

**St. Mary's Parish – Lenten Retreat 2021  
Tuesday , March 23, 7:00 PM**

***The Experience of Salvation***

**Introduction to the theme of the evening:** *Return from Exile*

**Opening Prayer**

Let us pray:

Heavenly Father of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ,  
Although you punish our sins, you are ever merciful, forgiving and  
gracious. For you call us out of darkness into your own wonderful light so  
that we may live in your presence.

As once you had mercy on your people Israel, so have mercy on your  
people who have suffered this pandemic. Grant us spiritual and physical  
healing so that freed from the scourge of disease we may live more  
faithfully as your people, praising and glorifying you through your Son,  
Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

**Opening Song: Come Holy Ghost**

**Reading from Scripture Isaiah: 62:1-12 (God returns the people from exile):  
Noreen Kuziak**

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent,  
and for Jerusalem's sake I will not be quiet,  
until her righteousness goes forth as brightness,  
and her salvation as a burning torch.  
The nations shall see your righteousness,  
and all the kings your glory,  
and you shall be called by a new name  
that the mouth of the LORD will give.  
You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the LORD,  
and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.  
You shall no more be termed Forsaken,  
and your land shall no more be termed Desolate,  
but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her,  
and your land Married;  
for the LORD delights in you,  
and your land shall be married.  
For as a young man marries a young woman,  
so shall your sons marry you,  
and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride,  
so shall your God rejoice over you.  
On your walls, O Jerusalem,

I have set watchmen;  
all the day and all the night  
they shall never be silent.  
You who put the LORD in remembrance,  
take no rest,  
and give him no rest  
until he establishes Jerusalem  
and makes it a praise in the earth.  
The LORD has sworn by his right hand  
and by his mighty arm:  
“I will not again give your grain  
to be food for your enemies,  
and foreigners shall not drink your wine  
for which you have labored;  
but those who garner it shall eat it  
and praise the LORD,  
and those who gather it shall drink it  
in the courts of my sanctuary.”  
Go through, go through the gates;  
prepare the way for the people;  
build up, build up the highway;  
clear it of stones;  
lift up a signal over the peoples.  
Behold, the LORD has proclaimed  
to the end of the earth:  
Say to the daughter of Zion,  
“Behold, your salvation comes;  
behold, his reward is with him,  
and his recompense before him.”  
And they shall be called The Holy People,  
The Redeemed of the LORD;  
and you shall be called Sought Out,  
A City Not Forsaken.

## **Psalm 126**

A Psalm of the People when they returned from Exile: Sung by the Cantor

When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,  
we were like those who dream.  
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,  
and our tongue with shouts of joy;  
then they said among the nations,  
“The LORD has done great things for them.”  
The LORD has done great things for us;  
we are glad.  
Restore our fortunes, O LORD,

like streams in the Negeb!  
Those who sow in tears  
shall reap with shouts of joy!  
He who goes out weeping,  
bearing the seed for sowing,  
shall come home with shouts of joy,  
bringing his sheaves with him.

**Three Witnesses to Faith: Anabelle de la Cruz, Rick Lenz, Christine Simons**

**Musical Interlude: Lord of All Hopefulness!**

**Homily: Deacon Art.**

**Musical Interlude: Come Thou Font of All Blessing!**

**Examination of Conscience in Silence**

**A Litany of Thanksgiving for Deliverance**

**Response:** "We thank you Lord, for you are gracious"

- For the gift of life that sustains us each day, we pray
- For the gift of parents and children, who fill us with joy, we pray
- For the gift of faith that gives us insight and purpose, we pray
- For the gift of hope that sustains us each day, we pray
- For the gift of love that gives meaning to our lives, we pray
- For the gift of the church that proclaims your gospel, we pray
- For the gift of our parish that sustains our faith, we pray
- For the gift of prayer that nourishes our life with you, we pray
- For the gift of friends who remind us of your presence, we pray
- For the simple gifts we take for granted each day, we pray

**All:**

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

**Closing Song: Shine, Jesus, Shine**