



# St. Mary's Catholic Church



## 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



Jesus said to them in reply, "Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!" - Lk 13:2-3

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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Fr. Felix Nayak- Pastor

## Mass Schedule and Intentions

- 3/21: Malta - 8:30 A.M.:** Poor Souls in Purgatory <sup>r/b</sup> Darlene & Bruce Cummings
- 3/22: Malta - 8:30 A.M.:** Repose of LeRoy Rummel <sup>r/b</sup> Julie & Gary Howell
- 3/23: Malta - 8:30 A.M.:** Repose Lydia Abrahamson <sup>r/b</sup> Knights of Columbus
- 3/24: Malta - Hi-Line Retirement Center 10:00 AM:** Repose Clara & Sven Bonbright <sup>r/b</sup> Darlene & Bruce Cummings
- 3/25: Malta—8:30 A.M.** College students & military outreach <sup>r/b</sup> St. Mary's Parish
- 3/26: Malta 4:00 P.M.** Jennifer Dyas <sup>r/b</sup> J.M. Dyas
- 3/27: Malta - 10:30 AM:** For all Parishioners;
- Dodson—8:30 AM:** Repose of Wink Cole <sup>r/b</sup> Terri Cole & Family
- Saco - 12:30 PM:** Helen DePuydt <sup>r/b</sup> Terry Hunder

## Confession Schedule

Fr. Felix will be in the Confessional at St. Mary's Church **Friday's 9:00-10:00, Saturday from 11:00 A.M.—Noon;** and by appointment.

## Weekly Eucharistic Adoration

**Every Friday from 9 to 10 AM** after Daily Mass.



**Contact Fr. Felix for Home Visits, Distribution of the Sacraments, Home Blessings and Counseling of any type.**

Knights of Columbus  
Council 2124

Parish Council of Catholic  
Women

Meets **First Tuesday** of the month

Meets **Second Sunday** of the month

## Daily Scripture Readings

**3/20: 3rd Sunday of Lent;** Exodus 3:1-8, 13-15; Psalms 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12; Luke 13:1-9

**3/21: Monday in the 3rd week of Lent;** 2 Kings 5:1-15; Psalms 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Luke 4:24-30

**3/22: Tuesday in the 3rd week of Lent:** Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Psalms 25: 4-9; Matthew 18:21-35

**3/23: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop;** Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Psalms 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20; Matthew 5:17-19;

**3/24: Thursday in the 3rd week of Lent;** Jeremiah 7:23-28; Psalms 95:1-2, 6-9; Luke 11:14-23

**3/25: The Annunciation of the Lord;** Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Psalms 40:7-11; Hebrew 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38

**3/26: Saturday in the 3rd week of Lent;** Hosea 6:1-6; Psalms 51:3-4, 18-21; Luke 18:9-14

**3/27: 4th Sunday of Lent;** Joshua 5:9-12; Psalms 34:2-7; 2 Corinthians 5:17-21; Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

**Saturday Evening - 4:00 p.m.**

**Sunday—Dodson—8:30 a.m.**

**Malta - 10:30 a.m.**

**Saco—12:30 p.m.**



## New to the Parish?

Welcome! We're glad you will be joining us. If you would like to register with the parish, please fill out this form and drop it in the collection basket. You may bring it by the parish office or send it to us.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

You may also use this form for a change of address. Thanks!

## Sacraments

**Confessions:** See page 2 of this week's bulletin for schedule or by appointment.

**Anointing of the Sick:** Please contact Fr. Felix as soon as possible for anointing.

**Baptism:** Normally celebrated at weekend Masses. Parental sessions are required.

**Marriages:** Six month couple preparation period required. Please meet with Fr. Felix before scheduling marriage date.

## Please Pray For

Tana Mount, Lew McNamara, Lesley Robinson, Lana Pekovich, Myrtle Hould, Cory LaBrie, Julia Cebulski, Eric Riggs, those from our area serving in the military.

For the repose of the souls of Jerry Depute, Eleanor Emond, Helen DePuydt, Lydia Abrahamson, Selma Sticha, Bev Comstock, Leroy Rummel, Howard Rummel, Lyle Cochran, Pat Comstock, the Poor Souls in Purgatory, and for comfort and peace for their families.

Anyone who needs to have prayers said for someone can call Jean Niebur at 654-2822 and Dianne Salsbery 654-4675. Names will be listed in the bulletin for one

# Everyday Stewardship

## Stoking the Lenten Fire

I think we all can acknowledge that there's a certain fatigue that comes over us all as we near the end of the Lenten season. Next week is Laetare Sunday, and I find that as soon as those pink vestments start coming out of storage, our collective motivation begins to wane.

I get that. Maybe you're fatigued — I am, too. Maybe you're doing well in your resolutions and devotions but you're in danger of coasting. Or maybe, like many of us this year or in past years, you don't feel that you have even really begun your Lenten journey.

Either way, chances are that the fire that was in your belly on Ash Wednesday is burning a bit low. All fires eventually do, once they consume whatever fuels them. So here we would do well to remember

what fuels our Lenten fire.

Sometimes we make resolutions that have the appearance of being spiritual, but also have an earthly motive. We give up chocolate hoping to lose weight. We stop gossiping so our friends may like us more. There is nothing wrong with these sacrifices — just with their motivations.

As Moses removes his sandals to approach the burning bush, he sees that the fire burns brightly, strongly — but does not consume. It is propelled by something inexhaustible, something which is not of this world.

Is your Lenten fire fueled by God? Are you daily surrendering yourself to the same voice that boomed from the bush in Genesis — the voice that commanded the Israelites to do what seemed like the impossible? Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS

*God, "HE WHO IS", revealed himself to Israel as the one "abounding in steadfast love and faithfulness". These two terms express summarily the riches of the divine name. In all his works God displays, not only his kindness, goodness, grace and steadfast love, but also his trustworthiness, constancy, faithfulness and truth. "I give thanks to your name for your steadfast love and your faithfulness." He is the Truth, for "God is light and in him there is no darkness"; "God is love", as the apostle John teaches. CCC 214*

## Pope Francis' Intention

### A Christian Response to Bioethical Challenges

We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action. .

## Fr. Felix

LENT III SUNDAY ( C ): Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; I Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9

Today's liturgy speaks of God's mercy and compassion in disciplining His children by occasional punishment. Although God's love for us is constant and consistent, He saves us with our cooperation, which is why we need to repent for our sins and to renew our lives.

The first reading explains how God, speaking from a burning bush, called Moses to leave the tending of his father-in-law's flock and liberate God's Chosen People. Moses was asked to free the Israelites from enslavement by their Egyptian rulers who were persecuting them and wanted to kill them. Thus, Moses becomes the greatest Jewish liberator and lawgiver. God trusts Moses, shares His Name with him, and explains what it means. "I AM Who AM," means "I am He Who is" or "I am Who cause to be," or "a self-existent." God also insists that He is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Israel's ancestors. God's salvation is always available to those who are willing to change their lives by repentance. We are called to abandon our false gods of money, power, and pleasure and return to the

one God, Who "secures justice and the rights of all the oppressed."

The second reading warns us that our merciful God is also a disciplining God. St. Paul reminds the Christians of Corinth that they must learn from the sad experience of the Israelites who were punished for their sins by a merciful and just God. The merciful and gracious God is also just and demanding, hence, they must be free from sexual sins and idolatry. Referring to the golden calf episode and the judgment that befell the Israelites in the wilderness, St. Paul admonishes and warns that God's mercy is conditioned to our faith in Him. He sternly warns the Corinthians that they are in the same danger as Israelites. So, he exhorts his converts to be faithful and not to presume that membership in the Christian community automatically saves them. Hence, repentance, the Greek word *metanoia*, which means "a decision which changes the total direction of a person's life or behavior is an absolute necessity for salvation."

Today's Gospel reading emphasizes the Christian call to metanoia, which means conversion, repentance, and inner change, and Comforts us with the reality of God's patient mercy. It explains how God disciplines His people, invites them to repent of their sins, to renew their lives, and to produce the fruits of the Holy Spirit. Citing two tragic events, Jesus exhorts the Jews to repent and reform their lives. With the parable of the barren fig tree, he warns them and us that the merciful God will not put up with them indefinitely. Although God patiently waits for sinners to repent, giving them grace to do so, He will not wait forever. Time may run out; therefore, timely repentance is necessary. Hence one can say, "A Lent missed is a year lost from the spiritual life, Amen.

# PREPARING FOR Easter

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3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY OF LENT



# Gospel Meditation

## 3rd Sunday of Lent

Deserts can be lonely, isolated, and treacherous places. When a person wanders in a desert, they can easily get disoriented, dehydrated, confused, lost, and vulnerable. Temptation is at its peak, especially when confronted with something that may offer some respite or relief, even a mirage. Deserts can bring us to our weakest moment and tempt our faith. The Christian journey can be described as a desert experience as we vacillate back and forth, falling victim to the mirages of our lives versus the true, life-giving water offered by God. We need a burning bush experience in our lives that convinces us of the power of God and reveals Him as the “I am” of all existence.

Moses was leading his flock across the desert when he found himself at Mount Horeb. Mountains give us a fuller perspective of life, a panoramic view of what would otherwise be hidden from the limitations of our sight. That’s when Moses met God. We have to find our way to a mountain experience where our vantage point can take on a wider view of life. Many things can do this for us: the birth of a child, the death of someone we love, the joy that comes from marveling at the beauty of God’s work, the pondering of life’s mysteries, and the ache of longing

found deep within our souls. There are many things in life that can wake us up, give us a clearer, better view of things and become occasions where a bush may burn and God’s presence as the eternal uncreated One is revealed.

God is very patient and gives us the time and space we need to figure things out and bear some good fruit. He doesn’t rush to cut us down or get frustrated with our barrenness. But we have to remember that the desert journeys of our lives come with some risks. The major risk is that we will mistakenly believe that the mirages are real. Thus, we fall victim to thinking that the respite and refreshment we seek is discovered in a place other than where it actually is. Our faith and the life of the Church are the safeguards we need to keep us properly orientated so that we don’t get lost or confused and stay on course.



## Mass Intentions

As Catholics, we have a long tradition of having Masses celebrated for those we offer up in prayer. The Mass is the ultimate form of prayer, and each Mass is celebrated for an intention. We ask \$10.00 per mass intention.

and anniversaries, as well as those who are in need of prayers. Masses are also encouraged in memory of those loved ones who have died, especially on the anniversaries of their deaths. Please contact Fr. Felix for more information.

Please consider having Masses celebrated for family and friends on special occasions



## Sacrificial Giving for 3-13

	<b>3-13</b>	<b>Direct Deposit</b>
Malta:	\$1,275.50	\$25.00
Dodson:	\$648.00	\$0.00
Saco:	\$120.00	\$50.00

## Finance Council

Charlie Mears 654-7006, [cmears@itstriangle.com](mailto:cmears@itstriangle.com)

Regina Webb 319-491-7607, [auntregina@gmail.com](mailto:auntregina@gmail.com)

Lance Hould 406-539-5772, [lanceh\\_99@hotmail.com](mailto:lanceh_99@hotmail.com)

Mike Ereaux 658-2613 (H), 654-7803 (C), [mfe7195@itstriangle.com](mailto:mfe7195@itstriangle.com)

Scott King 654-7302, [sbking1959@gmail.com](mailto:sbking1959@gmail.com)

Please send bulletin announcements to [office@SaintMarysMalta.org](mailto:office@SaintMarysMalta.org) by Thursday evening. Thanks!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **The Knights of Columbus Lenten Fish Fry's will be March 25th and April 8th**
- **Stations of the cross are scheduled for 6:30 p.m. following the fish fry dinners.**
- **Watch for announcements on the Annual Catholic Appeal. It replaces Care and Share. There will no longer be parish assessments.**



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### Parish Council

Alora Snider— 399-1675, [alora\\_lynn\\_09@hotmail.com](mailto:alora_lynn_09@hotmail.com) (Malta)

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Tom DePuydt—674-7060, [4bard@itstriangle.com](mailto:4bard@itstriangle.com) (Saco)

Leona Kienenberger—383-4459, [leona\\_kienenberger@yahoo.com](mailto:leona_kienenberger@yahoo.com) (Dodson)

# Raffle Update for St Mary's

Every raffle ticket you've purchased for the Annual Raffle through the Diocese counts! Check out how our Parish has benefited from the tickets that you have purchased!

**2022 Ticket Sales by St Mary's = 184**  
**2022 Money Earned by St Mary's = \$ 1,104**

**2021 Total Tickets Sold by St Mary's = 242**

There's still time to continue to help raise money through purchasing raffle tickets. Visit us in the Parish Office or order your tickets directly through the Diocese. The order form can be found at [www.diocesegfb.org/charity-fundraising-raffle/](http://www.diocesegfb.org/charity-fundraising-raffle/).



This is a Charity Raffle for the Diocese of Great Falls - Billings. All rules can be found on our website at [www.diocesegfb.org](http://www.diocesegfb.org).

**Tickets can be purchased at First State Bank, Bank of Malta, Valley Drug, Todd's Technology, Northern Prairie Designs, Westside Self Service or by contacting Tom Golik or Brenda Rummel.**

## FORMED

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# 03 LENT

## PILLARS OF LENT

# PRAYER



### BIBLE VERSES TO MEDITATE

MT 6: 1-18

"But when you pray, go to your private room, shut yourself in, and so pray to your Father who is in that secret place, and your Father who sees all that is done in secret will reward you"

AC 2: 42-47

"All who believed were together and had all things in common... Every day they devoted themselves to meeting together in the temple area and to breaking bread in their homes"

### WHAT IS IT?

It is action that leads man, released by fasting from excessive attachments to the world, **to turn to God**, to gaze upon and contemplate, to listen and talk to him, to read his words and meditate on them, to be one with him sacramentally, **celebrating joyfully the mysteries of Redemption**. It is what gives meaning to Lenten practices, which should draw us closer to Him.

### HOW CAN WE LIVE IT? •



▶ Meditation on the Holy Scripture, readings of saints, fathers of the Church, spiritual authors, etc.



▶ Receiving the sacraments regularly (Confession and Communion)



▶ Daily acts of consecration or personal devotion.

▶ Attend Lent retreats, spiritual exercises, etc.

### EXAMPLES

▶ Praying the Stations of the Cross on Fridays during Lent.

▶ Reflect on a Bible verse each day, especially those related to the Passion of Christ.

▶ Attend daily Mass or other days besides Sundays. Confess regularly.

▶ Pray when you wake up and/or before going to bed.

"PRAYER MAKES  
YOUR HEART  
BIGGER, UNTIL IT IS  
CAPABLE OF CON-  
TAINING THE GIFT  
OF GOD HIMSELF"

MOTHER TERESA