



MARY
Queen of the Apostles



MARÍA
Reina de los Apóstoles

March 21, 2021

www.MQOA.org

978-745-9060 | info@MQOA.org

WELCOME

**Be welcomed.
Be healed.
Belong.**

We hope that you find us to be Holy Spirit-filled disciples of Jesus Christ, centered in the Eucharist.

Contact us soon to find out how you can be a part of what MQOA is doing to offer welcome and healing to all.



5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

LIFTED

"And when I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw everyone to myself." - Jn 12: 32

"Cuando yo sea levantado de la tierra, atraeré a todos hacia mí". - Jn 12, 32



THIS WEEK AT MQOA:

02-03

A MESSAGE FROM FR. MURRAY

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THIS WEEK AT MQOA

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ASK THE BISHOP

07

CONNECT AND GROW

02 A MESSAGE FROM FR. MURRAY



One of the interesting truths about Lent is that it can cause tension. Right from the start, all of us are called to change our minds and hearts, which we hope will change our behaviors. Through prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, we change our minds about the influence some things have over our lives. In Lent, changing our behavior can help us to question what we spend our time, energy, and trust on, and that frees us to recognize that what we really need is God and His desire to love us unconditionally through his son Jesus.

This week's readings remind us that as Jesus was teaching, there were some who did not want their minds changed. The tension of resistance is real. Nicodemus has always been a character who catches my attention, because he was called to change but could not seem to break out of the old way that he was comfortable with and knew well.

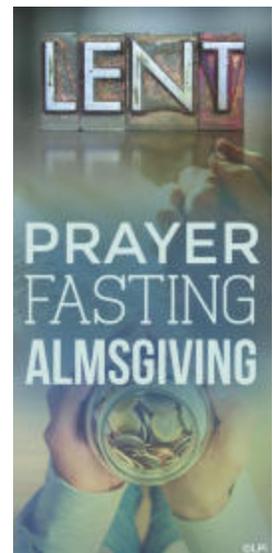
Change is hard, as we all know. Change that we do not like is

especially hard. I prefer the changes that are easy and satisfying (e.g., Those new shoes that make walking comfortable or the shirt that makes me look thinner). During this pandemic, we have changed the way we celebrate Mass together and how we gather, both in person and online. These changes have made people feel safe and comfortable. In the beginning it was difficult, but now those who seek the sacraments have grown accustomed to the changes we had to make to ensure the safety of everyone, from our parishioners to the church employees and priests. The changes have sometimes been dramatic and challenging, but we can proudly say that so far, we have shut down just one time because of a COVID contact connection, and not because of an actual outbreak at our parish.

Since its beginnings, the Church has always been changing. The changes we see now reflect what we had been discussing for a long time but had not yet been put into place. We are now online each week and are capable of many more technological possibilities that allow us to evangelize and heal better than before. We (the staff)

recently watched a video that challenged us to change too. In the future, people will surely wonder how we all adapted and changed to face the reality of our situation in the pandemic. At MQOA, we will be able to say that we did adapt, we did change to meet the challenging times. It started last Lent and has brought us to this one. We are still changing, growing, and adapting to hear and see the truth, proclaim the Gospel, and heal those who come to us. Let us never stop feeling the tension of change.

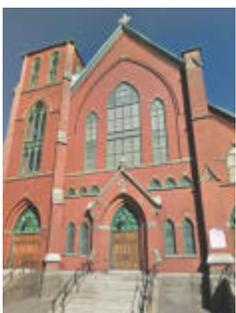
*Peace,
Father Murray*



PARISH INFORMATION

Parish Offices: 158 Federal St. Salem, MA 01970 | 978-745-9060 |

The office is not open at this time. Please call to make an appointment.



ST. JAMES CHURCH

156 Federal St. Salem, MA 01970

Conference Room:

158 Federal St.

Rear Hall: enter from rear parking



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

15 Hawthorne Blvd. Salem, MA 01970

Rectory: 30 Union St.

UN MENSAJE DEL PADRE MURRAY 03

Una de las verdades interesantes sobre la Cuaresma es que puede causar tensión. Desde el principio, todos estamos llamados a cambiar nuestra mente y nuestro corazón, lo que esperamos que nos haga cambiar también nuestro comportamiento. Cambiamos de opinión sobre la influencia que algunas cosas tienen sobre nuestras vidas para poder darnos cuenta de que lo que realmente necesitamos es reconocer nuestra dependencia de Dios y su deseo de amarnos incondicionalmente a través de su hijo Jesús. Desde el comienzo de la Cuaresma hasta ahora se nos ha animado a cambiar a través de la oración, el ayuno y la limosna. Mientras luchamos con nuestros viejos comportamientos, se nos detiene y se nos pide que reflexionemos nuevamente sobre lo que estamos haciendo y por qué. Y esto nos genera tensión.

Las lecturas de esta semana nos recuerdan que mientras Jesús estaba haciendo todo lo que hizo, hubo algunos que no querían cambiar de opinión. Ha sido así desde que Jesús llamó a Pedro, cuya mente, corazón y vida entera cambiaron después de conocerlo. La tensión de la resistencia también es real. Nicodemo siempre ha sido un personaje que admiré por-

que también estaba llamado a cambiar, pero parecía que no podía romper con la forma de ser antigua, con la que se sentía cómodo porque la conocía muy bien.

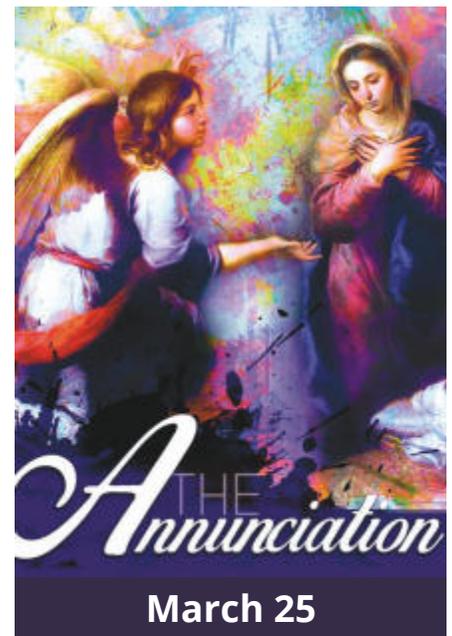
El cambio es difícil, como todos sabemos, o más bien el cambio "que no me gusta" es difícil. Me gustan los cambios que me agradan; por ejemplo, esos zapatos nuevos que se sienten cómodos al caminar, o esa camisa que me hace ver más delgada. O, por ejemplo, cambiamos la forma en que celebramos la Misa juntos para enfrentar esta pandemia y, por la forma en que nos reunimos ahora, está claro que este cambio ha hecho que la gente se sienta segura y cómoda. Al principio fue un poco difícil, pero ahora los que quieren celebrar los sacramentos, desde los bautismos hasta los funerales, se han acostumbrado a utilizar todos los cambios y precauciones para garantizar la seguridad de todos los participantes, desde las familias hasta los empleados de la iglesia y los sacerdotes. Los cambios a veces han sido dramáticos y desafiantes, pero podemos decir con orgullo que, hasta ahora, hemos cerrado solo una vez debido a un susto de contacto y no debido a un caso de COVID real.

La iglesia siempre está cambiando. Así ha sido desde el principio. Los cambios que vemos actualmente son un reflejo de lo que se pudo haber discutido durante mucho tiempo. Ahora estamos en línea cada semana y somos capaces de muchas más posibilidades tecnológicas que nos permitan evangelizar y sanar mejor que antes de que todo esto comenzara. Nosotros (el personal) recientemente vimos un video que nos desafió a cambiar también. En el futuro, se nos preguntará, ¿cómo cambió usted para adaptarse a la realidad en la que vivía? En MQOA, podremos decir, nos adaptamos, cambiamos. Este proceso comenzó durante la Cuaresma del año pasado y nos ha traído hasta la Cuaresma actual. Todavía estamos aquí, cambiando, creciendo y adaptándonos para escuchar y ver la verdad, proclamar el Evangelio y sanar a los que vienen a nosotros. ¡Que nunca dejemos de sentir la tensión del Cambio!

Paz, Padre Murray

Readings for the week of March 21, 2021

Sunday:	Jer 31:31-34/Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 [12a]/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33 or Ez 37:12-14/ Rom 8:8-11/Ps 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8 [7]/Jn 11:1-45 or 11:3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45
Monday:	Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 or 13:41c-62/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [4ab]/Jn 8:1-11
Tuesday:	Nm 21:4-9/Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 [2]/Jn 8:21-30
Wednesday:	Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95/Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 [52b]/Jn 8:31-42
Thursday:	Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Ps 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11 [8a, 9a]/Heb 10:4-10/ Lk 1:26-38
Friday:	Jer 20:10-13/Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 [cf. 7]/Jn 10:31-42
Saturday:	Ez 37:21-28/Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 [cf. 10d]/Jn 11:45-56
Next Sunday:	Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16/Is 50:4-7/Ps 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24 [2a]/Phil 2:6-11/Mk 14:1—15:47 or 15:1-39



04 THIS WEEK AT MQOA

MQOA THIS WEEK

SATURDAY

Mass, 4:00 PM

A recording of the Mass will be posted on our Facebook page and on our website. This can be viewed anytime at your convenience.

SUNDAY

Mass, 8:30 AM**
St. James Hall
In-Person

Spanish Mass, 11:30 AM **
Immaculate Church
In-Person

Also at 11:30 AM

A recording of the Mass, en español, will be posted on our Facebook page and on our website. This can be viewed anytime at your convenience.

Mass, 6:00 PM **
Immaculate Church
In-Person

**Listen in your car
from the church parking lot on
88.1 FM

TUESDAY

Weekday Mass
9 :00 AM

A recording of the Mass will be posted on our Facebook page and on our website. This can be viewed anytime at your convenience.

DAILY

Updates and inspiration on
our Facebook page:
[facebook.com/MQOASalem](https://www.facebook.com/MQOASalem)

ONLINE MASSES

A recording of the Mass will be posted on our website and Facebook page on **Saturdays at 4 PM (English)** and **Sundays at 11:30 AM (en español)**. After they are posted, you can view the Mass anytime at your convenience by going to: [facebook.com/mqoasalem](https://www.facebook.com/mqoasalem) OR www.mqoa.com/worship

IN-PERSON MASS

Sunday Masses indoors: **PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED** before attending one of our indoor Masses. Sign up, up to four weeks in advance. Please only sign up for the Sunday you plan to go indoors to celebrate Mass. Please wear masks and maintain social distancing.

YOU MAY ALSO REMAIN IN YOUR CAR. Mass will be broadcast on 88.1 FM and online. Communion will be brought to your car following Mass. If you plan to remain in your car, registration is not needed.

Sign up at: mqoa.org/worship. Or, call the office.

FOLLOW ALONG WITH MASS

If you are celebrating Mass in-person or watching Mass online, use this Mass Guide to follow along. Updated weekly with Sunday's readings. mqoa.org/worship



EVERYDAY STEWARDSHIP - RECOGNIZE GOD IN YOUR ORDINARY MOMENTS

When Our Own Hour Comes



We parents know that it's tricky, tackling the topic of fear with our kids. We want them to know that it's okay to be scared, that it's something we all feel from time to time. We want them to understand that bravery isn't the absence of fear, but the choices we make in persevering despite that feeling.

Most of all, we want to model the right kind of behavior for our kids. Whatever our scary situation is — illness, a job loss, life changes — we want them to see us make a choice to face that fear head-on.

Jesus seems to be the parent who is gently broaching the topic of fear with his children. A great sense of foreboding hangs over these readings. Jesus knew what was coming. He knew it was going to be hard, both for him and for his followers, who did not have his courage. Even he admits to being "troubled" and he speaks of "the time of judgment." There is the dramatic raising of Lazarus, the talk of how a grain of wheat must die in order to bear fruit, the depiction of Christ as an obedient student of his own suffering.

"Yet what should I say?" he asks them. "'Father, save me from this hour?' But it was for this purpose that I came to this hour."

This week, Christ gives us a very parental gift: He shows us his fear, and he shows us how to conquer it. He challenges us to embrace the purpose for which we came to this hour — whatever that hour may hold.

—Tracy Earl Welliver, MTS ©LPi



Extend your mercy towards others, so that there can be no one in need whom you meet without helping.
Vincent de Paul

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Please consider donating to the Society of St. Vincent de Paul. Your contributions are greatly appreciated during this pandemic, when so many people who have not needed help in the past are in need now due to COVID-related job loss or a reduction in work hours.

While we can't be at the church doors for our regular collections, you may place your donation in one of the **collection boxes at St. Anne's, St James, or Immaculate Conception**. Or, you may also **mail checks** made out to St. Vincent de Paul to:

**Society of St. Vincent de Paul
158 Federal St.
Salem, MA. 01970**

Thank you for helping the needy in Salem.



Have a question? Want to check in for a moment? Need prayer? Just want to say hi? Join Margo for office hours on Mondays during Lent, 10-11AM, on

Zoom.

Join our *MQOA Connections* Facebook page (search for this private group on Facebook), and Margo will post the link to Zoom every Monday.

YOUR PARISH ~ SUPPORTING YOU YOUR WEEKLY FINANCIAL SUPPORT MAKES EVERYTHING HAPPEN

Everything we do at Mary, Queen of the Apostles Parish is supported by your prayerful and financial support.



Your regular weekly contribution makes online ministries like Alpha, our streamed Adoration times, and recorded Masses happen, and supports our efforts to keep in touch, minister to, and serve our parishioners and beyond.

IF YOU HAVE ENVELOPES, please mail them to our office at **158 Federal Street**. You can also drop them in our secure mailbox at the office door.

WESHARE: Set up a recurring or a one-time offertory donation using your checking account or any major credit card. If you are able, please consider setting up a recurring donation.



YOU CAN GIVE ONLINE USING TEXT-TO-GIVE OR THE QR CODE:

GIVEBUTTER is a quick and easy way to give using your Venmo, Apple Pay, Google Pay, PayPal, or any major credit cards.

- Text: "MQOA" TO (202) 858-1233
- Scan the QR Code.
- Visit: www.givebutter.com/mqoa



BECOME A SUSTAINING GIVER:

Learn how you can support the parish with your Amazon purchases, and more at www.mqoa.org/donate



THANK YOU

FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT



06 INFORMATION

WALK THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During Lent, we encourage you to visit our outdoor Stations of the Cross, located at the side yard at IC. Walk and pray the traditional Stations of the Cross, follow and pray with Bishop Barron (Word On Fire), say the Scriptural Stations given to us by St. Pope John Paul II, or find Stations to follow for special intentions at the USCCB website.



At the first station, use the QR Code to access links to various Stations of the Cross to follow along to.

At the First Station you will find a QR Code that will take you to our "Stations of the Cross" page on our website where you will find links to these various Stations of the Cross, including the Stations in Spanish. In addition, you will find additional information and prayer resources.

In your browser you can also go to: www.mqoa.org/news/stations



A six-week series covering the Catholic Faith with talks and discussions on Zoom

THIS SUNDAY, March 21

"Ask The Bishop"



Bishop Mark O'Connell, Auxiliary Bishop for the North Region, will join us on Zoom, to answer your questions about the faith, the Church, Catholic practices you always wondered "why?", or anything you would like to ask.

Every Sunday at 7 PM

(Join any Sunday you are able)
See our website for more information.



Info Night on Zoom | April 2 at 7 PM

The Knights of Columbus are building a NEW parish-based council within the MQOA Catholic Community. You only need to give 2 hours a month of your time to express and live your Catholic faith in charity.

The Knights' guiding principles are charity and service. We anchor our service in programs that support faith building, community service, family strengthening, and a commitment to life. We welcome all men over the age of 18. There is a place for you here, whether single, newly married, married with a young family, an empty-nester, or retired.

We'd love for you to join us. Visit the "Event Page" on the church's Facebook page to find a link for the meeting: <https://fb.me/e/3mlB3dxLQ>

Or, reach out to Peter Mercier (petermercierrocks@gmail.com) or Peter Brau (peterbrau@yahoo.com) for details or if you have any questions."



Catholic Appeal | This is our Church



Every gift makes a difference. Please consider making your gift today. Your gift has a direct impact on our parish and the work of our Church. Thank you in advance for your generosity.

You can offer your support by going online to bostoncatholicappeal.org to make your gift, or scan our QR code, or mail to: The Catholic Appeal, RCAB Pastoral Center, 66 Brooks Drive, Braintree, MA 02184. (In memo line: MQOA #)

Thank you for your support!



Pray with us this Lent



Eucharist Adoration

Tuesdays, 7 PM | Online

Stations of the Cross

Online

Fridays, 6: 30 PM | Spanish

Fridays, 7 PM | English



Walk the Stations

Outdoor Stations of the Cross
Self-guided
IC Church side lawn

HOLY WEEK • EASTER

PALM SUNDAY, MARCH 27 & 28

SATURDAY

4PM Online | English

SUNDAY

8:30 AM St. James Church Hall | English

11:30 AM IC Church | Spanish

6PM IC Church | English

HOLY THURSDAY, APRIL 1

7PM Online & St. James Parking Lot | Bilingual

GOOD FRIDAY, APRIL 2

7PM Online & IC Side Lawn | Bilingual

HOLY SATURDAY, APRIL 3

4PM Online & St. James Parking Lot | Bilingual

4PM Online | English

EASTER SUNDAY, APRIL 4

8:30 AM St. James Parking Lot | English

11:30 AM IC Side Lawn | Spanish

Fifth Sunday of Lent



Any good teacher or parent will tell you that once a lesson is really learned, it doesn't need to be taught again. When we internalize things we have learned, they become a part of who we are and influence how we perceive and interact with our world. The same is true for the law God has written upon our hearts. Once humanity learns this lesson, we will simply know it to be true and act accordingly. Sometimes, it is hard to get people to learn the lessons they need to learn. They are often distracted, disinterested, conflicted, misdirected, or just too stubborn and unable or unwilling to see what is right before their eyes. Understanding

that God is in a loving and committed relationship with those fashioned and formed in God's own image, seems like such a simple lesson to learn. But history and experience has proven that it is not.

We struggle with faith, especially when that faith asks us to learn something very particular about ourselves. We must, like a grain of wheat, fall to the ground and die. Because God's DNA is at the very core of who we are, there are specific pearls of wisdom that must be acquired before we can live a full life. One very powerful lesson is that it is not the task of the world to tell us who we are and what has meaning, but God. For many, death is not an opportunity for greater life but a permanent ending to the life they have known. Jesus knew every dimension to what it means to be fully human because he was! He knows the joys, limitations, sorrows, frustrations, wonders, suffering, opportunities, and joys of the human experience. Jesus can teach us a wealth of knowledge and life's lessons from his example, especially obedience.

When we accept the law God has placed in our hearts and gain wisdom from it, then when we suffer, we learn to listen more attentively to the Voice behind that law. We naturally flee to our Creator for inspiration, consolation, hope, direction, and comfort as we navigate through this time of darkness. We will not need to run from it, subdue it, fight it, or be overcome by it because we will know, having internalized this profound lesson before, that God will bring new life. God's law is love and love never fails. Even in the moments of Jesus' deepest despair, he glorified the name of his Father. What he learned allowed him to put everything in perspective and be obedient to the tender, loving Voice that echoed within. As Lent quickly winds down, may we learn the same! Then, may we gain the fortitude and wisdom to help others see what is right before their eyes. ©LPi

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