

# St. Joseph Parish

FIFTH SUNDAY OF

*Lent*

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MARCH  
21  
2021

**I will place my law within them  
and write it upon their hearts;  
I will be their God, and they shall be my people.**

Jeremiah 31:33

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Office Hours: Monday-Friday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Closed Noon - 1:00 for lunch)

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# Our Parish

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Sacristans

Joe & Lily Dang

(562) 493-2198

(Brother/Sister)

## Mass Schedule

Saturday

5:00 p.m.

Indoor Vigil

Sunday

Mass on the Grass

Outdoors

8:30 a.m.

Indoor Mass

10:30 a.m.

Daily Mass (M-W)

8:00 a.m. Indoor

Come Join Us

## Reconciliation

Saturdays

3:45-4:30p.m.

By the East Church

Door parking lot





## PALM SUNDAY SCHEDULE OF LITURGICAL SERVICES

Dear Parish Family:

Next Sunday we commence Holy Week with the celebration of Palm Sunday: Blessed Palms will be distributed at all Services. Our schedule is as follows:

Saturday, March 27 –

- 5:00 PM Vigil Mass Indoors
- For those staying at home, our Palm Sunday You Tube Mass will be online at 4:00 PM

Sunday, March 28 –

- 7:00 AM Mass Indoors
- 8:30 AM Mass on the Grass
- 10:30 AM – Mass Indoors
- 11:45 PM – 12:30 PM Drive-Thru in the parking lot with the Distribution of Palms and Holy Communion

Confessions: Due to the necessary preparations for the Saturday Vigil Mass, Confessions are now permanently scheduled on Saturdays, from 3:45 PM to 4:30 PM. Currently confessions are held outside the east side door of the church facing the parking lot.

**As LA County has moved into the Red Tier this past week, we're grateful that so many more sites are slowly reopening. We are currently allowed 25% capacity in the church so 90 people can be admitted indoors. Let's continue our mission of keeping everyone safe and protected.**

**I'm praying for you and please pray for your parish family.**

Lenten peace,  
Msgr. Kevin

I will place my law within them  
and write it upon their hearts;  
I will be their God,  
and they shall be my people.

JEREMIAH 31:33

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## THROUGH SUFFERING

The prophet Jeremiah, in today's first reading, is looking beyond the often-messy history of Israel and Judah to a time when the people will no longer be disobedient to God, because God's law will be "written on their hearts"—that is, their natural inclinations and desires will be oriented toward God's will. The psalmist gives voice to the sorrow that Israel and Judah experienced in their separation from God "Have mercy on me, O God . . . A clean heart create for me." According to Saint Paul, the earthly Jesus, "son though he was," like his ethnic ancestors, he "learned obedience from what he suffered." The Gospel reading is part of Jesus' discourses not long before the Last Supper. Instead of a social encounter with Philip's friends who had come to see him, Jesus is grappling with his approaching death and its ultimate meaning for the world.

### JEREMIAH: LOOKING BEYOND EXILE AND SUFFERING

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

Jeremiah 31:31–34  
Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13, 14–15  
Hebrews 5:7–9  
John 12:20–33

FIFTH  
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MARCH 21, 2021

## Did you know?



### Revisit screen time recommendations

Parents everywhere are struggling to be parents, teachers, and friends for their children in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, many are likely and understandably relying on screens to help them through these seemingly endless days. Many children are also online for school, which only increases their screen exposure. The American Pediatric Association warns parents that too much screen time can lead to sleep problems, lower grades, mood and weight problems, and can keep children from learning how to relax and have fun without a screen present. Try to make time for reading, playing games, and other screen-free activities that will help break the cycle of screen addiction and talk **to your children's teachers about how screen time for school can be managed.** For more Info. visit [www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families\\_and\\_Youth/Facts\\_for\\_Families/FFF-Guide/Children-And-Watching-TV-054.aspx](http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/FFF-Guide/Children-And-Watching-TV-054.aspx)

## Meditation Group

**St. Joseph's Meditation Group** now meets as a Zoom meeting every Tuesday at 7:00PM. No prior experience is necessary and newcomers are welcome to experience both the prayerful and calming benefits of this ancient Christian practice.

For more information and to receive the Zoom log on information, please contact group leader, Frank McKown, at [frmckown@gmail.com](mailto:frmckown@gmail.com) or 310-633-1744

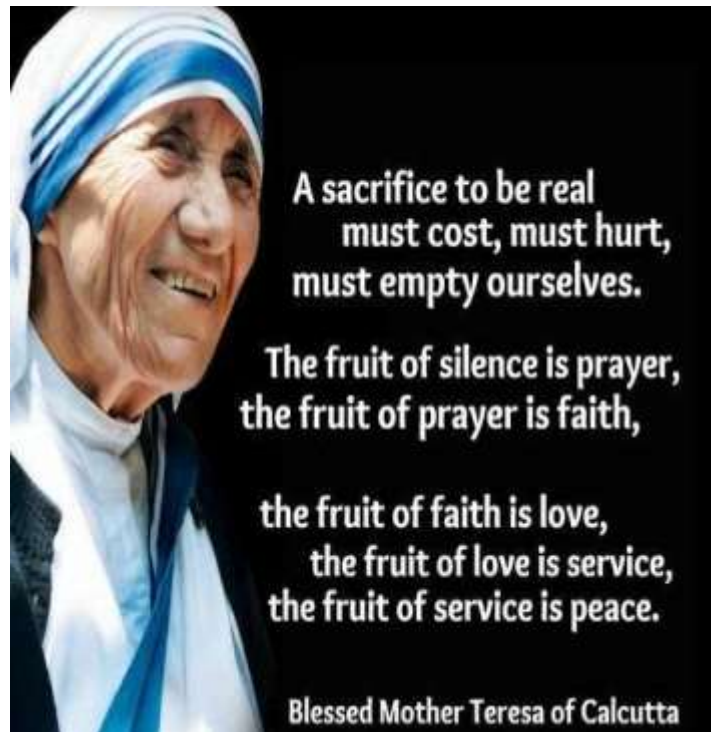
## Movement For A Better World

*"Live simply so that others can simply live."*  
-St. Mother Teresa

**March 27: Easter Food & Book Distribution:**  
We will support 80 families in need! Please be especially mindful of Skip-a-Meal donations during our holiday support season when our needs are greatest.

**April 14, 7:00 PM Committee Meeting:**  
Join our online gathering to help us to celebrate and LEARN from possibly the **ministry's MOST extraordinary program year.** Refocus on current ministry needs. Assess our personal and financial blessings toward understanding our greatest opportunities of stewardship.

**Special Needs Ministry:** We have an active ministry of providing essential needs (refrigerators, stoves, beds, etc.) to our supported families. May we keep you Informed of those opportunities? Can you help with a COVID-safe delivery of items? Please call **Tim Clark (562) 431-4385**



## Book Club



**Overdue: A Dewey Decimal System of Grace** by Valerie Schultz

(2020 Catholic Press Association first place award, memoir)

Our next Zoom meeting will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 7pm.

In *Overdue* Valerie Schultz shares her experience in prison ministry and how she learned to see the prisoners as human beings. They possessed all the gifts and flaws that define humanity. Every single one of them a human being created and loved by God. It was no challenge to find God in all things in prison because God was palpably everywhere.

All are welcome!

For more info. email: [agoodlife@msn.com](mailto:agoodlife@msn.com)



## RCIA

PRAY FOR OUR ELECT AND CANDIDATES!

### RCIA

**Catechumens:**



*Shan*



*Amy*



*Justin*



*Sara*



*Zachary*

**Candidates:**



*Charleen*



*Anthony*



*Marin*



*Matt*

### RCIA Prayer

Lord, we pray for those in the RCIA process who journey to you.

Strengthen their faith.  
Open their hearts to the fullness of your love.  
Deepen their understanding.  
Set their hearts on fire for the kingdom of God.

We ask this through Jesus, who is the Way, the Truth, and the Life for all.  
Amen!

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