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Lent is a time of preparation for Easter and this Holy Feast day celebrates the culmination of the New Covenant that Christ enacted on the cross. We reflect on the suffering and death of Christ, we fast and abstain, and we pray, in order that our hearts might be more ready for the covenant that God has for us.

Instead of reliving history and breaking the small commitments God asks of us, Lent is a time to dive deeply into these commitments so that his covenant can ring true in our hearts and we will be ready for it. Even Jesus as the Son of God knew how important it would be for us to slow down and reflect on what is most important. He didn't need to spend any time in the desert, but today's Gospel reminds us that he went there anyway. He gives us the example of what it looks like to be faithful to his heavenly Father.

This Lent, I encourage you, and myself, to dive deeply. Let's allow this to be a time of purification and penance so that when Easter time comes, we will truly know what it means to rejoice.

SAINT MARY'S

PASTOR: REV. ANTONY PAULOSE
DEACON: DEACON. MELVIN PAYNE
DEACON: DAVID BONNEAUX
PARISH SECRETARY: DEBRA BASS
ST. MARY'S SCHOOL: 883-8913
PRINCIPAL: SR. MARY BENEDICTA MAIER, RSM
DRE: JACKIE SPEARS, 886-0841

PARISH COUNCIL: CHAIRPERSON: TIFFANY STERLING, SECRETARY: PATRICIA BROUSSARD, MEMBERS: DEACON DAVID BONNEAUX, MARY MCKENNA, ANNA HUGHES, JUDGE STEVEN PARKHURST, FELIX ANDERSON, DR. FRANCIS DRODDY & JACQUELINE JUNGEN

YOUTH DIRECTOR: PATRICIA DALEO

ST. MARY CEMETERY: 883-7390
DIRECTOR: JUAN CANTU



CHURCH

CELEBRATION OF MASS:

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30 P.M.

Sunday: 10:00 A.M.

Weekdays: 6:00 P.M. Tuesday
8:30 A.M. Wednesday, Thursday, Friday

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION:

Saturday: 3:00 to 4:00 P.M.

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM: The Sacrament of Baptism is celebrated on the last Sunday of the month at the 10:00 A.M. Mass. Parents must be registered, participating members in the Parish for at least six months and have attended an instructional class held on the first Sunday of the month at 1:00 P.M. To pre-register for this class, please call the Parish Office at 883-2883.

SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY: Diocesan Guidelines require initial interview with the Priest to be held at least six months prior to the wedding. One must be a registered, participating member of the Parish at least one year prior to the wedding or registered with your family of origin.

Fasting and Abstinence: Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are obligatory days of fasting and abstinence for Catholics. In addition, Fridays during Lent are obligatory days of abstinence. The norms on fasting are obligatory from age 18 until age 59. When fasting, a person is permitted to eat one full meal, as well as two smaller meals that together are not equal to a full meal.

Stations of the Cross on Fridays During Lent at 6:00 PM (St. Mary Church).

40 Hours of Lenten Eucharistic Adoration:

Wednesday, February 21 – Friday, February 23 2024 (St. Mary, Chapel).

2024 Appeal for Catholic Ministries

The Appeal for Catholic Ministries theme, *“Building the Kingdom Together”* was selected to remind us that our actions, our prayers and our financial investments in vital ministries of the Church are all given to honor and serve God. Each pledge makes a difference! Your generous support enables our Diocese to deliver needed ministries and services that impact all parishes and people of all ages throughout Southeast Texas. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

Make your gift online: <https://www.dioceseofbmt.org/give>

Please use this form if you need to make a change of your address, email, or phone number(s) for contact purposes.

**It is important to keep all files on our Parishioners updated. Also, we need these updates for the annual directory that you receive each year.
Thank You!!**

Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____

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Return to St. Mary Parish Office, 912 W. Cherry, Orange, 77630 or drop in the collection or at the Office.

GOOD NEWS

Deserts come in all shapes and sizes.

For Noah, it turned out to be a desert of water, an endless, dreary expanse. For Jesus, it was also without end, one of rocks and sand; it was a harsh existence. In our lives, deserts might be a debilitating illness, a dried-up marriage, grief over lost love, a job that seems to tax our sanity, or a childhood scarred by abuse. Not long ago, the world found itself in a pandemic desert. For many, it was one of cabin fever that isolated us from family and friends. Deserts are not alluring places. They are places from which we tend to run.

Some people deal with the inevitable deserts of life by becoming angry; others grow bitter and turn inward; others blame God and walk away from faith. Yet deserts can also be the very forces that reshape lives. With nothing else to distract us, in the desert we come face to face with ourselves, with who we really are and whose voice it is that we follow. There we take a stand on life, as Jesus did. It was the Spirit that drove Jesus into the desert, and it was there that he realized the future to which he was being called. So also with us. Deserts become places where we discover what God is asking of us and where we need to go, all discoveries that may otherwise never have occurred. In some strange and curious way, then, deserts may be blessings in our lives.

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

ST. JOSEPH ALTAR

The altar will be held on Sunday, March 17th in the Parish Hall. A sing up sheet has been placed in the entrance of the Church for anyone who would like to participate in the preparation or on the day of the altar also you can contact the Parish Office. St. Joseph Altar Aprons will be available for sale.

Please call the Parish Office if you would like a statement of your 2023 contributions

Youth Group

St. Mary Youth Group meetings are held on the second and fourth Sunday of each month after the 10:00 a.m. Mass.

Youth Director, Patricia Daleo 409-656-9259



Please Pray for Service Men & Women

Garrett Jackson, Chris Rose, Kaden Baugh, John Lucky LeGault, Sheldon Becker, Bo McDaniel, Samantha McNamara, Taylor Doucet, Michael A. Peveto, Michael Chalambara, Troy Thomassee, John Ardoin, III, Charles Moody, William Travis Johnson, Charlee Thousand, Greg Lewis, James Dupre, Richard Powell, Brian Stancoven, Austin Chesson, Colis Dunham, Joseph Brown, & Nicholas Perez, Alec Doolittle

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday, February 20, 6:00 p.m.
(Devotional to Our Lady of Perpetual Help after Service)

Anniversary of James & Shawntual Thompson

Wednesday, February 21, 8:30 a.m.
+Nell Slaughter

Thursday, February 22, 8:30 a.m.
+Frank Skeeler

Friday, February 23, 8:30 a.m.
+Gertrude Bellair

(Holy Hour 7:30 — 8:30 a.m.)

Saturday, February 24, 4:30 p.m.
+ Annie & Louis Blanda

Sunday, February 25, 10:00 a.m.
St. Mary Parish Family

February 18—24
Chapel Sanctuary Candle

Jerry Babovec

There are **DATES OPEN** on the Sanctuary Candle Calendar for anyone who wishes to remember a loved by having the Candle burn in their name for a week. For the Chapel or Church Sanctuary Candle. Cost is \$5.00 per week.



PRAYING FOR THE SICK.....

It is our responsibility in the Lord to remember the sick who are especially close to the Redeemer in their suffering. In the listing below you will find the names of those who have requested our prayerful intercession.

Vickie Reina Jowers, Rita Bourliea, Vivian DeJohn, Rosalie Clark, JoAnn Sparacino, D. Thomas Abshire, Jr., Steven Campbell, Jennifer Hinson, Joshua Bergeron, Pat Seay, Michael Savigano, Lisa Hamerly, Susan Morris, Jim Jones, Carolyn Smith, Brian McCall, Tammy Norwood, Aimee Tait, Lisa Pitre, Marie Theresa Adames, George Mason, "Tacky" Stringer, Evelyn Giaratano, Joel Rivera, Camilo Molins, David Olson, Milton Westbrook, Lynne Theriot, Wayne Lofton, Karen Ball, Karen Brock, David Lester, Walter & Yvonne Trahan, Debra Harrington, Mandi McDaniel, Brenda Hill, Bonnie Buford, Angela Dean, June Burch, Janie Bauman, Felix Anderson, Mary Carolyn James, Letitia Calderon, Jeanette Burleson, Faye Richard, Wayne Smith, Cheryl Boyd Simar, Danny Simar, Doris Toups, DeAnn Lumpkin, John Patronella, Sr., Glenn McGuire, Kayden James, Rocky Breaux, Lydia Wolfford, Kim Berlinger, Brenda Lanclose, Troy Dore, Jack Spears, Kathleen Ramirez, Claire Howard, J.C. Russo, Paul Vandermaas, Jr., Joyce Broussard, Patty Stout, Sharon Fontenot, Donna Richard, Lillie Bourge, Connie Duprie **May they be touched by the healing hand of the Divine Physician, Our Lord Jesus Christ, and restored to the full and active life of our Church community and their families. (If you or someone you know should be included in our prayers, please contact the Parish Office).**

February 18— 24

TUESDAY

Jesus and the Eucharist Bible Study 6:45—8:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Soup Kitchen 11:30—12:30 a.m.

Religious Education Classes for all grades

PreK—8th grade 5:30—6:30 p.m.

High School 6:30 —7:30 p.m.

FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross 6:00 p.m.

Knights of Columbus FISH FRY

SATURDAY

Confession 3:00 — 4:00 p. m.

ST. MARY

February 10—11

ENVELOPES	\$ 7,582.00
LOOSE.....	\$ 1,059.00
St. Mary School	\$ 3,263.00
TOTAL.....	\$ 11,904.00

Thank you for your continued support

Scripture Readings

For the Week of February 18, 2024

Sunday

First Sunday of Lent

Gn 9:8-15; Ps 25:4-5, 6-7, 8-9; 1 Pt 3:18-22; Mk 1:12-15

Monday

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 15; Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday

Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19; Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday

Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Jl 2:13; Lk 11:29-32

Thursday

Feast of the Chair of Saint Peter, Apostle

1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4, 5, 6; Mt 16:18; Mt 16:13-19

Friday

Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8; Mt 5:20-26

Saturday

Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48

Sunday

Second Sunday of Lent

Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-

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St. Mary's Sunday Bulletin

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