

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Third Sunday of Lent

March 4, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Exodus 20:1–17 or 20:1–3,  
7–8, 12–17

Psalms 19:8, 9, 10, 11  
(John 6:68c)

1 Corinthians 1:22–25

John 2:13–25

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Examination of Conscience

☉ In what ways do I respect and honor God's house? When I enter a church building, how do I act and speak? Do I recognize the space as being sacred when I am in a church?

☉ When I attend Mass, how well do I participate in what is happening throughout the liturgy? In what ways can I take better part as a member of the assembly during Mass?

## Did You Know?

... the Temple that Jesus visited was actually the Second Temple? The First Temple was originally constructed under King Solomon's rule. The Second Temple was reconstructed under King Herod's rule, but it was destroyed in the year AD 70. All that remains today is a portion of the Western Wall, a sacred site also known as the Wailing Wall.

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

When Jesus overturned the tables of the moneychangers in the Temple, he was angered because they had lost sight of how they should be in relationship with God and one another. This week, reflect upon your own relationship with God and others. What might keep you from loving God and doing good for others? Strategize some practical steps that you can take so that you do not lose focus of what you should be doing as a follower of Jesus. Try and integrate a focus on Christ more throughout your daily activities. Spending a few minutes when you get up in the morning and reading the Scripture for the day is one way to do this.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Third Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 4, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Exodus 17:3–7

Psalm 95:1–2, 6–7, 8–9

Romans 5:1–2, 5–8

John 4:5–42 or 4:5–15, 19b–26,  
39a, 40–42

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Examination of Conscience

☉ Jesus offers Living Water to me, much like he did for the Samaritan woman during his lifetime. How do I respond? Do I allow it to enter into my life so that I can grow into the best version of myself? What steps should I take to be open to it?

☉ Do I share my faith with others?

## Did You Know?

. . . that there are people in your church community who have been preparing for a number of months or years to become Catholic? Those who are unbaptized are now known as “the elect” after having been received by the local bishop in a ceremony called the Rite of Election. They are in their final weeks of preparation.

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Jesus offers Living Water to the Samaritan woman, water that only he can provide. We are also offered this Living Water; we have received it through our own Baptism in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Holy water fonts in church remind us of our Baptism. Be mindful of that every time that you enter a church; do not be afraid to rejoice in this reality. When you bless yourself with holy water, don't just use the tip of your finger to dip into the water. Try putting your whole hand in—take glory in your own Baptism!

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 11, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23

Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6 (6ab)

Ephesians 2:4–10

John 3:14–21

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Examination of Conscience

☉ Does darkness sometimes intrude in my life? What steps can I take in my life to respond positively to the Light of Christ?

☉ Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert and those who looked upon it were cured, and reminded that the Lord saved them. What am I reminded of when I look at a crucifix?

## Did You Know?

. . . the Fourth Sunday of Lent is known as **Laetare Sunday**? *Laetare* is a Latin word that comes from the opening lines of the entrance song for this Sunday which sings, “Laetare, Jerusalem,” meaning “Rejoice, O Jerusalem.” The color rose can be used as the liturgical color today, and we are joyful and hopeful because Easter is in sight.

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Jesus is the Light of the world. This Light came into the world, but the world rejected it because it preferred the darkness, we are told in today’s Gospel. When you were baptized, you (or your godparents on your behalf) were presented with a baptismal candle and told by the priest or deacon to “Receive the Light of Christ.” This week, take out your baptismal candle (ask your parents if you do not know where it is) and gather with your family to light it once again. (Another candle may be lit if you do not have your baptismal candle.) As the candle burns, talk with your family about how Christ is the Light in your lives.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fourth Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 11, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a

Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 5, 6

Ephesians 5:8–14

John 9:1–41 or 9:1, 6–9, 13–17,  
34–38

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Examination of Conscience

☉ How have my eyes been opened by Christ on my journey of faith? What are the temptations that try and wrestle my gaze away from Christ?

☉ In what ways can I share my own story with others in order to testify to the healing power of Jesus in my life?

## Did You Know?

. . . that if there are elect preparing for Baptism in your parish, they are celebrating their second scrutiny this weekend? A scrutiny is a ritual experience in which a prayer of exorcism is prayed over those who are preparing for Baptism. Let us continue to hold these people in prayer during these final weeks of Lent.

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

As we are more than halfway through the season of Lent, the people in your parish who are participating in the RCIA process are getting closer and closer to celebrating the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) at the Easter Vigil liturgy. During this time of Purification and Enlightenment, they particularly need the prayers of the parish community during their final weeks on the road to becoming Catholic. This week, contact your parish office and ask for the names of the people who are going through RCIA. Write these names down and pray for them this week and for the rest of this Lenten season.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fifth Sunday of Lent

March 18, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Jeremiah 31:31–34  
Psalm 51:3–4, 12–13,  
14–15 (12a)  
Hebrews 5:7–9  
John 12:20–33

## Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Examination of Conscience

☉ The journey of faith entails both dying and rising to new life. What needs to die in order that new life can spring up? What are the fruits that I will be able to offer if I allow those seeds to pass away?

☉ Jesus, in his own humanity, said that he was troubled. What is troubling me now? Bring this to prayer.

## Did You Know?

. . . tomorrow we celebrate the Solemnity of St. Joseph? Solemnities are the most important dates on our liturgical calendar. Sundays and Holydays of Obligation are considered to be solemnities, along with certain important saints' days (like St. Joseph). At Mass for a solemnity, we sing the Gloria and pray the Creed in honor of the occasion.

## ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

Jesus tells us that a grain of wheat must first fall to the ground and die in order to produce much fruit. This week, go to a local plant store and purchase a packet of seeds (your choice), soil, and a pot in which to plant the seeds. Follow the directions on the seed packet for how to plant and care for them. Plant the seeds in the soil in your pot and place it in an appropriate location in your home (again, following the instructions from your seed packet). Say a prayer asking God to help you to allow the grains within you that need to die in order to bear good fruit. Care for your seeds as needed and watch them grow and bear good fruit!

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Fifth Sunday of Lent, Year A

March 18, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Ezekiel 37:12–14

Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8

Romans 8:8–11

John 11:1–45 or 11:3–7, 17,  
20–27, 33b–45

### Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Examination of Conscience

☉ What are the stones in my life that are holding me back from being fully alive in Christ? What steps can I take during these last couple of weeks of Lent to try and remove these stones?

☉ Am I compassionate to those who are suffering or who have experienced loss?

### Did You Know?

. . . that the raising of Lazarus is the last of the seven signs in John's Gospel (John 11:1–45)? The previous six are the changing of water into wine (John 2:1–11), the healing of a royal official's son (John 4:46–54), the healing of the paralytic (John 5:1–15), feeding the five thousand (John 6:5–14), walking on water (John 6:16–24), and healing the man born blind (John 9:1–7).

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

We are almost to the holiest time of the year, only days away from Holy Week. The elect are in their final weeks on their journey to the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist). As part of your Lenten observance of increasing your prayer practices, pray for the people who are about to become Catholic. Call the parish office and to get a list of the names of the people going through RCIA so that you can pray for them by name (or check your parish bulletin—their names may be listed in there!). Pray that God continues to guide them on their journey.

# ***Prayers and Blessings at Home***

## Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

March 25, 2018



### **Scripture Readings**

Isaiah 50:4–7  
Psalm 22:8–9, 17–18, 19–20,  
23–24 (2a)  
Philippians 2:6–11  
Mark 14:1—15:47 or 15:1–39

### Prayer before the Crucifix

Lord Jesus Christ,  
as we look at the crucifix,  
we remember your suffering,  
we ponder your sacrifice,  
we see your love.  
May this image of your suffering  
make us patient with our own burdens.  
May this reminder of your sacrifice  
help us to give ourselves for others.  
May this image of your love  
make us more loving people.  
You live and reign with the Father and the  
Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### Examination of Conscience

☉ This is the final stretch toward Easter. How have I done in keeping my Lenten observances of prayer, fasting, and giving alms?

☉ Before we begin the Easter Triduum on Holy Thursday, how may I fully prepare myself to enter into the mystery of Jesus' Death and Resurrection?

### Did You Know?

. . . that later this week we begin the **Easter Triduum**, which is the highpoint of the Church's liturgical life? It begins on Holy Thursday night and runs through Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday, ending with Evening Prayer that evening. Chronologically encompassing three days, the Triduum is really one long, extended liturgical experience.

### ***Living the Liturgy at Home***

This is the week of weeks. We accompany Jesus as he enters Jerusalem for the last time and will experience throughout this week the central mystery of our faith, the Paschal Mystery, as Catholic Christians. This week, encourage your family to join you in attending each of the Easter Triduum liturgies together: Holy Thursday's Mass of the Lord's Supper, Good Friday of the Lord's Passion, the Easter Vigil, and the Mass of the Resurrection of the Lord on Easter Sunday. After each of these services, discuss the various symbols and rituals that you experienced. Make this week an opportunity to enter into what Jesus has done for you.