

Mass Readings and the Saints of the days for the Week of February 25 thru March 3, 2023

February 25th, The Saturday After Ash Wednesday – Readings: Is 58:9b-14 Ps 86:1-6. We are called to a change of heart, to be renewed in the Lord by following his, not our ways.

February 26th, The First Sunday of Lent – Readings: Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7 Ps 51:3-6, 12-13, 17 Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19 Mt 4:1-11.

February 27th, The First Monday of Lent – Readings: Lv 19:1-2, 11-18 Ps 19:8-10, 15 Mt 25:31-46. The command of the Lord is clear: love one another, for “whatever you do to these least ones, you do to me”. **Saint Gregory of Narek, Abbot, Doctor of the Church: Gregory of Narek** – was an Armenian mystical and lyrical poet, abbot and theologian. He is venerated as a saint in the Armenian Apostolic and Catholic Churches and was declared a Doctor of the Church by Pope Francis in 2015 and added to the General Roman Calendar in 2021 as an Optional memorial. He is best known for his *Book of Lamentations*, a major work of mystical literature.

February 28th, The First Tuesday of Lent – Readings – Is 55:10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19 Mt 6:7-15. May God’s Spirit always inspire us how to pray and be open to the word that the Father may be glorified.

March 1st, The First Wednesday of Lent– Readings: Jon 3:1-10 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19 Lk 11:29-32. Nineveh heard the preaching of Jonah and repented. The Word calls us to repentance as well.

March 2nd The First Thursday of Lent - Readings: Est C;12, 14-16, 23-25 Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8 Mt 7:7-12. If we petition on faith, we shall be heard, as was Esther.

March 3rd, The First Friday of Lent – Readings: Ez 18:21-28 Ps 130:1-8 Mt 5:20-26. The Lord forgives us in the conversion of our hearts, and rejoices in the reconciliation of one to another. **Saint Katherine Drexel, Virgin: Katherine Drexel** – died March 3, 1955 at age ninety-seven; Philadelphia heiress and foundress of the Missionary Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament; established some forty-nine foundations, including Xavier University in New Orleans; canonized October 1, 2000 by Pope John Paul II.

March Schedule for Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers

Note: Please remember that if you cannot serve at the time assigned, it is your responsibility to find a replacement.

Date	Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	
Mar 4	John McBride	Christy Brown	Jason Poiroux
Mar 5	Colleen Gray	Autumn Bowden	Sharon Long
Mar 11	Cheryl Albert	Kathie Sema	Steve Sema
Mar 12	Howard Robison	Matt Johnson	Jason Poiroux
Mar 18	Christy Brown	Kathie Sema	Steve Sema
Mar 19	Ann Jackson	Matt Johnson	Sharon Long
Mar 25	Cheryl Albert	John McBride	Elsa McBride
Mar 26	Autumn Bowden	Christy Brown	Sharon Long



St. John the Baptist Parish

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February 26, 2023, First Sunday of Lent

REVEREND Selvam Arputharaj

Pastor – 251-278-4900

amsleeli191@gmail.com

Deacon: Billy Graham

251-605-5972

Judy Poiroux: Bookkeeper

Carol Sue Spencer: Secretary

Office Hours: Tues., Wed, and Fri.

8 am – 12 pm

Tiffany Teofilo: CCD, Youth Director

Parish Council

Bill Schaffer Jason Poiroux

Jim Jackson Autumn Bowden

Jack Wright Jay Graham

Finance Council

Paula Dyess Paul Albert

Steve Sema, Jr.

MASSES

Weekdays: Tuesday 5:30 P.M

Wednesday 8:00 A.M

Thursday 5:30 P.M

Friday 8:00 A.M

Vigil Mass Saturday 5:00 P.M

SUNDAY MASS 10:00 A.M

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Weekdays by Appointment

Saturday 4:30 P.M

Sunday 9:30 A.M

BAPTISM: By Appointment

MATRIMONY: Contact the Office 6 months before the celebration

ANNOINTING OF THE SICK: Anytime: Please call the Office

ROSARY & ADORATION: Every Wednesday at 8 am. Healing Mass every 1st Wednesday

Funerals

Call the office before making plans with the funeral director.



First Sunday of Lent

THE RESPONSE OF GOD

This year the Sunday scriptures of Lent have their genesis in the book of Genesis. We hear the second of the two versions of the creation story that open this book. Today’s account—in which Adam receives life and Eve is created from his side—is the version filled with more folk-parable types of details, with God a much more involved character in the drama. When God wanted to change lifeless clay into a being made in the divine image, it was through breath. That breath (in Hebrew the *ruach* or wind or spirit of God) is the sign and source of humanity’s intimate connection with our Creator. Adam experiences *con spire*: a “breathing with” God. Adam and Eve are in the best sense made con-spirators with God’s plan for creation. But when he and Eve decide to conspire against the divine will and not with it, they fall out of their intimate relationship with God. At first, it seems that God’s response is punishment; but Christians believe that God’s ultimate response to this fallen state is a gift: Jesus Christ.

Today’s Readings: Genesis 2:7–9; 3:1–7; Psalm 51:3–6, 12–13, 17; Romans 5:12–19 [12, 17–19]; Matthew 4:1–11



Easton Olier, Bennie Childress, John Wesley Holt, Marlen Pineda family, Fr. Stephen Arabadjis, Andrea Emilia Bernabey, Caceres family, Rios family, Alonso family, SantaCruz family, Tracey Aldridge, Dara Olsen, Charles and Gloria Krause, Heather Cotton, Ivey Scott, Nina Bohl, Owen Loper, Elaine Brown, Shamus Jones, Phillip Poiroux, Bill Schaffer, Sammy Logan Vincent, Myrtle Bowden, Alisha Patterson, Kim Gathright, Carter McGregor, Gaitlin Turner, Jamos Schultz, Karen Colicchio, Paulette Bates, David Lee Warden, Gwen Roderick, Jimmy Holland, James Graham, Jay Graham, Andrea Graham, Lynette Anderson, Ruth Vosahlo, Betty Moseley, Emma Phillips, Lisa Vallas, Scott Beech, Robert Gunter, Jesus Malone, Leak Maria Church, Tom Thornton, Dee Irwin, Gary Smith, Liz Walker, Willie Thompson, Maddie Blake Rivers, Jimmy Summerlin, Becky Thompson, Betty Cauley, Clara Davis, Anita Wright, Doug Jones, Maribeth Thompson, Becky Latner, Leigh Taylor, Amy Lacy, Ava Smith, Chip Conklin, Isabel Rel, Marie Murray, Toby Robison, Linda Graham, Larry Robertson, Margaret Hampton, Frank Pigorsch, Jerry Wigfield, Mike Knowles, Steve Sevier, Sister Luella Dominic Petry O. P., Sister Stephanie Sema-SSMI, Joe Gable, Donnie Wilson, Patricia Davis, Joe Watts, Sean Guillotte, Michelle Cook, Nonie Reed, Tiffany Fontenot, Frances Walley, Maurine Habley, Ray Thornton, Joe Whitson, Edgar Gunter, Victoria Porter, Jonathan Cruz, Gennie Garret, Bob Echement, Lilly Breaux, James Wink, Mike Wilson, Leyah White.

Pray for the eternal repose of the souls of the most recently deceased members of the parish:

Charly Busch, Rudy Rel, Louis Jones, Betty Gunter, Chester Church

Pray for the Special Intentions of those serving in the Armed Forces: Christopher Enrique Rel, Brent Smith, Travis Wilson, SPC Jackson Triston, Jr., Captain Will Hurd, Bryant Bailey & Zachery Bailey, Kyle McBride

Birthdays for February thru March 3

1 st : Riza Jamero	14 th : Michael Courtney
1 st : Landon Teofilo	15 th : Andrea Graham
2 nd : Chuck Pierce	17 th : Mary Brannan
3 rd : Shirley Ray	19 th : Addy Stringfellow
4 th : Shirley Poiroux	20 th : Mila Vaughn
4 th : Becky Murray	25 th : Willie Smergilio
4 th : Barrett Medders	27 th : Thomas McPhillips
6 th : Ivey Scott	
6 th : Dallas Baggett	1 st : Aimee Sprinkle
8 th : Jen Elliott	1 st : Jason Poiroux
9 th : Jay Graham	2 nd : Anna Roberts-Coe
14 th : Jerry Davis	3 rd : Frances Reed
14 th : Keven Reed	3 rd : Nina Bohl

Anniversaries February thru March 3

7th: Ruth and Paul Pigorsch
14th: Tracelyn and Paul Ruffin
15th: Tony and Lynn Cosentino
18th: Gloria and Charles Krause
26th: LaShea and Adolph Payne

1st: Greg and Tiffany Teofilo

Mass Intentions:

Saturday & Sunday Mass Intentions

Saturday 5:00 pm – For all the sick, infirmed, and homebound of the parish
Sunday 10:00 am – For all deceased parishioners

Daily Mass intentions:

Week of February 28 thru March 3

February 28 - For the eternal repose of the soul of Betty Gunter by the Ladies Sodality
March 1 – For the eternal repose of the soul of John Privett by Sue and David Spencer
March 2 - For the eternal repose of the soul of Betty Gunter by Pat Potter
March 3 – For the eternal repose of the soul of Charly Busch

Week of March 7 thru March 10

March 7 - For the eternal repose of the soul of Betty Gunter by the Ladies Sodality
March 8, 9 & 10 – For the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria

Catholic Charities Appeal

If you have not returned your envelope, please do so now. Envelopes are available in the pew. The parish goal is to have everyone give to the best of their ability. Please, answer the Call to give to those in need through your prayerful generosity to this year’s Appeal. Please help us reach our goal of **\$18,000.00** and 100% participation. To date we are at **\$12860.74**.

Lectors and Eucharistic Ministers for the Weekend Masses on March 4 and 5

Lectors

5:00 pm on Saturday Mar 4: John McBride
10:00 am on Sunday Mar 5: Colleen Gray

Eucharistic Ministers

5:00 pm on Saturday Mar 4: Christy Brown
Jason Poiroux
10:00 am on Sunday Mar 5: Autumn Bowden
Sharon Long

HOMEBOUND MASS FILMING:

The next Homebound Mass Filming will take place at the Chapel of the Archbishop and will be filmed at 9:00 am. on Tuesday, March 14, 2023. We will be filming Mass for March 19, 26 and April 2, 9, 2023.

1st Weekend Rosary:

Every First Saturday and Sunday we pray the rosary Mass. Saturday at 4:30 pm and Sunday at 9:30 am. Join us as we pray for our nation.

HOUSE BLESSINGS

We highly encourage **House Blessings**. Please call Father Selvam (251-278-4900) to schedule the blessing of your home.

General Contributions – February 19, 2023

General Fund: \$4021.00.00

Maintenance: \$271.00 Candles: \$22.00

THE RESPONSE OF CHRIST

We commonly call today’s Gospel “The Temptation in the Desert” but it more accurately might be called “The Triumph in the Desert.” The Gospels are filled with stories in which Jesus is triumphant, in which he faces evil, enemies, adversity. All of these prey on his human nature and seek to make him cease breathing with the spirit of God’s will. But each time Jesus prevails, and in prevailing gives glory to God. Each of these triumphs is a small prefiguring of the Resurrection. And it is the Resurrection for which Lent prepares us. It is a time when we remember that the very breath of Christ, bestowed on his followers after his resurrection, was also bestowed on us by the Spirit of baptism. It is that Spirit, that baptismal breath of Christ, that we must draw upon to strengthen us in our trials, that our temptations will be vanquished by the will of God. In our failings remembered, we ask forgiveness. In our triumphs through Christ, we give glory to God.

Announcements for February 25 thru March 3

- 1) **Special Collection** – this week for Black and Indian Missions.
- 2) **Special Collection** – next weekend for the earthquake victims in Turkey and Syria.
- 3) **Thank you** – Mr. and Mrs. Martinez for cleaning the church grounds, particularly the area behind the rectory.
- 4) **Rice Bowls** – are in the Church hall. Please be generous and return the bowls on Easter Sunday.
- 5) **Sunday Rosary** – beginning next Sunday, March 5, we will be saying the rosary at 9:30 before Mass the first Sunday of each month, as well as the first Saturday at 4:30.
- 6) **Knights of Columbus** – will begin serving fish dinners this Friday at 4:30 pm and will continue each Friday through Lent.
- 7) **Stations of the Cross** – every Friday during Lent at 5 pm in the church.
- 8) **Mass Intentions** – Mass Intention dates are available for the remainder of the year.
- 9) **Healing Mass** – Wednesday March 1 at 8 am in the chapel, followed by breakfast.
- 10) If you are using contribution envelopes that do **NOT** have a name or number on them, and you want to use your contribution for tax deductions, please print your name on the envelope.
- 11) **Known Birthdays**
25th Willie Smergilio
27th Thomas McPhillips
Mar 1st Jason Poiroux, Aimee Sprinkle
Mar 2nd Anna Roberts-Coe
Mar 3rd Nina Bohl, Frances Reed
Known Anniversaries:
26th LaShea and Adolph Payne
Mar 1st Greg and Tiffany Teofilo

To get respect, act respectably.