

March 25, 2012: Fifth Sunday of Lent



Jesus answered them, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, 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." — 13:12:23-24

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD

LITURGY

MASS INTENTIONS & READINGS

Sunday, March 25 (Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33)

8:00 am- Leo, Buck, Lillian & George Henneke
10:30 am- Willard & Irene Hagendorf
5:00 pm- For our Parish Family (Spanish Mass)

Monday, March 26, the Annunciation of the Lord (Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38)

7:00 am- Living & dec. members of Christian Mothers Society
10:00 am- Dominic Konvicka (H'ville Rehab)

Tuesday, March 27 (Nm 21:4-9/Jn 8:21-30)

7:00 am- Special Intention (thanksgiving for answered prayers)

Wednesday, March 28 (Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42)

7:00 am- Adolf, Mary, Jerome & Fred Jansky
8:05 am- Elrose Haas & Marjorie Chanek
12:05 pm- Deceased members of Joseph & Anna Labay Family

Thursday, March 29 (Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59)

7:00 am- Bea Heinzl
10:00 am- Frank J. Matula (Stevens)

Friday, March 30 (Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42) Day of Abstinence

7:00 am- Herbert, George & Adela Bludau
8:05 am- Dorothy Henneke & Trey Kapalski
12:05 pm- Bill Mitchon
6:00 pm- Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 31 (Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56)

5:30 pm- Ervin J. Bludau, Sr.

Sunday, April 1, Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

(Mk 11:1-10/Is 50:4-7/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1-15:47)

8:00 am- For our Parish Family
10:30 am- Marie Voelkel Holy



Bulletin & Radio Broadcast Sponsor: Living & deceased members of R. J. Pollock Family.

Our Gift to God: Envelopes-\$4,091.50; Rice Bowl-\$757; Loose-\$1,290; Children-\$50; Catholic Education-\$1,539.

Area Penance Services for Lent:

Moulton – Monday, March 26 at 5:30 p.m.
Yoakum – Tuesday, March 27 at 5:30 p.m.
Hallettsville – Thursday, March 29 at 5:30 p.m.

Easter Flowers – If you would like to donate towards our Easter flowers, you may come by the Rectory or place your donation in an envelope and drop it in the collection basket. *Thank you for your generosity!!*

Truck Raffle tickets are now available at the Rectory for a 2012 Chevrolet Silverado LT1500 4x4 Z-71 Crew Cab (Value \$38,090) & 13 other prizes! Drawing will be held at the Spring Picnic on May 27. Tickets \$100 each.

Spring Picnic Raffle - Donors are needed. If you are able to donate a prize, please call or come by the Rectory. *Thank you for supporting our picnic raffle!!*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SUNDAY, MARCH 25

- Baptism Preparation Class, 9:00 a.m., Rectory. Please call the Rectory in advance to register.
- South Texas Polka & Sausage Fest, KC Hall. Admission \$8 per person. Fried Chicken or Sausage Dinner, serving begins 10:30 a.m. Battle Dance by Czechaholics, Fritz Hodde & Red Ravens 1:00-8:00 p.m.
- Covered dish supper in Family Center after Spanish Mass

MONDAY, MARCH 26

- Rosary & Evening Prayer, 5:30 p.m., Church.
- Choir Practice, 6:00 p.m., Church.
- Parish Advisory Council Mtg, 6:30 p.m., Mary's House.

TUESDAY, MARCH 27

- Quilting Circle, 9:00 a.m., KC Hall of Fame Room.
- No Adult Education Class.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 28

- CCD: Grades K-12th, 6:00-7:15 p.m.
- English Second Language Class, 6:00 p.m., Cafeteria.

THURSDAY, MARCH 29

- Penance Service, 5:30 p.m. in church.

FRIDAY, MARCH 30

- Stations of the Cross, 6:00 p.m., Church.

Among our sick: Edna Key, Frank Fishar, Faith Del Castillo, Michael Gerdes, Renae Ross, Doug Blumberg, Dan & Danielle Grady, Rose Thumann, Bill Gohlke, Sterlin Ritchie, Ed Aulick, Ricky Skelton, Larry Appelt, Victor Pavliska, Anita Bohuslav, Paul Najvar, Irene Bordovsky, Milissa Zamora, Rhonda Janak, Larry Korenek, Red Kahanek, Theresa Steffek, Hank & Marion Morris, Angela Hermes, Chris Layton, Wade Amsden, Vernell Bozka, Denise DeBord, Frank, Patrick & Robben Nemeec, Geneva Strmiska, Brenda Bludau, Lois Dornak, Patricia Schlageter, LaNora Konvicka, Bobby Lee Drozd, Anne Mae Technik, Sandra Mozisek, Grace Ritchie, Benedict Brosch, John Schlageter, Frank Konvicka, Magdalene Steffek, Raymond Ben Steffek, Sylvester Garza, Chibana Alfaro, Frank Rocha, Lambert Pollock, Liz Woytek, nursing home residents & the homebound.

St. Mary's Holy Week Services –

Confessions – Saturday, March 31, 10:00 a.m.
Palm Sunday Mass, April 1, 9:15 a.m.
Good Friday Service, April 6 at 3:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Mass, April 8, 9:15 a.m.

Ascension Church, Moravia Holy Week Services –

Palm Sunday Vigil Mass, Saturday, March 31, 6:00 p.m.
Confessions: Wednesday, April 4, 5:00-6:00 p.m.
Easter Vigil Mass, Saturday, April 7, 6:00 p.m.

St. John Church, St. John Holy Week Services –

Palm Sunday Mass, April 1, 9:30 a.m.
Holy Thursday, April 5, Mass of the Lord's Supper 7 p.m.
Adoration after Mass until 8:30 p.m.
Confessions: Good Friday, April 6, 11:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.
Good Friday Service, April 6, 1:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Mass, April 8, 9:30 a.m.

From the Desk of Father John

We welcome our out of town guests who are here for the Polka Fest this weekend. It is really great to see so many people enjoying the music and food at the KC Hall.

The Knights of Columbus continue to improve and expand the hall for the betterment of the community and all the many functions held there. We are very blessed with a very active KC council that does so much for the church and the community.

We just have two more weeks till Easter. We still have time to make some sacrifices and do good for others during this Lenten season. Let us be truly prepared when Easter Sunday arrives.

Religious Education (CCD) ~ Office 798-3124

Angela McConnell, Coordinator

www.facebook.com/SacredHeartReligiousEducation

Mar. 28: 2nd Grade students & parents Last Supper Feast, 6:00-7:30 p.m., Family Center.

Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion Training and Refresher Course – All Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion who help to distribute Communion at Masses and to the homebound AND all those interested in becoming commissioned to serve as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion, must attend a training course with Fr. Tommy on Tuesday of Holy Week, April 3 from 7:00-9:00 pm in the church. Bishop Fellhauer has asked that all those particularly in this liturgical ministry receive a theological and practical refresher on a regular basis. A sign-in sheet will be available for current Extraordinary Ministers on the day of the course. Those who wish to become Extraordinary Ministers should contact Fr. Tommy beforehand to sign up for the course.

“Come and See” Weekend for single Catholic women 18-50 years of age, March 31-April 1, Incarnate Word Convent. For information or to make a reservation, call 575-7111 or email iwbsvoc@yahoo.com.

Wanted: Chair Person for the Country Store Booth at our parish picnics. Please call the Rectory to volunteer to Chair this booth. *Thank you for your help and support!!*

Please pray for the Catechumen and Candidates of our parish: Please keep in your prayers those who will receive the Easter sacraments and be initiated into the Catholic Church at the Easter Vigil Mass this year: Chris Lyons (Catechumen) will be born-again through the waters of baptism at the Easter Vigil Mass. Julie Lawhon and Harold Bonorden (both Candidates for Full Communion) will make their profession of faith in the Catholic Church and become full members of the Catholic Church. All three will then receive the fullness of the gifts of the Holy Spirit in the sacrament of Confirmation and receive our Lord's Body and Blood for the first time as a sign of their full initiation into Christ's mystical body, the Church.

Catholic Daughters Spiritual Retreat, Sat., April 14, 8:00 a.m.-2:30 p.m. in Inez. For information or to register, please call Joyce Janak at 361-596-4868. Registration deadline is Thursday, April 5.

Flowers in Adoration Chapel by Steve & Donna Kossa Family in honor of Jason & Sarah Jansky's marriage.

Knights of Columbus-Hallettsville Council will be praying at Planned Parenthood, 104 Babcock Rd., San Antonio on March 31, 8:00 a.m.- 7:00 p.m. All are invited to the 7:00 p.m. closing ceremony at 154 Babcock Rd.

Attention Catholic Daughters: If you have not yet paid your 2012 dues, please do so as soon as possible. Please make your \$20 check payable to C.D.A. & mail to Anita Steffek, 549 C. R.186, Hallettsville. Many members are past due. If you are not sure if your dues are paid, please call Anita Steffek at 798-3771. *Thank you!!*

US Bishops set March 30 as day of prayer & fasting for religious liberty. The U.S. bishops have urged Catholics and "all people of faith" across the nation to observe March 30 as a day of prayer and fasting for religious freedom and conscience protection.

5th Sunday of Lent – Every year farmers go through the same cycle in an effort to reap a harvest. They prepare the ground, plant the seed, work to prevent weeds from over-



coming the crop, do what they can to nurture the plants, and reap a harvest at the end of the growing season.

Farmers in the field and scientists who support the work of agriculture know intimately the truth of Jesus' words in today's Gospel, "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."

In the last half century there has been a transformation in agriculture. Often called the "green revolution," the series of initiatives to breed high-yielding seeds, intensively use fertilizers, and channel irrigation to crops has helped to alleviate, though not eradicate, world hunger. The green revolution also has its critics, who contend that the long-term effects will be more destructive rather than helpful. Despite this criticism, modern farming practices seem firmly entrenched on producing the highest yield possible from the acreage that is planted.

Whatever one's view on long-term sustainability of contemporary agriculture, the desire for a "high yield" in the spiritual life is what we are after in this Lenten season. The seed of fasting is that dying to self that we plant at the beginning of Lent. We nurture the growth of our life in Christ with the prayer that we actively pursue throughout the forty days. And we bring forth a spiritual harvest through the almsgiving that characterizes our love of neighbor. Like the farmers who year after year till the soil, plant the seed, and reap the harvest, Lent is our growing season. Will we be ready to reap an abundant harvest on Easter?

The Word of God This Week

Set time aside each day this week with other members of your household, with other members of your parish or alone to listen to and reflect on the living Word of God. Use these passages from the Lectionary that are assigned for Liturgy this week. Reflect on how the Lord is inviting you to a deeper union with him.

TODAY

Jeremiah 31:31–34
Hebrews 5:7–9
John 12:20–33

MONDAY*

Luke 1:26–38
"The Holy Spirit will come upon you . . ."

TUESDAY

John 8:21–30
"Where I am going, you cannot come."

WEDNESDAY

John 8:31–42
" . . . the truth will make you free."

THURSDAY

John 8:51–59
" . . . before Abraham was, I am."

FRIDAY

John 10:31–42
"I have shown you many good works from the Father."

SATURDAY

John 11:45–56
"Many of the Jews . . . believed in him."

The "Hour" Is Now!

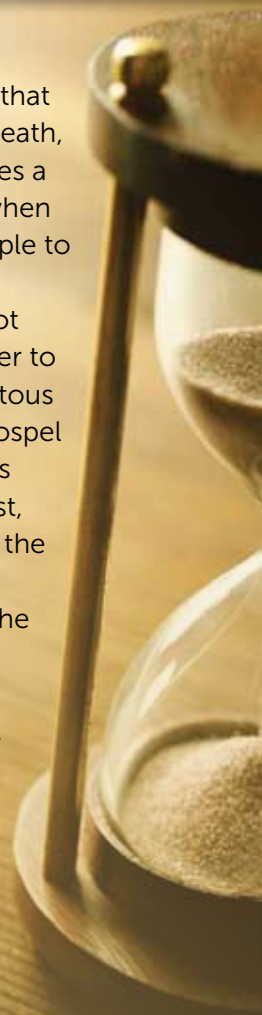
God's plan of salvation is present in all three readings for today's liturgy. As we approach the end of Lent, the Scriptures remind us of what God had in mind for us through the suffering, death, and glorification of Jesus.

Jeremiah envisioned a covenant that would be renewed and imprinted in the heart of each person. In the Letter to the Hebrews, we are reminded that Jesus Christ is the mediator of the new covenant. This passage reveals that a key component to salvation is obedience.

John proclaims the universality of this covenant for all, when Jesus announces his "hour" has come. Christ's salvation is for everyone, and it is evident in the Greeks' sincere desire to see Jesus. Their request is reminiscent of the disciples of John the Baptist who were invited to "Come and see!"

This Gospel passage tells us that through Jesus' suffering and death, the glory of the Father becomes a reality. Jesus states it clearly when he says: "I . . . will draw all people to myself" (John 12:32).

"Hour," in this sense, does not refer to a time of day, but rather to that sense of *kairos*, a momentous revelation in Jesus' life. The Gospel proclamation that the hour has come offers three insights: First, Jesus reveals that death is not the end but the beginning of a life transformed in love. Second, the "hour" is a moment in time where suffering and glory are two halves of the same whole. Finally, eternal life has been given to all. Discipleship is walking to glory through the physical death that is just part of our journey of life and love in Jesus, the Christ.



The Faith of the Church

In the Second Vatican Council document "The Church's Missionary Activity," the bishops declared that God calls us to share in his life and glory. To carry out this plan, God sent Jesus into the world as servant to all even to the point of death. Our response to the generosity and love of Jesus is to carry out a mission of service to all those in need (*Ad Gentes Divinitus* 2–3).



Questions of the Week

Today's Gospel provides an excellent commentary on life and death. The image of the seed dying to yield fruitfulness points to the death of Jesus as the seed of new life. Called to be life for others, we must die to self to bring life to others.

Adults

What are several ways I have forgone my own desires to be of help to others?

Children

How can I be of help to my family, my classmates, or my friends?

*Solemnity: The Annunciation of the Lord

Responding to God's Word . . .

We have a model of total service in the life, ministry, and death of Jesus. Today's Gospel reminds me of a story told to me by a missionary in the African country of Uganda. His faith was deepened by a man who gave his life to save his village from torture during the regime of Idi Amin. As he lay dying in the dusty road, the man told the priest, "Did you not say that we must give our life for the sake of others?"

Our final "hour" of giving often comes at the end of our life. However,

the journey to that point is eased by the ways in which we willingly give bits of ourselves for the sake of others. For example, the parent who sacrifices sleep for a sick child or crying baby; the dying to self that is part of the daily routine of a care-giving spouse; the piece of one's heart that dies with the loss of a loved one.

All of these are examples of the letting go that Jesus models for us. Our hope during these difficult times is found in the promise: "It [the seed that dies] produces much fruit."



British poet Francis Thompson wrote, "Nothing begins and nothing ends / That is not paid with moan; / For we are born in others' pain, / And perish in our own." Many people blame God for the suffering earth. The Bible, however, tells us that suffering began with the first sin. It was this suffering, caused by sin, that Jesus accepted on the cross and made into a vehicle of salvation. Paul says, "We know that in all things [suffering included] God works for good with those who love him" (Romans 8:28).

For reflection . . .

What is one suffering that brought good into my life in the long run?

JESUS DID NOT COME TO DO AWAY
WITH SUFFERING OR REMOVE IT.
HE CAME TO FILL IT WITH HIS PRESENCE.
PAUL CLAUDELL

FROM *MISSION* BY MARK LINK, SJ

Fruit of Our Salvation

We give
praise and thanks
to you, O Lord. Your
death has yielded the fruit
of our salvation and glory.
Strengthen us to face the small
deaths we must endure. Make
of our life a beautiful overflowing
well of service and compassion for
others. Guide us as we follow
you on the path of
life that takes us through the
shadows of death. We believe
that we will rise with
you in glory and light.
Help our unbelief!
Amen.

*Carry this thought in your
heart as a guide for your faith
journey this week.*

Do not seek your own
advantage, but that of
the other.

1 Corinthians 10:24

SUGGESTIONS

Use one of these suggestions or one of your own to respond to God's Word this week.

In the home. Take an inventory of your possessions: clothing, bedding, or food and give away what is not essential.

In the workplace or in school. Gather used books to donate to a local prison or library in an impoverished area near your home.

In the community. Volunteer with a local hospice, children's hospital, or transitional housing shelter.

Profile in Faith

Mercy Volunteer Corps

Service opportunities are offered by Mercy Volunteer Corps. Together with the Sisters of Mercy, lay women and men give one or two years of service to the poor and marginalized.

Living a communal life of simplicity and prayer, these volunteers cultivate mercy and justice through compassionate service and social justice.

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† Most Reverend Kevin J. Farrell, DD, Bishop of Dallas
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