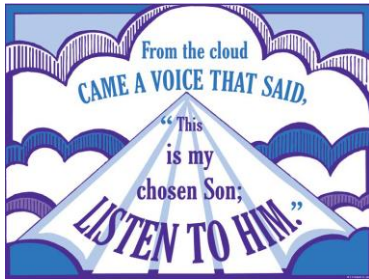


March 16, 2025



STAND FIRM IN THE LORD It is not hard to imagine, in this age of wars, evil groups bent on the destruction of humanity, and political follies, that the words of Saint Paul were so accurate, even for his time. It seems that the world never changes. Paul says, “Many . . . conduct themselves as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their end is their destruction . . . Their minds are occupied with earthly things” (Philippians 3:18, 19). The result is the destruction of innocent people and of the Earth itself. But Paul says to the Philippians, “our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we also await a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ” (3:20). He will “change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body” (3:21). Note that he says “body” rather than “bodies.” He is talking about the whole community of believers, who, following the example of Jesus and of Paul, will come into the glory of God. So “stand firm in the Lord” (4:1). Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

REFLECTING ON GOD’S WORD

Every so often life gives you a glimpse of glory: a moment of beauty in a sunset, of goodness in a person, of truth in words spoken, of peace and well-being. Sometimes it comes suddenly; other times it’s been there all along but you haven’t been paying much attention. But it is real and you know it is a glimpse of glory.

This is what happened to Peter, James, and John. Jesus often went off to pray during their time with him, traveling through towns and villages. Luke makes a special point of telling us this more than once. At these times he would experience the presence of his Father. Now, while he is praying with his friends, the Father again draws near, not just to Jesus this time but to his disciples, too.

But first there are Moses and Elijah, also in a state of glory, speaking to Jesus about his coming death, his “exodus,” his passing over into glory. And Jesus will go on to speak to his disciples about his coming death, which they will not want to hear. But for now they are given a glimpse of glory, of what is at the end of the road.

Every so often we need a reminder of what we are destined for, that our citizenship is in heaven. We need to be reminded of the promise that our Savior will come and “change our lowly body to conform with his glorified body” (Philippians 3:21). For the present, we need to heed the Father’s words: “This is my chosen Son; listen to him” (Luke 9:35). —James A. Wallace, C.S.S.R.

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TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, many may have failed in Lenten discipline to some measure or another: the daily doughnut is simply too alluring, or a furtive puff on a cigarette irresistible. There is meaning even in the failure, though, a kind of reminder that we cannot save ourselves. Part of the power of Lent is that we do it together, and although individuals decide on different ways to keep it, it is fundamentally the same journey. We fall, we get up, we keep moving. The desire to “give something up” for Lent is an age old impulse in the Christian heart. We get better at it over the years, and move more deeply into the meaning and message of acts of sacrifice; so there is no shame in stumbling, as long as we are not discouraged by the failure and give up. We are clearing space in our lives, after all, and some of the things we desire to give up are worth rooting out completely anyway.

What do we do with the space we have cleared out by our sacrifice? The Lenten question of giving up is balanced by the Easter question of our response to Christ’s embrace of us in love: “What are you taking on for Easter?”

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Living God’s Word - While we pray that one day we will see the Lord in his glory, we can also ask, even now, that we may receive a glimpse of that glory as we walk by faith. We pray that we may live in awareness of the presence of God.

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READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 9:4b-10; Ps 79:8, 9, 11, 13; Lk 6:36-38
Tuesday: Is 1:10, 16-20; Ps 50:8-9, 16bc-17, 21 and 23; Mt 23: 1-12
Wednesday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a
Thursday: Jer 17:5-10; Ps 1:1-4, 6; Lk 16:19-31
Friday: Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a; 17b-28a; Ps 105:16-21; Mt 21:33-43, 45-46
Saturday: Mi 7:14-15, 18-20; Ps 103:1-4, 9-12; Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15; Ps 103:1-4, 6-8, 11; 1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12; Lk 13:1-9
Alternate readings (Year A): Ex 17:3-7; Ps 95:1-2, 6-9; Rom 5:1-2, 5-8; Jn 4:5-42 [5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42]

THANK YOU – We would like to thank everyone for your thoughts, prayers, calls, texts, flowers and for all the kind words you all shared about Vicky. We would also like to give special thanks to Father Josh and Deacon Butler for the beautiful service, Deacon David for the Rosary, Sandy Gallegos and Gloria Longoria for the beautiful music and all the Guadalupanas for the wonderful meal they prepared for our family and friends. We thank everyone of you for the kindness and support you showed our family. *The Family of Vicky Soto*



Saturday, March 15th
5:00PM-IHM – +Belinda Gomez, Tomas & Guadalupe Morales; +Antero Rostro; +Lorenzo Carlo Sanchez

2nd Sunday of Lent, March 16th

8:30AM - Por la gente de Nolan County
11:00AM – +Miguel Ortiz, Tomasita Alcaras, Alfonso, Sara & Benjamin Gonzales; In Thanksgiving for the birthdays of Damilola and Olusegun Falana; In Thanksgiving for Pete and Rosa Gutierrez’s Anniversary

Tuesday, March 18th 9:00AM – HF

For the well being of Tanis Moreno’s family

Wednesday, March 19th 6:00PM–IHM

+Beatriz Aguilera

Thursday, March 20th 9:00AM-HF

+Ray T. Reyes

Friday, March 21st 9:00AM-HF

+David Garcia

Saturday, March 22nd

5:00PM-IHM – +Maria Morales & Carlos Guerrero & Rodolfo Morales; For the health and well being of Johnathan Garcia

3rd Sunday of Lent, March 23rd

8:30AM - Por la gente de Nolan County
11:00AM – +Aurelia Garza; In Thanksgiving for Ema Patricia Acevedo’s birthday

PENANCE SERVICES in the surrounding area:

All Penance Services begin at 6:30pm.

- March 19 – Holy Family, Abilene
- 26 – Sacred Heart, Abilene
- 27 – St. Ann’s, Colorado City
- April 02 – Sacred Heart, Coleman
- 03 – St. Vincent, Abilene
- 08 – St. Mary’s, Brownwood
- 10 – St. Francis, Abilene
- 16 – **Holy Spirit, Sweetwater**

NOTE: MASS CHANGES –

- Beginning Sunday, June 22, 2025, the 8:30AM Spanish Mass will be moved up to 8:00AM
- Mass will be celebrated @ Holy Family beginning June 22nd and every 3rd Sunday of the month thereafter, @9:30am.
- No Sunday morning confessions on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Same schedule for the other weekend Masses.

**The LORD is my light and my salvation;
 whom should I fear? — Psalm 27:1**

CCD Spring Break – No Sunday Classes: March 16th & 23rd—; **Classes resume:** Sunday, March 30th.

No Wednesday Classes: March 19th – **Classes resume:** Wednesday, March 26th.

WHY AM I CATHOLIC? Deacon Bill’s sharing session is Tuesday at his home, @6pm. All are invited!

WEDNESDAY – Confessions begin at 5:15pm followed by Mass at 6:00pm & Adoration until 8:30pm @IHM.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS - Via Crucis - all Fridays during Lent, 6:00pm @Immaculate Heart, followed by a light meal and reflection in the parish hall.

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE – Our Parish Penance Service is scheduled for Wednesday, April 16th, 6:30pm

ULTREYA – Meets Monday, March 17th,7:00pm at Immaculate Heart Hall. You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. All are welcome!

GRUPO MISIONERO - Meets on Thursdays, at 7:00pm at Immaculate Heart Hall.

MANUEL & REFUJIA HEREDIA MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP – Applications are available in the parish office. You must be a 2025 Graduating High School Senior and a member of Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Sweetwater, Texas to apply. Deadline is April 25, 2025 by 6:00 p.m.

PARISH MOVIE GROUP – meets at Holy Family Hall, this Sunday, March 16th, from 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

BAPTISM – To schedule, please call the office

March 08/09, 2025 COLLECTION DATA

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....	\$4706.00
LOOSE PLATE.....	1273.30
CATHOLIC EXTENSION- <i>Diocesan Coll</i>	913.42
EASTERN EUROPE- <i>Diocesan Coll</i>	614.02
ASH WEDNESDAY.....	2283.00
ONLINE GIVING (monthly).....	<u>425.00</u>
TOTAL COLLECTION.....	\$10214.74

Thank you for your generosity

HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE

March 22–Jamaica March 29–Youth Group

A prayer for the health of Pope Francis

Lord God, shepherd and guide of all the faithful, look kindly upon your servant Pope Francis, whom you willed to preside over the Church as her shepherd. May he bear this illness in union with the obedient suffering of your Son Jesus for the salvation of the world. Guide the doctors and nurses who are caring for him. By your divine grace, restore him to health. We ask this through Christ our Lord. *Amen*
The Roman Catholic Diocese of San Angelo

#20 – The Lord’s Prayer & Embolism

The priest says, “At the Savior’s command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say.” We are daring because we are undergoing a transformation into Jesus. We are beginning to look like Him, to talk like Him, even to pray like Him. We find our identity in Jesus Christ. At this point, there are three petitions in the Our Father to notice.

Give us this day our daily bread. This is not referring to regular bread, but rather the bread of life: the Body and Blood of Jesus. Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us. These words orient our minds and hearts so that we approach the altar with the right attitude. We come forward as sinners who have asked the Lord for mercy, and have shown mercy to those who have offended us. The last petition is: Deliver us from evil. This is further developed in the prayer after the Our Father that the priest prays. In asking the Lord to deliver us from evil, the priest says graciously grant peace in our days. This is not a separate petition. In being delivered from evil, we will have the gift of true peace. It is impossible to be at peace and to be in sin. Freedom from sin and safety from distress are tied together in that phrase, “deliver us from evil.”

The prayer concludes with the priest declaring that we are waiting for the coming of Jesus. It is like saying, “I can’t wait to live with Jesus in heaven forever. Come soon Lord!” The people respond, “For the kingdom, the power, and glory are yours, now and forever.” It is saying, Lord, everything is yours. You are number 1 in my heart and in my life.

#20 – El Padre Nuestro y la Embolia

El sacerdote dice: “Fieles a la recomendación del Salvador y siguiendo su divina enseñanza, nos atrevemos a decir”. Nos atrevemos porque estamos pasando por una transformación en Jesús. Estamos empezando a parecernos a Él, a hablar como Él, incluso a orar como Él. Encontramos nuestra identidad en Jesucristo. En este punto, hay tres peticiones en el Padre nuestro que vale la pena mencionar.

Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada día. No se refiere al pan común, sino al pan de vida: el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesús. Perdónanos nuestras ofensas, como también nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden. Estas palabras orientan nuestra mente y nuestro corazón para que nos acerquemos al altar con la actitud correcta. Nos presentamos como pecadores que han pedido misericordia al Señor y que han mostrado misericordia a quienes nos han ofendido. La última petición es: Líbranos del mal. Esto se desarrolla más en la oración después del Padrenuestro que el sacerdote reza. Al pedirle al Señor que nos libre del mal, el sacerdote dice: Concédenos la paz en nuestros días. Esta no es una petición separada. Al ser liberados del mal, tendremos el don de la verdadera paz. Es imposible estar en paz y estar en pecado. La libertad del pecado y la protección de toda perturbación están unidas en esa frase, “líbranos del mal”.

La oración concluye con el sacerdote declarando que estamos esperando la venida de Jesús. Es como decir, “No puedo esperar a vivir con Jesús en el cielo para siempre. ¡Ven pronto, Señor!”. El pueblo responde, “Tuyo es el reino, tuyo el poder y la gloria por siempre, Señor.” Es decir, Señor, todo es tuyo. Tú eres el número 1 en mi corazón y en mi vida.