



# Our Parish COMMUNITY

March 14, 2021

Fourth Sunday of Lent (B)

2 Chr 36:14–16, 19–23

Eph 2:4–10

In 3:14–21

## You Decide

**W**e normally take great pride in making our own decisions. When we did this as children, it was a sign that we were growing up; as adolescents, it was a proclamation of independence. Now as adults, when making decisions we demonstrate that we are self-directed. The problem doesn't seem to lie in decision-making itself but in the options given to us that require a decision. And there is the rub. Often these are options not of our choosing. This can make decision-making very difficult.

Today's Gospel is all about making decisions. Options are placed before us. We either choose Jesus and the extraordinary way of life that he has outlined for us, or we go along with the movements of society. This could include making money at any cost, denying hospitality to those who knock on our door, harboring an attitude of superiority over others. We either choose to live in the light with the insights that our faith provides, or we simply accept the values that bombard us each day through the media, namely: Me first. What's mine is mine. What's in it for me? Not in my back yard.

If we look carefully, we will realize that the way of life Jesus promotes is based on the dignity of each person, who is made in the image and likeness of God. Actions that dismiss, demean, damage, or destroy human life are contrary to the teaching, life, and example of Jesus. Accepting his way brings forth a new society called "the reign of God." Rejecting it will undermine the foundations of the society we have. Which will it be? You decide.

*Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA*

### *For Reflection*

- ✱ How might you have compromised your religious values in order to get by in life?
- ✱ Might God be asking you to choose something new?

*And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil.*

JOHN 3:19



DATA: CHICKADEE/SHUTTERSTOCK

## ***Upcoming Schedule***

<i>Date</i>	<i>OLPH</i>	<i>Saint Boniface</i>
<b><i>March 13 / 14</i></b> <b><i>FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i></b>	8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass Stations of the Cross	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<b><i>Tuesday</i></b>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<b><i>Thursday</i></b>	5:30 pm ~ Mass	
<b><i>Friday</i></b>	6:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross	
<b><i>March 20 / 21</i></b> <b><i>FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT</i></b>	8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass Stations of the Cross	5:00 pm ~ Mass

	<b><i>OLPH</i></b> <b><i>Mass 9:00 am</i></b>		<b><i>ST. BONIFACE</i></b> <b><i>Mass 5:00 pm</i></b>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>March 14</b>	<b>March 21</b>	<b>March 13</b>	<b>March 20</b>
<b>Lector</b>	Matthew Davis	Joe McNaughton	Mary Jo Leygraaf	Lynn Begluitti

<b>Mass Intentions</b>	<b>OLPH</b>	<b>St. Boniface</b>
March 13 / 14	† Columbus Couch	† Libby Balenovich
March 20 / 21	† Rebecca Gibson	Poor Souls in Purgatory

<b>Our Gifts</b>	<b>OLPH</b>	<b>St. Boniface</b>
March 6 / 7	\$140.00	\$49.00
Flood Victims in Eastern Kentucky	\$ 21.00	\$10.00

This weekend there will be a ***Second Collection*** for  
The Catholic Relief Services. Please give generously.

## ***HAPPY BIRTHDAY***

***Matthew Davis***

March 18

### **Reading I**

2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy.

Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects.

Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power.

All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah:  
“Until the land has retrieved its lost sabbaths,  
during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest  
while seventy years are fulfilled.”

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia,  
in order to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah,  
the LORD inspired King Cyrus of Persia  
to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom,  
both by word of mouth and in writing:  
“Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia:  
All the kingdoms of the earth  
the LORD, the God of heaven, has given to me,  
and he has also charged me to build him a house  
in Jerusalem, which is in Judah.  
Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people,  
let him go up, and may his God be with him!”

### **Responsorial Psalm**

137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

By the streams of Babylon  
we sat and wept  
when we remembered Zion.  
On the aspens of that land  
we hung up our harps.

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

For there our captors asked of us  
the lyrics of our songs,  
And our despoilers urged us to be joyous:  
“Sing for us the songs of Zion!”

*Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!*

How could we sing a song of the LORD  
in a foreign land?

If I forget you, Jerusalem,  
may my right hand be forgotten!

*Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!*

May my tongue cleave to my palate  
if I remember you not,  
If I place not Jerusalem  
ahead of my joy.

*Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!*

## **Reading II**

Eph 2:4-10

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy,  
because of the great love he had for us,  
even when we were dead in our transgressions,  
brought us to life with Christ — by grace you have been saved —,  
raised us up with him,  
and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus,  
that in the ages to come  
He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace  
in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus.

For by grace you have been saved through faith,  
and this is not from you; it is the gift of God;  
it is not from works, so no one may boast.

For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works

that God has prepared in advance,  
that we should live in them

## **Verse Before the Gospel**

Jn 3:16

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so everyone who believes in him might have eternal life.

## **Gospel**

Jn 3:14-21

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

“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.”

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him might not perish  
but might have eternal life.

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,  
but that the world might be saved through him.

Whoever believes in him will not be condemned,  
but whoever does not believe has already been condemned,  
because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God.

And this is the verdict,  
that the light came into the world,  
but people preferred darkness to light,  
because their works were evil.

For everyone who does wicked things hates the light  
and does not come toward the light,  
so that his works might not be exposed.

But whoever lives the truth comes to the light,  
so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.

## ***Gospel Reflection***

The Sunday readings in Lent have been showing us the high points of salvation history—God’s covenant with creation in the time of Noah; His promises to Abraham; the law He gave to Israel at Sinai.

In today’s First Reading, we hear of the destruction of the kingdom established by God’s final Old Testament covenant—the covenant with David.

His chosen people abandoned the law He gave them. For their sins, the temple was destroyed, and they were exiled in Babylon. We hear their sorrow and repentance in the exile lament we sing as today’s Psalm. But we also hear how God, in His mercy, gathered them back, even anointing a pagan king to shepherd them and rebuild the temple.

God is rich in mercy, as today’s Epistle teaches. He promised that David’s kingdom would last forever, that David’s son would be His Son and rule all nations. In Jesus, God keeps that promise. Moses lifted up the serpent as a sign of salvation. Now Jesus is lifted up on the Cross, to draw all people to Himself. Those who refuse to believe in this sign of the Father’s love condemn themselves—as the Israelites in their infidelity brought judgment upon themselves.

God did not leave Israel in exile, and He does not want to leave any of us dead in our transgressions. We are God’s handiwork, saved to live as His people in the light of His truth.

Midway through this season of repentance, let us again behold the Pierced One and rededicate ourselves to living the “good works” that God has prepared us for.

## **PRAYER REQUESTS**

Pray to end Abortion, Russell Brooks, Cassie & Clifton Centers, Maere Tekanene, Bill Moses, Jerry Roberts, Donna Blevins, Norma Wilson, Dennis Parks & Family, Erica Davis, Chris & Amanda Decker, Marian Colette, Debbie Moses Haggins, Rose Grant, Sandy Hurts, Dominic Cureton, Todd Morris,

Alex Woods, Christopher Braden, Bonnie (Warfield) Bishop, Sister Alice, Curt and LeeAnn Hall, Jay Baird, Gary Hackler, Gail Willis, Mr. & Mrs. Bill Bisceglia, loved ones who are ill, Brody Beavers and family, Shawn Lee Day, all those of our families who are affected by Covid-19, Jessica Davis, and the Donner family.

### ***UPCOMING SAINTS AND FEASTS***

*Saint Patrick, Bishop*

March 17

*Saint Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church*

March 18

***SAINT JOSEPH, SPOUSE OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY ~ Solemnity***

March 19

### ***PRAYER OF CONSECRATION TO ST. JOSEPH***

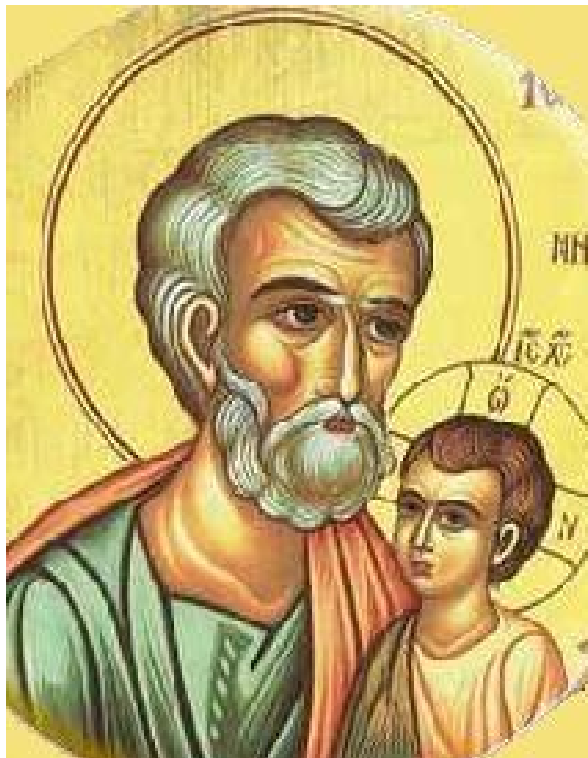
O Glorious Patriarch and Patron of the Church! O Virgin Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God! O Guardian and Virginal Father of the Word Incarnate! In the presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose you this day to be my father, my guardian, and my protector.

O great St. Joseph, whom God has made the Head of the Holy Family, accept me, I beseech you, though utterly unworthy, to be a member of your "Holy House." Present me to your Immaculate Spouse; ask her also to adopt me as her child. With her, pray that I may constantly think of Jesus, and serve him faithfully to the end of my life. O Terror of Demons, increase in me virtue, protect me from the evil one, and help me not to offend God in any way.



O my Spiritual Father, I hereby consecrate myself to you. In faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary, I place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. To you, after Jesus and Mary, I consecrate my body and soul, with all their faculties, my spiritual growth, my home, and all my affairs and undertakings.

Forsake me not, but adopt me as a servant and child of the Holy Family. Watch over me at all times, but especially at the hour of my death. Console and strengthen me with the presence of Jesus and Mary so that, with you, I may praise and adore the Holy Trinity for all eternity. Amen.





	<b>OLPH</b>	<b>SAINT BONIFACE</b>
<b>April 1</b> <i>Holy Thursday</i>	7:00 pm ~ Mass	5:00 pm ~ Mass
<b>April 2</b> <i>Good Friday</i>	4:00 pm ~ Stations of the Cross 5:00 pm ~ Good Friday Service	
<b>April 3</b> <i>Holy Saturday</i>	8:00 pm ~ Easter Vigil	4:30 pm ~ Confession 5:00 pm ~ Mass
<b>April 4</b> <i>Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord</i>	8:30 am ~ Confession 9:00 am ~ Mass	

**Our Lady of Perpetual Help & Saint Boniface**

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# Dear Padre,

## My friend's parish is having a St. Joseph's Day Altar. What is that?

**A**ccording to tradition, the altar to St. Joseph originated in the Middle Ages by Sicilians who invoked their patron saint during an extended drought and famine. When rain finally brought relief, the people expressed their gratitude in two ways: by displaying a table with the foods they harvested and by distributing their plenitude to those most in need.

Over time, the custom of an altar around the March 19 feast day of St. Joseph gained popularity and is now embraced by the faithful of any nationality wishing to share their good fortune with those who have less. The meatless feast usually includes baked items, beans, nuts, fruits, and seafood presented in ways that symbolize elements of the faith. Prayerful rituals and children portraying the Holy Family add to the celebration and heritage.

Whether the altar is modest or elaborate, at home or in church, it's a labor of love meant to strengthen the bonds of family and friends in its preparation and to strengthen one's faith and charity in its execution.

Fr. Byron Miller, CSSR

[Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org](mailto:Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org)

## Calendar

### Monday

MARCH 15

*Lenten Weekday*

Is 65:17-21

Jn 4:43-54

### Tuesday

MARCH 16

*Lenten Weekday*

Ez 47:1-9, 12

Jn 5:1-16

### Wednesday

MARCH 17

*Lenten Weekday*

Is 49:8-15

Jn 5:17-30

### Thursday

MARCH 18

*Lenten Weekday*

Ex 32:7-14

Jn 5:31-47

### Friday

MARCH 19

*St. Joseph,  
Spouse of the  
Blessed Virgin Mary*

2 Sm 7:4-5a,  
12-14a, 16

Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22

Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

or Lk 2:41-51a

### Saturday

MARCH 20

*Lenten Weekday*

Jer 11:18-20

Jn 7:40-53

### Sunday

MARCH 21

*Fifth Sunday of Lent*

Jer 31:31-34

Heb 5:7-9

Jn 12:20-33



WILLIAM A. MORGAN/SHUTTERSTOCK

## A WORD FROM Pope Francis

*Saint Joseph appears as a strong and courageous man, a working man, yet in his heart we see great tenderness, which is not the virtue of the weak but rather a sign of strength of spirit and a capacity for concern, for compassion, for genuine openness to others, for love. We must not be afraid of goodness, of tenderness!*

SOLEMNITY OF ST. JOSEPH, MARCH 19, 2013

