



St. Regina's Church Staff

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Remember In Prayer

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Fourth Sunday of Lent
March 14, 2021

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

GOD’S MERCY

Today’s reading from the second book of Chronicles contains a sort of “mini-history” of Israel. It highlights God’s mercies in choosing Cyrus the Persian to be an instrument of deliverance when the people were in captivity in Babylon. Despite their sinfulness and the deserved punishment they were undergoing, God’s mercy was lavished on the people in the form of a miraculous act of liberation.

The Letter to the Ephesians, in much more theological terms, gives a similar account of a God “who brought us to life with Christ—by grace you have been saved.” The author stresses that it was when we were “dead in our transgressions” that God saved us, an act of pure grace. He emphasizes that it is not our own efforts that freed us from sin (“this is not from you”); rather, “it is the gift of God.” This, of course, is the heart of the entire Pauline corpus, that salvation comes to us by faith in God’s mercy, revealed in the death of Jesus.

FEAST OF FAITH

Lent, a Season of the Word

Each year on the First Sunday of Lent we hear one of the Gospel accounts of the temptation of Jesus. In Luke’s account, the devil cites the scriptures repeatedly, urging Jesus to interpret them in a false, self-serving way—if God sends angels to protect those whom God loves (as it says in Psalm 91), then prove it! But Jesus resists this insidious temptation by turning to scripture passages that tell of right relationship with God—living by God’s word, trusting in God, and worshipping God alone.

Jesus himself listened to the inspired word of God and let it shape and form him. Through the liturgy, we do the same. The readings we hear at Mass can teach us, but that is not their primary function. Rather, the scriptures are meant to reveal the Lord to us, to let us experience his presence, and to form us in our Christian identity. Christ’s presence is realized by his spoken word, “since it is he himself who speaks when the Holy Scriptures are read in the Church” (*Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy*, 7). In the readings proclaimed at Mass, we hear the voice of Christ himself.

TODAY’S READINGS

First Reading — The wrath and the mercy of the Lord are revealed in the exile and liberation of the chosen people
(2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23) *or* 1 Samuel 16:
1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalm — Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137) *or* Psalm 23.

Second Reading — By grace you have been saved (Ephesians 2:4-10) *or* Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — The Son was sent by God so that the world might be saved through him (John 3:14-21) *or* John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18;
Jn 5:17-30
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47
Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29;
Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or
Lk 2:41-51a
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9;
Jn 12:20-33
Eph 5:8-14; Jn 9:1-41[1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

That we continue to show the face of Christ together through participation in the Catholic Appeal

Penance service March 17th at St. Regina after 5:00pm Mass

Monday, March 22nd: Deanery Penance Service with Bishop David, at St Mary’s in Jackson at 7:00 pm. Everyone is invited to attend.

BLOSSOMS AND FRUIT

Unless a tree has borne blossoms in spring, you will vainly look for fruit on it in autumn.

March 21st
Lector Peggy

Thanks to all our parishioners who have made their gift to the Annual Catholic Appeal St. Regina is \$1525.00 towards our goal of \$5000.00 .If you have not yet made a gift or pledge , please fill out a commitment card in the front. Please participate in the support of our diocesan church.

Participation is18.52% of our 27 families

WEEKLY OFFERING	
March 7th	
BUDGET \$1351.00	
	\$610 .00
B&M	
	\$95.00
Flowers	
	\$40.00