

**MARCH 22, 2020 ~ HOLY CROSS CATHOLIC CHURCH AUSTIN, TX.
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

0Invest just five minutes a day, and your Faith will deepen and grow, a day at a Time

Sunday, Mar 22, 2020

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT; SECOND SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT

Clarity at last

Darkness and light are biblical themes that invite us to take an internal sight exam. How clearly do we see? Like the man in today's gospel, we're all born blind into a world grown accustomed to the blurred vision of habitual sin. We view most decisions in terms of what's in it for us. It's difficult and challenging to climb up to a higher point of view to ask: What will serve the common good? Today, we pray that our Elect will have the grace to seek and attain that higher ground. And might we too ask for the same?

TODAY'S READINGS: *1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ephesians 5:8-14; John 9:1-41 (31).* "What do you have to say about him, since he opened your eyes?"

Monday, Mar 23, 2020

MEMORIAL OF TURIBIUS OF MOGROVEJO, BISHOP

Step down to your calling

God must have a great sense of irony. Imagine the head of an important court suddenly being summoned to pastor a far-off land filled with people who speak unknown languages. Such was the destiny of Turibius of Mogrovejo, summoned from his post as chief inquisitor in Granada, Spain to pastor the Lima archdiocese, which included the indigenous Andean communities of 16th century colonial Peru. Turibius went with the flow admirably, traversing his vast archdiocese three times on foot, alone, ministering to all along his route. He defended those who suffered the greatest injustice under the colonial rule he himself represented. Downward mobility is a pattern in saints' biographies. Time to evaluate your priorities?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 65:17-21; John 4:43-54 (24A).* "He and his whole household came to believe."

Tuesday, Mar 24, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Be a voice for the voiceless

Saint Oscar Romero, the archbishop of San Salvador who spoke out against grave social injustice in El Salvador, was assassinated by his opponents while celebrating Mass on this day in 1980, and it is commemorated by the United Nations as International Day for the Right to the Truth. Today is an opportunity for you to honor the memory of human rights victims, pay tribute to those who struggle to protect those rights for all, remember the important work of Romero, and commit yourself to his

values of speaking truth to power, even when it costs you.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12; John 5:1-16 (24S).* "Look, you are well; do not sin anymore, so that nothing worse may happen to you."

Wednesday, Mar 25, 2020

SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD

Say yes to God

The Annunciation is a beautiful feast that celebrates Mary's "yes" to God during her encounter with the angel Gabriel. Mary doesn't rattle off a quick response but rather pauses and ponders, wondering what this might mean. Her response is a choice not simply to give birth to a child, but to fully embrace her identity and her calling as an intimate companion with God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord." It is as if Mary is saying, "Look! My life is fully in God! Everything about who I am is for and with God!" During this day of Annunciation, reflect on your daily "yesses." How do these reflect your own identity and life in God?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10; Hebrews 10:4-10; Luke 1:26-38 (54S).* "Mary said, 'Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word' "

Thursday, Mar 26, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

Reflect in your heart

Imagine taking a walk with the Lord today. As you walk along, he suddenly stops and looks at you with a question in his eyes. He hesitates, but then goes ahead and asks: "Do you have the love of God in your heart?" You might respond: "I am doing my best to be patient, to think of others first, to be kind and generous. It is Lent after all." Jesus persists: "But do you have the love of God in your heart?" Take five minutes today and consider that question. Be at peace with whatever thoughts come to mind. Then allow the insights you gain to set the rest of the day's course.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Exodus 32:7-14; John 5:31-47 (24T).* "It is simply that I know you and you do not have the love of God in your hearts."

Friday, Mar 27, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

What price would you pay?

Today's gospel has an aura of doom about it, with Jesus getting a clear message that authorities would like to kill him. The church teaches that "Jesus went up to Jerusalem voluntarily, knowing well that there he would die a violent death because of the opposition of sinners," as the Catechism of the Catholic Church puts it (569). How far are you willing to go to "do the right

thing"? Contemplate today the sacrifices you have made and what you would be willing to do to be true to your beliefs.

TODAY'S READINGS: *Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22; John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30 (24R).* "Some of the inhabitants of Jerusalem said, 'Is he not the one they are trying to kill?'"

Saturday, Mar 28, 2020

LENTEN WEEKDAY

The plot thickens

Next weekend we observe Palm Sunday, ushering in a dramatic week that includes the tragedy of Our Lord's suffering and death. The gospels describe for us the suspicion and plotting that will lead to his Crucifixion. Among the religious leaders, only Nicodemus gives Jesus the benefit of the doubt and tries to argue his case. This is the same Nicodemus who has already visited Jesus under cover of night to discuss his teachings and who provides the burial spices after Jesus is crucified. How can you be Nicodemus in situations where others are subject to suspicion and suffering?

TODAY'S READINGS: *Jeremiah 11:18-20; John 7:40-53 (24R).* "I, like a trusting lamb led to slaughter, had not realized that they were hatching plots against me."

Next Sunday

MARCH 22, 2020

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Clarity at last

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CATHOLIC SOCIAL TEACHING CORNER

March 14-15 -- Third Sunday of Lent

We experience at the depth of our being a deep hunger and thirst for the living God. We are invited to know that need, but not to despair as our ancestors did in the desert. God does feed and nourish us. God does quench our thirst, if we let ourselves be open to God's transforming love. Like the Samaritan woman we are called to be open to the waters of life given to us in Christ. Like her we are called to be agents of God's transformative love in our world. Who in our lives needs us to be an agent of God's love for them? What in our world is in need of God's action and transformation?

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MASS INTENTIONS

SATURDAY, MARCH 21, 2020

Thanksgiving Mass, requested by Jeannette Assiongbon

SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020

In loving memory of Lorne' Moran, requested by her husband Don.

For the repose of the soul of Norman Bruce and Happy birthday to his wife in heaven Mrs. Arthur (Tannie) Bruce, requested by their daughter Debbie Bruce-Juhlke.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

The soul left in purgatory, requested by Jeannette Assiongbon

WEDNESDAY MARCH 25,

For those who have no one to pray for them, requested by the Mullen's.

THURSDAY MARCH 26,

In loving memory of my mother Mrs. Bernice Preston Pullman, requested by Linda Ridley.

Happy Birthday to Ed Mullen, requested by his wife Elina Mullen

FRIDAY, MARCH 27, NOON MASS

Repose of the soul of Christian Winkles, requested by Barbara Scott.

By: Fr Bruce Nieli

All ministry members of Holy Cross

RESPONSE TO CORONA VIRUS

Sunday Mass will be streamed on line. Please go to Holy Cross facebook for live Sunday Mass streaming and check our church website for posting.

DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS THE FOLLOWING SCHEDULED EVENTS HAVE CANCELLED

Public Mass on Sundays and Weekdays
Week Day Noon Masses
Men's ACTS Retreat
Good Friday Fish Fry
Stations of the Cross
Bible Study
Pastoral Council Meeting (Will now be conference Call)
Acts Bingo
CCD Classes
Any ministry Meeting exceeding 10 people

THE FOLLOWING ACTIVITIES WILL GO ON

RCIA Class for the 3 candidates preparing for the Sacraments
Any meeting not exceeding 10 people.

NEEDS OF THE PARISH COLLECTION

This collection helps to pay things like repairs, intervention, and other needs of the parish. This collection happens every last Sunday of the Month. We would like you to convert much of your gift to St Vincent the Paul to the needs of the Parish as the parish funds St Vincent the Paul monthly. Thanks for your generosity.

TENTATIVE ACTIVITIES PENDING FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS BY BISHOP

HOLY WEEK

Palm Sunday April 5, 2020

Tuesday

No Noon Mass at Holy Cross
Chrism Mass at St. Vincent de Paul

Thursday 20.00

Lord Supper 6:30 PM
Adoration 7:30 PM

Good Friday

Stations of the Cross 2:30 PM
Prayer at the Foot of the Cross 8:30 PM

Holy Saturday

Easter Vigil 9:00 PM

If you are currently signed up to attend an EIM Workshop between now and May 1st.

Please note that all EIM Workshops in the Austin Diocese scheduled between now and May 1st are postponed.

DEBT RETIREMENT COLLECTION

This collection helps us pay our FLC loan with the diocese and other expenses. Our monthly target is \$4000. This collection is every Second Sunday of the month. Thanks for your generosity.

HOW YOU CAN HELP OUR PARISH DURING THIS CHALLENGING TIME

Remember, the Church depends on your weekly donation for paying bills, and maintaining of the Church facilities. Even though Masses and other events are cancelled, the Church is still operating. Your weekly offering and donations are direly needed.

If you are not online giver, you can still do so by going to www.holycrossaustin.org and give your donation. You also can mail it if you are able to. Thank you for your faith and commitment.

PRAY FOR THE SICK

Ella Adams	Mary Anthony
Evelyn Battle	Mildred Carter
B.J. Dukes	Josephine Dukes
Vanessa Downey-Little	Monica Godsey
Lester Johnson	Vonnye Rice-Gardner
Doris King	Marie Mason
Bernadette Phifer	Ella Pease
Betty Ridley	Mary Sobers
Mary Waters	Rosalind Cunningham
Charlene Postell	

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**FRIDAY 6:30PM
Station of the Cross**

Weekend March 14/15, 2020

ATTENDANCE

VIGIL MASS	25	5:30 pm
SUNDAY	53	8:00 am
	218+	10:00 am

Weekend March 14/15, 2020

OFFERTORY	\$8910.00
E-GIVING	1904.82
Children	14.00
SVDP	400.00
SVDP(E-GIVING)	115.00
MSP(E-Giving)	25.00
FISH FRY	695.00
DR (E-GIVING)	448.00
Candles	92.00
GIFT STORE	65.00
Church Rental	1200.00

MONTHLY IGBO MASS

Cancelled until further notice

TENTATIVE ANNUAL MINISTRY DAY RECOLLECTION

Date: Saturday May 16th
Venue: FLC Hall

Ethics and Integrity in Ministry (EIM) Workshop Notice

Family Life Center Now Available for Renting

For all your events like:

**Wedding Party
Birthday Party
Graduation Party
Wakes
Corporate Events
Ministry Events
Meetings
ETC**

Contact the Church Office for details
5124723741

