

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

10243 12TH AVENUE SOUTH  
SEATTLE, WA 98168

MAILING ADDRESS:  
P.O. BOX 69206  
SEATAC, WA 98168 - 9206

206-735-7598

[WWW.DUCMELODUCSEATTLE.ORG](http://WWW.DUCMELODUCSEATTLE.ORG)

**WELCOME!**

Thank you for celebrating with us today. We invite you to come and worship with us again. If you would like to be a member of our faith community, please take a moment to register. We would love to have you as our spiritual companion.

## MASS SCHEDULE

### SATURDAY

5:00 pm Vigil Mass (Vietnamese)

### SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

### ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

1st Friday of the Month - 5:30pm Adoration  
6:00pm Mass

### CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30pm – 4:50pm  
Sunday 8:00am – 8:20am  
Also by Appointment

## Our Lady of Lourdes Parish



### PARISH STAFF

#### PASTOR:

Father Joseph Vu, S.D.D., STL  
 Frjoseph.vu@ollp.org  
 206-735-7598 ext. 1

#### Liturgy Coordinator

Barb Ridge  
 ollsttliturg@aol.com

#### PA Administration/Bookkeeper

Jadelyn Manuel  
 jadelyn.stoll@gmail.com

#### Administration/Data Entry

Michelle Miller  
 Michelle.Miller@ollp.org

#### Volunteer Facility Manager

Tang Nguyen  
 tang.nguyen@ollp.org  
 206-355-9378

### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

Monday: Closed  
 Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
 Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
 Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
 Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

Donation	\$3,284.00
Donation Online	\$962.00
Maintenance Fund	\$60.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Children's Donation	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$4,306.00</b>

### CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES COLLECTION MARCH 13 & 14



#### SUSTAINABILITY IN EL SALVADOR

Drought has become a big problem across El Salvador, making it difficult for farmers to produce enough crops to support their families. But new farming techniques-and a generation of young farmers-are making a difference. What would you do if your livelihood was threatened? How can you support young people in your community and around the world?

Visit [crsricebowl.org](http://crsricebowl.org) to learn more.

### CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS SPECIAL COLLECTION

Collected so far:  
**\$2,385**

[www.usccb.org/home-missions](http://www.usccb.org/home-missions)



### Sunday Readings 3rd Sunday of Lent

Exodus 20: 1-17, 29; 1 Corinthians 1: 22-25  
 John 2: 13-25



**“Stop making my Father’s house a marketplace.”**

**John 2: 16**

Please email [jadelyn.stoll@gmail.com](mailto:jadelyn.stoll@gmail.com) to request a tax donation letter .  
 Letters were mailed to those who donated \$250 or more for the year 2020. Thank you.

## God's Perspective Includes the Cross

One of the main themes of Lent is the Cross.

And one of the great preachers of the Cross is St Paul.

And in today's Second Reading we just heard one of St Paul's most famous lines about the Cross.

He is writing to the Christians in Corinth, where the Church was suffering from divisions: they were forming groups that criticized each other and claimed to be better than each other.

- These divisions are a sign that the Corinthians have lost sight of the most important thing, of Christ himself, who came to reunite the fallen, divided human family in his Church.
- The strife is a sign that they are beginning to look at themselves and their Church from a merely human, political perspective, not from God's perspective. But we can never follow Christ faithfully if we do that.

To emphasize this point, St Paul calls to mind the central image of Christianity: the Cross.

- It is not humanly logical, he writes, to think that God atoned for our sins and established his eternal Kingdom by being rejected, abandoned, humiliated, and crucified. And yet - that's exactly how it happened.
- If we look at the Cross from a human perspective, it not only doesn't make sense, but it is actually repulsive. Our fallen human nature wants pleasure, prosperity, and worldly success - not crucifixion.
- But if we look at it from God's perspective, the Cross reveals the meaning of life: it shows the intensity of God's love for us, and points out how we can love him in return.

This is what St Paul means when he writes that beautiful line: "For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength."

### Sharing Crosses

Learning to see ourselves, others, and the events of life from this perspective, God's perspective, doesn't happen overnight. It's a lifelong project. But if we make an effort, we will quickly start to experience the benefits: gradual growth in wisdom, interior peace, and moral courage - virtues that St Paul and all the saints experienced so powerfully. One effective way to make this effort, to learn to see all things from God's perspective, is to help others carry their crosses.

- The cross is like a mountain: you never really discover its secrets until you climb onto it. It can't be understood just from thinking or praying about it.
- We have to touch it and feel its weight. By voluntarily reaching out to help carry our neighbors' burdens, we are doing just that.

In fact, we are following in the very footsteps of Christ.

- His cross wasn't really his cross - it was our cross. His sufferings were caused by our sins. So when he voluntarily took up the cross, he was actually carrying our burden and sanctifying it with his love and grace.
- When we reach out to our neighbors, we are following in his footsteps. And there is no better way to see things from someone else's perspective - in this case, God's - than by walking in their shoes. This is not hard to do.
- Visiting the sick and imprisoned, comforting the sorrowful, doing small favors for others before they ask, being kind and welcoming to people who aren't popular or who are newly arrived... The possibilities are literally limitless.

We all know someone who is struggling with a heavy cross.

As Jesus comes in this Mass to share his strength with us in the Eucharist, let's promise that this week we will make a point of sharing our strength with them.

## SUNDAY'S READINGS

### FIRST READING:

In six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them; but on the seventh day he rested. (Ex 20:11)

### PSALM:

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life. (Ps 19)

### SECOND READING:

For the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength. (1 Cor 1:25)

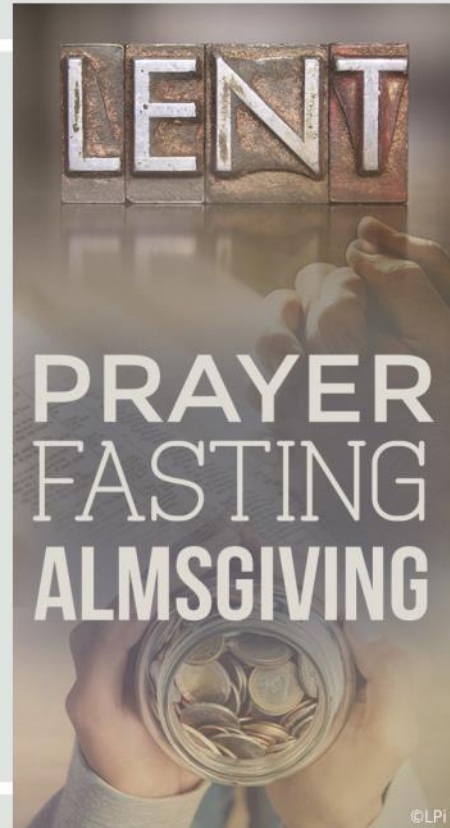
### GOSPEL:

"Destroy this temple and in three days I will raise it up." (Jn 2:19)

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### OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2021

Sunday: 3rd Sunday of Lent  
Monday: St. John of God, Religious  
Tuesday: St. Frances of Rome, Religious  
Next Sunday: 4th Sunday of Lent;  
Daylight Saving Time begins



## REFLECT

### FIRST READING

In God's revelation to Moses of His "10 Commandments," seven of the ten Commandments regulate how we are to relate to each other. Which of these seven Commandments challenges you most?

### SECOND READING

Paul speaks of Jesus as both the "power of God and the wisdom of God." How could you prove Paul's assertion to a non-believer?

### GOSPEL READING

John connects Jesus' cleansing of the Temple in Jerusalem to Jesus' bodily resurrection from the dead with a quote from Psalm 69: "Zeal for your house will consume me." During this season of Lent, how passionate is your faith?