

March 17, 2024  
Fifth Sunday of Lent

Reflection on the Readings by Fr. Leo

Good Christianity and Holiness Do Not Exclude Challenging Times

In 1987, an Irish best cyclist at the time, Stephen Roche, celebrated one of his most significant victories and told his friends that the glory that comes with victory cannot be separated from the pains of hard work and suffering, the pains of sweat and tears. His pains were part of his joy. Another great man, Van Gough, one of the world's most famous painters, used his works, his stories, and his writings to share that the difficulties he surmounted in his pursuit of success cannot be separated from his victories and happiness.

The challenges and triumphs of these gentlemen help us understand the second reading that teaches us the significance of enduring challenges and sufferings for the sake of eternal life with God in heaven. The reading teaches us how Christ painfully endured suffering for the sake of God's will and became the source of eternal life for us. It encourages us to try our best to survive the challenges that might stop us from successfully journeying to everlasting life.

The words of Christ in the gospel, "Unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it cannot produce much fruit" is a fantastic paradox that reminds us that it is from the grave of our old sinful self, which passes through the refinement of penance, prayer, almsgiving, and other challenging demands of righteousness that a new life of holiness emerges. In other words, we must die to our old sinful self if we are to get the new holy self that will meet God in heaven. Thus, Christ added, "Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world preserves it for eternal life." To hate our life in this world refers to the avoidance of the unholy good things in this world so we can emerge as righteous people ready to meet God in heaven. We, therefore, pray that we triumph in our moments of trials, temptations, and sufferings for the sake of our holiness and the preservation of our souls.

Very Rev. Leo Ahanotu



Happy St. Patrick's Day

This Week

Dynamic Speaker, Karlo Broussard  
Holy Cross Parish Hall  
Thurs., March 21

Finger Food and Wine at 6:15 p.m.  
Presentation begins at 6:30 p.m.  
Confessions Available

All Welcome and Encouraged to Come!

New Bible Study Group

Each Wednesday morning @ 9:15 a.m.

Community Holy Week Lunch/Devotion  
Monday, March 25—Friday, March 29  
12 pm—1 pm

Wagoner Church of God, 115 S. State St.  
Lunch and Devotion is provided each day of Holy Week by local churches at no cost (however donations accepted to benefit Wagoner residents in need)

Flower Fund Being Established

A Flower Fund is being established to provide the funds to assist the dedicated and devoted M&M volunteers who are responsible for the arrangement and placement of flowers on the altar for regular season Masses (holiday flowers will still be separate). The group is asking that parishioners sponsor a weekend in memory/honor of a loved one by donating \$25 to this Flower Fund.

To sponsor a weekend, please complete a Flower Fund envelope (available in the vestibule) and place completed envelope and payment in the collection basket.

Thanks to the "M&M ladies" who decorate our lovely church each week throughout the year and arrange for the Christmas Poinsettias and Easter Lilies during the holidays.

Weekly Reflection on the Eucharist

Adoration is the spontaneous yearning of the heart to worship, honor, magnify, and bless God.

We ask nothing but to cherish Him. We see nothing but His exaltation. We focus on nothing but His goodness.

—Richard J. Foster



Holy Week & Easter Services

March 24, Palm Sunday—8:30 am English Mass;  
10:30 am Latin Mass

March 28, Holy Thursday—6 pm Mass with Washing of Feet; followed by Adoration until midnight

March 29, Good Friday—6 pm Stations of the Cross and Good Friday Liturgy/Veneration of the Cross

March 30, Holy Saturday (Easter Vigil)—8:30 pm Mass

March 31, Easter Sunday—8:30 am English Mass followed by reception for Kevin Higginbottom (entering the Church at the Easter Vigil)

April 7, Divine Mercy Sunday—8:30 am English Mass;  
3 pm Joint English/TLM Divine Mercy Service

Mass Ministers

	Ushers	Eucharistic Min	Reader	Servers
Sat 3/16-5 pm Vigil	Linda Steinheil	Dorene McMahan	Carolyn Greer	Larry Chekofsky
	Kay Rodriguez	Mike McMahan		Matthew Higginbottom
Sun 3/17—8:30 am	Mike Hickman	Mike Hickman	Paul Stuart	Carlos, Liam, Amelia, & Makenna
	Chris Holland	Elaine Hall		
Sat 3/23-5 pm Vigil	Sherry Ruyle	Judy Helms	Laura Rodriguez	Larry Chekofsky
	Skip Gordon	Richard Helms	Dorene M. (Voice)	Matthew Higginbottom
Sun 3/24—8:30 am	Emily Ledgerwood	Mike Hickman	Seth Yoder	Carlos, Liam, Kaygan, & Makenna
Palm Sunday	Brian Ledgerwood	Bille Cummings	Chris H. (Voice)	

Easter Lilies for the Altar

A sign-up sheet and envelopes have been placed in the vestibule for those that wish to purchase a lily for the altar during the Easter season in honor or in memory of a loved one. (Suggested donation \$15)

New Free Catholic Education Opportunity!

St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School is Now Taking Applications for K-12 Seeking a Catholic Education (classes to begin August).

St. Isidore of Seville Catholic Virtual School is a new Oklahoma chartered private school offering a Catholic education (to Catholic & Non-Catholics) at **no cost to the families**—giving rural families all across the state with limited or no Catholic educational options this great educational opportunity for their children. Visit <https://stisidorevirtualschool.org/>

Lenten Devotions

Thursdays  
Rosary @ 6 pm

Fridays  
5 pm Mass  
5:30 pm Adoration  
6 pm Stations of the Cross  
6:30 pm Light Lenten Meal



MASS INTENTION

3/13 For **Kelly (Ruyle) Crawford** by Jim & Sherry Ruyle

*Happy Birthday!*



Alexis Murphy 3/3	Mary Jo Kolb 3/19
Patty Chandler 3/4	Liz McKay-Mazil 3/15
Kevin Higginbottom 3/6	Susan Mason 3/19
Jen Duffy 3/10	Emmett Wells 3/23
Mike Chucchiara 3/11	Richard Senner 3/27
Diane Bond 3/12	Hope Duffy 3/29
Gabriel Schmidgall 3/13	Julia Hammett 3/31

**Offerings from Mar 9-10**

General Weekend Collections	<b>\$1,869.54</b>
Capital Improvement	<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b><u>\$1,969.54</u></b>
Spec. Collection for Foreign Churches	<b><u>439.75</u></b>

**Daily Mass Readings—Mar 17-23\***

Sunday	Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33
Monday	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday	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
Wednesday	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday	Gn 17:3-9/Jn 8:51-59
Friday	Jer 20:10-13/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday	Ez 37:21-28/Jn 11:45-56

\*Daily Readings (and link to full biblical text) also available on Holy Cross Website:

**[www.holycross-wagoner.org](http://www.holycross-wagoner.org)**

To place information in the bulletin or on the church website, contact Karol Watson, [karol\\_watson@yahoo.com](mailto:karol_watson@yahoo.com) or 918-640-5819

For issues/help with Flocknotes, contact Kay Rodriguez, [msrod@sbcglobal.net](mailto:msrod@sbcglobal.net) or 405-659-0507

**FOR THE SICK AND SUFFERING**

Jean Podeyn, sister of Jackie Spieker  
Judy Wright, parishioner  
Becky Harding, parishioner  
Hope Watson, parishioner  
Lucille Dickinson, parishioner  
John Spieker, husband of Jackie Spieker  
Theresa Fosburg, parishioner



**WE PRAY TO THE LORD**

**Holy Cross Mission Statement/Prayer**

Almighty God, the mission of Holy Cross Parish is to bring the love of Jesus Christ to our community and to the world. As your disciples, help us love others, pray for all souls, proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and bring all people into the fullness of your Kingdom. Through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

	<i>Altar Linens</i>	<i>Altar Flowers</i>
<i>Mar</i>	Kay Rodriguez	Lent — No Flowers
<i>Apr</i>	Carolyn Greer	Easter Lilies

**Stay Connected — Stay Informed  
with your Catholic Faith & your Holy Cross Family**

*Daily Readings, Daily Prayer of the Day, Bulletins,  
Catholic & Holy Cross News/Events*

**[www.holycross-wagoner.org](http://www.holycross-wagoner.org),  
Holy Cross Catholic Church - Wagoner OK (FB) &  
[https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/  
dashboard](https://holycrosscatholicchurch5.flocknote.com/dashboard)**

**Edward Jones**

Member SPC

**Working together for  
your financial future,**

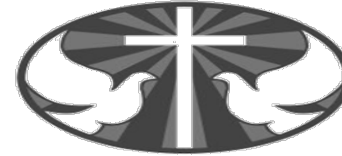


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[edwardjones.com](http://edwardjones.com)

*Holy Cross Catholic Church*



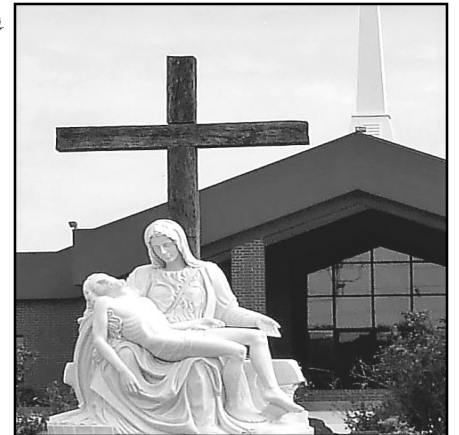
*Holiness - Disciples - Community  
Wagoner, Oklahoma*

P.O. Box 710 / 708 SW 15TH ST.  
539-209-9988

Email: [holycrosswagoner@gmail.com](mailto:holycrosswagoner@gmail.com)

Website: <http://www.holycross-wagoner.org>

Facebook: Holy Cross Catholic Church—Wagoner, OK



**March 17, 2024  
Fifth Sunday of Lent**

<b>Pastor</b>	Very Rev. Leo Ahanotu <a href="mailto:holycrosswagoner@gmail.com">holycrosswagoner@gmail.com</a> 539-209-9988
<b>Visiting Priests</b>	Fr. Gabriel Garcia <a href="mailto:fr.gabriel.garcia@dioceseoftuls.a.org">fr.gabriel.garcia@dioceseoftuls.a.org</a> ; 918-836-2597 & Fr. Alessandro Calderoni <a href="mailto:fr.alessandro.calderoni@dioceseoftulsa.org">fr.alessandro.calderoni@dioceseoftulsa.org</a> ; 918-455-4551
<b>Deacon</b>	Dcn James Ruyle (Retired) <a href="mailto:jandsruyle@gmail.com">jandsruyle@gmail.com</a> 918-485-8228
<b>Secretary</b>	Earlyne Hutchens <a href="mailto:earlynehutchens@gmail.com">earlynehutchens@gmail.com</a> 918-894-0474
<b>Religious Education</b>	Mary Feichtinger <a href="mailto:maryfeichtinger@yahoo.com">maryfeichtinger@yahoo.com</a> 303-519-0605 Emily Ledgerwood (Youth Group); <a href="mailto:mudytime@gmail.com">mudytime@gmail.com</a> 405-887-7832
<b>Parish Council</b>	Karol Watson <a href="mailto:karol_watson@yahoo.com">karol_watson@yahoo.com</a> 918-640-5819
<b>M&amp;M Society</b>	Sherri Moe <a href="mailto:smworks@hotmail.com">smworks@hotmail.com</a> 918-521-9127
<b>Men's Group</b>	Seth Yoder <a href="mailto:seth.yoder@edwardjones.com">seth.yoder@edwardjones.com</a> 918-869-9129

**MASS TIMES**

**Saturday Vigil — 5:00 p.m.**

**Sunday — 8:30 a.m.**

**2nd & 4th Sundays (Latin) — 10:30 a.m.**

**Tuesday & Friday — 5:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday & Thursday — 8:30 a.m.**

**First Sat. of Each Month — 8:30 a.m.**

**ADORATION AND BENEDICTION**

**Fridays following 5:00 p.m. Mass**

**1st Wed. of the Month — 6:30 p.m.**

**CONFESSIONS**

**30 minutes before weekend Masses**

**Or by appointment/request**

**THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS**

**Breaking Bread Book  
Pages 86-87**

**Vatican II Hymnal  
Pages 436-437**

