

March 30, 2025

Fourth Sunday of Lent



**Whoever is in Christ is a new creation:  
the old things have passed away;  
behold, new things have come.**

— 2 Corinthians 5:17

### REFLECTING ON GOD'S WORD

When Israel packed its few bags and went rushing out of Egypt, God's chosen people began a journey into being a new creation, from being a nation of slaves to being a nation of free men and women, a people under the heel of Egypt to one joined to God by the covenant, a community that ate manna (which literally means "What is it?") to one that ate the produce of the promised land. This journey took forty years and it wasn't easy.

When the prodigal son finally "came to his senses" and realized he would be better off back home as a hired worker than stealing slop from the pigs, he began a journey from being lost to being found, from being dead to being alive. This journey did not take forty years, but how do you measure in clock time a journey that transforms the heart? This journey wasn't easy either.

The path to being a new creation can take forty years, forty days, forty minutes, or forty seconds. Sometimes it involves an outer journey; it is always an inner one. It is difficult—dying to self always is. What matters is that we make it. Because the end result is the radiance of a people, or a son or daughter, who has finally arrived where they belong, at a party where the Father has an arm around them and the older brother who brought this about through his saving death is standing at the Father's side, with the Spirit hovering above them all.

—James A. Wallace, C.S.S.R.

Copyright © 2012, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

**Living God's Word** -- We pray that whatever form our journey takes, we will persevere in becoming, individually and communally, a new creation. We ask the Father to send forth the Holy Spirit upon us so that we will be recreated as this same Spirit continues to renew the face of the earth. Copyright © 2012, World Library Publications. All rights reserved.

### GOD FORGIVES

The Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you." After forty years of wandering in the desert, this hard-headed people have finally reached the Promised Land. No more do they eat the manna in the desert, but they partake of the fruits of

their new homeland. God has kept the promise to their parents in Egypt. Even though they were a sinful people, many times questioning God and even worshiping false gods, God has forgiven them and fulfilled the promise. The "take-away" for us is that there is no sin that is unforgivable. We may have offended our neighbors, given a bad example to someone, even worshiped the false gods of money and power. But God is a merciful God, true to the words spoken to us. God forgives all and calls us back to love.

Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Today, "Laetare Sunday," breaks the somberness of Lent for a little rejoicing, and the readings all summon us to an awareness of reconciliation. One of the best-loved stories of our tradition is today's Gospel story of the runaway son and the prodigal father. Prodigal, of course, is an adjective meaning "spendthrift or extravagant to a degree bordering on recklessness," and although the boy maxes out the credit cards, it is really the father who is prodigal with forgiveness.

Part of the excitement of this Laetare Sunday is rooted in the ancient catechumenate. Long ago, midway through Lent, the "elect" were focusing more and more on the gift of reconciliation accomplished for them by Christ and about to be realized in the Easter sacraments they were preparing to celebrate. In some places, the elect were even bedecked with roses on this day. A person bedecked with roses sticks out in a crowd; a person formed by the Eucharist and committed to living a life of reconciliation does, too. That's you! —James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

**2nd Collection - REVEAL CHRIST'S LOVE** – This week we take up the Catholic Relief Services Collection to reveal Christ's love to our brothers and sisters in need. This collection makes grants to six Catholic agencies that provide relief and support for struggling communities and work for peace and reconciliation among our marginalized brothers and sisters, both here and around the world. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection. Learn more about the collection at [www.usccb.org/catholic/relief](http://www.usccb.org/catholic/relief).

### PENANCE SERVICES in the surrounding area:

\* All Penance Services begin at 6:30pm.

- April 02 – Sacred Heart, Coleman
- 03 – St. Vincent, Abilene
- 08 – St. Mary's, Brownwood
- 10 – St. Francis, Abilene
- 16 – Holy Spirit, Sweetwater

**THANK YOU** Fr. Josh for celebrating the Funeral Mass for Joe Angel Ceballos. Our appreciation to Emilia Acevedo & Julia Madrigal for the beautiful music; and to the Guadalupanas & the Cursillistas for providing and serving the wonderful meal. We thank all for the food, prayers, phone calls, and cards.

*God's Blessings, The Family of Joe Angel Ceballos*



**Saturday, March 29th**

**5:00PM-IHM** – +Gloria Castro, Delia Sparkman, Rudy Torres, Nellie, Dolores, Francisco, Frank, Jr., Velia, Juana, Tony & Patricia Gomez; +Ruben Gutierrez

**4th Sunday of Lent, March 30th**

**8:30AM** - +Rodrigo DeLoera; +Epifania Mercado, Juan Mora & Juventino Resendes  
**11:00AM** – For the People of Nolan County

**Tuesday, April 1st 9:00AM – HF**

+Sara Gomez, Eulalio & Sarita Olvera, Elvira & Ysidro Navarrette

**Wednesday, April 2nd 6:00PM–IHM**

+Cecilio Villa

**Thursday, April 3rd 9:00AM-HF**

**FIRST FRIDAY, April 4th 9:00AM-HF**

**Saturday, April 5th**

**5:00PM-IHM** – Guadalupanas vivas y difuntas; +Daniel Grimaldo; +Antero Rostro  
**7:00PM** – **St. Albert** - Por la gente de Nolan County

**5th Sunday of Lent, April 6th**

**8:30AM** - +Margarito, Carlotta y Ray Gomez  
**11:00AM** – +Martina Herrera; +Claudia Solis, Maria del Refugio Salamanca

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53  
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11  
Alternate readings (Year A):  
Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

**March 22/23, 2025 COLLECTION DATA**

ENVELOPES/CHECKS.....\$3567.00  
LOOSE PLATE.....1228.00  
EASTER FLOWERS.....927.25  
TOTAL COLLECTION.....\$5722.25

*Thank you for your generosity*

**HOLY SPIRIT CLEANING SCHEDULE**

April 5 –Parish Council April 12 –Cursillo

**WELCOME St. Vincent Pallotti** from Abilene! They are here selling raffle tickets for their **Cinco de Mayo fundraiser. GRAND PRIZE** is a **\$5,000.00 Mastercard plus** many other great prizes. Tickets are \$20 each or 6 for \$100. Let us support each other!

**CCD Sunday Classes** resume this Sunday, March 30th. Wednesday Classes continue Wednesday, April 2nd.

**SCHOLARSHIP FUND RAFFLE** – The Guadalupana members will be selling Raffle tickets after the weekend Masses. Proceeds will go to the Scholarship Fund. Applications are available in the parish office. Deadline is May 2nd.

**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.

**WHY AM I CATHOLIC?** Deacon Bill’s sharing session is Tuesday at his home, @6:00pm. All are invited!

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

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

**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.

**FIRST FRIDAY** – Friday, April 4th, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament begins at 8:00pm until 10:00 pm at Holy Family. Confession is available

**YOUTH GROUP** meets this Sunday, March 30th, at 6:30pm, @Holy Family Hall.

**ULTREYA** – Meets Monday, March 31st,7:00pm at Immaculate Heart Hall. You don’t have to be a cursillista to attend. All are welcome!

**PARISH MOVIE GROUP** – meets at Holy Family Hall, this Sunday, March 30th, from 4:00pm - 6:00pm.

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

**BAPTISM** – To schedule, please call the office

**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 at 9:30AM beginning June 22nd and every 3rd Sunday of the month thereafter.
- No Sunday morning confessions on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Same schedule for the other weekend Masses.

## **#22 – Lamb of God and Fraction Rite**

The priest then takes the Body of Jesus and breaks a small piece off of the corner and places it into the chalice while praying quietly, “May this mingling of the Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ bring eternal life to us who receive it.” Meanwhile, the Lamb of God is said or sung. The action of breaking the bread signifies the unity of Christ with the Church. Joining the Body and Blood of Jesus together in the chalice now reminds us that Jesus is physically present as the Body and Blood are together in one place. Also breaking the bread does not break off a part of Jesus. He is fully present in every single particle. St Paul said that as we break the bread, we are participating in the Body of Christ.

In the Gospels, Jesus broke bread 4 times. The first two times, he did it when he multiplied the bread and fish to feed thousands of people. The 3rd time he broke the bread during the Last Supper with his apostles. And the 4th time he broke the bread was with 2 disciples who were traveling to Emmaus after the Resurrection. Jesus broke the bread, and now the bread is broken during the Mass as we are united again to Him.

The Lamb of God is a prayer that we say before the throne of God in heaven. Christ is the Lamb who has been sacrificed, and who sits on the altar in heaven. We recognize Christ as the Lamb who was slain so that our sins could be forgiven. And we ask for mercy from the one who can free us from our sins.

## **#22 – Cordero de Dios y Rito de Fracción**

El sacerdote toma entonces el Cuerpo de Jesús, parte un pequeño trozo de la esquina y lo coloca en el cáliz mientras reza en voz baja, “El Cuerpo y la Sangre de nuestro Señor Jesucristo, unidos en este cáliz, sean para nosotros alimento de vida eterna.” Mientras tanto, se dice o se canta el Cordero de Dios. La acción de partir el pan significa la unidad de Cristo con la Iglesia. Unir el Cuerpo y la Sangre de Jesús en el cáliz nos recuerda que Jesús está físicamente presente, ya que el Cuerpo y la Sangre están juntos en un solo lugar. Además, partir el pan no rompe una parte de Jesús. Él está completamente presente en cada una de sus partículas. San Pablo dijo que cuando partimos el pan, participamos del Cuerpo de Cristo.

En los Evangelios, Jesús partió el pan cuatro veces. Las dos primeras veces, lo hizo cuando multiplicó los panes y los peces para alimentar a miles de personas. La tercera vez lo partió durante la Última Cena con los apóstoles. Y la cuarta vez lo partió con dos discípulos que viajaban a Emaús después de la Resurrección. Jesús partió el pan, y ahora se parte durante la Misa cuando nos unimos nuevamente a Él.

El Cordero de Dios es una oración que decimos ante el trono de Dios en el cielo. Cristo es el Cordero que ha sido sacrificado y que está sentado en el altar del cielo. Reconocemos a Cristo como el Cordero que fue inmolado para que nuestros pecados pudieran ser perdonados. Y pedimos misericordia a aquel que puede liberarnos de nuestros pecados.