

St. Mary's Parish – Lenten Retreat 2021
Monday, March 22, 7:00 PM

The Experience of Exile

Introduction:

The theme of the retreat and the theme of this evening: *The Experience of Exile*

Opening Prayer

Let us Pray:
Father in Heaven,
As we begin this Parish Retreat we ask that
the power of your Holy Spirit come upon us and our Parish,
for this time of pandemic has taken a great toll on us.
For many, it has been a moment of isolation and separation;
For all, it has been a moment that has challenged our faith.
Grant us the grace during the days of our parish retreat to see your
grace in these events so that we may grow more fully into the life of
Christ and his Church. Renew us and our parish so that we may
pray and glorify you through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and
reigns for every and ever.

Opening Song: Come Holy Spirit

Reading from Scripture: 2 Kings 25:1-12

(The people of Israel are sent into exile): **Sean Hughes**

And in the ninth year of his reign, in the tenth month, on the tenth day of the month, Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came with all his army against Jerusalem and laid siege to it. And they built siegeworks all around it. So the city was besieged till the eleventh year of King Zedekiah. On the ninth day of the fourth month the famine was so severe in the city that there was no food for the people of the land. Then a breach was made in the city, and all the men of war fled by night by the way of the gate between the two walls, by the king's garden, and the Chaldeans were around the city. And they went in the direction of the Arabah. But the army of the Chaldeans pursued the king and overtook him in the plains of Jericho, and all his army was scattered from him. Then they captured the king and brought him up to the king of Babylon at Riblah, and they passed sentence on him. They slaughtered the sons of Zedekiah before his eyes, and put out the eyes of Zedekiah and bound him in chains and took him to Babylon.

Psalm 137

A Psalm of the People in Exile: Sung by Cantor

By the waters of Babylon,
there we sat down and wept,
when we remembered Zion.

On the willows there
we hung up our lyres.
For there our captors
required of us songs,
and our tormentors, mirth, saying,
“Sing us one of the songs of Zion!”
How shall we sing the LORD’s song
in a foreign land?
If I forget you, O Jerusalem,
let my right hand forget its skill!
Let my tongue stick to the roof of my mouth,
if I do not remember you,
if I do not set Jerusalem
above my highest joy!

Three Witnesses to Faith: Jack Rogers, Linda Duff, John Kimball

Musical Interlude: Witness Song

Homily: Father Matera.

Musical Interlude: In Every Age, O Lord!

Examination of Conscience in Silence

A Litany of Repentance and Forgiveness

Response: “Have mercy on us Lord, for we have sinned”

- For the times we have failed to respond to the needs of others, we pray
- For the moments we have surrendered to selfishness, we pray
- For the times we have forgotten your grace, we pray
- For the moments when we have been insensitive to others, we pray
- For the times we have judged and misjudged others, we pray
- For the moments we have failed to see your grace in our lives, we pray
- For the times we have not reached out to others, we pray
- For the moments we have not built up the body of Christ, we pray
- For the times we have neglected the life of prayer, we pray
- For the moments we have been harsh and insensitive to others, we pray

All

**I confess to Almighty God, ...
Sung Kyrie**

Closing Song: Be No Afraid