

**OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH**  
**March 14, 2021**

# BELIEVE



“Do you believe in  
the Son of Man?”

JOHN 9:35B

## FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN



My dear friends,

### Receiving Joy by Coming to the Light

You may recall that the Advent wreath has four candles, three violet and one pink (or old rose). The pink candle is lit on the Third Sunday of Advent as a sign of special rejoicing in preparation for Christmas. Well, this Fourth Sunday of Lent, while not celebrated with a wreath, is also a special time for rejoicing (and old rose vestments may be worn) in preparation for Easter. The traditional name, in Latin, was *Laetare Sunday*, which includes the command in the plural: Rejoice!

Our readings give us several reasons for rejoicing. The first passage, Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23, goes back to a remarkable story in Jewish history. In 597 BC King Nebuchadnezzar II of Babylon laid siege and destroyed Jerusalem and its temple. Most of the leading citizens of Judah were either put to death or taken captive, leading to years of painful exile. Our reading describes all of this as the result of the people of Israel refusing to listen to the words God spoke to them through the prophets. As a result, “Their enemies burnt the house of God, tore down the walls of Jerusalem, set all its palaces afire, and destroyed all its precious objects. Those who escaped the sword were carried captive to Babylon, where they became servants of the king of the Chaldeans until the kingdom of the Persians came to power.”

In 538/7 BC King Cyrus issued a decree allowing the Jewish people to return to their native land and rebuild. Our reading continues, “In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word spoken by Jeremiah, the Lord inspired King Cyrus of Persia to issue this proclamation throughout his kingdom, both by word of mouth and in writing: ‘Thus says Cyrus, king of Persia: All the kingdoms of the earth the Lord, the God of heaven, has given to me, and he has also charged me to build him a house in Jerusalem, which is in Judah. Whoever, therefore, among you belongs to any part of his people, let him go up, and may his God be with him!’” The joyful news is that the one true God is the God of all history, a God who can make even pagan rulers obey.

The Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 137, recalls the difficult years of exile that are now coming to an end. “By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion....For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, and our despoilers urge us to be joyous....How could we sing a song of the Lord in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!”

In our second reading, Ephesians 2:4-10, St. Paul gives us reason for great rejoicing indeed. Paul notes that God, who is rich in mercy because of the great love he has for us, has “brought us to life with Christ.” He writes that we have been saved by grace, by the pure gift of God, quite apart from our effort: “For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not from you; it is the gift of God; it is not from works, so no one may boast.”

Finally, the gospel passage, John 3:14-21, contains what is perhaps the most quoted verse in scripture: “For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” Again, our salvation is based in the goodness of God: “For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.”

The end of this gospel uses the image of light and darkness to highlight the way in which we are called to live as a result of our new life in Christ. “And this is the verdict, that the light came into the world, but people preferred darkness to light, because their works were evil. For everyone who does wicked things hates the light and does not come toward the light, so that his works might not be exposed. But whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” Filled with life and the joy of salvation, our readings invite us to share the light and joy with those who may be searching in all the wrong places.

### MISSED MASS AND DIDN'T GET THE BULLETIN OR HEAR THE HOMILY?

Go to our website [www.ourladyofpeacetf.org](http://www.ourladyofpeacetf.org)



**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** with Deacon Joe will be offered on the Saturdays of Lent at 3:00P. All are invited to spend this time of prayerful reflection to deepen their relationship with God and to experience the spirit of the season.

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

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

**Sunday, March 14**

8:00A      *Elaine Godin*  
              by Ed & Robin  
10:00A      *Stevie Saharceski*  
              by Penny Martineau

**Saturday, March 20—Stations of the Cross 3:00P**

4:00P      *Coogan & Broughan families*  
              by Sharon Broughan

**Sunday, March 21**

8:00A      *The Prunier family*  
              by Lillian Prunier  
10:00A      *Living members of the Mariani family*  
              by their family

**DAILY MASS****Monday, March 15**

8:00A      *Lenten & Easter blessings for  
Ray & Mary Jane Garbel*  
              by a friend

**Tuesday, March 16**

8:00A      *Pat Caloon*  
              by John

**Wednesday, March 17**

8:00A      *Lenten & Easter blessings for  
Sue & Mike Hastings*  
              by a friend

**Thursday, March 18**

8:00A      *Richard Cade*  
              by his family

**Friday, March 19**

8:00A      *Holy Communion Service*

**Our Lady's Window**

- March 18**      *Joseph Demers*  
              by Nancy & Tami
- March 19**      *Helen Podlenski*  
              by Mike & Sue Hastings
- March 27**      *Bob Lapinski 1st anniversary*  
              by Gladys

**MEMORIAL DONATIONS**

In memory of *Mary Conway* by Marcia Caloon; and a donation for the Community Meals Program in memory of *Catherine Berry* by Gary & Cheryl Lambert.

**IDEAS TO LIVE LENT 2021**

and foods to donate to the *Community Meals Project*

- March 17 Share a happy story with a friend
- March 18 Pray for 20 minutes
- March 19 Call 3 friends to check in
- March 20 Have a game night with your family
- March 21 Prepare a special meal with your family
- March 22 Go outdoors and look up at the sky
- March 23 Read or tell a Bible story to a child

**Add to this week's shopping list:**

**Cans of fruit/fruit cups & fruit roll ups**



The Tyler brothers work on their Religious Education assignments at home during the pandemic.



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