

# St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church | Tullahoma, Tennessee



## PALM SUNDAY

While **we will not have public Mass** on Palm Sunday this year, **we will gather for the blessing and distributions of the Palms on March 28th at 8:30 am.**

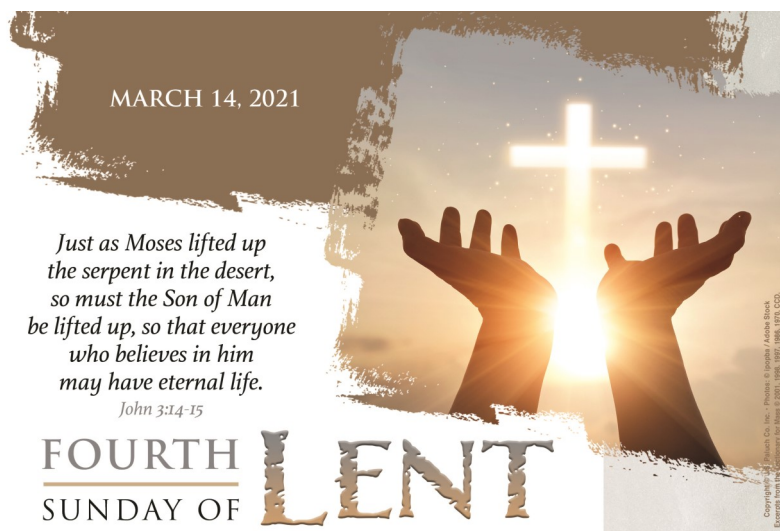
The Service of Blessing of the Palms will be the Solemn Entrance (Rite 1) that includes prayer, a reading from the Gospel, the blessing of palms, and a procession. For those who are unable to be present, blessed palms will be available in the vestibule the rest of the day until 10:00 pm.



**Information on other Holy Week services will be in next week's bulletin.**

From a recent statement by Bishop Spalding, it appears that he is getting close to removing the dispensation from the obligation to attend Mass on Sunday and Holy Days. No doubt that his decision on the timing of our return will include the rate of new COVID-19 infections and the policies of Tennessee and the Federal Government.

It is the hope that as we continue to increase the number of people fully immunized with the vaccines and a trend toward the fruits of successful social distancing and wearing of masks, that day will be in the coming months.



## GOD'S MERCY

Today's reading from the second book of Chronicles contains a sort of "mini-history" of Israel. It highlights God's mercies in choosing Cyrus the Persian to be an instrument of deliverance when the people were in captivity in Babylon. Despite their sinfulness and the deserved punishment they were undergoing, God's mercy was lavished on the people in the form of a miraculous act of liberation.

The Letter to the Ephesians, in much more theological terms, gives a similar account of a God "who brought us to life with Christ—by grace you have been saved." The author stresses that it was when we were "dead in our transgressions" that God saved us, an act of pure grace. He emphasizes that it is not our own efforts that freed us from sin ("this is not from you"); rather, "it is the gift of God." This, of course, is the heart of the entire Pauline corpus, that salvation comes to us by faith in God's mercy, revealed in the death of Jesus.

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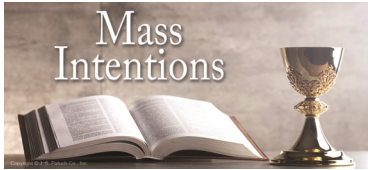
**STATIONS of the CROSS**  
immediately follows  
6:00 PM Mass on  
Wednesdays in Lent



## LORD, *hear our* PRAYER

**PARISHIONERS** Tianna DiNatale, Mike Gattie, Joni LaFleur, Carolyn Adams, Jerry Headley, Juan Villegas, Beth Watson, Daniel Ayres, Shirley Hickertz, Jerry Bailey, Leona Whitmore, Chris Collins, Mike Gilliam, Manesha Walker. **FAMILY & FRIENDS** Susie Dueso, Leon Fowler, Chris Hearn, Josh Carpenter, Johnnie Turner, Sheila Bonser, Cassie Anderson, Charlie Demkowski, Sherman Mays, Jimbo Bailey, Martha Carden, Steve Dinnsen, Keith Bowcock, Lisa Dye, Carol Lynch, Michael Hudak, Ann Gattie, Marcetta Chancey, Jack Smith, Erica Oakes, Terry Joe Nichols, Nancy Eads, Kellie Walker, Sharon Ruhlander, Ed Currington, Rev. Michael Murphy, Katie Bailey & Family, Nancy Schwamb, Steven Basiel, Rick Rath, Jamal Northcutt & Family, Joseph & Courtney Baltz, Diane Schoenl, Phyllis Atkins, Alysia Peddy & Family, Jade Collins, Johnny Morris, Dana Hill.

**HOMEBOUND/NURSING HOME** Bea Hensel, Valerie Gammon, Jean Branch, Jane Hargreaves, Billye Margowski, Barbara George, Grace Caps.



Sat	Mar 13	Mass without congregation	†Barbara Myers
Sun	Mar 14	Mass without congregation	For the Parish
Mon	Mar 15	8:00 AM	†Leila Jean Broussard
Tue	Mar 16	8:00 AM	†Carol Pratt
Wed	Mar 17	8:00 AM	†David Seward
		6:00 PM	†Joe McCabe
Thu	Mar 18	8:00 AM	Louise & †Robert Richards
Fri	Mar 19	8:00 AM	†Joe McCabe
Sat	Mar 20	Mass without congregation	†David Bond & †Donald Bond
Sun	Mar 21	Mass without congregation	†Jo Hunt

**Heaven<sup>♥</sup>Sent**  
a gift of love, from up above  
**Ethan Newt Deaton**

Born March 6, 2021 | 8 lbs 3 oz | 21 in  
Blessed Parents: Stephen & Taylor Deaton  
Proud Grandparents: Jim & Pam Myers

## THIS WEEK AT ST. PAUL

<b>Mar 13</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 6:00 No Public Mass
<b>Mar 14</b>	<b>Fourth Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 No Public Mass 9:30 Faith Formation Classes   Gr 2, 7, 8 9:30 RCIA
<b>Mar 15</b>	<b>Monday</b> 8:00 Mass 4:00 Parish Council Meeting
<b>Mar 16</b>	<b>Tuesday</b> 8:00 Mass
<b>Mar 17</b>	<b>Wednesday St. Patrick</b> 8:00 Mass 6:00 Mass followed by Stations of the Cross
<b>Mar 18</b>	<b>Thursday</b> 8:00 Mass
<b>Mar 19</b>	<b>Friday St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary</b> 8:00 Mass
<b>Mar 20</b>	<b>Saturday</b> 6:00 No Public Mass
<b>Mar 21</b>	<b>Fifth Sunday in Lent</b> 8:30 No Public Mass 9:30 Faith Formation Classes   Gr 2, 7, 8 9:30 RCIA

## LORD REMEMBER THESE



*God has called to Himself  
Parishioner, †Carl Menako,  
husband of Irina,  
father of Konstantin and Nicholas.*

Eternal rest grant unto him O Lord, and let  
perpetual light shine upon him.

We offer our deepest sympathy and assurance  
of prayer for his family and friends.

This week we take up the **Catholic Relief Services Collection** to help **Jesus in disguise**. This collection helps six Catholic agencies to provide relief and support for struggling communities and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic-relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic-relief).



**PASTOR** *Rev. Stephen A. Klasek*  
**DEACON** *Rev. Mister Ronald Munn*

## SACRAMENTAL SCHEDULE

### Eucharist:

#### *Saturday*

4:00 PM St. Mark

6:00 PM St. Paul

#### *Sunday*

8:30 AM St. Paul

10:30 AM St. Mark

1:30 PM San Marco en Español

#### *Weekdays (Monday—Friday)*

8:00 AM St. Paul

## SACRAMENTAL PREPARATION

### Baptismal and Marriage,

contact Church Office to make arrangements.

### First Holy Communion and

Confirmation are celebrated

Every year in the Spring.

In order to participate, child

Must be enrolled and active in

Our Faith Formation Program.

## PARISH FACILITIES

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Susan Blackburn, Secretary

WEBSITE: [www.stpaulstullahoma.com](http://www.stpaulstullahoma.com)

Webmaster: Melissa Thompson

[melgthomp@gmail.com](mailto:melgthomp@gmail.com)

# READINGS for the WEEK



**Monday:** Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday:** Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday:** Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday:** Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47

**Friday:** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;

Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**Saturday:** Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday:** Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9;

Jn 12:20-33 Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8;

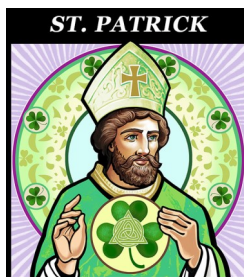
Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

## Solemnity of St. Joseph, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary | March 19

In celebration of the Year of St. Joseph, we pray today for all fathers, that through the example of St. Joseph, they may fully embrace their vocation and accept the privilege and responsibility of caring for their children as St. Joseph cared for Jesus.



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## GOD UPHOLDS ME

I take for my sureties: The power of God to guide me, the might of God to uphold me, the wisdom of God to teach me, the eye of God to watch over me, the ear of God to hear me, the word of God to give me speech, the hand of God to protect me, the way of God to go before me, the shield of God to shelter me. —St. Patrick

## Weekly Offering



FUND	2/21/2021	2/28/2021	3/07/2021
Church Offering	\$4,870.00	\$3,145.00	\$4,435.00
Charity	\$1,120.00	\$387.00	\$75.00
Church Maintenance	\$10,200.00	\$300.00	\$100.00
Church in Eastern Europe	\$125.00	\$25.00	\$0
Black & Indian Missions	\$200.00	\$25.00	\$50.00
Tennessee Register	\$108.00	\$50.00	\$58.00
Easter Flowers	—	\$75.00	\$130.00
Catholic Relief Services	—	—	\$5.00

## BIRTHDAY BLESSINGS

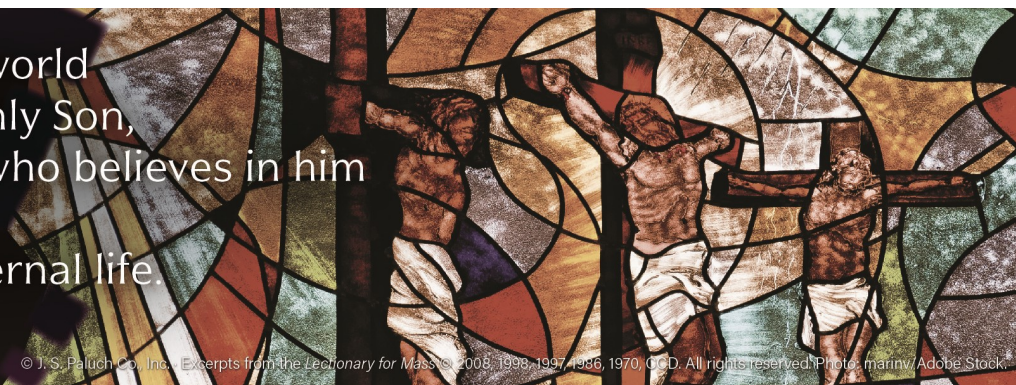
- Mar 13 Susan Eckles, Vicky Porter, Roni Steidl, Laurel Stone  
 Mar 14 Katharine Hills, John Wilson  
 Mar 16 Chris Collins, Jack Hagopian, Princessa Luna, Ann Rinderer  
 Mar 17 Monica Oosting  
 Mar 19 John Goethals, Mike McMillan  
 Mar 20 David Guzman,  
 Mar 21 Cynthia Daily, Laura Franklin, Bob Sacke



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.

JOHN 3:16

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## REDEEMING HUMANITY

The end of Second Chronicles claims that “all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people” were continuously unfaithful to their covenant with God. This infidelity ultimately led to seventy years of exile in Babylon, after which Cyrus, the Persian ruler who conquered Babylon, allows the people of Israel to return home and rebuild their temple; the Psalmist reflects on the bitterness of those seventy years. Paul is lyrical in praising God “who is rich in mercy” and who “brought us to life” with Christ, while the evangelist recounts preaching by Jesus on this same theme. This is the section of John that includes the oft-memorized John 3:16: “For God so loved the world . . .” All three readings emphasize God’s desire to rescue—or redeem—humanity from pain and suffering.

## HUMAN HISTORY . . .

Today’s reading from Second Chronicles is the conclusion of these two volumes, a brief summary of Judah’s infidelity under a sequence of kings and the subsequent seventy years of exile in Babylon. This abbreviated sequence recaps the events treated in earlier chapters, concluding with Jerusalem being conquered and its inhabitants deported by to Babylon.

After the Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus and the Persians, Cyrus built the great Persian Empire that covered almost the entire ancient Near East. Unlike the earlier Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus did not rule by deporting and enslaving peoples he defeated. Instead, he organized his empire into regional governments and funded their construction projects, ruling over all with the title King of Kings (among others). In this spirit, Cyrus urged the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and their native culture. In Jewish terms, Cyrus was a “messiah” (Hebrew), or a christos (Greek), someone anointed by God to carry out this divine mission.

## . . . AND DIVINE RESCUE

The return from exile in Babylon was second only to the Exodus from Egypt as a founding narrative shaping the Jewish identity into which Jesus was born and in which his church took root and began to grow. If we read between the lines of the two New Testament readings from today, we can see the outlines of this same pattern of God bringing humanity from sorrow into joy: The Hebrews’ slavery in Egypt and the Judeans’ exile in Babylonia reveal a universal truth, that we belong to the God who is “rich in mercy,” and we are assured that “when we were dead in our transgressions,” God “so loved the world” that he sent Jesus to be the way of our redemption, our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called “Laetare Sunday,” or “Rejoice! Sunday.” Even if we feel overwhelmed by the darkness of sin (our own and others’), wondering whether God really is working on our behalf, we can put our faith in today’s Word that it is so. For this, we can truly rejoice—we are more than halfway to Easter!

## TODAY’S READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23  
Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6  
Ephesians 2:4–10  
John 3:14–21

FOURTH LENT  
SUNDAY OF  
MARCH 14, 2021