

## 2020 Collections

### Regular & Holy Days Collection

03/15/20 \$2,693.00

**2020 Total Regular Collection**  
**\$48,159.00**

### Parish Projects

03/15/20 \$593.00

**2020 Total Parish Project Collection**  
**\$4,434.00**

### Church Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday  
8:30am - 4:30pm

Pastor's Office Hours  
By Appointment

Phone Number:  
251-479-9885

Church Email:  
ollparish@att.net

Pastor's Email:  
padredudziak@gmail.com

In the beginning  
was the word...



Our Lady of Lourdes Liturgy Committee

KNIGHTS OF  
COLUMBUS



-AND-  
LADIES  
AUXILIARY  
#8740



Our Lady  
of Lourdes  
Parish Hall

Tuesday  
at 6PM



DAUGHTERS OF MARY  
WOMEN RENEWING FAITH AND FAMILY

Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has issued the following regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19):

With the worldwide outbreak of the coronavirus, we are confronted once more with the fragility of our lives, and again we are reminded of our common humanity — that the peoples of this world are our brothers and sisters, that we are all one family under God.

God does not abandon us, he goes with us even now in this time of trial and testing. In this moment, it is important for us to anchor our hearts in the hope that we have in Jesus Christ. Now is the time to intensify our prayers and sacrifices for the love of God and the love of our neighbor. Let us draw closer to one another in our love for him, and rediscover the things that truly matter in our lives.

United with our Holy Father Pope Francis, let us pray in solidarity for our brothers and sisters here and around the world who are sick. Let us pray for those who have lost loved ones to this virus. May God console them and grant them peace.

We pray also for doctors, nurses, and caregivers, for public health officials and all civic leaders. May God grant them courage and prudence as they seek to respond to this emergency with compassion and in service to the common good.

In this time of need, I invite all the faithful to seek together the maternal intercession of Our Lady of Guadalupe, and I share this prayer with you:

**Holy Virgin of Guadalupe,  
Queen of the Angels and  
Mother of the Americas.**

**We fly to you today as your beloved children.  
We ask you to intercede for us with your Son,  
as you did at the wedding in Cana.**

**Pray for us, loving Mother,  
and gain for our nation and world,  
and for all our families and loved ones,  
the protection of your holy angels,  
that we may be spared the worst of this illness.**

**For those already afflicted,  
we ask you to obtain the grace of healing and de-  
liverance.**

**Hear the cries of those who are vulnerable and  
fearful,  
wipe away their tears and help them to trust.**

**In this time of trial and testing,  
teach all of us in the Church to love one another  
and to be patient and kind.**

**Help us to bring the peace of Jesus to our land  
and to our hearts.**

**We come to you with confidence,  
knowing that you truly are our compassionate  
mother,  
health of the sick and cause of our joy.**

**Shelter us under the mantle of your protection,  
keep us in the embrace of your arms,  
help us always to know the love of your Son, Jesus.**

**Amen.**



# OUR LADY OF LOURDES

Catholic Parish

**MARCH 22**  
**2020**  
4TH SUNDAY IN LENT  
YEAR A  
CYCLE II

## MASS SCHEDULE

UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE  
ARCHDIOCESE OF MOBILE ALL  
MASSES, GATHERINGS AND  
MEETINGS ARE CANCELLED  
THROUGH AND INCLUDING  
PALM SUNDAY  
APRIL 5, 2020

SATURDAY  
VIGIL MASS  
4:00PM

SUNDAY  
MASS  
8:30AM & 11:00AM

LATIN MASS  
6:00 PM

MONDAY  
COMMUNION SERVICE  
8:00AM

TUESDAY  
MASS  
5:30PM

WEDNESDAY  
MASS  
8:00AM

THURSDAY  
MASS  
8:00AM

FRIDAY  
MASS  
8:00AM

MONTHLY

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION  
8:30AM TO NOON

FIRST SATURDAY  
MASS  
8AM

SACRAMENT OF  
RECONCILIATION  
SATURDAY  
3:15PM—3:45PM  
OR BY APPOINTMENT



1621 BOYKIN BLVD MOBILE, AL 36605  
REV. MARCIN DUDZIAK, PASTOR  
DEACON, ED CONNICK  
WWW.OURLADYOFLOURDESPARISH.COM

## What is Laetare Sunday

Today is Laetare Sunday. Our Lenten pilgrimage is already half over or, to express it more positively, we are already halfway to Easter. On this Sunday, the Church lightens the liturgical atmosphere, replacing somber violet vestments with bright rose, putting flowers on the altar, and allowing greater use of the organ. These are external symbols of the joy that we are meant to feel as we prepare for the Easter feast – whether we are new Catholics preparing to receive the sacraments of initiation at Easter or life-long Catholics called to a life of ongoing conversion.

Laetare Sunday gets its name from the opening words of the day's traditional Introit: Laetare, Jerusalem ("Rejoice, Jerusalem"). Accordingly, today's Roman station church is the Basilica of Santa Croce, "the Holy Cross in Jerusalem, a basilica built about 325 around part of the Empress Saint Helena's imperial palace in order to enshrine the relics (above all that of the True Cross) she had brought back to Rome from Jerusalem. Originally, the floor of the basilica was covered with earth from Jerusalem. Thus, the church's unique title, "the Holy Cross in Jerusalem." The Jerusalem theme associated with this Sunday also accounts for another very venerable custom connected with this day, that of people returning home to visit (and bring flowers to) their "mother church" on this day.

For those preparing for baptism, the Church celebrates the second scrutiny of the elect on this day. "The entire Lenten Lectionary is a lesson book that prepares the elect among the catechumens to receive the Sacraments of Initiation at the Easter Vigil, just as it prepares all the faithful to renew themselves in the new life into which they have been reborn" (Congregation for Divine Worship, Homiletic Directory, 67). The theme of today's scrutiny associates baptism with light. "Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give you light" (Ephesians 5:14).

For the rest of us, on this mid-Lent Sunday, the liturgy is a joyful celebration of God's mercy. God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ (Ephesians 2:4). God's mercy was already experienced in the Old Testament, for example, in the story we hear today of King Cyrus ending Israel's exile in Babylon:

"Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him" (2 Chronicles 36:23). This culminates in Jesus' familiar words in the Gospel: 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 (John 3:16).

by Father Ronald A. Franco, CSP



## Prayer List

Campbell Berger, Katherine Berger, Bethany Ann Boltz, Clement Boney, Eddie Booth Sr., Logan Bowers, Boatie Campbell, Noli Causay, Teresa Coleman, Lee Cooley, Peter Cooley, Lemuel Dickinson, Daniel Dorriety, Marquitta Dukes, John Dumas, Teresa Dumas, Shelby Fletcher, Ellyn Fowler, Louise Frontz, Tim Frontz, Tony Golemon, J S Johnson, Bill Johnston, Billy Kenny, MaryAnn Keith, Liz Kilborn, Steven Kuszynski, Shirley Lacy, Michael Langan, Alfred Leonard, Rodney Lundy, Mary McKeough, Patricia McRoy, Archie Moore, Elaine Moore, Wally Neese, Tiffany Neese, Joanne Orleans, Darlene O'Rourke, Alex Paneda, Lita Paneda, Genna Pose, Glenda Pouyadou, Ursula Quintana, Kaitlyn Reynolds, Simon Schum, Cindy Snow, Larry Snow, Mary Spikes, Curtis Steiner, Rita Steiner, Todd Stringfellow, Thomas Thigpen, Katelyn Tillman, Tyler Upton, Norma Villanueva, Anna Visperas, Rudy Visperas, Ida Vrazel, Sallie Washington, Albert Washington, Heather Washington, Darlene Watson, Brad Wells, Bubba Williams, Agnes Worley, Bobby Zarate.

## Active Military

Dominic French *Army*, Jordan Guidry *Marines*, Austin M. Goodin *Marines*,  
Fr. Paul A. Halladay *Army*,  
Matthew Ladnier *Coast Guard* Kenneth L. McAlman *Army*,  
Alex Milesenko *Army*, Corie Demetri Mitchell *Army*,  
Kevin O'Rourke *Coast Guard*, Sam Schoolfield Jr. *Marine Reserves*,  
Sam Schoolfield Sr. *Marines*, Jerrick Thompson *Army Reserves*

### A Prayer by St. Corona, Patron Saint Against Plagues and Epidemics

Almighty God, who forgives the sins of your people and heals all their faults, you who call the Lord our healer and sent your beloved Son to bear our sickness, look upon us who stand humbly before You. We pray to You in this time of plague and need, remember Your love and kindness that You have always shown to Your people in times of tribulation. Just as You graciously looked upon Aaron's atonement and stopped the plague that broke out, just as You accepted David's sacrifice and commanded the destroying angel to withdraw his hand, accept also today our prayer and sacrifice and show us mercy. Keep this disease away from us, allow those affected to be healed, protect those who have been preserved from it so far by Your goodness, and do not let the plague spread any further.

Amen

If you would like to send a card to Sharon Williams her information is below:

Mrs. Sharon Williams  
Gulf Coast Rehab  
8002 Grelot Road  
Mobile, AL 36695  
Direct Telephone #  
251-602-7857

# Ways the Gospels Make Us Uncomfortable

By Kathy Coffey

It may be a shift to read the Gospels and feel discomfort. While the words and actions of Jesus enlighten, they're no escape hatch. Conflict, tension, and frustration still plague believers.

But we read the Gospels for one purpose:

to know Jesus better—not for warm fuzzies, easy answers, or reinforcement of prejudices. Nor will we always encounter “Jesus, meek and mild.”

He who threatened the cozy assumptions of his contemporaries may have the same effect on us. If we rely on the wrong supports, like wealth (Luke 6:20, 24), prestige (Matthew 23:1–12), or religious rituals (Mark 2:27–28), he'll challenge us, too.

Jesus questioned many of the customs of his time—such as the subservient role of women and the authority of the Pharisees. “It is hard to believe [Jesus] was simply an early flower child who traipsed through the sunlit fields talking about lilies and love!” Nathan Mitchell writes in *Real Presence: The Work of Eucharist*. “Who would seek to arrest and execute such a sap?”

## The Perils of Storytelling

We may be uncomfortable with the Gospels' storytelling if we want just the



facts. We might prefer a precise blueprint or spreadsheet to rambling, inconsistent stories. But if we compare the Bible to our own complex, difficult life stories, we grow more comfortable with its mixed genres. We find links where the larger story of God intersects with our personal lives.

So we reflect not only

on Jesus' and the Hebrews' experience in the desert, but also on our own desert times. Wandering in the wilderness brings valuable insights we don't learn in secure kitchens.

As much as we enjoy the intriguing connections, storytelling has its shortcomings. It's unscientific, subject to interpretation, and sometimes wildly inaccurate. Two people who attended the same party might tell radically different accounts.

So, too, each Gospel writer has a different emphasis. Even within the Gospel of John, there are inconsistencies: “Jesus was deeply troubled” (13:21), but in the next chapter Jesus says, “Do not let your hearts be troubled” (14:1).

Those who enjoy stories listen beneath the words. Their primary interest is the meaning stories give our experiences. We don't read the Gospels primarily for scientific accuracy or historical fact but to follow Jesus better.

We read through the lens of a human

author who will sometimes shade, condense, or exaggerate. Sometimes we may also need to read biblical interpretation, but most important is our response. There's an old saying: the Gospel gives the chapter headings; we write the texts in our lives.

## Too Good to Be True?

The Gospels have been misused to incite guilt. Some people may need that stern correction to luxuriating while others starve. But many hard-working people are simply trying to survive, raise families, and do their jobs while being as generous as possible with their time and treasure. They certainly don't need another guilt trip!

What we may find harder than guilt is the Gospels' insistence on how splendid we are. Jesus walked among the diseased, smelly, and sweaty, and assured them that even in poverty, mourning, or persecution, they were blessed. Mired in our own problems, do we struggle with *good news*?

Admittedly, the central message is hard to absorb. We, limited and flawed, are made in his divine image. Throughout the Gospels, the message recurs: You are not a slave. You are a friend and adopted child with an eternal inheritance—not condemned to futility or the finality of death. +



*Lord, you are the Word of God that shows me what is good, right, and true. Make me a faithful witness to your Word.*

—From *Mindful Meditations for Every Day of Lent and Easter*, Rev. Warren J. Savage and Mary Ann McSweeney

## WEEKDAY READINGS

March 23–28

**Monday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Is 65:17–21 / Jn 4:43–54

**Tuesday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Ez 47:1–9, 12 / Jn 5:1–16

**Wednesday**, The Annunciation of the Lord: Is 7:10–14; 8:10 / Heb 10:4–10 / Lk 1:26–38

**Thursday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Ex 32:7–14 / Jn 5:31–47

**Friday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Wis 2:1a, 12–22 / Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

**Saturday**, Lenten Weekday:  
Jer 11:18–20 / Jn 7:40–53

Bringing Home  
the Word 

March 22, 2020

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# Bringing Home the Word

Fourth Sunday of Lent (A)  
March 22, 2020

## To Live By Faith

By Fr. Mark Haydu, LC

Our Lenten practices are transforming our hearts to receive the love of Jesus in his passion, death, and resurrection. Today's Gospel revolves around this theme of learning to live by faith. The apostles take for granted that the man's blindness is due to someone's sin. The Pharisees call the man a sinner, born in sin. In their self-righteousness they judge both the blind man and Jesus.

Jesus sees and judges differently. He asserts that the man's blindness was not due to a sin of his own or that of his parents and restores his sight.

## Sunday Readings

**1 Samuel 16:1b, 6–7, 10–13a**

God does not see as a mortal, who sees the appearance. The LORD looks into the heart.

**Ephesians 5:8–14**

Take no part in the fruitless works of darkness; rather expose them.

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

Jesus said, “I came into this world for judgment, so that those who do not see might see, and those who do see might become blind.”

He challenges the wise, educated, and insightful Pharisees by saying, “If you were blind, you would have no sin; but now you are saying, ‘We see,’ so your sin remains” (John 9:41).

While they can see physically, they cannot see the simple truth that Jesus is the Son of God and has the authority to heal, even on the Sabbath. They are so blinded by their “fidelity to God”—which is really fidelity to their distorted interpretation of the traditions and regulations God gave them—that they cannot see his spirit of mercy. They fail to see with eyes of faith.

Being merciful like Jesus doesn't mean merely condemning blind legalism, it means showing God's love to those in need. First we need to see as God sees. Then we need to love others and to enlighten them with the truth. Jesus heals one man's blindness in the hope of opening the minds and hearts of the Pharisees—and us today. +

*While the Pharisees can see physically, they cannot see the simple truth that Jesus is the Son of God.*

## A Word from Pope Francis

We can imagine what Joseph must have been thinking. How is it that the Son of God has no home? ...And those of us who do have a home, a roof over our heads, would also do well to ask: Why do these, our brothers and sisters, have no place to live?

—Meeting with the homeless, September 24, 2015



REFLECTION  
QUESTIONS  
REFLECTION

- Are there people or groups I blindly judge? What is at the root of these judgments?
- To what truths am I blind? How can I work to open my heart to these truths this Lent?

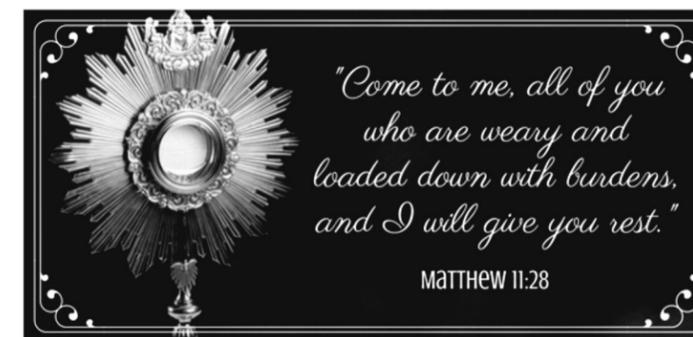
## SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

The Mass is not always accessible to us for many reasons. However, did you know that you can still receive the graces of the Eucharist as if you were present at Mass? The saints and theologians call this "spiritual communion." It is taking a moment to turn to Him, wherever He is, and desire Him, adore Him, and welcome the rays of His love that knows no boundaries.

If we are deprived of Sacramental Communion, let us replace it, as far as we can, by spiritual communion, which we can make every moment; for we ought to have always a burning desire to receive the good God... When we cannot go to the church, let us turn towards the tabernacle; no wall can shut us out from the good God. —St. Jean Vianney. *The Spirit of the Curé of Ars*, p. 87, M. L'Abbé Monnin, 1865

The degree to which we are not united to this Sacrament is the degree to which our hearts grow cold. Therefore, the more sincere and prepared we are to make a Spiritual Communion, the more effective it will be. St. Alphonsus lists three essential ingredients to making this a valid Spiritual Communion:

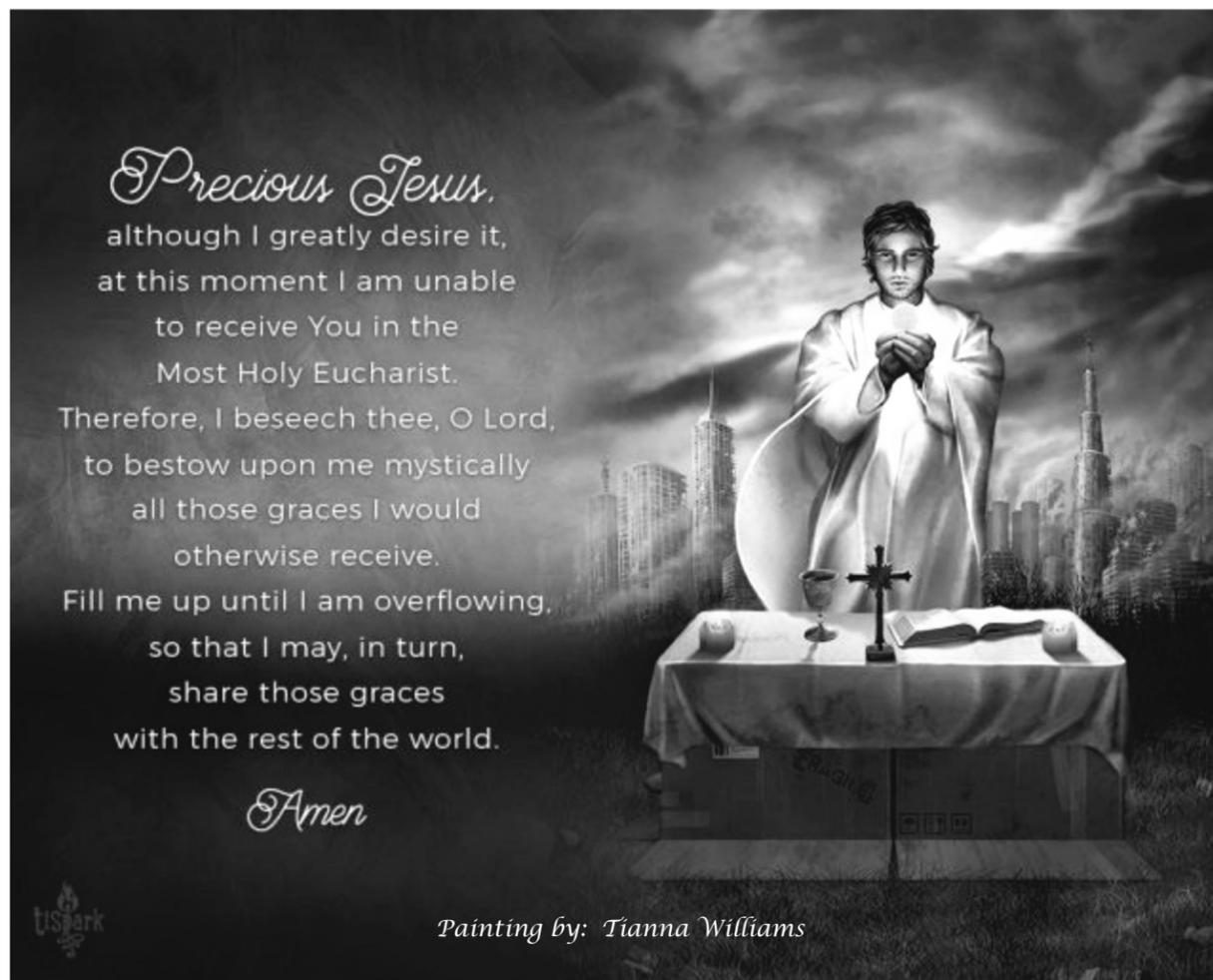
- I. An act of faith in the real presence of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.
- II. An act of desire, accompanied by sorrow for one's sins so as to worthily receive these graces as if one were receiving sacramental Communion.
- III. An act of thanksgiving afterward as if Jesus was received sacramentally.



### SPIRITUAL COMMUNION PRAYER

MY JESUS, I BELIEVE THAT YOU ARE PRESENT  
IN THE MOST HOLY SACRAMENT.  
I LOVE YOU ABOVE ALL THINGS,  
AND I DESIRE TO RECEIVE YOU INTO MY SOUL.  
SINCE I CANNOT AT THIS MOMENT RECEIVE YOU SACRAMENTALLY,  
COME AT LEAST SPIRITUALLY INTO MY HEART.  
I EMBRACE YOU AS IF YOU WERE ALREADY THERE  
AND UNITE MYSELF WHOLLY TO YOU.  
NEVER PERMIT ME TO BE SEPARATED FROM YOU.  
**AMEN.**

—St. Alphonsus Ligouri



Painting by: Tianna Williams

### THE PRAYER OF MYSTICAL UNITY

ENCLOSE IN MY MIND JESUS' THOUGHTS,  
SO THAT NO OTHER THOUGHT MAY ENTER INTO ME;  
ENCLOSE IN MY EYES JESUS' EYES,  
SO THAT HE MAY NEVER ESCAPE MY GAZE;  
ENCLOSE IN MY EARS JESUS' EARS,  
SO THAT I MAY ALWAYS LISTEN TO HIM  
AND DO HIS MOST HOLY WILL IN ALL THINGS;  
ENCLOSE MY FACE IN JESUS' FACE,  
SO THAT IN LOOKING AT HIM SO DISFIGURED FOR LOVE OF ME,  
I MAY LOVE HIM, UNITE MYSELF TO HIS PASSION  
AND OFFER HIM REPARATION;  
ENCLOSE MY TONGUE IN JESUS' TONGUE,  
SO THAT I MAY SPEAK, PRAY AND TEACH WITH JESUS' TONGUE;  
ENCLOSE MY HANDS IN JESUS' HANDS,  
SO THAT EACH MOVEMENT I MAKE AND EACH WORK I PERFORM  
MAY DERIVE THEIR [MERIT AND] LIFE FROM JESUS' OWN WORKS AND ACTS.  
ENCLOSE MY FEET IN JESUS' FEET, SO THAT EACH ONE OF MY STEPS  
MAY INFUSE IN OTHER SOULS STRENGTH AND ZEAL  
AND DISPOSE THEM FOR THE LIFE OF SALVATION.

From the blog: *Invoking the Light of Christ* by Mark Mallet [www.markmallet.com](http://www.markmallet.com)