



CHURCH OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

SAN FRANCISCO DE ASIS

Committed to living and proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ within the Catholic tradition, we are blessed to have as our patron saint someone who continues to call us to reach out to others in charity and compassion.

Church of

St Francis of Assisi

1114 Third Street SE
Rochester, MN 55904
507.288.7313
<http://stfrancis-church.org>

Parish Center Hours

Mon-Fri: 8AM - 4PM

Weekday Mass:

Tuesday - Friday 7AM

School Mass:

Tuesday 9:30AM

Weekend Mass:

Saturday 4:30PM
Sunday 8AM, 10AM

In Spanish:

Thursday 7PM
Sunday 12PM

Misa En Español:

Jueves 7PM
Domingo 12PM

Pastor

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar

Rev. Luis Vargas



And he told them this parable:

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, 'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'"

Why should it exhaust the soil?"

- Luke 13:6-7

A MESSAGE FROM FR JIM BERNING



THE THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT. Lent is the Church's spring-time. It is a time for inner growth - made possible by openness to the Spirit at this Holy Eucharist. Again this weekend, we receive the gift of new life and God is patient with us. As with the fig tree that wasn't bearing fruit, Jesus uses this holy season - this journey - to cultivate and tend to us His holy people. Lent is an invitation to action on our part and we are asked to seize the day. We are open. The time is now. Please come to church. Happy Spring and Lent!

CONSECRATION OF RUSSIA/UKRAINE TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY.

The Holy See has announced that Pope Francis will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Friday, March 25 (the Solemnity of the Annunciation) at 5PM in St. Peter's Square in Rome. EWTN will broadcast the ceremony live beginning at 12 noon ET. In solidarity, on Friday, March 25, the Church of St Francis of Assisi will hold a **Day of Prayer** to include Eucharistic Adoration following the 7AM Mass until the Stations of the Cross at 6PM. Please call the Parish Center if you are willing to spend an hour in Adoration praying for peace in our world!

INVITE US DEEPER. Almighty and ever living God, you invite us deeper into your world, your people, your Lent. May this time be one of inward focus and outward focus; seeking you in those we often ignore, and the places in ourselves that need your compassion. Enter there. Help us live a Lent focused on freedom, generosity and encounter. Give us hearts hungry to serve you and those who need what we have to give. Amen.

CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL 2022. We are off to a great start! We are so grateful to the 31 parishioners that have already contributed \$11,365 towards our 2022 goal of \$49,661. Participation is the key to reaching our goal. If you have yet to make a contribution, please prayerfully consider doing so. As always, 100% of the monies reached over our goal will be returned to the parish for our designated building project: refinishing the pews. Let us reach our goal quickly - and exceed it - to help fund our own project!

INVITATION TO ACTION. We are currently returning to active participation in our Liturgical ministries – Readers, Ministers of Holy Communion, Ministers of Hospitality and we encourage you to consider getting involved in one of these areas. Also, on Sunday, **April 3** at 4PM, we will have an Altar Server Training/Refresher as we return to our pre-pandemic celebration of the Holy Mass. The training will be followed by a Pizza Party in the St Clare Room. We strongly encourage those of you with children 3rd Grade or older to discuss this with your child. Altar serving is a great way for our youth to be involved in the Mass! Please RSVP to the Parish Center at 288-7313 for the Altar Server Training/Refresher with who will be attending so we order enough pizza!

PRAY FOR PEACE. May this Lenten Season be a time of prayer and fasting for peace in our world. "In God, no act of love, no matter how small, and no "generous effort" will ever be lost." - Pope Francis Lenten Message 2022

Prince of Peace, pray for us!

Fr. Jim C. Berning

WELCOME

Welcome to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi. Our church has helped to bring Jesus Christ to the city of Rochester since 1937. We seek to foster the spiritual growth of our parishioners through the celebration of the Sacraments, catechesis, community life, and personal prayer. Like our patron saint, we strive to rebuild the Church and to console the heart of Jesus by serving our neighbors in need.

PARISH CONTACTS

Parish Center Office

(507) 288-7313

Pastor (x 202)

Rev. Jim Berning

Parochial Vicar (x 203)

Rev. Luis Vargas

Parish Administrator (x 204)

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Office Manager (x 201)

Michelle Ibarra

Financial Secretary (x 205)

Paula Oates

Director of Music/Liturgy (x 301)

Hope Giesen

Faith Formation (x 207)

Mark Nuehring

St. Francis of Assisi School

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Principal

Andrew Poterucha

Trustees

Bruce Anderson

Rosemary Bengal

Knights of Columbus

Bruce Anderson

Calvary Cemetery

Steve Flynn, Director

(507) 273-0140

Catholic Charities

(507) 287-2047



PREPARANDONOS HACIA LA PASCUA

En este caminar de cuaresma como preparación hacia la Pascua, se nos ofrecen muchas oportunidades para seguir creciendo espiritualmente con el único objetivo de buscar la conversión y la salvación, todos queremos llegar al cielo, todos queremos vivir en amistad con Dios, la Cuaresma es un tiempo favorable para un encuentro íntimo con nuestro Padre Dios.

EL VIACRUCIS. Cada viernes de cuaresma tenemos el rezo del Santo Viacrucis en nuestra Iglesia a las 6 de la tarde, es un momento de encuentro comunitario, es bilingüe, tenemos folletos del viacrucis en los dos idiomas, no olvide tomar un folleto al entrar a la Iglesia para que todos podamos orar juntos.

RETIRO ESPIRITUAL. Hace ya más de dos años que no hemos vuelto a tener un retiro espiritual, nuevamente se nos ofrece este gran oasis espiritual, el retiro ha sido llamado "Caminando con su poder y su fuerza". Tendrá lugar el Sábado 26 de marzo desde las 9 de la mañana hasta las 4 de la tarde, será en el Gimnasio de la escuela San Francisco de Asís, Habrá avivamiento y alabanzas, profunda reflexión y renovación espiritual, ofreceremos el sacramento de la Confesión y adoración al Santísimo Sacramento. Los predicadores serán Lino y Annette Bonilla, Deberá darse una donación de \$25 por persona, habrá cuidado de niños menores de 11 años. todos los domingos estarán registrando en la zona de hospitalidad, es importante que se registren con tiempo para poder organizar la logística como por ejemplo cuanta comida necesitamos. También pueden traer a los niños, para ellos solo darán una donación voluntaria.

CONFESIONES. Tenemos varios días en los que se nos ofrece el valioso y liberador sacramento de la reconciliación, no hay nada más saludable para el alma que andar limpios y puros de los muchos pecados que nos manchan el alma, veamos la programación para que estemos al día y podamos acercarnos al sacramento de la confesión. La jornada de confesiones más cercana será el día martes 22 de Marzo desde las 7:30 pm en la Iglesia de San Francisco, tendremos varios sacerdotes que nos ayudaran a atender el sacramento de la confesión. También atenderemos confesiones todos los jueves después de la misa de 7:00 pm. Nuestro Señor Jesucristo los recibe con el corazón abierto a través de los sacerdotes.

MASS INTENTIONS



For the Week of March 21, 2022

MON Mar 21		NO MASS
TUES Mar 22	7:00 AM	Justin Phelps †
	* 9:30 AM	Kertis Family
WED Mar 23	7:00 AM	Chrissy Morales (Birthday)
THU Mar 24	7:00 AM	Mary Ann O'Rourke (Birthday)
	** 7:00 PM	
FRI Mar 25	7:00 AM	Marge Chester †
SAT Mar 26	4:30 PM	Don Wannarka †
SUN Mar 27	8:00 AM	Herb Pattinson †
	10:00 AM	Albert Dashow †
	** 12:00 PM	For the Parish

* School Mass ** Spanish Mass

MASS INTENTIONS

If you have a desire to remember someone who has passed away or simply in need of some extra prayers, Mass Intentions are available every day for our weekday Masses and on the weekends. You are welcome to stop by the Parish Office and schedule a Mass intention during normal office hours.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 20, 2022

Sunday: Ex 3:1-8a, 13-15/Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11 [8a]/1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/Lk 13:1-9
 Monday: 2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4/Lk 4:24-30
 Tuesday: Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25: 4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9/Mt 18:21-35
 Wednesday: Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20/Mt 5:17-19
 Thursday: Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9/Lk 11:14-23
 Friday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8a, 8b-9, 10, 11/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38
 Saturday: Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab/Lk 18:9-14
 Next Sunday: Jos 5:9a, 10-12/Ps 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7 [9a]/2 Cor 5:17-21/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

LAS LECTURAS DE LA SEMANA DEL 20 DE MARZO DE 2022

Domingo: Ex 3, 1-8. 13-15/Sal 102, 1-2. 3-4. 6-7. 8. 11 [8]/1 Co 10, 1-6. 10-12/Lc 13, 1-9
 Lunes: 2 Kgs 5, 1-15/Sal 41, 2. 3; 43, 3. 4/Lc 4, 24-30
 Martes: Dn 3, 25. 34-43/Sal 24, 4-5. 6 y 7. 8-9/Mt 18, 21-35
 Miércoles: Dt 4, 1. 5-9/Sal 147, 12-13. 15-16. 19-20/Mt 5, 17-19
 Jueves: Jr 7, 23-28/Sal 94, 1-2. 6-7. 8-9/Lc 11, 14-23
 Viernes: Is 7, 10-14; 8, 10/Sal 39, 7-8. 8-9. 10. 11/Heb 10, 4-10/Lc 1, 26-38
 Sábado: Os 6, 1-6/Sal 50, 3-4. 18-19. 20-21/Lc 18, 9-14
 Domingo siguiente: Jos 5, 9. 10-12/Sal 33, 2-3. 4-5. 6-7 [9]/2 Co 5, 17-21/Lc 15, 1-3. 11-32

CATHOLIC EDUCATION



THE NEST PRESCHOOL AT RCS IS EXPANDING IN 2022-2023! The Nest preschool at Rochester Catholic Schools is growing and will feature expanded offerings including programs at all five of our convenient RCS locations for the fall of 2022. New offerings include an all-day Pre-Kindergarten (Age 4) program at our St. Francis of Assisi and Lourdes High School campuses. In addition, we have added a Preschool (Age 3) classroom at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist Middle School, and opened an Early Preschool (Age 2) program at Holy Spirit Catholic School! Our classrooms are filling - learn more and register today by visiting rcsmn.org/thenest

RCS SUMMER CARE PROGRAM. Available Registration for our Summer Care program for ages 3-12 is open! The registration link can be found on the RCS website and in the weekly broadcasts. Summer Care will be held at Holy Spirit Catholic School. For families interested in Summer tutoring and Summer Academy, registration will open at a later date.

ST MARY'S UNIVERSITY: THE VALUE OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION. Catholic education solidifies a student's character and ethical framework for life as well as their personal relationship with and love for Christ. At St. Mary's University of Minnesota, the state's Lasallian Catholic university, each student receives an education that nourishes their intellect, body, and spirit and offers an incomparable community with committed faculty who seek to have each student thrive. Saint Mary's is recognized as a 2021-22 Catholic College of Distinction. It was also ranked as Minnesota's 'Best Value' by U.S. News & World Report, 2022. For parents and students planning their college search, consider visiting St. Mary's University in our diocese. Learn more about St. Mary's at: smunmn.edu/admission/undergraduate



ANOINTING OF THE SICK

MASS OF ANOINTING FOR THE ELDERLY AND SICK.

There will be a Mass of Anointing for the Elderly and Sick on Wednesday, March 30 at 10:30AM at the Co-Cathedral of St. John the Evangelist. Mass will be followed by Fellowship and Treats.

2022 CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL



CATHOLIC MINISTRIES APPEAL. As Catholics, we are blessed to be strengthened and united by Christ in the Eucharist and sent forth to bring the peace and joy of our Triune God to all those we encounter. As individual members of the Body of Christ, we all possess different gifts and talents for furthering the ministry of Christ and His Church. During this year, may we all strive to be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts throughout

the Catholic community, using our personal gifts of time, talent, and treasure.

2022 CMA APPEAL PRAYER. "Heavenly Father, may we become Your disciples through our support of the 2022 Catholic Ministries Appeal. We thank you, Lord, for the many blessings of our lives. We cherish the gifts of time, talent, and treasure that each member of our universal Church family makes to build up Christ's Church in love. We ask you, Lord, to send us forth in this spirit of love to serve our communities and our world with open hearts. Amen."

Please support the 2022 CMA so that we may be Disciples of Christ, Stewards of His Gifts. Every gift makes a difference! To give: www.catholicismn.org

Hola! Bienvenido
welcome!

A warm WELCOME is extended to all who come to the Church of St. Francis of Assisi! We are grateful to our faithful parishioners and welcome our neighbors and guests who are visiting us. We want you to know that you are always welcome here!

¡Una BIENVENIDA a todos los que vienen a la Iglesia San Francisco de Asís! Estamos agradecidos con nuestros fieles feligreses y damos la bienvenida a nuestros vecinos e invitados que nos visitan.

¡Queremos que sepan que siempre son bienvenidos aquí!

THANK YOU! With your help, we have been able to assemble almost 5 complete "Welcome Baskets" for the Jeremiah House, already. These baskets help single mothers make their new apartment a home. Please look at the list below and select one thing you can donate toward the next 5 baskets. Please place your donations in or around the resource box in the Gathering Space.

1. Bath Towel Set (2)
2. Bed in a Bag (Dbl)
3. Pots/Pan Set
4. Corelle Ware Set for 4
5. Foldable Wagon
6. Silverware Set for 4
7. Cooking Utensil Set
8. Bed in a Bag (Single XL)
9. Glassware Set of 4
10. Large laundry basket

RCIA. RCIA is short for the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults. This process is for adults who wish to become Catholic. Over the last month, the five adults listed below have come forward to start their journey toward becoming Catholic. Please say a prayer for them as they really start their journey.

Heather Sam Kayla Eva Katie

FORMED. Was one of your Lenten goals to pray more? The Diocese of Winona-Rochester has provided our parish with a FREE subscription to FORMED. Take some time this week to visit <https://formed.org> (select St Francis parish) and see how valuable it could be to your Lenten journey!

- Mark (youthminister@stfrancis-church.org)

CANTORS AND CHOIR MEMBERS NEEDED! St. Augustine said that when we sing, we pray twice. If you are a singer and are interested in sharing your gift by singing in the choir at St. Francis, please join us as we start up our choir for Palm Sunday and Holy Week liturgies.

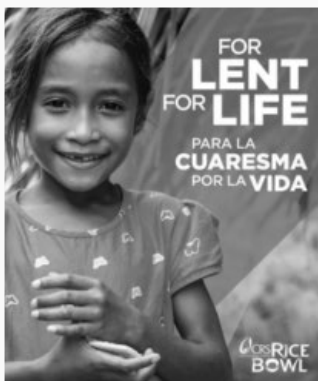
"The Church needs musicians. How many sacred works have been composed through the centuries by people deeply imbued with the sense of the mystery! The faith of countless believers has been nourished by melodies flowing from the hearts of other believers, either introduced into the liturgy or used as an aid to dignified worship. In song, faith is experienced as vibrant joy, love, and confident expectation of the saving intervention of God." - Pope Saint John Paul II

May all our voices join together to proclaim the goodness of the Lord!

MINISTRY SCHEDULE FOR MARCH 26/27:

	Reader	Hospitality Minister	Minister of Holy Communion
Saturday, 4:30 PM	Jean Farmer	John Sibley David Klinkhammer	Rose Bengal
Sunday, 8:00 AM	Steve Baule	Pat Stern [open]	Ruth Wentz
Sunday, 10:00 AM	Rick Fishbune	Steve Patek Lesia Patek	Lucy Becker

- Hope (liffranc@stfrancis-church.org)

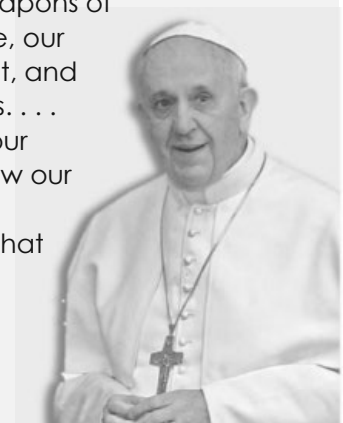


BECOME CLOSER TO GOD THIS LENTEN SEASON USING CRS RICE BOWL. Each Lent, Catholic families across the country unite to put their faith into action through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Lenten alms donated through CRS Rice Bowl support the work of CRS in more than 100 different countries each year.

Twenty-five percent of donations to CRS Rice Bowl stay in the local diocese, supporting hunger and poverty alleviation efforts. For more information, please visit: www.crsricebowl.org. **Please be generous!**

INVOCATION OF PEACE. God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness. . . . Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that . . . our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen.

- Pope Francis





PARISH LENTEN OPPORTUNITY.

During Lent the Church invites us to participate in three traditional practices – prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. The Resource ROOM is dedicated to providing love, hope and a new beginning for persons in need. We invite you to give to our neighbors in one of two ways. Either purchase an

item from the list below for the Resource Room or make out a check to Neighbors in Need and place it in the collection basket. Thank you for your incredible generosity!

- | | | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Silverware | Frying Pans | Crockpots |
| Toasters | Paper Towels | Dish Soap |
| Laundry Soap | Toilet Paper | Hand/bar Soap |
| Toothbrushes | Toothpaste* | Shampoo* |
| Conditioner* | Deodorant* | Cleaning Supplies |
| Sheets (Queen) | Blankets (Queen) | |

* Full-Size

Easter Flowers

If you would like to donate Easter flowers or decorations for our church, either as a gift or in memory of a loved one, please complete and return this form with your donation either in the collection or to the Parish Center. Thank you!

Your Name: _____

In Honor of/Memory of: _____



#MERCYINMOTION CAMPAIGN.

Inspired by this “little way,” Catholic Charities is inviting you to join us in our 2nd Annual #MercyInMotion Campaign. Like last year, we will focus on one of the Corporal Works of Mercy each week, offering concrete ways in which you can take up the Lenten call to Pray, Fast, and Give alms. Check your parish bulletin, or our Facebook page (Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota), for weekly updates. To learn more, visit www.ccsomn.org/mercyinmotion

SHELTER THE HOMELESS. “Is this not, rather, the fast that I choose: . . . sharing your bread with the hungry, bringing the afflicted and the homeless into your house; clothing the naked when you see them, and not turning your back on your own flesh” (Is. 58:6-7)? This week, answer Christ’s call to Shelter the Homeless by 1) Praying for those without shelter, as well as those who are forced to leave their home countries; 2) Lowering the thermostat by 5 degrees in solidarity with those who have no warm shelter; 3) Generously supporting your local Habitat for Humanity. For more ideas on how to put Christ’s Mercy in Motion this Lent, please visit www.ccsomn.org/mercyinmotion

CATHOLIC CHARITIES DIAPER DRIVE: MARCH 1-31, 2022.

Catholic Charities of Southern Minnesota is hosting a diaper drive during March for families in need across Southern Minnesota. We are in need of Diapers sizes 1-6, Wipes, Baby lotion and shampoo. Thank you for your generous support! Collection Sites are Pax Christi and Catholic Charities 903 Center St. W, STE 220; Rochester.

LHS SENIOR CLASS FUNDRAISER.

Join us for the LHS Senior Class Fundraiser on March 23! The Tap House West End, 2365 Commerce Drive NW, will donate 25% of sales ALL DAY to support the senior class celebration. Mention Lourdes Senior Class when you order. Pre-order online at taphouse.hrpos.heartland.us/menu.

RCS VANSELOW FISH FRY.

We are excited to host the RCS Vanselow Fish Fry on Friday, April 8, 4:30 - 7:30PM at Lourdes High School (food served until 6:30 p.m.). This family-friendly community event carries on the legacy of Gary Vanselow and the 15-year fish fry tradition with a few changes this year, including a new name, outdoor venue, and drive-thru meal pick-up! Join us this Lenten season, and enjoy great food, fellowship, and fun! Heated tents for optional outdoor dining and bouncy houses for kids (weather permitting). Three great meal options! Meals must be ordered in advance. Pre-order at rcsmn.org/fishfry by March 23.



FAMILY CONNECTION.

We may be unfamiliar with fig trees, but we might know about the growth of spring flowers. Perhaps we have looked at a dry, brown flower bulb and wondered how this produces the colorful tulip or daffodil blossom that we expect to bloom in the spring. Perhaps we've even thought

about the patience and hope that are required to plant flower bulbs in October. We don't have to be gardeners, however, to know about patience and hopefulness.

As parents, we practice these virtues each day with our children. We may become frustrated and even angered by their willfulness and lack of cooperation. Yet we continue to offer our attention and guidance in hope that one day our efforts will bear fruit. Today's parable suggests that God is like that with us, working with us in patience and in hope that one day we will show evidence that such work is not in vain. As parents, we know God's kindness when we find evidence for our hope for our children. Does God find such glimmers of hope as he works with us?

Gather your family and show a spring flower in bloom. Recall that in the fall this flower was a dry bulb (if a flower bulb is available, show this as well). Talk about the hopefulness and patience shown by those who plant flower bulbs in the fall in the hope that they will bloom in the spring. Read aloud today's Gospel, Luke 13:1-9. Compare the parable of the barren fig tree to your discussion about spring flowers. Consider the patience and hopefulness that God has with us as he works with us, calling us to return to him when we sin. Offer prayers of thanks and praise to God for his patience and hopefulness towards us. Conclude by praying together today's Psalm, Psalm 103.

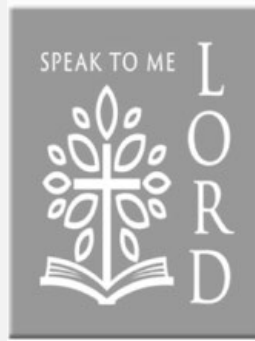
<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>



The St Francis of Assisi Knights of Columbus Council 14170 meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month from 7-8PM in the St Clare Room in the basement of the church. We invite all men of the parish to join us to find out more about the Knights of Columbus and about the men who

belong to Council 14170.

Questions? Please contact Bruce Anderson via email (branderson781983@gmail.com) or phone (507-358-5478). We look forward to seeing you!



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. During this journey, Jesus teaches and heals. He must also respond to those who question and challenge his authority and

actions. There is no parallel in Mark's or Matthew's Gospels for today's reading from Luke. While Mark and Matthew describe an incident in which Jesus curses the fig tree, today's reading makes the barren fig tree the subject of a parable.

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' 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 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.

<https://www.loyolapress.com/catholic-resources/liturgical-year/sunday-connection>

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