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# FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT



FEBRUARY 21, 2021

*Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God:  
“This is the time of fulfillment.  
The kingdom of God is at hand.  
Repent, and believe in the gospel.”*

*Mark 1:14-15*

“Good Morning! Welcome to Lent!” You probably did not get that greeting from your priest today, and you probably did not expect it. Isn’t Lent a time of reflection and repentance? Somber purple, no “Alleluias”? Prayer, fasting, and almsgiving; attending to one’s relationship with God?

True enough; however, there are Lenten practices that have a festive air woven into these penitential elements. One example is in the Church’s retrieval of ancient Lenten practices that made up the final preparation of persons elected to receive the Easter sacraments of baptism, confirmation, and eucharist. Jesus’ urgent preaching in today’s passage from Mark comes soon after his own baptism and reminds us that these sacraments still signal a dramatic change in a person’s life: they have responded to Jesus’ preaching of the kingdom and are now publicly professing themselves to be disciples of the Lord and fully initiated members of his visible church. The prayer, fasting, and almsgiving during Lent were part of that preparation. Repentance was then, and remains today, important also for those already fully initiated; the work of repentance, of prayerfully examining our lives and making changes in anticipation of God’s reign, is an ongoing aspect of our life in Christ.

## A SECOND CHANCE TO MAKE A FIRST IMPRESSION

Other changes with baptism are more subtle and personal. When Noah and his family emerged from the ark, they saw that the floodwaters had receded after cleansing the world of human sinfulness. Everything was clean and fresh—a new creation, with a rainbow to guarantee God’s promise to never again destroy the world with water. So, too, will the newly baptized emerge from the font and be anointed with chrism. Like the earth after the great flood, they are a new creation. Washed clean of sin and anointed with chrism, they are renewed in the embrace of the God of covenant love.

This is why Lent is always a festive anticipation of Easter and always about baptism, just as it is always about the repentance that draws us more deeply into God’s kingdom.

Today’s Readings: Gn 9:8–15; Ps 25:4–5, 6–7, 8–9; 1 Pt 3:18–22; Mk 1:12–15

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## St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

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Church Email: [stpaulbr@aol.com](mailto:stpaulbr@aol.com) • Website Address: [www.stpaulbr.org](http://www.stpaulbr.org)

Pastor’s Email: [arockiamsvd@gmail.com](mailto:arockiamsvd@gmail.com)

### PASTOR:

Father Arockiam Arockiam, S.V.D.

PERMANENT DEACON: (Retired)

Deacon Benjamin Dunbar, Jr. 225-324-5808

DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Martha Davis 225-357-4108

SECRETARY: Mary Martin 225-383-2537

OFFICE ASSISTANT: Christy Hall

BOOKKEEPER: Debra Dudley

YOUTH DIRECTOR: Justin Kennedy

PARISH NURSE: Maxine Watts

### LITURGY GUIDE

SUNDAY MASS

10:30 a.m.

(Temporary due to Covid-19)

RECONCILIATION

By Appointment

Live Stream Mass on Facebook @

[stpaultheapostlecatholicchurchbr](https://www.facebook.com/stpaultheapostlecatholicchurchbr).

10:30a.m. Mass



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**Baptism:** Call the Rectory to make arrangements. Infant Baptism is on the first Sunday of the month. Attendance of the pre-baptism workshop is required.

**Marriage:** Make arrangements six (6) months in advance of wedding date with the pastor.

**Communion to the Sick:** Please call the office to make arrangements to bring communion when someone is unable to attend Mass due to illness.

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between me and the earth (Genesis 9:8-15).

**Psalm** — Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant (Psalm 25).

**Second Reading** — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (1 Peter 3:18-22).

**Gospel** — Jesus was tempted by Satan, and the angels ministered to him (Mark 1:12-15)

### REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Lent is the time of year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15). It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.

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### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday:	<b>Washington's Birthday; Julian Calendar Lent begins</b> 1 Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16:13-19	Friday:	<b>Abstinence</b> Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8; Mt 5:20-26
Tuesday:	<b>Memorial of St. Polycarp</b> Is 55:10-11; Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15	Saturday:	<b>Memorial of St. Gregory of Narek</b> Dt 26:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
Wednesday:	Jon 3:1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19; Lk 11:29-32	Sunday:	<b>Second Sunday of Lent</b> Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19; Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10
Thursday:	<b>Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset</b> Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12		



#### May they rest in peace...

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Ms. Angela Mamou and family at the passing of her sister Mrs. Theresa Mae O'Steen. And to the Price family at the passing of Ms. Mary Lena Price. Mother of Mr. Gregory Price. May their soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

#### First Sunday of Lent

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths.

— Psalm 25:4



#### MASS INTENTION

7:30 a.m. Mr. Dwight LeBlanc  
10:30 a.m. St. Paul Parishioners



#### PRAYER LEADERS ARE NEEDED FOR THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

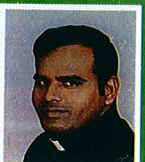
— Leaders are still needed for the Stations of the Cross at 6:00 p.m. on Fridays during Lent.

If you are interested in leading us in the Stations of the Cross for one of the six Fridays during Lent, please put your name and contact information on the sign-up

#### INSTALLATION

Fr. Arockiam will be installed this Sunday as pastor of St. Paul by Bishop Michael Duca at 10:30 Mass. Please join us!

For pastoral needs, contact  
Fr. Arockiam Arockiam, SVD  
at Cell # (337) 522-0624  
Email: arockiamsvd@gmail.com



**ALMSGIVING, PRAYER, FASTING, & TEMPTATION** As we begin our season of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, the reading from Deuteronomy reminds us of our duty of almsgiving, that we “set our offerings before the Lord, our God, and shall bow down in God’s presence” (Deuteronomy 26:10). The reading from Romans refers us to our prayer, reminding us that “The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart . . . For everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved” (Romans 10:8, 13). These are comforting words, and encourage us to ask God for what we need and to aid us in our prayer. Finally, the Gospel of Luke shows us a fasting Jesus, who was tempted as we are, and who knows what it means to be human. Someone once said that temptation arises when you’re tired and weary, and the devil comes along and makes a perfectly reasonable suggestion. Jesus shows us that, with his help, we too can overcome our temptations, reasonable as they may sound. Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**Safe Haven Sunday-Equipping the Family**

With the constant flood of influence from the Internet and social media, along with social pressures from peers, make it difficult for our children and youth to live virtuous and holy lives. In this digital age, it’s not a matter of if your child or youth will see something inappropriate online; it is a matter of when. Regrettably, Internet pornography teaches our children and youth how and what to think about sex and marriage. Next weekend, February 27-28, the Diocese of Baton Rouge will celebrate Safe Haven Sunday. Safe Haven Sunday will provide free resources to parents to give them confidence in how to talk to their children and youth about Internet dangers, as well as their personal online and offline choices. Please join us as we pray for our children and youth’s safety and this special weekend.



St. Paul’s Parishioners and family members that are 55 yrs. and older and interested in getting the **COVID-19 vaccine** should contact the parish office at 383-2537 to sign-up. Someone from Our Lady of the Lake Hospital will then contact you to schedule an appointment.

**OFFERTORY**

**February 14, 2021**

Offertory Collection	\$ 2,425.00
Online Giving	\$ 3,357.00
Building Fund	\$ 25.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 20.00
4-Month Fundraiser	\$ 25.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 5,852.00</b>

**Online Giving: [osvonlinegiving.com/4266](https://osvonlinegiving.com/4266)**

**CELEBRATING FEBRUARY 21st - FEBRUARY 27th BIRTHDAYS**



Loveis Jackson 2/21  
 Trishten Ashford 2/22  
 Amber Hall 2/22  
 Christy Hall 2/22  
 Deonna London 2/22  
 Clarence Thomas 2/22



Mary Leona Smart 2/23  
 Raven Williams 2/24  
 Carter Peters 2/25  
 John Gradnigo 2/26  
 Jared Anthony, Sr. 2/27



**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR SICK AND HOMEBOUND**




*Audrey Christopher, Mary Smart, Carolyn Christophe, Myrtis Coleman, Robert Seals, Mona Seals, Sylvia Collier, Lena Batiste, Marie Myles, Mary Lena Price, Willis Reed, Jr., Annie Joseph, Harry Sills, Denovas Crockett, Jasman Benjamin, James Hayward, Cheryl Crockett, Brenda D. Hickman, Charles Davis, Jr., Rose Crockett Carter, Dianna Franklin, Meredith Jones, Gregory Cornell, George Cornell, Mable King, Curtell Thibodeaux, Irene Warner, Louis Simms, Sadie Simms, Patrick Simms, and Yvonne Joseph*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR SICK FAMILY MEMBERS AND FRIENDS**

*Ronnie Gauthier, Helen Celestine, Florence Jackson, Betty Hammond, Frank Ross, Mona Bossier Bailey, Walker Williams, Barbara Brennan, Richard Dillon, Calvin Thomas, III, Joel Rivera, Dorie Martin, Alberta Conner, Martha Reinhart, Dana Simoneaux, Nichelle Hollins, Jessica Hughes, Ernie Butitta, Edna Dixon, Charles Bethley, Jenna Scott, Anthony Grand, Allen Paschal, James Pace, Connie St. Romain, Kirk Haynes, and Carey Haynes*


**In Loving Memory of:**

Opston, Dorcena, Wilbert,  
Philip, Opston, Jr., Albert &  
Jerome Guillory, CB, Ruth &  
Tia Davis,  
Catherine Williams,  
Yvonne Warren and  
Marcus Montigue



**In Loving Memory of:**

George Coleman, Jr  
Geneva Coleman  
George Coleman, Sr.  
Carrie Coleman  
M.H. Weathersby  
Odelia Weathersby  
Donald Coleman



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**In Loving Memory of:**

Geneva Battley Spooner  
Della Battley Rodney





**"Rest in Peace"**

**St. Paul the Apostle Quick Reference**

Altar Servers - 7:30 - Shirley Dawson.....	802-6128
Altar Servers - 10:30 - Christy Hall... ..	223-7851
Infant Baptism - Deacon Benjamin Dunbar, Jr.....	324-5808
Bible Study - Barbara Haynes.....	665-2630
Bookkeeper - Debra Dudley.....	383-2537
Center (Use of Center) - Mary Martin.....	383-2537
Center Rental & Repast - Velita Benjamin.....	654-6705
Child Protection Coordinator - Vera Dunbar.....	324-2939
Eucharistic Ministers - Nancy Ball.....	397-4309
Liturgy Committee - Gigi Collin Mathis.....	278-0071
Nurse - Maxine Watts .....	278-6732
Office Assistant - Christy Hall.....	383-2537
Parish Office - Secretary - Mary Martin.....	383-2537
Pastor - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....	383-2537
Readers - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....	383-2537
Religious Education Director - Martha Davis.....	357-4108
RCIA Coordinator - Fr. Arockiam Arockiam.....	383-2537
Ushers - Edmonia Joseph .....	772-2090
Youth Ministry - Justin Kennedy.....	754-2609


**In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones:**

Roosevelt Bowers  
Joseph "Buddy" Walker  
Oscar LeDuff, Jr.  
Elizabeth & Frank P. Bowers  
Carrie & Douglas Rodney, Sr.  
Clara & Willis Walker  
Sarah Rodney Domino & Wilbert Domino, Sr.  
Freddie Bowers  
Ora Bowers Ward  
Sybil Thomas Johnson  
Maureen Bowers Johnson

**In Loving Memory of:**

Famye Reed  
and the  
Reed, Stewart, Davis , and  
Grainger Families



**"Rest in Peace"**

**"GET THE HOOK"**

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Lionel Bazile, Sr.  
James Bazile  
Sheila Bazile



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**In Loving Memory of:**

Milton, Rachel, Lillie, Lillian, Kirby, James  
"Pookie" Verdell, Corinne & Michael  
Joseph, Lawrence, Sr. & Shedrick Ashford,  
Ellis Myles, Sr., Rose & Albert, Terry Hebert,  
Eula White, J.D. Joseph, Aaron Bradley Joseph,  
Jessie Joseph Sr., H.P. Martin

**"Rest in Peace"**

