

St. Mary's Parish – Lenten Retreat 2021
Wednesday, March 24, 7:00 PM
The Experience of Building a New Community

Introduction: The theme of the theme: *The challenge of building a new community*

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

Long ago, your people Israel build a new temple when they returned from exile. Through the power of your word and the gift of your prophets, you strengthened them to build a new house of prayer in place of the old temple that had been destroyed.

As we look to the end of this pandemic, we are conscious of our need to strengthen our faith and build our parish anew by power of your grace.

Grant us the wisdom to renew our parish through your Son, Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God forever and ever.

Opening Song: Come, Holy Ghost

Readings from Scripture: Haggai 1:3-15

(A call to rebuild the temple and community): **Suzanne Croke**

Then the word of the LORD came by the hand of Haggai the prophet, "Is it a time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, while this house lies in ruins? Now, therefore, thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. You have sown much, and harvested little. You eat, but you never have enough; you drink, but you never have your fill. You clothe yourselves, but no one is warm. And he who earns wages does so to put them into a bag with holes.

"Thus says the LORD of hosts: Consider your ways. Go up to the hills and bring wood and build the house, that I may take pleasure in it and that I may be glorified, says the LORD. You looked for much, and behold, it came to little. And when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why? declares the LORD of hosts. Because of my house that lies in ruins, while each of you busies himself with his own house. Therefore the heavens above you have withheld the dew, and the earth has withheld its produce. And I have called for a drought on the land and the hills, on the grain, the new wine, the oil, on what the ground brings forth, on man and beast, and on all their labors."

Then Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, and Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, with all the remnant of the people, obeyed the voice of the LORD their God, and the words of Haggai the prophet, as the LORD their God had sent him. And the people feared the LORD. Then Haggai, the messenger of the LORD, spoke to the people with the LORD'S message, "I am with you, declares the LORD." And the LORD stirred up the spirit of Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and the spirit of Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and the spirit of all the remnant of the people. And they came and worked on the house of the LORD of hosts, their God, on the twenty-fourth day of the month, in the sixth month, in the second year of Darius the king.

Psalm 127

A Psalm of Trust in the Lord: Sung by Cantor

Unless the LORD builds the house,
those who build it labor in vain.
Unless the LORD watches over the city,
the watchman stays awake in vain.
It is in vain that you rise up early
and go late to rest,
eating the bread of anxious toil;
for he gives to his beloved sleep.
Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD,
the fruit of the womb a reward.
Like arrows in the hand of a warrior
are the children of one's youth.
Blessed is the man
who fills his quiver with them!
He shall not be put to shame
when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Three Witnesses Faith: Lori Ryan, Father Carlos, Mary Blume

Musical Interlude: Faith on Fire

Homily: Father Matera.

Musical Interlude: Here I Am Lord

Examination of Conscience in Silence

A Litany of Renewed Commitment to our Faith: Father Carlos

Response: "Grant us the grace of your Spirit"

- Renew us in faith, and hope, and love, we pray
- Conform us to the image of your Son, we pray
- Make us more fully the Body of Christ, we pray
- Transform our lives in Christ, we pray,
- Make us more perfect examples of the gospel, we pray
- Renew our parish in the grace of your gospel, we pray
- Grant us the grace to reach out to those who have fallen away,
- Make our parish a house of prayer for all, we pray
- Help us to rebuild our parish in word and truth, we pray
- Grant us the grace of final salvation, we pray

All:

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

Closing Song: City of God