



## Third Sunday of Lent

March 7, 2021

I, the Lord, am your God...

You shall not have other gods besides me.

—Exodus 20:2a, 3

### TOTAL ALLEGIANCE

In previous weeks we have seen how the theme of covenant—as a preparation for the baptismal covenant celebrated at Easter—occupies an important place in our cycle of Lenten readings. The notion of covenant as a relationship between two parties carries with it an expectation of mutual accountability and fidelity to the terms of the covenant. When God forged the covenant with the Jewish people on Mt. Sinai, it was a pledge of God’s protection, and it would forever permit them familiar access as the Chosen People. For their part, the Jewish people were to observe the dictates of the law, summarized most succinctly here in the form of the Ten Commandments. To be in a covenantal relationship with the Lord God requires an exclusive relationship, just as discipleship with Jesus—ritualized in baptism—demands a total allegiance to him and none other.

### FEAST OF FAITH

#### Postures of the Mass

In the Mass, we pray not only with our lips, but with our bodies as well. We stand when the ministers enter. In Western culture, standing is a sign of attention, a mark of respect: all stand when the judge enters the courtroom, for example. Standing is also an ancient posture of prayer, mentioned frequently in the Old Testament. When the readings begin, we sit down: a listening posture. Mary sat at Jesus’ feet to listen to his teaching; the crowds sat on the hillside or the seashore to hear his words. Kneeling is another posture that is full of meaning. It expresses adoration and worship, but it can also express humility and contrition. We bow: a sign of honor and reverence, acknowledging the presence of God, especially when we receive the Eucharist. And there are other ritual gestures as well—striking the breast, genuflecting, and of course making the sign of the cross. The liturgy invites us to pray with our whole person—with heart and mind, voice and body.

## TODAY’S READINGS

**First Reading** — The law was given through Moses (Exodus 20:1-17 [1-3, 7-8, 12-17]) or Exodus 17:3-7.

**Psalm** — Lord, you have the words of everlasting life (Psalm 19) or Psalm 95.

**Second Reading** — We proclaim Christ crucified; the foolishness of God is greater than human wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:22-25) or Romans 5:1-2, 5-8.

**Gospel** — Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up (John 2:13-25) or John 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42].

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15b; Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4; Lk 4:24-30

Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43; Ps 25:4-5ab, 6-7bc, 8-9;  
Mt. 18:21-35

Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9; Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20;  
Mt 5:17-19

Thursday: Jer 7:23-28; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Lk 11:14-23

Friday: Hos 14:2-10; Ps 81:6c-11ab, 14, 17;  
Mk 12:28-34

Saturday: Hos 6:1-6; Ps 51:3-4, 18-21ab; Lk 18:9-14

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23; Ps 137:1-6;  
Eph 2:4-10; Jn 3:14-21

Alternate readings (Year A):

1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a; Ps 23:1-6;

#### HEAVEN

Heaven is at present out of sight, but in due time, as snow melts and discovers what it lay upon, so will this visible creation fade away before those greater splendors which are behind it.

Next Sunday March 14th daylight savings time begins don’t forget to forward your clocks

Last weekend was our Parish Commitment Weekend for the 2021 Annual Catholic Appeal. If you have not yet completed your card, please prayfully make your pledge and return it to the church office. Our goal is to have 100% participation in our church family that is the Diocese of Memphis.

Our goal for the Annual Catholic Appeal is \$5000.00 with 100% participation.

**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.

PASTORIAL COUNCIL  
MEETING 5:00 PM ON  
WEDNESDAY THE 10TH  
OF MARCH

MARCH 14TH  
Lector MARY

#### WEEKLY OFFERING

Feb 28th

BUDGET \$1351.00

\$96500

#### Special Collection

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES

March 14th

### St. Regina’s Church Staff

**Pastor:** Fr. ANTHONY ONYEKWE

**Secretary:** Patricia Humble

**DRE:** Christina Hammond

**Facilities Manager:** Jim Molitor

**Web Page:** [streginacatholicchurch.org](http://streginacatholicchurch.org)

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### Remember In Prayer

Michaëlle Box, Fr Robert Ponticello ,  
Emanuel Milligan, Leonard Humble ,  
. Judy Hendricks , Tom Hauck