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THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT



MARCH 7, 2021
Jesus found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip of cords and drove them all out.
John 2:14-15

For pious Jews in first-century Palestine, the Mosaic Law prescribed the way every action in life is dedicated to God. Today's reading from Exodus tells how the Ten Commandments, the introduction to this larger legal code, is given to Israel as a gift from God.

In the Gospels Jesus is portrayed as a rabbi, or someone learned in the Law. A rabbi's learning ideally included both the precepts of the Law and its reverent contemplation as a divine gift, within which one could hear God's own voice. This was the way rabbis through the centuries used the Law to adapt to changing circumstances. This seems to be what Jesus was doing with the moneychangers in the temple.

JESUS, THE LAW, THE JEWS—AND US

When Jesus accused the moneychangers of sacrilege and cleared them out of the temple, the onlookers asked for a sign of his authority to do such a thing. After all, wasn't it a sacrilege to purchase animals for sacrifice with pagan coins? Wasn't this how the Jews adapted to Roman rule? Jesus says nothing about that; he only knows that this commercial activ-

ity inside the temple was a sacrilege. Elsewhere in the Gospels Jesus is criticized for not being strict enough with the Law, as when he ate with prostitutes and tax collectors, but here he is prescribing something stricter, something "more."

Jesus is doing something extraordinary, contrary to ordinary practice, prompting the onlookers to request a sign, evidence that God is acting here through Jesus. His insistence that the moneychangers depart, his clear vision regarding "my Father's house," and his cryptic reference to himself as a temple, are signs of his contemplative intimacy with his Father that is the source of his authority about the Law.

Catholics, like first-century Jews, have our regular means for living in God's presence. We have the liturgy, sacraments, devotions, and personal prayer. During Lent, we are asked to be a little stricter with ourselves, listening for God's own voice. If we do, we might discover that we, too, are being called to something "more."

Today's Readings: Ex 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]; Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11; 1 Cor. 1:22-25; Jn 2:13-25

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St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

3912 Gus Young Ave. • Baton Rouge, LA 70802-1727

Telephone: 225-383-2537 • Fax: 225-383-3702

Church Email: stpaulbr@aol.com • Website Address: www.stpaulbr.org

Pastor's Email: 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

(Temporary due to Covid-19)

10:30 a.m.

RECONCILIATION

By Appointment

Live Stream Mass on Facebook @

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

10:30a.m. Mass



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 — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) or *Exodus 17:3-7*.

Psalm — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19) or *Psalm 95*.

Second Reading — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) or *Romans 5:1-2, 5-8*.

Gospel — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25) or *John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]*.

TOTAL ALLEGIANCE

In previous weeks we have seen how the theme of covenant—as a preparation for the baptismal covenant celebrated at Easter—occupies an important place in our cycle of Lenten readings. The notion of covenant as a relationship between two parties carries with it an expectation of mutual accountability and fidelity to the terms of the covenant. When God forged the covenant with the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, it was a pledge of God's protection, and it would forever permit them familiar access as the Chosen People. For their part, the Jewish people were to observe the dictates of the law, summarized most succinctly here in the form of the Ten Commandments. To be in a covenantal relationship with the Lord God requires an exclusive relationship, just as discipleship with Jesus—ritualized in baptism—demands a total allegiance to him and none other.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Memorial of St. John of God
2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4;
Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Memorial of St. Frances of Rome
Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-8-9; 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, 6-9;
Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Abstinence
Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17; Mk 12:28-34

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

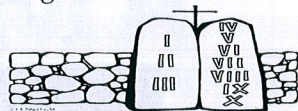
Sunday: Fourth Sunday of Lent; Second Scrutiny; Day light Saving Time begins
2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21 Alternate readings (Year A): 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6; Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-10 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38]

Third Sunday of Lent

I, the LORD, am your God . . .

You shall not have other gods besides me.

— *Exodus 20:2a, 3*



MASS INTENTION

7:30 a.m. St. Paul Parishioners

10:30 a.m. Mrs. Evelyn Broussard, Mr. Joseph Broussard, and Mr. Paul Broussard



Please join us at St. Paul on Fridays during Lent at 6:00 p.m for the Stations of the Cross.



Equipping the Family: Even though Safe Haven Sunday is over for this year, our efforts to support you in making your homes safe havens will continue. We invite you to stay tuned for more information about how to protect and guide your family in this Internet age.

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





CRS Rice Bowl 2021! The season of Lent gives us a wonderful opportunity to reflect and make room in our hearts to welcome the stranger. Through our **prayer**, we encounter Jesus,

who is present in the face of every member of our human family. When we **fast**, we encounter the obstacles that stop us from fully loving God and our neighbor. When we **give alms**, we share what we have with others. When you donate to CRS Rice Bowl, you share your life and your abundance with our global family in need. Your generosity puts nutritious food on their tables and helps them lead healthy lives and reach their God-given potential! Rice bowls can be found on the table in the foyer.

OFFERTORY

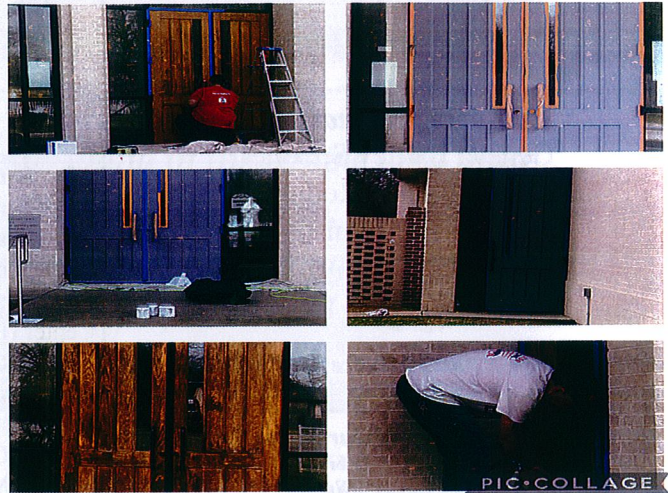
February 28, 2021

Offertory Collection	\$ 4,212.00
Online Giving	\$ 1,910.00
Building Fund	\$ 430.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 85.00
Total	\$ 6,637.00

Online Giving: osvonlinegiving.com/4266

Work In Progress!

This past week we started with the maintenance of the church by contracting with painters to work on the exterior of the church. The cost of the project is \$14,150. If you would like to help defray the cost of this project, your contributions are welcomed.



Daylight saving will begin at 2:00 AM on Sunday March 14th.

CELEBRATING March 7th- March 13th BIRTHDAYS

Joanna Boyd 3/07
John Bennett 3/08
D'Laci Cooley 3/08
Helen D. McCarter 3/08
Angela Rovaris 3/09
Nia Brown 3/10
Donald Hillery 3/10
Domonique Banks 3/11



Gregory Garner 3/11
Nautica Hatch 3/11
Godis Jackson 3/12
Timothy Marioneaux 3/12
Brenda Bardell 3/13
Lula Grant 3/13
Louis Martin 3/13



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, Yvonne Joseph, and Ken Barker


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



<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Opston, Dorcena, Wilbert, Philip, Opston, Jr., Albert & Jerome Guillory, CB, Ruth & Tia Davis, Catherine Williams, Yvonne Warren and Marcus Montigue</p> 	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>George Coleman, Jr Geneva Coleman George Coleman, Sr. Carrie Coleman M.H. Weathersby Odelia Weathersby Donald Coleman</p> 	<p>JANI-KING</p> <p>Commercial Cleaning Service</p> <p>Monique Scott 225 273-5464</p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p>State Farm Insurance</p> <p>Leonard Benjamin 775-2494</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Geneva Battley Spooner Della Battley Rodney Rosa Lee Johnson</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p>St. Paul the Apostle Quick Reference</p> <p>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 Watts278-6732 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 Joseph772-2090 Youth Ministry - Justin Kennedy.....754-2609</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones:</i></p> <p>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</p>  	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Famye Reed and the Reed, Stewart, Davis , and Grainger Families</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p><i>"GET THE HOOK"</i></p> <p>HOOKIN UP MARINE AND TACKLE</p> <p>1968 Wooddale Ct. Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Ph. 225 999-5202 Email: hookinupmarineandtackle@gmail.com</p> <p>Kobi Chenevert Store Manager</p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p>Chenevert Construction & Remodeling 344-0183</p>
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<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Lionel Bazile, Sr. James Bazile Sheila Bazile</p> 	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>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</p> <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p> 
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