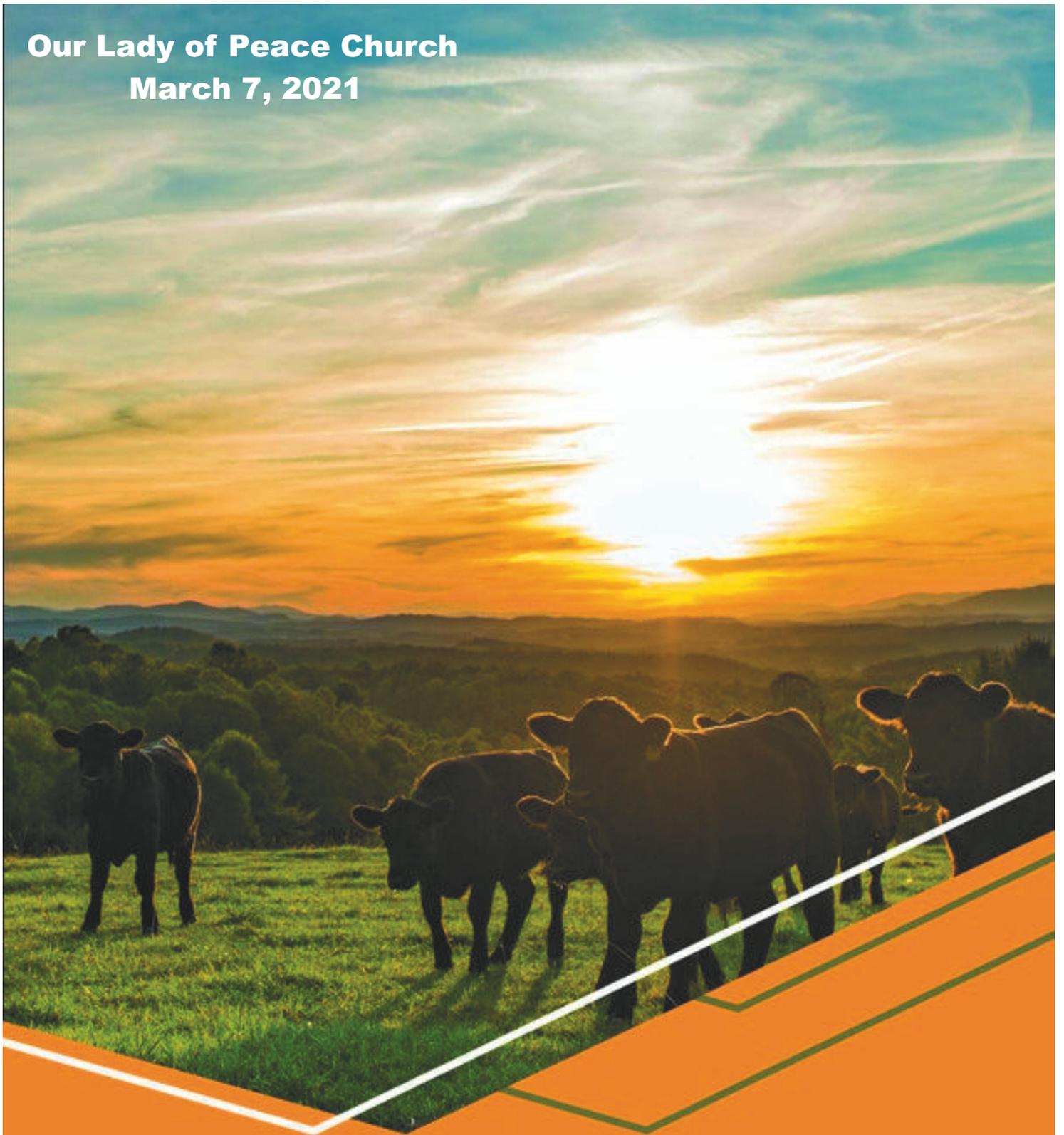


Our Lady of Peace Church
March 7, 2021



3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

Since the Passover of the Jews was near, Jesus went up to Jerusalem. He found in the temple area those who sold oxen, sheep, and doves, as well as the money changers seated there. He made a whip out of cords and drove them all out of the temple area. - Jn 2:13b-15a

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN

My dear friends,

“Making Love Real: the Ten Commandments”

In our first reading, Exodus 20:1-7, we find the presentation of the Ten Commandments, in a somewhat more expanded form than just the traditional list. This reading is part of a sequence of first readings for the first three Sundays of Lent. All deal with covenants that were entered into between God and certain individuals who stand for a larger group that they represent. On the first Sunday the covenant was with Noah, with the promise that God would never again destroy his people with a flood. On the Second Sunday the reading described the covenant between God and Abraham, in this case with the promise that Abraham would have descendants as numerous as the stars of the sky or the sands of the seashore.

This week, with the giving of the Ten Commandments, the one entering the covenant with God is Moses, who is the representative of the Hebrew people who have escaped from Egypt and now encounter God in the desert while they are on the way to the Promised Land. The heart of the covenant can be explained very simply: I will be your (only) God, and you will be my people. Looking at the Ten Commandments from the perspective of the covenant, the first three are meant to protect the relationship between God and the people, and the other seven enumerate the basic laws for the people living in community.

The passage begins with a somewhat lengthy explication of the first commandment, that the people are to have but one God. “In those days, God delivered all these commandments: I, the Lord, am your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, that place of slavery. You shall not have other gods besides me. You shall not carve idols for yourselves in the shape of anything in the sky above or on the earth below or in the waters beneath the earth; you shall not bow down before them or worship them. For I, the Lord, your God, am a jealous God, inflicting punishment for their fathers’ wickedness on the children of those who hate me, down to the third and fourth generation; but bestowing mercy down to the thousandth generation of those who love me and keep my commandments.” All of this may sound somewhat foreign to our ears, until we remember that idols can change. In our day, for example, we might make idols of money or possessions, which can become the most important thing in our lives. Wars have been fought over territory and possessions.

The second commandment is rather straightforward: “You shall not take the name of the Lord, your God in vain. For the Lord will not leave unpunished the one who takes his name in vain.” The third commandment, which deals with the keeping of the Sabbath, asks that human behavior be modeled after that of the Creator. “Remember to keep holy the Sabbath day. Six days you may labor and do all your work, but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord, your God. No work may be done then either by you, or your son or daughter, or your male or female slave, or your beast, or by the alien who lives with you. In six days the Lord made the heavens and the earth, the sea and all that is in them, but on the seventh day he rested. That is why the Lord has blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.” In the early Church, the special day of worship and rest was changed to Sunday because it was on that day that the Lord Jesus rose from the dead.

These three commandments are ways in which we safeguard and honor our relationship with God and express our love and gratitude for our life and our many blessings. The other seven commandments are meant to protect the life of the community—seven most basic expectations of behavior that make life in community possible. “Honor your father and your mother, that you may have a long life in the land which the Lord, your God, is giving you. You shall not kill. You shall not commit adultery. You shall not steal. You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. You shall not covet your neighbor’s house. You shall not covet your neighbor’s wife, nor his male or female slave, nor his ox or ass, nor anything that belongs to him.”

Through these Ten Commandments, the two basic commandments identified as being the most important are given greater clarity and specificity: you shall love the Lord your God, with all your heart, and all your soul, and all your mind (commandments one through three); you shall love your neighbor as yourself (commandments four through ten). Love is not to be left in the abstract, as a pious sentiment, or a lofty idea. Love needs to be made real through positive choices and actions by keeping God’s commandments.



Saturday, March 6—Stations of the Cross 3:00P

4:00P *Steven Saharceski*
by the Eichorn family

Sunday, March 7

8:00A *Deceased members of the Richotte family*
by their family

10:00A *Alex & Pauline Litskowski*
by Dennis & Cyndee

Saturday, March 13—Stations of the Cross 3:00P

4:00P *Joyce Kervian*
by Joyce & Tina Phillips

Sunday, March 14

8:00A *Elaine Godin*
by Ed & Robin

10:00A *Stevie Saharceski*
by Penny Martineau

DAILY MASS

Monday, March 8

8:00A *Charles & Effie Slatkavitz*
by Judy & Charlotte

Tuesday, March 9

8:00A *Leon Piccuch* 4th anniversary
by his family

Wednesday, March 10

8:00A *Lenten & Easter blessings for*
Connie & Ron Sicard
by a friend

Thursday, March 11

8:00A *Special intention*
by Marcia Caloon

Friday, March 12

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

March 12 *Jennie "Gram" Choleva*
by from her family
Catherine Berry on her birthday
by her family



MEMORIAL DONATIONS

In memory of *Loretta Demers* by Janet Rewa; *Terrie Greene* by Jamie & Nancy Yankowski and Chip Wood; for the Community Meals fund in memory of *Catherine Berry* by Eva Lee & Derrell Stratford and Wanda Kozloski.

IDEAS TO LIVE LENT 2021

and foods to donate to the *Community Meals Project*

- March 10 Fast from over spending
- March 11 Pray for all who have died recently
- March 12 Fast from watching TV
- March 13 Send a donation to an animal shelter
- March 14 Say the rosary
- March 15 Wave to someone you pass
- March 16 Fast from a vice that controls your life

Add to this week's shopping list:

Cans of fruit/fruit cups & fruit roll ups



Preparing the hall for Community Meal workers.



ACA provides for the ever-increasing educational, human, pastoral, and spiritual needs of the people of Berkshire, Franklin, Hampden, and Hampshire counties. *Please make your donation today.*

Contact 413-452-0670 or email aca@diospringfield.org

WEEKLY COLLECTION

February 28, 2021

Regular collection/mail \$3,696.00
On-line \$459.00

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