

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT



MARCH 21, 2021

*Unless a grain of wheat falls  
to the ground and dies,  
it remains just a grain of wheat;  
but if it dies, it produces much fruit.*

*John 12:24*

The readings today remind us how close we are to Easter—only two weeks from now. They also remind us that the path to resurrection and Easter always includes suffering and death. The prophet Jeremiah spent his whole life proclaiming the word of God to kings who would not listen. As an old man, he saw Jerusalem defeated and the inhabitants taken into exile. Jeremiah himself suffered in being left behind, but in today's reading, he is looking beyond those sufferings to a time when the previously disobedient people would be transformed and live in harmony with God's law.

## LOOKING FOR JESUS, FINDING THE CROSS

In the Gospel reading, friends of Philip come to him and ask about meeting Jesus. When Philip and Andrew take the request to Jesus, he begins a cryptic discourse on discipleship, transformation, and divine judgment. We never hear whether Philip's friends got to personally meet Jesus. Perhaps they simply blended in with the crowd.

Jesus says, "[W]hen I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." The narrator says that Jesus' words

indicate how he will die; the readers already know Jesus will be crucified. Jesus also speaks of divine judgment driving out the world's rulers and of the need to be transformed, like a seed growing into a productive plant. He warns about loving our life and losing it. Unlike Jeremiah's detailed vision, Jesus only hints at what kind of transformed life his death will bring.

What if we, like Philip's friends, want to get close to Jesus? Does that mean that the discourse on death and judgment is addressed to us? If Jesus will draw everyone to himself as he is "lifted up," does being closer to him mean joining him on his cross? (Do we want to be that close to Jesus?) Do we want to be transformed? If we say "yes," the liturgy these next two weeks can show us the only way the Church knows to get closer to Jesus: to be willing to be "lifted up" with him in his suffering—and in our own.

Today's Readings: Jer 31:31–34; Ps 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15;  
Heb 5:7–9; Jn 12:20–33

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## St. Paul the Apostle Catholic Church

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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 @

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

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** — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34) *or Ezekiel 37:12-14.*

**Psalm** — Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51) *or Psalm 130.*

**Second Reading** — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:7-9) *or Romans 8:8-11.*

**Gospel** — If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33) *or John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45].*

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

**Monday:** Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

**Tuesday:** **Memorila of St. Turibius of Mogrovejo**

Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21;  
Jn 8:21-30

**Wednesday:** Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56;  
Jn 8:31-42

**Thursday:** **The Annunciation of the Lord**  
Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10;

**Friday:** **Abstinence**  
Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

**Saturday:** Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13;  
Jn 11:45-56

**Sunday:** **Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord;**  
Passover begins at sunset  
Acts 10:34a, 37-43; Ps 118:1-2, 16-17, 22-23;  
Col 3:1-4 or 1 Cor 5:6b-8; Jn 20:1-9 or Mk 16:1-7 or (at an afternoon or evening Mass)  
Lk 24:13-35



### MASS INTENTIONS

7:30 a.m. - Parishioners of St. Paul the Apostle

10:30 a.m. - In Memory of Mr. Joseph Manuel Broussard on the First Anniversary of his death

### May he rest in peace...

Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Price family at the passing of Mr. Joseph N. Price, father of Mr. John and Joseph Christopher Price. A Memorial service was held on March 11th in

Houma, LA.

May his soul and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace. Amen.

### ATTENTION LECTORS

Fr. Arockiam would like to meet with all lectors, and anyone interested in becoming a lector on Tuesday, March 23rd at 6:00 p.m. in the church.

### PARISH SCHOOL OF RELIGION

There will be no Religious Education classes on March 28th and April 4th to allow our students and teachers to celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter with their families. Classes will resume April 11th.

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



### THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

**(CONFESSION):** We will celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) on Thursday, March 25 from 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Fr. Thomas Clark from Immaculate Conception and Fr. Arockiam will hear confessions.

On Wednesday March 31 from 5.30 PM to 6.30 PM Fr. Arockiam will hear confessions. Please wear mask and follow social distancing. Please consider going to confessions before Easter. It is the best way to bring peace to your soul and spirit. A way to renew your soul and start anew.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

In the name of Christ, we welcome you! We rejoice with the Muse family on their infant's baptism, **Aubrey Muse**, on Saturday, March 6, 2021, by Fr. Arockiam here at St. Paul. We also wish to extend a loving welcome to the family and all their children as members of God's Family and our parish!

### BAPTISMAL SCHEDULE

Baptismal Class for Parents and Godparents  
Thursday, May 6, 2021 - 6:30 p.m.  
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)



**Holy Thursday:** Mass of the Lord's Supper - 6:30 PM (followed by the adoration. Please be prepared to spend some time in personal prayer with the Blessed Sacrament)

**Good Friday:** Liturgy of the Lord's Passion and Death - Starts with Stations of the Cross at 2 PM

**Holy Saturday:** Easter Vigil Mass - 8 PM

**Easter Sunday** - Mass of the Resurrection - 9 AM

**PRACTICE SCHEUDLE**

**Wed. March 31** - 5 PM - Altar Servers who will serve on Holy Thursday.

**Fri. April 2** - 10 AM Altar Servers for Good Friday Service.

**Sat. April 3** - 10 AM Lectors  
10:30 AM Altar Servers

**Covid-19 Vaccination**

Our goal is to make receiving your COVID-19 vaccine as easy as possible. At this time, vaccine supply is very limited, and we are managing this closely. As we await additional supplies of the vaccine, please remember that the Louisiana Department of Health has identified pharmacies that can administer the vaccine. For more information please visit:

[https://fmolhs.org/assets/images/site\\_logo.svg](https://fmolhs.org/assets/images/site_logo.svg)

**OFFERTORY**

**March 14, 2021**

Offertory Collection	\$ 4,084.00
Online Giving	\$ 2,085.00
Building Fund	\$ 852.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 157.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 140.00
4-Month Fundraiser	\$ 1,500.00
Total	\$ 8,818.00
Online Giving: <a href="https://osvonlinegiving.com/4266">osvonlinegiving.com/4266</a>	

**UPDATE ON DEBT REDUCTION CAMPAIGN**

St. Paul the Apostle's Debt Reduction Campaign is officially underway! If you do not have a Debt Reduction packet, please pick up your packet before or after Sunday Mass. Also, as much as possible during this COVID-19 Pandemic, Fr. Arockiam will continue to visit families and/or invite families and small groups to meet with him in the church. Please pray for the success of this campaign and consider pledging an amount above your regular tithes and offerings over the next 2-3 years to help reduce the loan debt on the church. **Your census forms and/or pledge cards are due before or by Sunday, April 25, 2021. Return envelopes with your census form and/or pledge card in the collection baskets on Sundays, give them to Fr. Arockiam, drop off them at the parish office, or mail them in.** The amount of your pledge is personal and between you and God. **Give what you can!** Contributions toward your pledged amounts may be made online at [osvonlinegiving.com/4266](https://osvonlinegiving.com/4266), placed in the special envelopes from your monthly contribution envelopes or in the special envelopes kept in the main entrance of the church or on the baptismal font.

Debt Reduction Campaign Summary	
Area	As of 3-14-2021
<b>Our Goal</b>	<b>\$548,000.00</b>
Total Amt. Pledged	\$120,840.00
<b>Total Donations Collected</b>	<b>\$16,500.00</b>
Total # of Members Pledged	23
Total # of Registered Members	553

**CELEBRATING MARCH 21-27 BIRTHDAYS**

Betty J. Jackson 3/21	Brenda Hickman 3/25
Konitra Kemp 3/22	Chelsea Dickson 3/26
Dietrich Thomas 3/24	Demond Garner 3/26
Natasha Williams 3/24	TaRhonda Chube 3/27
John Christopher 3/25	



**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*

ST PAUL THE APOSTLE CATHOLIC CHURCH  
Income and Expenses for February 2021

**INCOME**

Church Collections	\$ 21,970.00
Building Fund	5,880.00
Special Donations	700.00
Bulletin Ads	565.00
Income from Rent House	450.00
Diocesan Collection Retained	30.00
<b>Total Income Received by Church</b>	<b>\$ 29,595.00</b>



**EXPENSES**




Salaries ( Priest & Staff)	\$ 11,041.59
Utilities/Telephone (3 buildings, residence)	2,931.60
Office(Office Internet, On line giving fees)	260.40
Contracted Services (Security Officers)	600.00
Parish Share ( Amount due Diocese)	4,873.00
Property Insurance(Property, Vehicle, Worker's Comp)	1,834.00
Repairs (Copier Repairs)	164.93
Principal on Loan	6,123.81
Interest on Loan	1,713.23
Learning Center Utilities	312.87
Reimbursement-Deposit made in error	894.13
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 30,749.56</b>


**NET PROFIT OR LOSS** **\$ (1,154.56)**

***Church Loan Balance as of 3/11/21 \$535,967.98***


***Revised report 03/11/21***

<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>Opston, Dorcenia, Wilbert, Philip, Opston, Jr., Albert &amp; Jerome Guillory, CB, Ruth &amp; Tia Davis, Catherine Williams, Yvonne Warren and Marcus Montigue</p> 	<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>George Coleman, Jr Geneva Coleman George Coleman, Sr. Carrie Coleman M.H. Weathersby Odelia Weathersby Donald Coleman</p> 	<p><b>JANI-KING</b></p> <p>Commercial Cleaning Service</p> <p><b>Monique Scott</b> 225 273-5464</p>	<p><b>Space Available</b></p>	<p><b>State Farm Insurance</b></p> <p><b>Leonard Benjamin</b> 775-2494</p>
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<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>Geneva Battley Spooner Della Battley Rodney Rosa Lee Johnson</p>  <p><b>"Rest in Peace"</b></p>	<p><b><u>St. Paul the Apostle Quick Reference</u></b></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 &amp; 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</p>
<p><b>In Loving Memory of Our Loved Ones:</b></p>  <p>Roosevelt Bowers Joseph "Buddy" Walker Oscar LeDuff, Jr. Elizabeth &amp; Frank P. Bowers Carrie &amp; Douglas Rodney, Sr. Clara &amp; Willis Walker Sarah Rodney Domino &amp; Wilbert Domino, Sr. Freddie Bowers Ora Bowers Ward Sybil Thomas Johnson Maureen Bowers Johnson</p> 	

<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>Fanye Reed and the Reed, Stewart, Davis, and Grainger Families</p>  <p><b>"Rest in Peace"</b></p>	<p><b>"GET THE HOOK"</b></p> <p><b>HOOKIN UP</b></p> <p><b>MARINE AND TACKLE</b></p> <p>1968 Wooddale Ct. Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Ph. 225 999-5202 Email: hookinupmarineandtackle@gmail.com</p> <p><b>Kobi Chenevert</b>      <b>Store Manager</b></p>	<p><b>Space Available</b></p>	<p><b>Chenevert Construction &amp; Remodeling</b> 344-0183</p>
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<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>Lionel Bazile, Sr. James Bazile Sheila Bazile</p> 	<p><b>Space Available</b></p>	<p><b>Space Available</b></p>	<p><b>In Loving Memory of:</b></p> <p>Milton, Rachel, Lillie, Lillian, Kirby, James "Pookie" Verdell, Corinne &amp; Michael Joseph, Lawrence, Sr. &amp; Shedrick Ashford, Ellis Myles, Sr., Rose &amp; Albert, Terry Hebert, Eula White, J.D. Joseph, Aaron Bradley Joseph, Jessie Joseph Sr., H.P. Martin</p> <p><b>"Rest in Peace"</b></p> 
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