca. Jess Corrigan Jr. Clifford & Frances Jo Moore. Fran & Kathleen Fleming. Dave Cormier. Thomas Holzmann. Michael Allen. Joe Fazzio. Ron Emma. Kate Serres. Belinda Flowers. Dona Jordan. Jaye Anderson. Georgette March. Kyle Fabitz. Greg Mooney. Garry Fetsch. Karee Haney. Bollinger Family. Charlie Parker. Tammy Johnson. Carolyn Simmons. Dianne & Gary Laudt. Jo Ann Crowell. Ann Richardson. Jacob Stephens. Mary Margaret Ellison. John Kominis. Esther Coronel. Elise Sugg. Joann Rayl. Avery Boultinghouse. Geri O'Neil. We list the names of our sick Parishioners. Friends and Relatives for one month.

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

community: Dawn Quinn, US Army PFC (Granddaughter of Bob & Jean Quinn). Reid Patrick Hope, US Marine (Nephew of Mike & Wanda Stephens). 1LT 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. "JG" Gary Buchanan; Capt. Blake Gaughan; 2nd Lt. Will Corrigan (Great 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).

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Third Sunday of Lent; Spring begins

Wednesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Friday: Annunciation of the Lord; Abstinence

FORGIVENESS: *Those who cannot forgive others break the bridge over which they themselves must pass. —Confucius*

DIRECTION: *The great thing in this world is not so much where we are, but in what direction we are going.—Oliver Wendell Holmes*

PRIDE: *What better proof of your pride could you have given than to claim you were not proud?—St. John Climacus*

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading: The LORD God appears to Moses and directs him to go and deliver the Israelites from Egypt (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: We are not to grumble like the people with Moses in the desert (1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12) or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

Gospel: If you do not repent, you will all perish (Luke 13:1-9) or John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-2].

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab; 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: Is 7:10-14, 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

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

Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12; Ps 34:2-7; 2 Cor 5:17-21; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

Mass—Intentions

Sat 3/19 Linda & Eric Hurley

Sun 3/20 Fran Morris+ (Ellis Family)

Tue 3/22 Wanda Stephens+ (Legion of Mary)

Wed 3/23 Wanda Stephens+ (MM Clymer)

Thurs 3/24 Fr. Mike attending Priests Study Day in Tyler

Fri. 3/25 John Todaro+ (K of C)

Sat. 3/26 Rosary Makers

PARISH SUPPORT

Average weekly amounts for the year of 2021

Expenditures \$ 3,666

Regular and debt & maintenance collections \$ 3,799

Attendance: 3/12 Saturday: 75 3/13 Sunday: 62

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



Pope's Intention for March:

For a Christian response to bioethical challenges. We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life and prayer and action.

Reflection question:

Undertake an examination of conscience this week and pray for God's loving mercy.

PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness, who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving have shown us a remedy for sin, look graciously on this confession of our lowliness, that we, who are bowed down by our conscience, may always be lifted up by your mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

HOLY GROUND

Moses met God in a most astounding way in the bush that was burning but not consumed by fire. Moses clearly had a powerful encounter with the Lord. He even felt bold enough to ask God's name, something unheard of among his people at the time—God's name was unspeakable. Moses stood on holy ground. Do we not also stand on holy ground? As people who are created in God's image and drawn to Christ through the waters of Baptism, we have been filled with God's grace and goodness. The ground of our lives is holy. Lent is a time when we are called to open our minds and hearts to Christ, rely on God's patient mercy, and to grow as God's holy people.

MARCH NEWS & EVENTS

Fri., Mar. 18th: Vespers at 4:00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross. *Knights of Columbus starts back with the best fish fry and best price \$13.00pp in Wood County.* Immediately following the stations in St. Jude's Hall from 5:00—6:30pm...Tell your neighbors!



Sat. Mar. 19th: We will have a Rosary Rally at 10:00am, the Feast Day of St. Joseph, praying for the Blessed Mother's intentions.

Sat., Mar. 19th & Sun. Mar. 20th: After Mass Casino Event Tickets and raffle tickets go on sale.

Sun. Mar. 20th: Immediately following 9:00am Mass, coffee, juice, (biscuits & gravy provided by Bryan & Dolly Todd), in St. Jude's Hall. Jane Bidlack facilitates "The Mass as Heaven on Earth" (Hebrews & Revelation)" Class in the middle classroom.



Tues., Mar. 22nd: 9:00am Mass & Adoration (Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm).

Thurs., Mar. 24th: No 9:00am Mass due to Fr. Mike attending a Priests Study Day in Tyler.

Fri., Mar. 25th: Vespers at 4:00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross. Soup supper in St. Jude's Hall, immediately following the stations.

Sun., Mar. 27th: Following 9:00am Mass, coffee & donuts in St. Jude's Hall.

Tues., Mar. 29th: 9:00am Mass & Adoration (Adoration 9:30am—12:30pm; 6:00-8:00pm).

APRIL NEWS & EVENTS

Fri., Apr. 1st: Vespers at 4:00pm followed by the Stations of the Cross. *Knights of Columbus fish fry \$13.00pp* Immediately following the stations in St. Jude's Hall from 5:00—6:30pm...Tell your neighbors!



Sun., Apr. 3rd: Immediately following 9:00am Mass in St. Jude's Hall. *Knights of Columbus breakfast.* Children eat FREE to 12th grade; adults \$ 5.00 each.

A word from the Bishop: As we continue this Lenten journey I wanted to take a moment to thank you for all you do to serve the Church of East Texas. I know that our priests are truly blessed to have your dedicated support in so many ways. Thank you for all the ways you collaborate with and support the great work that the St. Philip Institute is doing. Please don't hesitate to let us know how the Institute can support you more effectively. Most of your work is behind the scenes but please know that I realize how vital it is as you help the priests, deacons, consecrated religious and faithful laity to go about the business of being the Body of Christ throughout the diocese. Please be assured of my prayers and I ask you to pray for me and all the priests and deacons also. May your Lenten journey enrich your relationship with Jesus Christ.

March Second Collections:

19th & 20th: "Holy Spirit Easter Flowers."

26th & 27th: "Hunger Relief in the Diocese."

Legion of Mary— Pilgrim Statue: Our Lady of Fatima Statue is now ready to visit your home. There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex or you may contact: Marge Clymer, 903-216-7953 or Jane Bidlack, 903-569-7749. If scheduling permits, the Statue may be kept for two weeks.

SAVE THE DATE: *The Roaring 20's*

DINNER & CASINO NIGHT SAT., APRIL 30, 2022

TICKETS TO ATTEND EVENT \$ 40.00 PER PERSON or TABLE OF 8 \$ 320.00

RAFFLE TICKETS \$5.00 each or a book of 6 for \$ 20.00

PRIZES: FIVE --- \$ 500.00 Visa Gift Cards

EVENT & RAFFLE TICKETS GO ON SALE MAR. 19TH & 20TH



Holy Thursday, Apr. 14th: 7:00pm Mass of our Lord's Supper, with the Ceremony of the Washing of the Feet. In St. Jude's Hall the Altar of Repose from 8:00—10:00pm.

Good Friday, Apr. 15th: Church will be open from noon-3:00pm. Then 3:00pm Liturgy of the Word, Veneration of the Cross and Communion.

Holy Saturday, Apr. 16th: 8:30pm Vigil Mass

Easter Sunday, Apr. 17th: 9:30am Mass of the Resurrection

For the 9 parishioners that borrowed a bottle of ashes to take home on Ash Wednesday, please return your bottles & lids to Fr. Mike. Thank You

Your presence at Wands's funeral was greatly appreciated. It meant a great deal to us to see you there. My family would like to express our sincere gratitude to Fr. Mike, Charlie Clymer, choir, and everyone that helped with the lunch reception during this difficult time.

Sincerely, The family of Mike & Jeremy Stephens; Shelly Pollard

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry

**FRIDAY, APRIL 1st
DINNER SERVED FROM 5:00—6:30pm**

Fried Catfish with all the trimmings
Adults \$ 13.00 Children under 5 years old is free



The Holy Spirit Food Ministry would like to thank all our parishioners for their food donations. The large plastic bin is located by in the hallway by Bridget's office. **Cake & muffin mix; cereal and pudding cups.**

Looking for volunteers to get involved with the Food Ministry. Call or email Bob Mailliard at 903-769-3963 or theduckdude@att.net

Thank you, Bob Mailliard; Bryan & Dolly Todd; Stan & Terry Evans; Al & Evelyn Murfin. Holy Spirit Food Ministry Team

CALLING ALL GUYS & DOLLS

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
HOLY SPIRIT'S 10TH ANNUAL DINNER & CASINO NIGHT

THE ROARING 20S

Saturday, April 30, 2022

Speakeasy Opens at 6:00 PM

Dinner Served at 6:30 PM

Gaming Tables Open After Dinner

Dress as a gangster or silent screen star
Come as a flapper or come as you are

Get your Tickets Today

\$40 per person or \$320/Table (non-refundable)

Includes \$1500 in Casino Chips per person

Limited Seating

Advanced Tickets Only

Tickets will not be sold at the door

Raffle Tickets Available

\$5 each or 6 for \$20

Raffle Prizes Include Chances to Win: 5 - \$500 in Prizes

For event tickets, please contact:

Holy Spirit Church Office at (903) 769-3235 or Bridget Rich at (972) 979-3985 (cell)

Please stop by before or after mass for tickets & information.

Prizes and Raffle Drawings to follow close of the Casino Tables.
Big Winners will have their choice of GREAT prizes!

Article for the Big Sandy-Hawkins Journal. 16 March 2022 Edition

(Submission date: 11 March 2022) Submitted by Randy Munoz

Holy Spirit Catholic Church (1612 S. FM 2869). Masses: weekdays – 9:00; weekends: Sat. – 5:00 p.m., Sun. – 9:00 a.m.

Knights of Columbus Fish Fry. March 19th and April 1st. Adults \$13, children under 5, free. Tickets sold at the door. Serving from 5 – 6:30 pm

Snacking on Scripture – Little Nibbles of the Bible. Series 1, Snack 5 – Rebecca, Wife of Isaac.

By Rabbi Ari Enkin <https://unitedwithisrael.org/women-of-the-bible-meet-rebecca-the-wife-of-isaac/>

Rebecca (Rebekah), one of the Four Matriarchs of the Jewish People, is characterized by the rabbis as a prophet and a righteous woman. She was the wife of Isaac, the daughter of Bethuel and the sister of Laban – the latter two being known as exceptionally evil individuals. Indeed, although her family and those among whom she lived were deceitful, she was not adversely influenced by her surroundings; she was the classic “lily among thorns.”

Rebecca may have been the only biblical figure to find her spouse, Isaac, by means of a matchmaker. ... All others found their spouses on their own. After the Binding of Isaac, Sara, Abraham’s wife, died. After taking care of her burial, Abraham commanded his servant, Eliezer, to journey to his birthplace of Aram Naharaim to find a compatible wife for Isaac. Abraham sent along expensive jewelry, clothing and delicacies as gifts to the bride and her family.

Eliezer devised a test – almost forcing God’s hand — in order to find the right wife for Isaac. As he stood at the central well in Aram Naharaim with his men and 10 camels laden with goods, he prayed to God: *“Let it be that the maiden to whom I shall say, ‘Please tip over your jug so that I may drink’ and replies, ‘Drink, and I will even water your camels,’ her will You have designated for Your servant, for Isaac”* (Genesis 24:14). As soon as he finished his prayer, a young girl came by and offered to draw water for him to drink as well as to fill the troughs for all his camels! His prayers were fulfilled right before his eyes... instantly! Rebecca continued to draw water until all the camels were satiated, proving that she was kind, generous and suitable to enter Abraham’s household. As Rebecca headed back with Eliezer to meet her soon-to-be husband and his family, they spotted Isaac from a distance praying in the fields. When Rebecca learned that this sight of spirituality was in fact Isaac, her future husband, she modestly covered herself with a veil. Isaac brought her into the tent of his mother Sarah, married her and loved her. We are told that just as was the case with Sara, three miracles occurred for Rebecca in her tent: Her Shabbat candles lasted all week long, there was blessing in the dough, and a Divine cloud hovered over her tent.

Many of the customs and rituals practiced at a Jewish wedding derive from the marriage of Isaac and Rebecca. For example, we learn from here that a woman must give her consent to marriage (“Let us ask the girl...”), the bride is to be veiled just prior to the ceremony, the blessing given to a Jewish bride at her wedding is the same one that Rebecca’s family gave to her (“Our sister, may you come to be thousands of myriads, and may your offspring inherit the gate of its foes”), and a celebratory wedding feast is to be served.

Dating Rebecca’s age is somewhat of a challenge. There are two opinions ... as to how old Rebecca was at the time of her marriage. ... one opinion, she was only three years old ... a more palatable approach, she was 12 or 14. It took 20 years until she conceived and gave birth to twins, (Esau and Jacob – Jacob was renamed Israel, by God and became the patriarch of the Nation of Israel.) So too, Rebecca’s death is not mentioned in the Torah, nor does it specify how many years she lived. There is a tradition that she lived until the age of 133. She was buried in the Machpela Cave in Hebron alongside most of the other Matriarchs and Patriarchs. ...

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