



MARCH 21, 2021

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# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*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.*

*John 12:24*



I will place my law within them  
and write it upon their hearts;  
I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

JEREMIAH 31:33

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Photo: St. Nicholas Cathedral, Galway, Ireland; Ric Erigenbright and Danita Delimont/Adobe Stock.

## THROUGH SUFFERING

The prophet Jeremiah, in today's first reading, is looking beyond the often-messy history of Israel and Judah to a time when the people will no longer be disobedient to God, because God's law will be "written on their hearts"—that is, their natural inclinations and desires will be oriented toward God's will. The psalmist gives voice to the sorrow that Israel and Judah experienced in their separation from God "Have mercy on me, O God . . . A clean heart create for me." According to Saint Paul, the earthly Jesus, "son though he was," like his ethnic ancestors, he "learned obedience from what he suffered." The Gospel reading is part of Jesus' discourses not long before the Last Supper. Instead of a social encounter with Philip's friends who had come to see him, Jesus is grappling with his approaching death and its ultimate meaning for the world.

### JEREMIAH: LOOKING BEYOND EXILE AND SUFFERING

The readings today remind us how close we are to Easter—only two weeks from now. They also remind us that the path to resurrection and Easter always includes suffering and death. The prophet Jeremiah spent his whole life proclaiming the word of God to kings who would not listen. As an old man, he saw Jerusalem defeated and the inhabitants taken into exile. Jeremiah himself suffered in being left behind, but in today's reading, he is looking beyond those sufferings to a time when the previously disobedient people would be transformed and live in harmony with God's law.

### LOOKING FOR JESUS, FINDING THE CROSS

In the Gospel reading, friends of Philip come to him and ask about meeting Jesus. When Philip and Andrew take the request to Jesus, he begins a cryptic discourse on discipleship, transformation, and divine judgment. We never hear whether Philip's friends got to personally meet Jesus. Perhaps they simply blended in with the crowd.

Jesus says, "[W]hen I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." The narrator says that Jesus' words indicate how he will die; the readers already know Jesus will be crucified. Jesus also speaks of divine judgment driving out the world's rulers and of the need to be transformed, like a seed growing into a productive plant. He warns about loving our life and losing it. Unlike Jeremiah's detailed vision, Jesus only hints at what kind of transformed life his death will bring.

What if we, like Philip's friends, want to get close to Jesus? Does that mean that the discourse on death and judgment is addressed to us? If Jesus will draw everyone to himself as he is "lifted up," does being closer to him mean joining him on his cross? (Do we want to be that close to Jesus?) Do we want to be transformed? If we say "yes," the liturgy these next two weeks can show us the only way the Church knows to get closer to Jesus: to be willing to be "lifted up" with him in his suffering—and in our own.

## TODAY'S READINGS

Jeremiah 31:31–34  
Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15  
Hebrews 5:7–9  
John 12:20–33

FIFTH  
SUNDAY OF  
LENT  
MARCH 21, 2021

**Weekly Mass Intentions****Saturday, March 20, 2021**

5:00 pm..... Parishioner Intentions

7:30 pm..... Parishioner Intentions

**Sunday, March 21, 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 21-March 27****Fifth Sunday of Lent****Sunday, March 21****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 22**

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

**Tuesday, March 23**

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

12:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

**Wednesday, March 24**

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

**Thursday, March 25**

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

7:00 pm..... Al-Anon Meeting (St. Brendan)

**Friday, March 26**

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

6:00 pm..... Stations of the Cross (St. Brendan)

**Saturday, March 27**

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)

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website: [www.stbrendanscc.org](http://www.stbrendanscc.org)

Prefer Mail:

Make check payable to your parish and  
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Stephenville, TX 76401.

**THE NEW COVENANT****March 21, 2021**

Today's first reading is an enormously important passage, not only in the history of the Jewish people, but also for us as disciples of Jesus, who see in it a foreshadowing of the Christian dispensation. The prophet announces that God has chosen to forgive the people, and that as a sign of divine forgiveness a new covenant will be established. Contrasting the new covenant with the one made with Moses on Mount Sinai, Jeremiah says that the new covenant will be written on the people's hearts rather than on tablets of stone. No longer will the community's tradition be the sole bearer of the covenant; henceforth, God will speak directly and personally to each individual, forgiving sin and calling for a return to God in faithfulness. No longer will mere outward compliance with the dictates of the Law suffice; henceforth, God asks for an obedience that springs from the depths of one's heart. Precisely that kind of obedience is highlighted in today's second reading, where the author of the Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant whose obedience has made him the source of salvation for all who, in turn, obey him. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**TODAY'S READINGS**

**First Reading** — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

**Psalms** — Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51)

**Second Reading** — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:7-9)

**Gospel** — If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33)

**EL NUEVO PACTO****21 de marzo de 2021**

La primera lectura de hoy es un paso muy importante, en la historia del pueblo judío y también para nosotros como discípulos de Jesús que ven en ella un anuncio de la dispensación cristiana. El profeta anuncia que Dios ha escogido perdonar al pueblo, y que como un signo del perdón divino se establecerá una nueva alianza. Contrastando la nueva alianza con la que Dios hizo con Moisés en el Monte Sinaí, Jeremías dice que el nuevo pacto será inscrito en el corazón del pueblo y no en tablas de piedra. Ya no será la tradición de la comunidad la única portadora de la alianza; a partir de ahora, Dios hablará directa y personalmente a cada individuo, perdonando el pecado y pidiendo un retorno a Él en fidelidad. Ya no bastará el mero cumplimiento de los dictados externos de la ley; a partir de ahora, Dios pide una obediencia que brota de lo más profundo de nuestro corazón. Precisamente ese tipo de obediencia se destaca en la segunda lectura de hoy, donde el autor de la Carta a los Hebreos describe a Jesús como el mediador del nuevo pacto, cuya obediencia ha hecho de él la fuente de salvación para todos los que, a su vez, le obedecen. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

**Friday:** Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

**Sunday:** Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]



**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](http://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 3-12-21

Our Lady of Guadalupe...16 donors...Goal \$5000  
Committed...\$5390 (108%) Paid...\$5165 (103%)

St. Mary's...36 donors...Goal \$16,500  
Committed \$15,471 (94%) Paid...\$15,321 (93%)

St. Brendan's...32 donors...Goal \$17,500  
Committed...13,112 (75%) Paid...\$10,832 (62%)

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](mailto: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 20-21 .....Catholic Charities Fort Worth  
(Emergency Collection)  
April 2.....Holy Land/Good Friday Collection

**PRAYER CORNER:** Please pray for the different intentions of each person this week for: Delgado Family, Jody Cornell, Kathy Prentice, Anne Blount, Brody Smith and family, Baby Lauren, Tye Coapland, Laurie Tolboom Martin, Carter Brown, Neide Gonsalves, Jackie Demetruk, 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 Casseotta, 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:

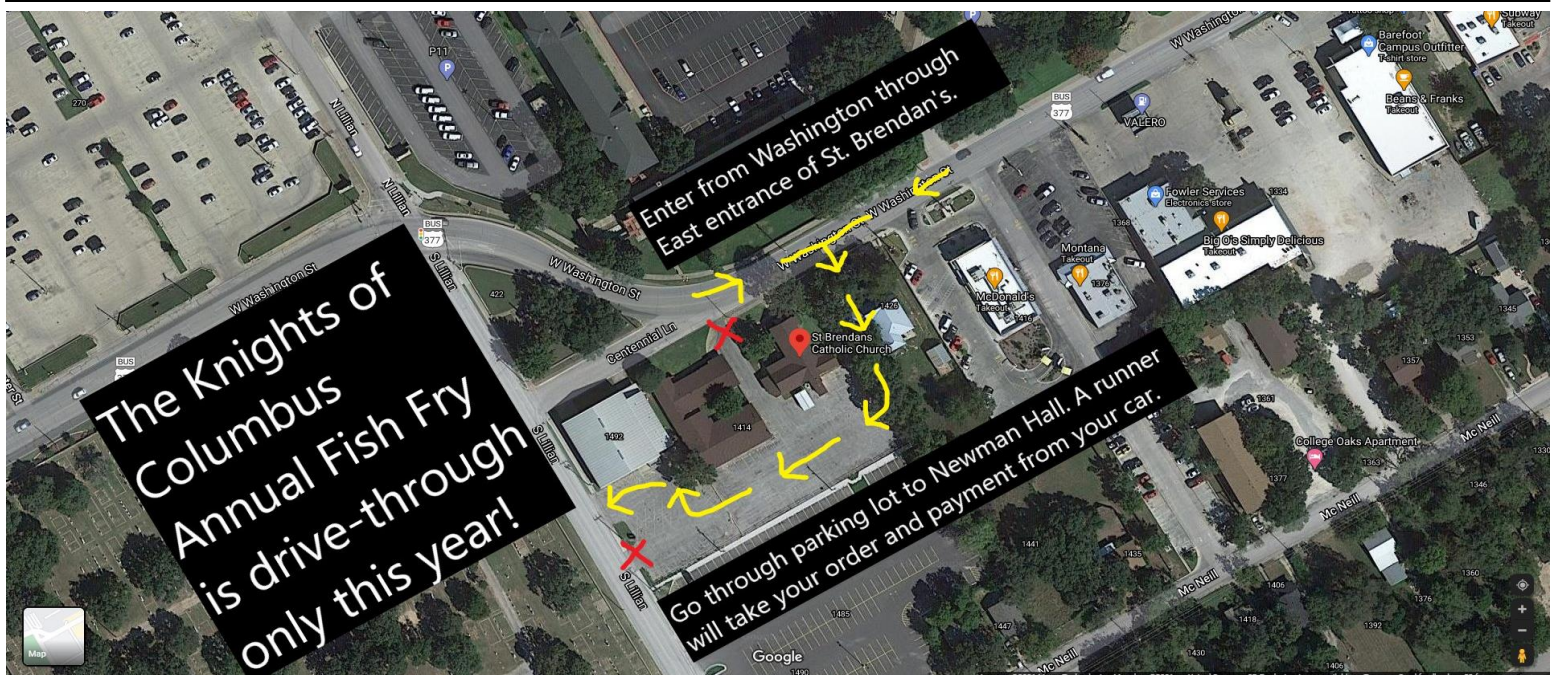
**From Bishop Olson:** As your bishop, I am asking that a special emergency second collection be taken in each of our parishes for **Catholic Charities Fort Worth this weekend, March 20-21**. All gifts make a difference as CCFW works to respond to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and recent impacts of the winter storm disaster. I thank you on behalf of the clients of Catholic Charities Fort Worth. I remain, Sincerely Yours in Christ, Most Reverend Michael F. Olson, Bishop of Fort Worth.

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](mailto:andrewk@fnbdublin.com) or (254)-977-7516.

The Stephenville Knights of Columbus conclude their annual Lenten Fish Fry Friday, March 26 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 agencies are Dublin Senior Citizens and Sacred Heart Church Building Fund.**



**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 20-21, 2021** - "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." We must die to self to give more in our marriage. Learn how to be the best spouse possible by participating in a virtual Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. For dates for "virtual" Worldwide Marriage Encounter Weekends visit our website at: <http://www.dfwme.org/> For more information e-mail [apply@dfwme.org](mailto:apply@dfwme.org) or call 469-444-0904. Para mas informacion de Encuentro Matrimonial en Espanol, escriba a [emmdfw@gmail.com](mailto: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](http://tmiy.org).

Contact Anthony Williams at 817-894-5343 or [awillj@gmail.com](mailto:awillj@gmail.com)

## **HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE(Revised)**

### **Holy Thursday**

- **St. Brendan: 5pm**
- **St. Mary: 7pm**
- **Sacred Heart: 7pm**

### **Good Friday**

- **St. Brendan: 5pm**
- **St. Mary: 7pm**
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe: 7pm**

### **Holy Saturday**

- **St. Brendan: 5pm**
- **Sacred Heart: 6pm**
- **St. Mary: 8pm**

### **Easter Sunday:**

- **St. Mary: 9am**
- **Sacred Heart: 10am**
- **Our Lady of Guadalupe: 10:30am**



# FAITH CORNER

## FEAST OF FAITH: The First Reading

Each Sunday, we listen to three scripture readings. The first reading usually comes from the Old Testament. “The New Testament lies hidden in the Old; the Old Testament comes fully to light in the New,” we read in the *Introduction to the Lectionary*. “Christ himself is the center and fullness of the whole of Scripture” (5). On Sundays, these readings usually have a close connection to the Gospel. In this season of Lent, for example, the Exodus account of the thirst of the Israelites in the desert is paired with the Samaritan woman’s encounter with Jesus at the well. Ezekiel’s vision of the Lord raising people from their graves is paired with the narrative of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead.

The readings are taken from many sources—historical books like Judges, Kings, and the Acts of the Apostles, prophets like Isaiah and Ezekiel, wisdom literature like Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. But no matter its genre, the first reading always ends with the same acclamation: “The word of the Lord.” The scriptures are written by human authors who wrote in widely different cultural and historical contexts, but these human authors are also divine instruments through whom God speaks to us. And so we say, “Thanks be to God.”

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

## FIESTA DE LA FE: La Liturgia de la Palabra

Ésta comienza a partir de la Oración colecta. En las lecturas que se proclaman, “Dios habla a su pueblo, le descubre el misterio de la redención y salvación, y le ofrece el alimento espiritual; y el mismo Cristo, por su palabra, se hace presente en medio de los fieles”, (IGMR, 55). La actual estructura de la Liturgia de la Palabra en la que se proclama la primera lectura del Antiguo Testamento (excepto durante la Pascua), la segunda lectura del Nuevo Testamento y, posteriormente el Evangelio, responde a la estructura misma de la liturgia en las sinagogas judías que probablemente surgieron durante el destierro (586-539 a.C.), pues eran los lugares indicados para la oración. El Salmo Responsorial, la Homilía, el Credo y las Intercesiones Generales, también son parte de la Liturgia de la Palabra. No obstante, hay que recordar que el corazón de la Liturgia de la Palabra lo ocupa la proclamación del Evangelio. ¡Gloria y honor a ti, Señor Jesús!

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

saint snippets

Those who have  
a voice must speak  
for those who are  
voiceless.

**St. Oscar Romero**

Outspoken Archbishop of San Salvador  
martyred while celebrating Mass. He was  
canonized in October of 2018.

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March 24

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 JOSEPH, HUSBAND OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

**Feast day: March 19**

Joseph, someone once joked, was indeed the perfect husband: the only major character in Jesus' story who never utters a word! But the Gospel recounts and the liturgy celebrates his silent witness of faith-filled deeds: "With a husband's love he cherished Mary, the Virgin Mother of God; with fatherly care he watched over Jesus" (Preface of Saint Joseph, *Sacramentary*). Catholic devotion, therefore, hails him as patron-protector of the universal Church. Some cultures set a festive "Saint Joseph's Table," welcoming the poor and strangers to feast with family and friends. Tradition keeps today as the anniversary of his death, which we presume was peaceful, with Jesus and Mary present. Thus, Catholics invoke Joseph as "patron of a happy death." Descended from David's house, which God finished "building" through Joseph's provision of a home for Mary and Jesus, he was, fittingly, a carpenter by trade; thus, patron of workers. Spring, nature's rebirth, begins between his feast and Annunciation (March 25), appropriately, since Joseph's silent obedience and Mary's "Let it be done to me according to your word" (Luke 1:38) usher in humanity's spiritual rebirth.

—Peter Scagnelli, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

**"..." St. Joseph, pray for us!**

[St. Joseph Reflection](#)







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