A time to consider the giving up of what we are, for what we may become.
Message of the Week

"There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it [he] found none." We live in a results-driven society. It can be easy to put pressure on ourselves to succeed. If we're not keeping up with the perceived "good life" of those around us, we feel anxious and disappointed. Some of the Gospel stories about fruitfulness can seem to play out in this fashion.

"For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down." The message seems to be clear. Abide in God and bear fruit! Stand apart from God and be barren. But what happens when we're trying, but the growth we wanted doesn't seem to be coming our way? What if it feels like life just isn't bearing fruit?

This Sunday, Jesus gives us a sign of hope. "[The gardener] said to him in reply, 'Sir, leave it for this year also, it may bear fruit in the future." How quick we can be to judge! Perhaps you started out Lent with high hopes and big ideas for getting closer to God. Maybe things haven't gone exactly like you thought. It can be easy to lose patience with our failures or slow growth. We shouldn't be too quick to assume that God has given up on us. He hasn't.

The same ideas apply to those around us. Perhaps we're the planter of the fig tree. We expect a certain amount of growth from someone in our life, and they just aren't measuring up. Let today's Gospel be a gentle nudge for mercy. As Lent continues to unfold, be patient with yourself and those around you. Wait for God to provide the growth.

(Lpi Resource Center)

Questions of the Week

How am I like the fig tree that has not borne fruit?
How can I bear fruit in the year ahead?
**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Baby Bottle Campaign for Abria Pregnancy Resources**

Abria North Side provides life-affirming medical and personal support services, education, and resources for women and couples experiencing an unexpected pregnancy. You can help by picking up an empty “Baby Bottle” at Church entrances. Please place your donation of checks, cash, or change into the bottle. We will collect them at the end of the Lenten Season. Checks may be payable to Abria. Thank you for your support.

**The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Christ, Minneapolis Community**

You are invited to join the Sisters for prayer this Saturday, March 21st at 4:00 PM in the OLV Convent. Call 773-273-6342 if you need further information.

**VOlUNTEERS NEEDED**

We are in need of new Eucharistic Ministers and Lectors for our Masses. This would require volunteering at least once a month to help with these ministries. If you are interested, please call our Musical Director, Sharon Kosel at 763-345-9001.

**Eucharistic Ministers**

Saturday, March 21st - 5:00 PM  
Sr. Chidwado

Sunday, March 22nd - 9:30 AM  
Sr. Jovita

**Lectors**

Saturday, March 21st - 5:00 PM  
Judy Cameron

Sunday, March 22nd - 9:30 AM  
Bev Truran

**Money Counters**

Sunday, March 22nd  
Lisa Kline and Bev Truran

**WEEKEND COLLECTION**

March 7th / 8th - $1,836.00

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**To all the parishioners who completed the SYNOD Surveys.** We had a good response and appreciate the time you took to give your feedback. We will continue to provide updates of the SYNOD 2021 process.
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• Travel within Mpls-St Paul metro area
• Able to walk on roofs and handle ladders

To set up an interview, call 612-324-5048
Lic. #BC639341