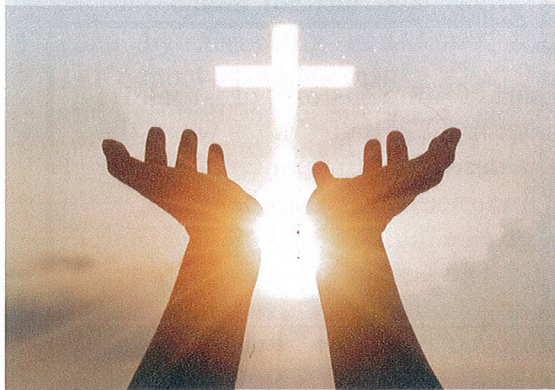


FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT



MARCH 14, 2021
*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,
 so must the Son of Man be lifted up,
 so that everyone who believes
 in him may have eternal life.*
John 3:14-15

Today's reading from Second Chronicles is the conclusion of these two volumes, a brief summary of Judah's infidelity under a sequence of kings and the subsequent seventy years of exile in Babylon. This abbreviated sequence recaps the events treated in earlier chapters, concluding with Jerusalem being conquered and its inhabitants deported to Babylon.

After the Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus and the Persians, Cyrus built the great Persian Empire that covered almost the entire ancient Near East. Unlike the earlier Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus did not rule by deporting and enslaving peoples he defeated. Instead, he organized his empire into regional governments and funded their construction projects, ruling over all with the title King of Kings (among others). In this spirit, Cyrus urged the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and their native culture. In Jewish terms, Cyrus was a "messiah" (Hebrew), or a christos (Greek), someone anointed by God to carry out this divine mission.

DIVINE RESCUE

The return from exile in Babylon was second only to the Exodus from Egypt as a founding narrative shaping the Jewish

identity into which Jesus was born and in which his church took root and began to grow. If we read between the lines of the two New Testament readings from today, we can see the outlines of this same pattern of God bringing humanity from sorrow into joy: The Hebrews' slavery in Egypt and the Judeans' exile in Babylonia reveal a universal truth, that we belong to the God who is "rich in mercy," and we are assured that "when we were dead in our transgressions," God "so loved the world" that he sent Jesus to be the way of our redemption, our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called "Laetare Sunday," or "Rejoice! Sunday." Even if we feel overwhelmed by the darkness of sin (our own and others'), wondering whether God really is working on our behalf, we can put our faith in today's Word that it is so. For this, we can truly rejoice—we are more than halfway to Easter!

Today's Readings: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6; Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

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St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

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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



St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church
 3912 Gus Young Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

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 wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of the chosen people

(2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) or 1 Samuel 16:
1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — By grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-10) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — The Son was sent by God so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:14-21) or John 9:1-41

GOD'S MERCY

Today's reading from the second book of Chronicles contains a sort of "mini-history" of Israel. It highlights God's mercies in choosing Cyrus the Persian to be an instrument of deliverance when the people were in captivity in Babylon. Despite their sinfulness and the deserved punishment they were undergoing, God's mercy was lavished on the people in the form of a miraculous act of liberation.

The Letter to the Ephesians, in much more theological terms, gives a similar account of a God "who brought us to life with Christ—by grace you have been saved." The author stresses that it was when we were "dead in our transgressions" that God saved us, an act of pure grace. He emphasizes that it is not our own efforts that freed us from sin ("this is not from you"); rather, "it is the gift of God." This, of course, is the heart of the entire Pauline corpus, that salvation comes to us by faith in God's mercy, revealed in the death of Jesus.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b;
Jn 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9;
Jn 5:1-16

Wednesday: Memorial of St. Patrick
Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14,
17-18; Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday: Memorial of St. Cyril of
Jerusalem**
Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23;
Jn 5:31-47

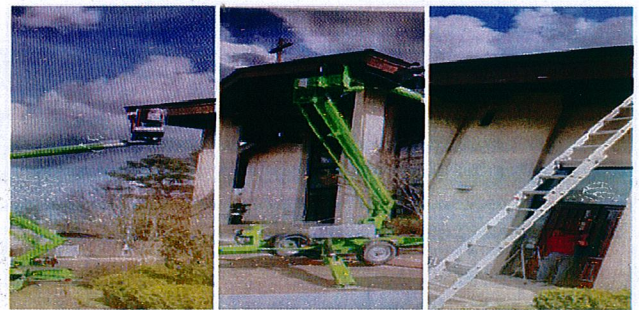
**Friday: Memorial of St. Joseph;
Abstinence**
2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16;
Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16,
18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

Saturday: Spring begins
Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12;
Jn 7:40-53

**Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Third
Scrutiny**
Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15;
Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Alternate readings (Year A):
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom
8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-
27, 33b-45]

Updates on Church Maintenance

As we are aware of the \$14,150 project of the exterior painting of the church that is still in progress, we thank those who have donated and if anyone still wants to donate you are most welcome. Thank you.



MASS INTENTIONS

7:30 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. - For the Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle, and for the Success of our Debt Reduction Campaign



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

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



BAPTISMAL SCHEDULE

Baptismal Class for the parents and god-parents on
Thursday, May 6, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.

Please contact

Mrs. Vera Dunbar - 225-324-2939

Baptism will be celebrated on Sunday, May 16, 2021
During or After 10:30 Mass

(For exceptions, please contact Fr. Arockiam SVD)

Thanks and Welcome!

We would like to thank Mrs. Elaine Doyle for her years of service on the Finance Committee as she moves on to other ministries. We also would like to welcome and thank Mrs. Paulette Robertson for accepting to serve on the Finance Committee.

Redemptorist St. Gerard Elementary

School opens for the new school year 2021-2022 by accepting enrollment applications. The school provides strong Catholic tradition and excellent academic for PreK4 to 8th graders. We provide good scholarship to our students. Register NOW. Please contact the school office 225-355-1437. School address: 3655 St. Gerard Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70805. Website: <http://rsgbr.org> or contact Fr. Tat Hoang, C.Ss.R., Pastor at 225-355-2553.

OFFERTORY

March 7, 2021

Offertory Collection	\$ 7,490.00
Online Giving	\$ 5,392.00
Building Fund	\$ 1,181.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 196.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 205.00
Debt Reduction Campaign	\$10,000.00
Total	\$24,464.00

Debt Reduction Campaign Kick off Sunday:

Dear Parishioners, greetings! Thank you for your response to my call for different ministries and church organization meetings in the past months. It gave me the opportunity to get to know some of you and share some of my plans for our church. I am humbled by your encouragement and cooperation of my plan for the DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN. On your behalf, I thank Bishop Michael Duca, our church office staff, and Mrs. Vera Dunbar (and Deacon Benjamin Dunbar Jr.) who is voluntarily coordinating this campaign, donating a lot of her time and money to pay off our \$548,000.00 loan in 2 years. My special thanks to our Parish Pastoral and Finance Council members for their advice and support. Please join me in praying for this campaign's success, and I request that you pick up your package and go through my letter carefully and respond. As we begin this campaign this Sunday, we offer our mass for this intention: may the Good Lord bless our efforts, hard work, and sacrifice and help us pay off this loan and move forward in Faith. Please share your blessings according to the measure the Lord has blessed you. I shall share some of the updates and requests on this campaign in the bulletin in the coming weeks. Thank you. Fr. A. Arockiam SVD

Debt Reduction contributions may also be made in our Online Giving account. To donate, select Debt Reduction Payment.

Online Giving: osvonlinegiving.com/4266

CELEBRATING MARCH 14th - MARCH 20th BIRTHDAYS



Ernest Hebert 3/14
Renee Camberos 3/14
Henry Harris 3/14
Mekhi Jones 3/14
Lavone Hatch 3/15
Jawasski Edwards 3/16
Bennie Robertson 3/16
Derrick Wells 3/16
Tonya Ward 3/17



Cierra Colar 3/18
Drew Brown 3/19
Elaine Doyle 3/19
Delores Price 3/19
Aniyah Raby 3/19
Myrtis Reed 3/19
Marva Carrier 3/20
Terrilyn Jeanpierre 3/20
Jackson Williams 3/20



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, 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, 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

<p><i>In Loving Memory of:</i></p> <p>Opston, Dorcenia, 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>Famyee Reed and the Reed, Stewart, Davis, and Grainger Families</p>  <p><i>"Rest in Peace"</i></p>	<p>"GET THE HOOK"</p> <p>HOOKIN UP</p> <p>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>SIGMA</p> <p>ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS, INC.</p> <p>SAFETY/RISK, FACILITY SERVICES, ENVIRONMENTAL, CIVIL, STRUCTURAL, ARCHITECTURAL, MECHANICAL, PIPING, PROCESS, ELECTRICAL, INSTRUMENTATION, STAFFING</p> <p>225-810-3100 www.sigmaec.com</p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></p>	<p><i>Space Available</i></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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