



MARCH 20, 2022

ST. MARY THE VIRGIN MOTHER

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

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ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER

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DIOCESE OF CHARLESTON

BISHOP OF CHARLESTON

The Most Reverend Robert E. Guglielmo

PASTOR

Rev. Daniel R. Papineau

OFFICE SCHEDULE

Monday through Friday 8:30AM – 2:00PM

ST. MARY'S SATURDAY SCHEDULE

Adoration 9:00AM - 3:00PM
Chaplet of Divine Mercy 3:00PM

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday 3:15PM
Tues., Wed., and Thurs. After the 6:00PM Mass

LITURGY SCHEDULE

Saturday 5:30PM St. Mary's Church
Sunday 9:00AM St. Joseph's Church
Sunday 11:00AM St. Mary's Church

WEEKDAY MASS SCHEDULE AT ST. MARY'S CHURCH

Tues., Wed., Thurs. 6:00PM
Friday 12:10PM (except First Friday)
First Friday Mass 6:00PM
First Saturday 8:00AM

SAINT'S CORNER



SAINT OSCAR ROMERO

The night before he was murdered while celebrating Mass, Archbishop Oscar Romero of San Salvador said on the radio: "I would like to appeal in a special way to the men of the army, and in particular to the troops of the National Guard, the police, and the garrisons. Brothers, you belong to our own people. You kill your own brother peasants; and in the face of an order to kill that is

given by a man, the law of God that says 'Do not kill!' should prevail.

"No soldier is obliged to obey an order counter to the law of God. No one has to comply with an immoral law. It is the time now that you recover your conscience and obey its dictates rather than the command of sin. . . . Therefore, in the name of God, and in the name of this long-suffering people, whose laments rise to heaven every day more tumultuous, I beseech you, I beg you, I command you! In the name of God: 'Cease the repression!'" Simultaneously, Romero had eloquently upheld the gospel and effectively signed his own death warrant. When he was appointed archbishop of San Salvador in 1977, Bishop Romero was considered a very "safe" choice. He had served as auxiliary bishop there for four years before his three years as bishop of Santiago de Maria.

Oscar's father wanted him to be a carpenter—a trade for which he demonstrated some talent. Seminary classes in El Salvador preceded his studies at Rome's Gregorian University and his ordination in 1942. After earning a doctorate in ascetical theology, he returned home and became a parish priest and later rector of an interdiocesan seminary.

Three weeks after his appointment as archbishop, Romero was shaken by the murder of his good friend Jesuit Father Rutilio Grande, a vigorous defender of the rights of the poor. Five more priests were assassinated in the Archdiocese of San Salvador during Romero's years as its shepherd.

When a military junta seized control of the national government in 1979, Archbishop Romero publicly criticized the US government for backing the junta. His weekly radio sermons, broadcast throughout the country, were regarded by many as the most trustworthy source of news available.

Romero's funeral was celebrated in the plaza outside the cathedral and drew an estimated 250,000 mourners.

His tomb in the cathedral crypt soon drew thousands of visitors each year. On February 3, 2015, Pope Francis authorized a decree recognizing Oscar Romero as a martyr for the faith. His beatification took place in San Salvador on May 23, 2015, and he was canonized on October 14, 2018.

REFLECTION

Oscar Romero and many other Latin American martyrs for the faith were falsely accused of advocating a Marxist-inspired "theology of liberation." Following Jesus always requires choices. Romero's fiercest critics conveniently dismissed his choices as politically inspired. An incarnational faith must be expressed publicly.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2022

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 [8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 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, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14

Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-3



Fr. Dan will lead the Stations of the Cross at 6:00pm on the Fridays during Lent except for Good Friday. Come and pray the Stations.

BOOK CLUB

The Flame of Love: The Spiritual Diary of Elizabeth Kindelmann. The movement began with the heart of the poor and humble Hungarian mystic and Third-Order Carmelite, Elizabeth Kindelmann (1913-1985), when she heard the voices of Jesus and Mary between the years 1961 and 1983. God is seeking to build up a holy army of souls to help fight the battle ahead that leads to sure victory for those firm in faith. In this remarkable Spiritual Diary, you follow the life and divine conversations of one of the greatest mystics of the 20th century, learn of the prayers and weekly prayer schedule that effectively blind Satan, and of the divine promises Our Lord wishes to give to us through the intercession of His Mother's Immaculate Heart. We will meet after Tuesday evening Mass on April 12.

HOW DO I USE THE PARISH SUBSCRIPTION TO FORMED

Registering for FORMED is easier than ever:

1. Go to [Formed.org/signup](https://formed.org/signup)
2. Select your Parish (St. Mary)
3. Register with your name and email
4. Check that email account for a link to begin using Formed. (Call 843-332-7773 or email stmary2@gmail.com for more help.)

COMMENTARY ON THE READINGS

SCRIPTURE READINGS: EXODUS 3:1-8; 13-15; FIRST CORINTHIANS 10:1-6, 10-12; LUKE 13:1-9

Each year the first two Sunday's of Lent are linked with specific events in the life of Christ: the temptations he endured in the Judean desert and the Transfiguration on the mountain, as recorded in the Gospels. The third Sunday of Lent, though, is not so much centered on an event in Christ's life, but is concerned with Jesus' teaching on the patience, mercy and love of our God. The three readings assigned for this Sunday all touch on the importance of place hope in God, the All-Merciful and Giver-of-life, who is always ready to forgive transgressors.

The first lesson for Mass today recounts the memorable event of Moses before the burning bush at Horeb, the mountain of God. This profound experience of God's presence elicits such immense awe and even fear, that Moses hid his face. This confirms the notion that God's majesty is so great that no human being can gaze at it and live. But God is likewise near enough to tell Moses that the time has come for the Israelites to be freed from slavery in Egypt and that Moses would be the chosen instrument for bringing it about.

God assures Moses that he will not be alone, but under God's provident care and thus should proceed with confidence in God's saving help. The prophetic vocation of Moses shows clearly God's love and compassion, especially for the oppressed and downtrodden.

Continuing along the same line of thinking, Jesus uses in his preaching an image for God as a gardener and the challenge of growing plants and trees, which includes weeding out what is not-productive or dead. In the case of the fig tree being described in the Gospel, the chief gardener or owner of the vineyard notices a fruitless tree and orders it to be cut down.

The vinedresser, though, pleads for another year, a further chance for the tree, in the hope that it may indeed bear fruit. The point being made by Jesus is that God is truly patient and merciful, more than willing to give innumerable chances for a change of heart, a deeper union, a fuller communion, with the living God. There comes a point, though, when in fact the human heart may be so far from God that nothing less than God's all-powerful grace can redirect it. The reality of free will always has to be taken into account, of course, with the reminder that God never forces us to act against our will, but lovingly invites us to share in God's life.

In this Sunday's Gospel passage Jesus is teaching his disciples never to let their lives be so out of control or far from God that the turning to God becomes more and more difficult, though never impossible. Our free will is just that: not being forced to choose for God and the ways of the Gospel, but truly free, leaving us with the ability to choose for God and life or seek the way of error and separation from God. That we want to avoid at all costs. It is never too late to turn to God.

Someone has said that we Christians speak much about God but in fact very little to God. In Lent we are being called to speak to God, to be people of prayer, striving for union with our Maker, at all times and everywhere. Our annual observance of Lent, forty days of special prayer, fasting and almsgiving or doing good, is a golden opportunity to meet our God and belong more fully to the One who ultimately satisfies the longings of the human heart.

Today is the acceptable time to return to God and to produce fruit in our life, the time to experience God's loving mercy and to offer our forgiveness to those who have offended us in the past or are offending us now. This is the acceptable time to be kind-hearted and give others another chance. Christ can more freely enter our lives under such conditions, when we leave ourselves open to true life and love.

When we unite to celebrate the Eucharist in our Church we experience the presence of God in our midst and we thank God for such goodness and patience with us. Salvation history is the story of God's redeeming mercy, expressed in faithful patience with all people past, present and to come. And "another year" is being offered to us to bear fruit.

The good fruit includes love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self control (see Galatians 5:22-23). And the greatest fruit produced is love and forgiveness toward all. We are only able to do this by the grace of God. May God's grace come abundantly into our lives today and throughout these forty days of Lent.

"Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength," says the prophet Isaiah (40:31). Hope here is to be understood as closely linked to the virtue of waiting, of being patient. In Spanish, for example, the word "esperar," means both to wait and to hope. "Saber esperar," means to know how to hope and to know how to wait.

This is how God acts toward us and we are called to do likewise in our relationship to God and one another. "By waiting and by calm you shall be saved," the prophet Isaiah also wrote (Is 30:15).

The Lord has promised to be at our side in good times and bad, in joy and in sorrow, and in this we can take great delight, for our God will never abandon us.

NEW OFFERTORY BOXES



New Offertory boxes were installed at the Entry doors into the Church. There are 2 boxes located at the on the wall by the front doors of the Church one on each side. There is a box located at the side door (handicapped entrance) inside the Church on the left. The last one is in the Chapel on the left side of the glass doors into the Church.

REPENT



“But I tell you, if you do not
repent, you will all perish
as they did!”

LUKE 13:3