



# Sacred Heart

Catholic Church  
Richmond, Texas

Unite in Love, then Serve

Fifth Sunday in Lent

March 21, 2021



## Holy Mass

Social distancing & masks required. See [www.sacredhrt.com/covid](http://www.sacredhrt.com/covid).

**Saturday (Vigil):** 5:00 pm

**Sunday:** 7:30 am, 9:30 am, 11:30 am

**Weekday (Monday-Friday):** 8:00 am

## Adoration & Benediction

Mon-Thurs, following 8:00 am Mass

## Confession

Monday-Friday 8:45 to 9:30 am

Saturday 4:00-4:45 pm

**Anointing of the Sick** By appointment

**Baptism & Marriage**

Church Office, [www.sacredhrt.com](http://www.sacredhrt.com).

**Communion for Homebound/Sick**

Contact Church Office

## Church Open for Prayer

Monday-Thursday 8 am to 5 pm

Friday 8 am to 10 am

\* Sunday Masses and certain devotions will be streamed on the parish YouTube channel. On YouTube search for "Sacred Heart Catholic Church Richmond Texas" and click on Mass you wish to view.



## Stations of the Cross at Sacred Heart

Fridays of Lent  
3 & 6 pm



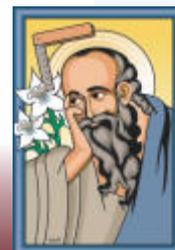
## On COVID-19 Vaccines

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[www.sacredhrt.com](http://www.sacredhrt.com)



## Gospel Reflection

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

In today's Gospel passage St John refers to an episode that occurred during the last phase of Christ's public ministry, just before the Jewish Passover, which was to be the Passover of his death and Resurrection. While Jesus was in Jerusalem, the Evangelist recounts, some Greeks, proselytes of Judaism who were curious and attracted by what he was doing, approached Philip, one of the Twelve who had a Greek name and came from Galilee. "Sir", they said to him, "we wish to see Jesus". Philip in turn went to Andrew, one of the first Apostles very close to the Lord and who also had a Greek name, and they both went and "told Jesus." (see Jn 12:20-21)

In the request of these anonymous Greeks we can interpret the thirst to see and to know Christ which is in every person's heart; and Jesus' answer orients us to the mystery of Easter, the glorious manifestation of his saving mission. "The hour has come", he declared, "for the Son of man to be glorified (Jn 12:23). Yes! The hour of the glorification of the Son of man is at hand, but it will entail the sorrowful passage through his Passion and death on the Cross. Indeed, the divine plan of salvation which is for everyone, Jews and Gentiles alike will only be brought about in this manner. Actually, everyone is invited to be a member of the one people of the new and definitive Covenant. In this light, we also understand the solemn proclamation with which the Gospel passage ends: "and I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself" (Jn 12:32), and likewise the Evangelist's comment: "He said this to show by what death he was to die" (Jn 12:33). The Cross: the height loftiness of love is the loftiness of Jesus and he attracts all to these heights.

Very appropriately, the liturgy brings us to meditate on this text of John's Gospel today, on this Fifth Sunday of Lent, while the days of the Lord's Passion draw near in which we will immerse ourselves spiritually as from next Sunday which is called, precisely, Palm Sunday and the Sunday of the Lord's Passion. It is as if the Church were encouraging us to share Jesus' state of mind, desiring to prepare us to relive the mystery of his Crucifixion, death and Resurrection not as foreign spectators but on the contrary as protagonists, involved together with him in his mystery of the Cross and the Resurrection. Indeed, where Christ is his disciples called to follow him, to be in solidarity with him at the moment of the combat must also be in order to share in his victory.

What our association with his mission consists of is explained by the Lord himself. In speaking of his forthcoming glorious death, he uses a simple and at the same time evocative image: "unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit." (Jn 12: 24)

He compares himself to a "grain of wheat which has split open, to bring much fruit to others", according to an effective statement of St Athanasius; it is only through death, through the Cross that Christ bears much fruit for all the centuries. Indeed, it was not enough for the Son of God to become incarnate. To bring the divine plan of universal salvation to completion he had to be killed and buried: only in this way was human reality to be accepted, and, through his death and Resurrection, the triumph of Life, the triumph of Love to be made manifest; it was to be proven that love is stronger than death.

Yet the man Jesus who was a true man with the same sentiments as ours felt the burden of the trial and bitter sorrow at the tragic end that awaited him. Precisely since he was God-Man he felt terror even more acutely as he faced the abyss of human sin and all that is unclean in hu-

manity which he had to carry with him and consume in the fire of his love. He had to carry all this with him and transform it in his love. "Now is my soul troubled", he confessed. "And what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour?" (Jn 12:27). The temptation to ask: "Save me, do not permit the Cross, give me life!" surfaces. In the distress of his invocation we may grasp in anticipation the anguished prayer of Gethsemane, when, experiencing the drama of loneliness and fear, he implored the Father to take from him the cup of the Passion. At the same time, however, his filial adherence to the divine plan did not fail, because it is precisely this that enables him to know that his hour has come and with trust he prays: "Father, glorify your name" (Jn 12:28). By this he means "I accept the Cross" in which the name of God is glorified, that is, the greatness of his love. Here too Jesus anticipates the words of the Mount of Olives, the process that must be fundamentally brought about in all our prayers: to transform, to allow grace to transform our selfish will and open it to comply with the divine will. The same sentiments surface in the passage of the Letter to the Hebrews proclaimed in the Second Reading. Prostrated by extreme anguish because of the death that was hanging over him, Jesus offers up prayers and supplications to God "with loud cries and tears" (Heb 5:7). He invokes help from the One who can set him free but always remaining abandoned in the Father's hands. And precisely because of his filial trust in God, the author notes, he was heard, in the sense that he was raised, he received new and definitive life. The Letter to the Hebrews makes us understand that these insistent prayers, of Jesus with tears and cries, were the true act of the High Priest with which he offered himself and humanity to the Father, there by transforming the world.

Dear brothers and sisters, this is the demanding way of the Cross that Jesus points out to all his disciples. On several occasions he said, "If anyone wants to serve me, let him follow me". There is no alternative for the Christian who wishes to fulfill his vocation. It is the "law" of the Cross, described with the image of the grain of wheat that dies in order that new life may germinate; it is the "logic" of the Cross, recalled also in today's Gospel: "He who loves his life loses it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life". "To hate" one's life is a strong and paradoxical Semitic expression that clearly emphasizes the radical totality which must distinguish those who follow Christ and, out of love for him, put themselves at the service of their brethren. They lose their life and thus find it. There is no other way to experience the joy and the true fruitfulness of Love: the way of giving oneself, of self-giving, of losing oneself in order to find oneself.

May the infinite love of Christ that shines in his Face be radiant in your every attitude, and become your "daily life". As St Augustine urged in an Easter homily, "Christ has suffered; let us die to sin. Christ is risen; let us live for God. Christ has passed from this world to the Father; let us not be attached to this earth with our hearts but follow him in the things of above. Our Lord was hung on the wood of the Cross; let us crucify concupiscence of the flesh. he lay in the tomb; buried with him, let us forget past things; he is seated in Heaven; let us concentrate our longing on our desires to supreme things." (S. Agostino, Discourse 229/D, 1)

Heartened by this knowledge, let us continue the Eucharistic celebration, invoking the motherly intercession of Mary, so that our life may become a reflection of Christ's. Let us pray that all those whom we meet may always perceive in our gestures and in our words the pacifying and comforting goodness of his Face. Amen!

Pope Benedict XVI, Sunday, March 26, 2006, [aquinasactusessendi.blogspot.com](http://aquinasactusessendi.blogspot.com)

## Sunday Readings

**First Reading:** All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD, for I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more. (Jer 31:34)

**Psalms:** Create a clean heart in me, O God. (Ps 51)

**Second Reading:** Son though he was, he learned obedience from what he suffered; (Heb 5:8)

**Gospel:** Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. (Jn 20:24)

**March 21, 5th Sunday in Lent:** 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

**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

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## Faith Formation

### For Information on Faith Formation/Sacramental Preparation:

Faith Formation Office, 281-342-8371  
Susan Hennings (Elementary) x343  
Nan Haskins (Jr. High & High School) x342  
Theresa Morales (Dir. of Faith Formation) x344

### Faith Formation Classes 2021-2022



**Registration for face-to-face classes will begin soon. Space will be limited so be sure to register early.**

(Sacramental Preparation for 1st Eucharist and Confirmation is a two year process, usually beginning in 1st and 9th grades. **Copy of Baptismal Certificate Required.** Attendance at Faith Formation classes is required for Sac Prep students).

## Faith Formation Calendar

March –April 2021

3/21 Parent/Child Class— 2nd Year Sac prep (1st Holy Communion);  
Parish Mission—High School strongly encouraged to attend

3/28-4/4 Palm Sunday/ Holy Week/Easter Sunday NO CLASSES

# FIFTH WEEK OF LENT

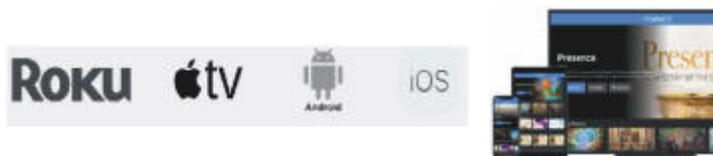
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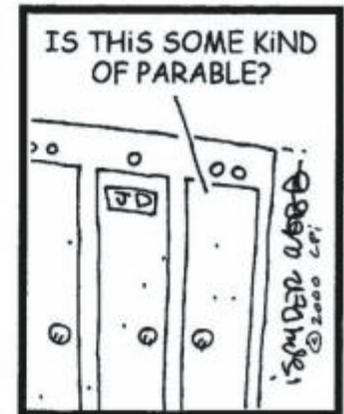
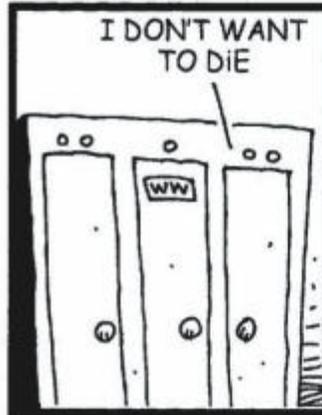
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2. Enter our parish zip or name "Sacred Heart Richmond TX, 77469"
3. Enter your name and email

**BULLETIN SUBMISSION & MASS ANNOUNCEMENT REQUESTS :Bulletin Submissions: Send to Shara ([shara@sacredhrt.com](mailto:shara@sacredhrt.com)). Deadline—10 am the Tuesday 12 days prior to bulletin publication date. Mass Announcements (from the pulpit): Send to Kathy ([kathy@sacredhrt.com](mailto:kathy@sacredhrt.com)). **Deadline**—Wednesday at noon, three days before the requested announcement is to be made. .**

## The Lighter Side

### 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT



## Parish Ministries

### SOCIETY OF SAINT MARGARET MARY



The Society of St. Margaret Mary is a service and social group for the women of Sacred Heart Parish. We welcome all ladies of the parish to join us in 2021. Watch the bulletin for dates of our next meeting. For more information email Danette Fennesy at [danettefennesy@sbcglobal.net](mailto:danettefennesy@sbcglobal.net).

### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

The Knights of Columbus is a fraternal organization open to all men, eighteen years of age or older, who are practicing Catholics in sacramental union with the Church. For more information visit [www.kc7445.org](http://www.kc7445.org).



### ROSARY GROUPS



Sacred Heart Richmond has 2 rosary groups on Mondays at 7:30 pm. You are free to join either group.

One group meets outside on the plaza and the other group meets via Zoom. Both groups will meet via Zoom during inclement weather. Zoom meeting information:

**Meeting Id:** 742 313 3625 **Passcode:** 888231



### Procession in Honor of Saint Joseph



Join us for a procession in honor of St. Joseph.

Saturday, March 20, 2021 after the 5 pm Mass around the Sacred Heart Campus.

### Lenten Penance Service

Sacred Heart's Lenten Penance Service will be held Wednesday, March 24, 2021 at 7 pm in the Church. Several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation.

### Parish Lenten Mission



#### Responding to the Spirit: In the Soul, in the Church, and In the World

Father Bruce Nieli, C.S.P., Paulist Evangelist and Preacher, Missionary of Mercy of Pope Francis, Former Director for Evangelization of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops  
Where: Sacred Heart Church

When: Sunday, March 21, 7 pm      Monday, March 22, 7 pm  
Tuesday, March 23, 7 pm

Father Bruce will deliver homilies at the March 20-21 Masses at Sacred Heart to kick off our Parish Lenten Mission.

### Catholic Q & A

#### Spiritual Communion

**Question:** What is spiritual communion, and do you need to be in a state of grace to receive it?

**Answer:** The practice of making a "spiritual communion" dates back several centuries and St. Thomas Aquinas described it as "an ardent desire to receive Jesus in the Holy Sacrament and a loving embrace as though we had already received Him." Traditionally, a prayer of spiritual communion has been used by those who are unable to receive sacramental communion because of health, inability to attend Mass, or who cannot receive communion because of grave sin. This practice has been encouraged by many saints and spiritual writers and most recently Pope Francis encouraged the practice when the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic prevented so many Catholics from taking part in the Mass or receiving sacramental communion.

Although the graces offered in spiritual communion are not the same as those offered in the sacramental communion of the Mass, this practice is still a powerful opportunity to express our desire for union with the Lord and to be united with Christ and the Church, even in an imperfect way. ©LPi



### On Covid-19 Vaccines

#### Statement from Archdiocese of Galveston-Houston re: Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine

The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines for COVID-19 do not involve abortion-derived cell lines in the manufacturing process, and are morally permissible since the connection to abortion is remote.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine is morally compromised because an abortion-derived cell line was used in its development, testing, and production. However, according to Catholic moral teaching, it is permissible to receive the Johnson & Johnson vaccine when it is the only vaccine available in a given place. Where there is an option, Catholics should choose the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines over the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.

The decision to receive a vaccination for COVID-19 is one of personal conscience.

#### U.S. Bishop Chairmen for Doctrine and for Pro-Life Address the Use of the Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 Vaccine

WASHINGTON— On March 2, Bishop Kevin C. Rhoades of Fort Wayne-South Bend, chairman of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops' (USCCB) Committee on Doctrine, and Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann of Kansas City in Kansas, chairman of the USCCB's Committee on Pro-Life Activities, issued a statement on the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine recently approved for use in the United States.

"The approval of Johnson & Johnson's COVID-19 vaccine for use in the United States again raises questions about the moral permissibility of using vaccines developed, tested, and/or produced with the help of abortion-derived cell lines.



"Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines raised concerns because an abortion-derived cell line was used for testing them, but not in their production. The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, however, was developed, tested and is produced with abortion-derived cell lines raising additional moral concerns. The Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith has judged that 'when ethically irreproachable Covid-19 vaccines are not available ... it is morally acceptable to receive Covid-19 vaccines that have used cell lines from aborted fetuses in their research and production process.' [1] However, if one can choose among equally safe and effective COVID-19 vaccines, the vaccine with the least connection to abortion-derived cell lines should be chosen.

Therefore, if one has the ability to choose a vaccine, Pfizer or Moderna's vaccines should be chosen over Johnson & Johnson's.

"While we should continue to insist that pharmaceutical companies stop using abortion-derived cell lines, given the world-wide suffering that this pandemic is causing, we affirm again that being vaccinated can be an act of charity that serves the common good."

[1] Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, "Note on the morality of using some anti-Covid-19 vaccines" (17 Dec 2020), no. 2.

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, March 20

5:00 pm + Virginia Piletere Moore

### SUNDAY, March 21 5th Sunday of Lent

7:30 am + Dr. Francisco Ong

9:30 am People & Children of the Parish

11:30 am Philip Okeke

### MONDAY, March 22

8:00 am + John J. & + Sara Grace, + Cinthia Rodriguez

### TUESDAY, March 23 St. Turibius of Mogrovejo, Bishop

8:00 am + Jimmey Jones, + Ella Mae Drabek

### WEDNESDAY, March 24

8:00 am Celeste Riley Way, + Joe & Flora Pawlak

### THURSDAY, March 25 The Annunciation of the Lord

8:00 am In Thanksgiving, + Philomena & + Hillary Mendonca

### FRIDAY, March 26

8:00 am + Georgia West, Don Yeager

### SATURDAY, March 27

5:00 pm + Edward & + Virginia Linn

### SUNDAY, March 28 Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord

7:30 am People & Children of the Parish

9:30 am + Frank Mensik

11:30 am Craig & Dottie Mouton

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## Prayers Requested For

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Joe Barski	Jeanette Krupa	Philip Okeke	Yvonne Wuest
Kathleen Breen	Tracy Kubeczka	Stephen Oldmix-	Don Yeager, Jr.
Barbara Bodde-	Andrew Kubik	on	Wanda
ker	James Linde-	Ron Peschke	Lauren
Terry Busby	mann	Larry & Martha	Darryl
Erik Caballero	Sandra Linde-	Quast	Sindy
Christie Cable	mann	Karen Rasket	Miranda
Bill Cunnea	Rebecca Liver-	Raymo Family	Angela
Nancy Danna	more	Arabella Reyes	Willie
Isabelle Dufilho	Melinda Longo-	Joyce Reyes	Laura
Jeanette Dufilho	ria	Michael Richard	Barbara
Nel Engle	Carolyn	Kathy Richards	Linda
Virginia Ewald	Jendrzey	Deacon Don &	James
Eloisa Ewers	Michael E. Man-	Jeanette Ries	Melinda
The Ferguson	gel	Judith Roberts	Travis
Family	Elizabeth & Scott	Mamie Robles	Police officers,
Lisa Fontenot	Manteuffell	Adam & Cinthia	military person-
Antonia Gonzal-	McMurrrough	Rodriguez	nel, healthcare
es	Family	Vince Ruiz	providers, pray-
Virginia Gurecky	Frances Monta-	Matt Salazar	er blanket recip-
Pat Houlahan	no	Declan Schlitz-	ients, & those in
David & Lisa	Kenneth Moore	kus	need of healing
Iselli	Nansi More	Olga Sellar	& strength. To
Chris Johec	Morgan Family	Peter & Bev	add to the prayer
Pat Jones	Lou Ann & Steve	Stickler	list: Kathy, 281-
Cindy Junek	Mowka	Virginia Stoeltje	342-3609 or
Silvian Kovar	Kelly Mueller	Phyllis Stravitsch	<a href="mailto:kathy@sacredhrt.com">kathy@sacredhrt.com</a>
Annie Knesek	Donna Napoli	Larry Stryk	

## SACRED HEART PARISH SUPPORT March 14, 2021

Offertory .....	\$15,174.46
Bldg. Fund .....	\$756.50
2nd Collection—Catholic Relief Services.....	\$1167.50
<b>2021 Diocesan Services Fund (DSF)</b>	
Parish Goal .....	\$150,000.00
Amount Paid .....	\$25,250.00
<b>Ignite</b>	
Parish Goal .....	\$1,120,086.00
Amount Pledged .....	\$292,165.66
Paid .....	\$114,348.00

## PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

**Sacredhrt.com** • 507 South Fourth Street, Richmond, TX 77469  
**Church Office:** 281-342-3609, Monday-Thursday 8-5 pm  
**Faith Formation Office:** 281-342-8371, Monday-Thursday, 9-5 pm  
**Pastor** Rev. Joseph Ho, C.Ss.R..... Contact Parish Office  
**Parochial Vicar**  
 Rev. Mark Lam Tran, C.Ss.R..... Contact Parish Office  
**Deacons**  
 Don Ries.....[deacondon@sacredhrt.com](mailto:deacondon@sacredhrt.com)  
 John Placette.....[deaconjohn@sacredhrt.com](mailto:deaconjohn@sacredhrt.com)  
**Director of Faith Formation**  
 Theresa Morales.....[theresa@sacredhrt.com](mailto:theresa@sacredhrt.com)  
**Director of Mother's Day Out**  
 Kelly Strnadell, 281-232-5850.....[kelly@sacredhrt.com](mailto:kelly@sacredhrt.com)  
**Pastoral Council**  
 Paul Bordelon.....[PastoralCouncil@sacredhrt.com](mailto:PastoralCouncil@sacredhrt.com)  
**Finance Council**  
 Tom Petrosewicz.....[FinanceCouncil@sacredhrt.com](mailto:FinanceCouncil@sacredhrt.com)  
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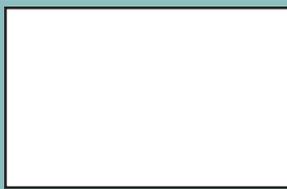
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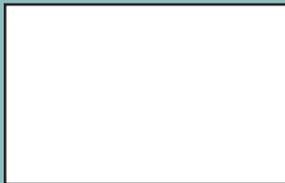
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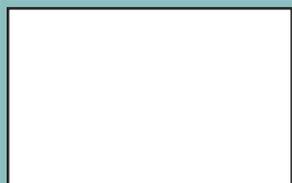
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