

READINGS

February 28, 2016

Third Sunday of Lent

First Reading: Exodus 3: 1-8A, 13-15

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6, 10-12

Gospel: Luke 13: 1-9

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Now into the third week of the Season of Lent, our Sunday Gospel prepares us to hear Lent's call to conversion and repentance. Today's reading is found in the chapters of Luke's Gospel that describe Jesus' journey to Jerusalem. Jesus must respond to those who question and challenge his authority and actions. Luke tells us that some among the crowds 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 says, "Repent or perish as these people did; all are sinful before God and deserving of God's punishment." 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 counsels 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. Next week's Gospel will give an even clearer picture of the kind of mercy that God shows to us.

Adapted from: www.loyolapress.com

STEWARDSHIP

February 21st\$2,155
St. Vincent de Paul.....\$910
Our Lady of Wisdom relies on Bobcat Catholics like you for more than half the resources necessary to bring students of Texas State closer to their Catholic faith. Contact our Development Director, Zane Stehling, to join this mission at 512-392-5925.

PLEASE CONSIDER BISHOP VÁSQUEZ' PRAYER INTENTION FOR TODAY:

For all the faithful, that we will respond to God's mercy and avoid what distracts us and leads us away from God, we pray...

GOSPEL REFLECTION

Today Jesus challenges the people of his time and ours asking if we think those who suffer calamities are greater sinners than we are? To sin is to turn away from God. When we sin, to whom do we turn? We might first say we turn to other things or people, usually money, power, prestige, comfort. A bit more reflection reveals that we turn in on ourselves. God created us to be in relationship with him, like the fig tree in the Gospel, with our faces and arms turned toward God. Only with Christ are we able to bear fruit. What distracts me and causes me to turn in on myself rather than turn toward God? Where do I need Christ in order to bear fruit?

WEEKLY ACTIVITIES

ROSARY every Sunday 9:30am in the Lounge

ADORATION of the Blessed Sacrament

Tuesdays 5:45-9pm and *Mornings* Mon-Fri 8:30-9:30am in the Chapel

NIGHT PRAYER hosted by the men of Lambda Omega Alpha, 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings after Adoration.

FREE LUNCH every Tuesday 11am-1pm in the Lobby

BOBCATS FOR LIFE Thursdays 6:30pm in the Library

BIBLE STUDIES every day!

www.txstatecatholic.org

PLEASE CONSIDER POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY:

That we may take good care of creation – a gift freely given – cultivating and protecting it for future generations ...

AND

That opportunities may increase for dialogue and encounter between the Christian faith and the peoples of Asia ...

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES



Be spiritually prepared for Easter!

Penance Service here at Our Lady of Wisdom is Tuesday, March 1st.

In addition, there are services at St. Anthony's in Kyle on Fri. March 11th & at St. John's in San Marcos on Fri., March 18th. All Penance Services begin at 7pm

A SIGN-UP SHEET FOR COFFEE & DONUTS after the 10 a.m. Mass is located in our lobby. Please choose a date that is convenient for you and help with this important ministry!

BOBCAT AWAKENING FUNDRAISER

please come out and support Bobcat Awakening on Monday March 7th 6pm at Pluckers in San Marcos. Say you are with Bobcat Awakening– Texas State and a percentage of all tickets will go to Bobcat Awakening.

THANK YOU to the ladies from Wimberley for making our Free Lunch this past Tuesday!



ANNUAL LENTEN MISSION

Sunday March 6th

A visitor will present a focus for our continuing conversion during the season of Lent. This year Our Lady of Wisdom welcomes Christopher Sperling, an experienced speaker with the Intuitus Group, a Catholic counseling service in Austin. Every year we would like our entire community to participate. This year the topic of the 11:30am presentation will be for families, and at 6:15pm will be for students. Our morning session will have lunch and childcare provided. Both sessions will be in the chapel.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Next weekend we have the Catholic Relief Services (CRS) collection, which helps children, women and families around the world. Please give generously to the Catholic Relief Services collection.

WE PRAY for the over 150 students attending Bobcat Awakening #46 this weekend. May they be blessed by a conversion of heart and increase in faith.

