

# Our Lady of Lourdes Parish

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**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)

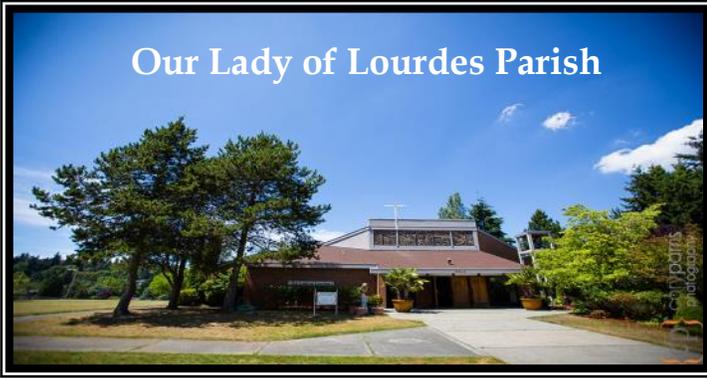
### ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

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  
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#### Liturgy Coordinator

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### PARISH OFFICE HOURS

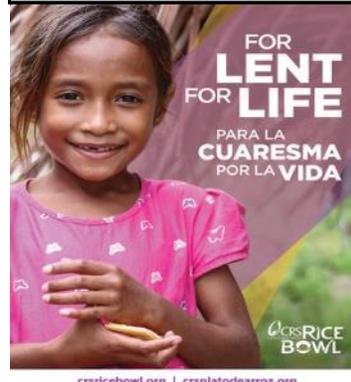
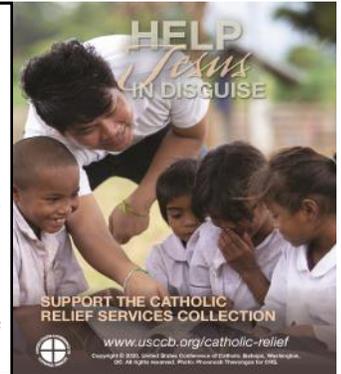
Monday: Closed  
Tuesday & Friday: Please Call for Appointment  
Wednesday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Thursday: 9:30am - 3:00pm  
Please leave a message if no one answers and your call will be returned.

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP:

Donation	\$2,569.50
Donation Online	\$1,992.00
Maintenance Fund	\$15.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
Children's Donation	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$4,576.50</b>

### THANK YOU TO ALL WHO SUPPORTED THE CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS COLLECTION!

This week we are taking up the **Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) to help Jesus in disguise**. Through this collection, six Catholic agencies are able to provide services for immigrants, humanitarian aid in the wake of natural disasters, refuge for the displaced, and advocacy for peace and justice around the world. Your contributions make a difference!



#### TRYING NEW FOODS IN TIMOR-LESTE

Timor-Leste has the highest rate of child malnutrition in Asia, and many children suffer from stunting, which makes a big impact on a child's growth and future. Home gardens and fishponds are helping families provide better nutrition for their children. What do you eat to stay healthy? What can you do to ensure children have enough food to thrive?

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

### Sunday Readings 3rd Sunday of Lent

1 Samuel 16: 1-31; Ephesians 5: 8-14  
John 9: 1-38



As he passed by he saw a man blind from birth.  
John 9: 1

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 Cares

You never really know someone until you know what's in their heart - what motivates them, what they're looking for, why they do what they do. In the Gospel passage we just listened to, Jesus lays bare the heart of God.

- Jesus is talking with Nicodemus, a member of the Sanhedrin, Israel's ruling body.
- It is at night - Nicodemus was afraid to come to talk to Jesus during the day-time, afraid to be seen with him. Maybe they are sitting around a campfire, or at a table with an oil lamp on it, casting restless shadows on their faces.

What message does Jesus give to this confused and fearful Jewish leader?

- The history of salvation, from the fall of Adam and Eve until the final judgment, revolves around the coming of Jesus Christ, the Savior, the Son of God. Why did he come? Because the Father sent him.
- Why did the Father send him? Because he "loved the world so much."
- God simply couldn't bear to see us perish in our sins; he longed to share with us his everlasting life. He cares. God cares.

And Jesus Christ is the definitive proof that he cares.

- He cares so much that he is willing to sacrifice his only Son to atone for the sins that have separated man from God, the source of all good things.
- We need look no further to find the very core of the Gospel:
- "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish, but might have eternal life."
- No hidden agenda, no selfish undertones - pure generosity.
- This is the heart of God, of the Lord who longs for our friendship.

Only when we internalize this fundamental motive of God does our Christian adventure really begin.

### Spreading the Joy (linked to "Laetare Sunday")

We are the lucky ones: we know that God loves us, that we are infinitely valuable in his eyes, no matter what, in spite of our sins, failings, and weaknesses.

- This is why every year, right in the middle of this penitential season, on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Church invites us to rejoice.
- This Sunday is "Laetare [lay-TAHR-ay] Sunday," the Sunday of rejoicing.
- The rose-colored vestments are a symbol of that joy, like the pink horizon that comes before a beautiful sunrise. We have had four weeks to meditate on our weaknesses and sinful tendencies. And so now we are able to appreciate more deeply just how full and unconditional God's love is - that while we were "dead in our transgressions" as St Paul put it, God reached down and rescued us. That's how we are in his eyes - that's the unquenchable source of the Christian's unquenchable joy.

We are the lucky ones; we know this. But what about all those people who don't know it? What about those people all around us, our friends, family members, colleagues, teammates - the ones who underneath a respectable appearance are searching desperately for a solid foundation?

- We all know someone like Nicodemus, who even though he was successful in the eyes of the world, was searching and unsatisfied in his heart.
- Christ wants that person to discover the joy that only God can give. And how will they discover it? If we tell them about it. We are Christ's messengers - imperfect, clumsy, ignorant messengers, but that's OK.
- Even fragile, simple, and misshapen clay vases can hold beautiful flowers.
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This week, let's show Christ how grateful we are for his unconditional love by telling someone else about it, so that the sunrise of Christ's love can illuminate their hearts too.

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2021

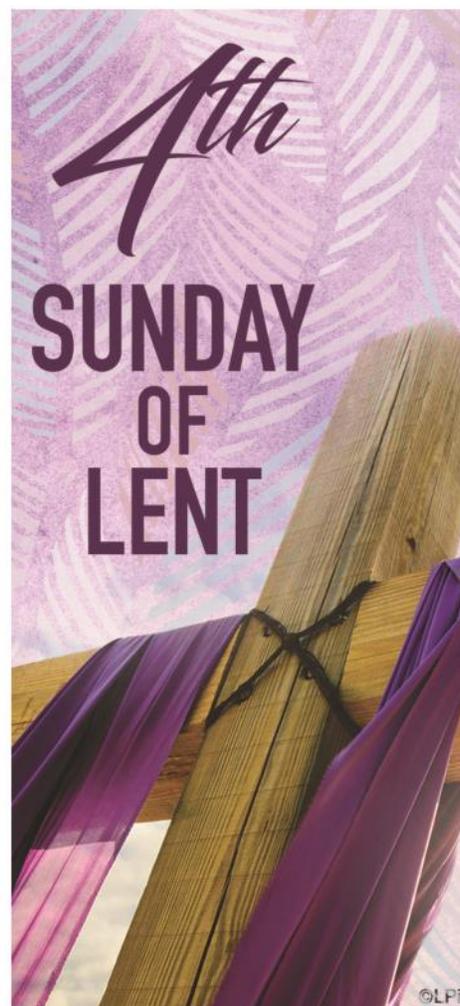
- SUN 3/14** 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38
- MON 3/15** Is 65:17-21/Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b [2a]/Jn 4:43-54
- TUE 3/16** Ez 47:1-9, 12/Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9 [8]/Jn 5:1-16
- WED 3/17** Is 49:8-15/Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18 [8a]/Jn 5:17-30
- THR 3/18** Ex 32:7-14/Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23 [4a]/Jn 5:31-47
- FRI 3/19** 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29 [37]/Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22/Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
- SAT 3/20** Jer 11:18-20/Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12 [2a]/Jn 7:40-53
- SUN 3/21** Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45

## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 14, 2021

- Sunday:** 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins
- Wednesday:** St. Patrick, Bishop; St. Patrick's Day
- Thursday:** St. Cyril of Jerusalem, Bishop and Doctor of the Church
- Friday:** St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sunday:** 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent

## LIVE THE LITURGY Inspiration for the week

God's messengers always seem to get mocked. They speak a truth that some folks do not want to hear. While on the one hand we admire them, we also are quite happy keeping them at a distance. After all, they are not referring to me but someone else, aren't they? We often wrongly conclude that because we may be more avant-garde, contemporary, politically sensitive, and untraditional, we are somehow more in the light than others. People tend to prefer darkness more than light, even the most spiritually sensitive among us. The light always carries with it the richness of God's mercy and compassion which see beyond ideologies and concepts to relationships that cultivate life, earthly and eternal. Every hand of compassion and mercy extended to a human being must always point back to God. The call always involves ordering our lives in accord with our truth and essence of being. As God never forgets us, we must never forget God. Now is the time to take stock of our infidelity and return to the light, even though it is difficult to look at.



*"We need to find  
God and He  
cannot be found in  
noise and restlessness.  
God is a friend of  
silence."*

— ST. TERESA OF CALCUTTA