



# 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)

### TUESDAY - FRIDAY

6:00 pm (Vietnamese)

### SUNDAY

8:30 am Mass (English)

10:30 am Mass (Vietnamese)

Livestream (Facebook and Youtube)

12:30 pm (Vietnamese for Youth)

## ANOINTING OF THE SICK MASS

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

## CONFESSIONS

Saturday 4:30 pm - 4:50 pm  
Sunday 8:00 am - 8:20 am  
Tuesday - Friday 5:30 pm - 5:50 pm

## 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.

[archseattle.org/lent](http://archseattle.org/lent)

### FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP (MARCH 12-13)

Donation	\$5,271.00
Donation Online	\$1,680.00
Maintenance Fund	\$20.00
Debt Reduction	\$0
<b>Total Donation</b>	<b>\$6,971.00</b>

Next weekend, our parish will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection (CRSC) to **help Jesus in disguise**. Through this collection, six Catholic agencies are able to provide struggling communities with relief and support, and to work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters around the world. Your contributions make a difference, so please be generous.



**CATHOLIC HOME MISSIONS**  
**COLLECTED**  
**\$3,370**

<https://archseattle.org/give-serve/collection-to-aid-the-church-in-central-and-eastern-europe/>

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROUS DONATIONS !**  
**TOTAL \$9,574.00**



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## 3rd Sunday of Lent - C

### Homily by Father Peter Doan

All three of today's readings speak of God's mercy and compassion in disciplining His children by occasional punishment while giving them another chance despite their repeated sins. Although God's love for us is constant and consistent, He will not save us without our co-operation. That is why He invites us during Lent to repent of our sins and to renew our lives by producing fruits of love, compassion, forgiveness, and faithful service.

The first reading from the Book of Exodus recounts for us the encounter of Moses with the living God. As part of His plan of salvation, God called forth a leader and mediator for his people—Moses—who carried God's message to the Israelites and led his people out of their enslavement in Egypt. Moses' encounter with God at the burning bush was a pivotal moment in salvation history. Although resistant at first, Moses embraced the will of God and his role in leading his people out of Egypt. This is a God who seeks us out, a God who reveals Himself, a God who asks us to live for Him and a God who is always faithful in His relationship with us, even when He asks difficult things of us. Sometimes we do not want to change our lives, to repent, and invariably we need reminders.

Gospel of Luke today tells us that some among the crowd report to Jesus a massacre of Galileans by Pilate. The intention of the crowd seems to be to ask Jesus to explain why these people suffered. It was commonplace to render people's suffering as evidence of their sinfulness. Jesus challenges this interpretation. Those who were massacred were no more or less sinful than the ones who report the situation to Jesus. Jesus replies that even a fatal accident, a natural disaster, ought not to be interpreted as punishment for sin.

Jesus' words at first appear to have a fire-and-brimstone quality. Jesus says in essence, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." The tone changes, however, in the parable that follows. The parable of the barren fig tree contrasts the patience and hopefulness of the gardener with the practicality of the property owner. When told to cut down the fig tree because it is not producing fruit, the gardener asks for patience. If properly tended, the barren fig tree may yet bear fruit.

Throughout his journey to Jerusalem, Jesus has been teaching about the Kingdom of God. In this parable, we find an image of God's patience and hopefulness as he prepares his Kingdom. God calls us to repent, and it is within his power to punish us for our failure to turn from our sinfulness. And yet God is merciful. He delays punishment and tends to us so that we may yet bear the fruit he desires from us.

This, then, is our reason for hope: Not only does God refuse to abandon us, he chooses to attend to us even when we show no evidence of his efforts.

To speak of repentance is not fashionable today in a world that prefers to ignore sin. Yet we who belong to Christ can testify that repentance is the way to forgiveness and freedom. It is the key that unlocks the mercy of God! The call to repentance is always addressed to ourselves first since all of us are continually in need of deeper conversion.

Difficulties and hardships are part and parcel of our existential experience. In the dark moments of our lives, we often fail to acknowledge the presence of God. Often times, we think that God does not hear, understand or see our afflictions, but on the contrary, He sees, He knows and He understands because nothing escapes His Knowledge – He is all-knowing. The hard times we experience are often God's ways of disciplining us because He loves us. Proverbs 3:12 says: "... because the Lord disciplines those he loves, as a father the son he delights in". Both the sinner and the saint experience the "disciplinary love of God". The degree of suffering is not directly proportional to one's sins, only God knows the measure and degree of discipline He applies in dealing with His children in love. So when one person suffers more than the other, it is not because that person has sinned more than others. One basic truth about life is that we often suffer the consequences of our choices – good or bad.

While we are still suffering don't lose faith in God because we may be going through some disciplinary and corrective experience that will forever transform our lives.

Like those Jews died, many died this year for many reasons: natural disasters, sickness, accidents and terrorist attacks, war, etc. Our life today is simply a privilege, and this privilege is an opportunity for us to repent or experience the same fate as those who have died. God does not will the death of His creatures, neither does he enjoy watching unrepentant sinners die, that is why there is always a second chance with God. In Ezekiel 18:23 the Lord says: "*I do not take pleasure in the death of a wicked man, rather let him or her turn from his/her evil ways and live*". It is our sins that brings about death; when we sin, we consciously choose to abandon the way of life and to embrace the way that leads to death. Today, maybe our second chance; "*Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not, you can cut it down.*" Jesus is that mediator pleading on God the father for more time for us. Let's appreciate the redemptive work of Christ in our lives and repent from our sins. We need to make the best use of the "second chances" God gives us. During Lent, too, we are given another chance to repent and return to our Heavenly Father's love.

# PARABLE OF THE FIG TREE.



**In today's Gospel for the Third Sunday of Lent, we hear about the parable of the fig tree. Go to [archseattle.org/lent](http://archseattle.org/lent) to read the gospel reflection and also find Lenten inspiration, encouragement and more.**

## Lent: A time of renewal

Learn more at [archseattle.org/lent](http://archseattle.org/lent)

*He Was Tempted, Mike Moyers/Ascension Press*