

THIRD SUNDAY OF

Lent

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MARCH
7
2021

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and in three days I will raise it up."

John 2:19

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JOHN 2:19



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THE LAW

Today’s reading from Exodus tells of God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses; this passage is well known to Christians, but it is only the introduction to the entire Mosaic Law, or Torah. The Psalm is a small section of the longest in the Psalter—172 verses—which are generally couplets (two lines) praising the Law as perfect, true, just, right, and so on. The Law is both the source of Jewish identity and the centerpiece of the Jewish intellectual tradition. Paul briefly compares this tradition with those of the Greeks, the two groups in the church at Corinth that were often quarreling. The passage from John’s Gospel shows Jesus’ righteous anger as he chases the moneychangers from the temple. His actions are a sign of Jesus’ own reverence for “my Father’s house,” which in turn reflects his deep appreciation for the Law.

“THE LAW OF THE LORD IS PERFECT . . .”

For pious Jews in first-century Palestine, the Mosaic Law prescribed the way every action in life is dedicated to God. Today’s reading from Exodus tells how the Ten Commandments, the introduction to this larger legal code, is given to Israel as a gift from God.

In the Gospels Jesus is portrayed as a rabbi, or someone learned in the Law. A rabbi’s learning ideally included both the precepts of the Law and its reverent contemplation as a divine gift, within which one could hear God’s own voice. This was the way rabbis through the centuries used the Law to adapt to changing circumstances. This seems to be what Jesus was doing with the moneychangers in the temple.

JESUS, THE LAW, THE JEWS—AND US

When Jesus accused the moneychangers of sacrilege and cleared them out of the temple, the onlookers asked for a sign of his authority to do such a thing. After all, wasn’t it a sacrilege to purchase animals for sacrifice with pagan coins? Wasn’t this how the Jews adapted to Roman rule? Jesus says nothing about that; he only knows that this commercial activity inside the temple was a sacrilege. Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus is criticized for not being strict enough with the Law, as when he ate with prostitutes and tax collectors, but here he is prescribing something stricter, something “more.”

Jesus is doing something extraordinary, contrary to ordinary practice, prompting the onlookers to request a sign, evidence that God is acting here through Jesus. His insistence that the moneychangers depart, his clear vision regarding “my Father’s house,” and his cryptic reference to himself as a temple, are signs of his contemplative intimacy with his Father that is the source of his authority about the Law.

Catholics, like first-century Jews, have our regular means for living in God’s presence. We have the liturgy, sacraments, devotions, and personal prayer. During Lent, we are asked to be a little stricter with ourselves, listening for God’s own voice. If we do, we might discover that we, too, are being called to something “more.”

TODAY’S READINGS

Exodus 20:1–17 [1–3, 7–8, 12–17]
Psalm 19:8, 9, 10, 11
1 Corinthians 1:22–25
John 2:13–25

THIRD
SUNDAY OF
LENT
MARCH 7, 2021

Weekly Mass Intentions

Saturday, March 6, 2021

5:00 pm..... Parishioner Intentions
7:30 pm..... Parishioner Intentions

Sunday, March 7, 2020

9:00 am..... Parishioner Intentions
10:30 am (OLG)..... Parishioner Intentions
11:30 am (SH)..... Parishioner Intentions
6:00 pm..... All College Students

Weekly Parish Activities

March 7-March 13

Third Sunday of Lent

Sunday, March 7

St. Mary

8:30 am..... Confession
9:00 am..... Holy Mass

Our Lady of Guadalupe

10:00 am..... Confession
10:30 am..... Holy Mass

Sacred Heart

11:00 am..... Confession
11:30 am..... Holy Mass

St. Brendan

5:30 pm..... Confession
6:00 pm..... Holy Mass
7:00 pm..... CCM/Al-Anon Meeting

Monday, March 8

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Tuesday, March 9

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)
12:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

Wednesday, March 10

7:00 pm..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)

Thursday, March 11

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)
7:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

Friday, March 12

8:00 am..... Daily Mass (St. Brendan)
6:00 pm..... Stations of the Cross (St. Brendan)

Saturday, March 13

7:00 am TMIY (St. Brendan)
4:30 pm..... Confession (St. Brendan)
5:00 pm..... Holy Mass (St. Brendan)
7:00 pm..... Confession (St. Mary)
7:30 pm..... Santa Misa (St. Mary)

Online Giving is available on our parish website: www.stbrendanscc.org

Prefer Mail:
Make check payable to your parish and mail to 1444 W. Washington St. Stephenville, TX 76401.

TOTAL ALLEGIANCE

March 7, 2021

In previous weeks we have seen how the theme of covenant—as a preparation for the baptismal covenant celebrated at Easter—occupies an important place in our cycle of Lenten readings. The notion of covenant as a relationship between two parties carries with it an expectation of mutual accountability and fidelity to the terms of the covenant. When God forged the covenant with the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, it was a pledge of God’s protection, and it would forever permit them familiar access as the Chosen People. For their part, the Jewish people were to observe the dictates of the law, summarized most succinctly here in the form of the Ten Commandments. To be in a covenantal relationship with the Lord God requires an exclusive relationship, just as discipleship with Jesus—ritualized in baptism—demands a total allegiance to him and none other.

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TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17])

Psalm — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19)

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25)

Gospel — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25)

LEALTAD TOTAL

7 de marzo de 2021

En semanas anteriores hemos visto cómo el tema de la alianza, en preparación para la alianza bautismal que se celebra en Semana Santa, ocupa un lugar importante en nuestro ciclo de lecturas de Cuaresma. La noción de una alianza como una relación entre dos partes lleva consigo la expectativa de la responsabilidad mutua y la fidelidad a los términos del pacto. Cuando Dios forjó la alianza con el pueblo judío en el monte Sinaí, se trataba de una promesa de la protección de Dios, y que siempre les permitiría el acceso familiar como Pueblo Escogido. Por su parte, el pueblo judío debería observar los requisitos de la ley, que se resumen aquí en los Diez Mandamientos. Para estar en una relación de pacto con el Señor Dios requiere una relación exclusiva, al igual que ser discípulo de Jesús —que expresamos ritualmente en el Bautismo— exige una total lealtad a Él y a ningún otro.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; 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: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

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

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Giving during the COVID-19 pandemic: During this challenging time, we depend on online donations to keep our parish family going. Please take advantage of online giving by visiting our parish website at www.stbrendanscc.org.

The Annual Diocesan Appeal is underway throughout the Diocese of Fort Worth.

Through this annual campaign, the Diocese funds programs and ministries for its 90 parishes and missions throughout the 28 counties it serves.

Information sheets and commitment envelopes are in the back of 4 churches. Once completed please mail your contribution or pledge card directly to the Diocese office in Fort Worth. You can also go to <https://stbrendanscc.org/>.

Here is the latest ADA report from the Diocese:

As 2-25-21

Our Lady of Guadalupe...16 donors...Goal \$5000
Committed...\$5190 (104%) Paid...\$4940 (99%)

St. Mary's...36 donors...Goal \$16,500
Committed \$15,3061 (93%) Paid...\$15,211 (92%)

St. Brendan's...31 donors...Goal \$17,500
Committed...12,562 (72%) Paid...\$10,732 (61%)

Sacred Heart...16 donors...Goal \$6000
Committed...\$5382 (90%) Paid...\$4382 (73%)

Remember to check the website <https://stbrendanscc.org/> for important updates on Mass Schedules, Covid-19 guidelines, and Church Gatherings updates.

Please Remember:

1. There is no obligation at this time to attend Mass.
2. Masks are to be worn at all times inside parish buildings.

BULLETIN: Please direct all bulletin announcements to Nathan in the church office. Email them to catholic@embargmail.com by Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

Office Hours are Monday through Friday, **9 am – 3 pm**. Please be sure to call during these hours for assistance. **(254-965-5693)**

UPCOMING SECOND/SPECIAL COLLECTIONS

March 13-14.....Catholic Relief Services
March 20-21Catholic Charities Fort Worth
(Emergency Collection)

PRAYER CORNER: Please pray for the different intentions of each person this week for: Baby Lauren, Tye Coapland, Laurie Tolboom Martin, Kathryn Schneider, Ryan Morgan, Carter Brown, Neide Gonsalves, Jackie Demetruk, Louise Roemer, Natal Mello, Poplin family, Carl Volleman, Sylvia Patterson, John McCarthy, Irma Lopez, Jennifer Lancaster and Family, Della Munson and Husband, Lt. Evan Flores and Caitlin Cook, Isaac Montelongo, Mack McCormick, Ann Blair, Paulette Jones, Paul and Jami Dominguez, Amanda Nicholson, Jocelyn Lewis, Donnie H., Peter DeJong, Teresa Villadesanchez, Marisol Sanchez, Tino Bernal, Lupita Ojeda, Margie Derrick, Maria Bernal, Rudy Guerrero, Filegonio Cardenas, Chris Roemer, Mykal Jones, David Gonzales, Bole Family, Jeanna DeViney, Bill Luther, Pete Sanchez, Teresa Sanchez, Patrick Noonan, Estela Patlan, Cristino DeLeon, Jr., Janice Schuetz, Dorothy Casseqta, Jose Torres, Patsy Shafer, Cheryl Mauer, Lisa Bradshaw, Jennifer Lannin, Sara Maldonado, Mary Rose, Lagarde Family, Jerry Soape, Florin Schlautman, Linda Mitchell, Kayla Cambers, Stephanie Martinez, Crystal Lena Martinez, Colleen Carey Dotson, Nursing Home Patients, homebound parishioners, all who are ill, and for all the souls in purgatory.

Announcements and Events happening this week:

Next week, our parish will take up The **Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC)**. Funds from this collection provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ's love and mercy to all people here and abroad. **One fourth of all funds collected in the Diocese of Fort Worth stay here to support local poverty efforts.** Next week, please give generously to the CRSC and help Jesus in disguise. Learn more about the collection at www.usccb.org/catholic-relief.

Thank you for participating in the Choices "Change for Life" fundraiser. Special thanks for your many prayers for the clients, staff and volunteers. Please drop off your bottle if you haven't yet.

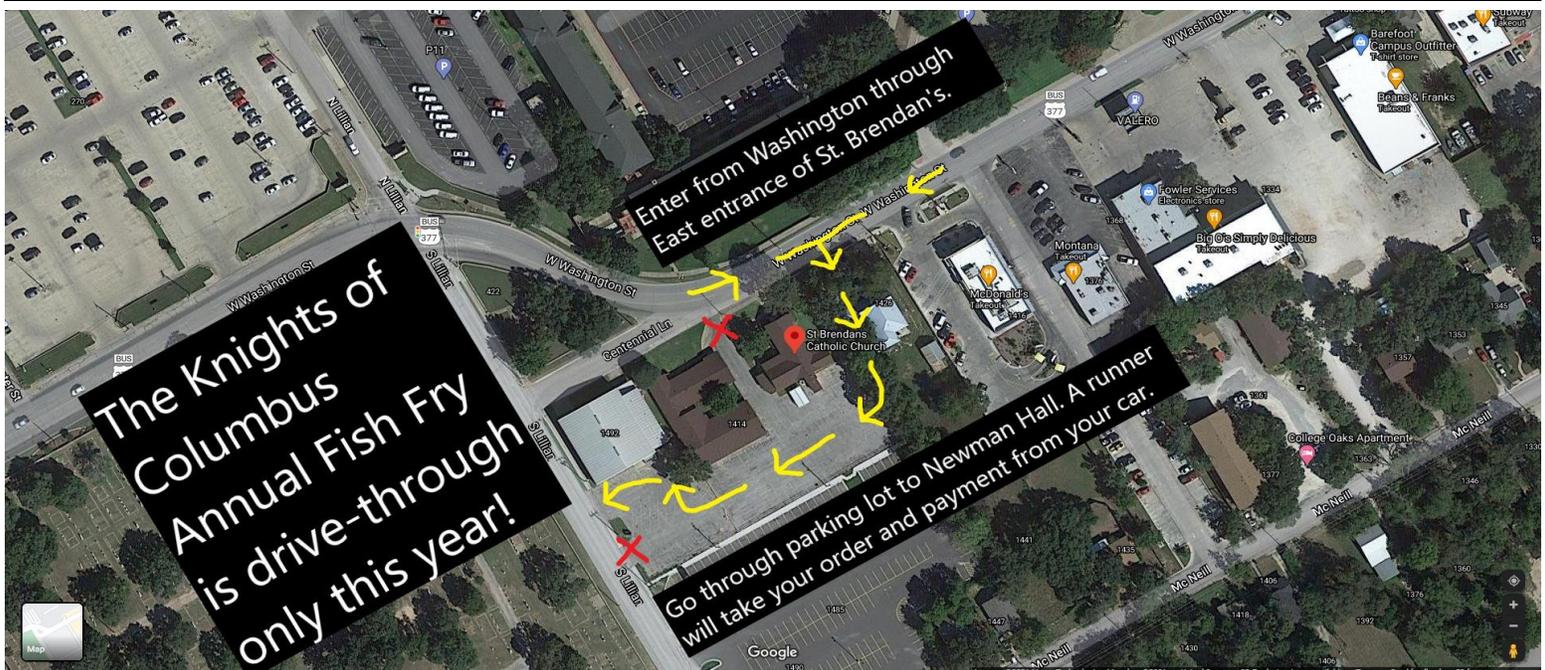
Greetings Parishioners!

Your Parish Council would like your input on any and all matters no matter how large or small regarding our Parish. Please email or text ideas, concerns or recommendations to: Andrew Kinser at andrewk@fnbdublin.com or (254)-977-7516.

The Stephenville Knights of Columbus continue their annual Lenten Fish Fry this Friday at Newman Hall. Due to the pandemic, this year's event will be **only DRIVE-THROUGH orders** (No need to place orders over the phone). **Please follow the map below for directions.** The weekly event will run from **5:00-7:00 p.m. Fridays thru March.** The meal will consist of fish, coleslaw, hushpuppies, and French fries.

Prices this year are \$10.00 for cash or check orders and \$12.00 for Debit Cards and Venmo.
Text "fish" to 1-844-617-1888 to get weekly updates.

This week's benefiting agency is HOPE.



Live Streaming of the Saturday 7:30 p.m. and Sunday 9:00 a.m. masses from St. Mary's is available on Facebook, by search "*St. Brendan's Catholic Church*".

Weekdays masses are also streamed live from St. Brendan's, at 8:00 a.m. Mon-Tu-Th-Fri, and 7:00 p.m. on Wed.

March 6-7, 2021 - "His disciples recalled the words of Scripture, Zeal for your house will consume me." Do we have zeal to honor God through our marriage? For dates for "virtual" Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends visit our website at: <http://www.dfwme.org/> For more information e-mail apply@dfwme.org or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a emmdfw@gmail.com

TMIY: The Vision of Man Fully Alive

The Vision of Man Fully Alive enables men to experience authentic freedom as sons of God. Through living the three-fold mission of abiding presence, joyful service and living sacrifice, their hearts and homes will experience the joy that God desires. To sustain them on their spiritual journey, the men will be led directly to the three spiritual foods that Christ himself proclaims: The Eucharist, The Word of God, and The Will of God. Join us for food, fellowship and faith at **Newman Hall, on Saturdays at 8 AM. All men are welcome.** Learn more at tmiy.org.

Contact Anthony Williams at 817-894-5343 or awillj@gmail.com

Monthly Baptism Preparation Classes:

Monthly Baptism classes (English and Spanish) are for **children UNDER the age of 7**. Please contact the office (254) 965-5693 for information/enrollment.

Children 7 and older prepare for Baptism via the RCIA-Adapted for Children program. Contact Karen Harper for information/enrollment.

God-parents **MUST** be practicing Catholics.

If you cannot receive Communion you cannot be a God-parent.

The following requirements **MUST** be met in order to be a God-parent:

Baptized

Confirmed

If Married, they **MUST** be married in the Catholic Church

If Single, they **CANNOT** be cohabitating

Clases para preparación de Bautismo Mensual:

Clases de Bautismo mensuales (Inglés y Español) son para **niños que tengan MENOS de 7 años**. Comuníquese con Irma Chacón (254) 965-2078 para el horario de clases

Niños que tengan 7 años o más serán preparados para el Bautismo por acabo de él programa RCIA-Adaptado para niños. Llame a Karen Harper para obtener información

Padrinos **TIENEN** que ser Católicos practicantes.

Si no puede recibir la Comunión, no puede ser un padrino.

Los siguientes requisitos **TIENEN** que ser cumplidos en orden de poder ser Padrinos:

Tiene que ser Bautizados

Tiene que estar Confirmados

Casados por la Iglesia Católica se están casados

Si no están casados no pueden estar viviendo con una pareja

FAITH CORNER

FEAST OF FAITH: Postures of the Mass

In the Mass, we pray not only with our lips, but with our bodies as well. We stand when the ministers enter. In Western culture, standing is a sign of attention, a mark of respect: all stand when the judge enters the courtroom, for example. Standing is also an ancient posture of prayer, mentioned frequently in the Old Testament. When the readings begin, we sit down: a listening posture. Mary sat at Jesus' feet to listen to his teaching; the crowds sat on the hillside or the seashore to hear his words. Kneeling is another posture that is full of meaning. It expresses adoration and worship, but it can also express humility and contrition. We bow: a sign of honor and reverence, acknowledging the presence of God, especially when we receive the Eucharist. And there are other ritual gestures as well—striking the breast, genuflecting, and of course making the sign of the cross. The liturgy invites us to pray with our whole person—with heart and mind, voice and body.

—Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

FIESTA DE LA FE: El altar, símbolo de Cristo

Uno de los símbolos visibles al entrar a cualquier iglesia es el altar mismo. De hecho, en los años posteriores al Concilio Vaticano II, las nuevas construcciones tenían como centro al altar, y en torno a él, la asamblea. El altar es el símbolo de Cristo, del cordero inmolado; asimismo, es el lugar del sacrificio. A medida que en la Iglesia se fue desarrollando la teología eucarística desde la perspectiva del sacrificio, los altares fueron adquiriendo mayor importancia, dejando de ser soportes de madera y pasando a ser un elemento fijo, de una sola piedra, pues Cristo es la piedra angular. En razón de esta visión se comenzó a sepultar a los mártires bajo el altar, hasta que se llegó a la pequeña cavidad en la cual se depositaban las reliquias de los mártires. A partir del siglo XV aumentaron los símbolos de veneración al altar como símbolo de Cristo: el beso inicial, la incensación, la reverencia e inclusive, la postración el Viernes Santo. Altar y mesa. Comunión y sacrificio.

—Miguel Arias, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

saint snippets



My mission is to love.
I do not have time
to tear others down.

Bl. Irma Dulce

20th-century Brazilian sister who cared for
the homeless and the poor on the streets

Copyright © 2018, Michael Thimons

March 13

If you've ever wanted to understand the Bible, this podcast is for you!

In *The Bible in a Year* podcast, **Fr. Mike Schmitz** walks you through the entire Bible in 365 episodes, providing commentary, reflection, and prayer along the way.

With this podcast, you won't just read the Bible in a year, you'll finally understand how all the pieces of the Bible fit together to tell an amazing story that continues in your life today!

Listen and... Read the ENTIRE Bible, feel more confident about your understanding of Scripture, experience the transformative power of God's Word in your daily life, and start seeing the world through the lens of Scripture. Tune in and live your daily life through the lens of God's word! Click here: [Bible In A Year](#)

(Didn't start January 1? Hint: As long as you're alive, you still have time to start and keep going!)

THE MASS IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIFT ON EARTH WE WILL EVER HAVE.

So why do I struggle to get something from it? Why does it seem most people just going through the motions or don't want to be there? What difference does it even make?

Do you have questions? Do you want to learn and grow in your faith and relationship with God? Join us in this **short and free** video study during Lent, and **encounter God in the Mass and watch your life be transformed.** Join us now by following this link: [The Bible and the Mass](#)



Saint Story: SAINT FRANCES OF ROME (1384-1440)

Feast day: March 9

Nature and human nature--plagues and wars--turned late medieval Rome into a living hell, particularly for the sick and poor. Frances, by birth and marriage well provided for, was a devoted wife and mother; but like Benedictine Oblates who, to this day, "pray and work" while living with their families and working in the world, she joined like-minded laywomen friends in ministering to society's most vulnerable. Frances' charity was not only "hands on" but "in home." Her palace becoming a hospital after the plague claimed two of her three children. When her husband's death ended their loving marriage of forty years, Frances joined other widowed Oblates in community. In an interesting link to the United States, our nation's premier religious congregation for women of color, the Oblate Sisters of Providence, in 1833 established bonds of spiritual communion with these "Oblates of Saint Frances" in Rome. Though Black History Month is past, take a moment to learn about the good work that Mother Lange's spiritual daughters are doing still and consider supporting them as a Lenten project: www.oblatesisters.com.
--Peter Scagnelli, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

"It is most laudable in a married woman to be devout, but she must never forget that she is a housewife. And sometimes she must leave God at the altar to find Him in her housekeeping." St. Frances of Rome, pray for us!

[St. Frances of Rome: Finding God in the Little Things](#)

[If one bad decision ruined or almost ruined your life, here's your saint](#)





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