

## Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 11, 2018



### Annual Parish Mission

March 12 – March 15, 2018 @ 7:00 PM



with Guest Preacher

### Fr. Pio Francesco Mandato, FKHJ

Fr. Pio Francesco Mandato is a Capuchin priest who, in some ways, has followed in the footsteps of his relative, Padre Pio. Fr. Mandato was named after the saint and, like Padre Pio, traces his roots back to the sun-baked, dusty village of Pietrelcina in southern Italy.

Fr. Mandato received his first Holy Communion from Padre Pio before he and his family migrated to America in 1964. At 17 Fr. Mandato entered the Capuchins. After his ordination in 1985 he became involved in hospital chaplaincy and developed a reputation for devotion to the sick, not unlike Padre Pio who founded two hospitals in San Giovanni Rotondo: the Civil Hospital of St. Francis and the House for the Relief of Suffering. Fr. Mandato also worked with homeless people in New York. His mother wrote a memoir, *Padre Pio: Encounters With a Spiritual Daughter From Pietrelcina*. The book was originally written in Italian and Fr. Mandato translated it into English.

In 1998, after serving for 13 years as a Capuchin, Fr. Mandato began to lead a life of prayer and solitude as a missionary hermit in the Diocese of Scranton, Pennsylvania, under Bishop Joseph Bambera.

He now takes breaks from the eremitical life to travel around preaching and offering healing Masses for the sick, which draw huge crowds.

**Mission Theme: The Four Last Things**  
Catholic theology has distinguished the “Four Last Things”: Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell. We are admonished to meditate upon these things frequently. We **WILL** die, be judged, and spend eternity either in Hell or in Heaven (likely after some time in purgatory).

#### Mission Schedule

#### Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

##### Morning

**9:00 am** Mass with brief homily  
*“Living a Virtuous Life”*

**After Mass the Sacrament of Penance** will be available by Fr. Pio

##### Evening

**7:00 pm** **Evening Conference** with Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and Benediction

**Conference Regarding Death** – “All men are appointed to die once, and after that face the judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27)



#### Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

##### Morning

**9:00 am** Mass with brief homily on  
*“The Gift of Faith”*

**After Mass the Sacrament of Penance** will be available by Fr. Pio

##### Evening

**7:00 pm** **Evening Conference Service** with blessing with *Padre Pio’s glove* and Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

**Conference Regarding Judgment** – Scripture says, “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.” (2 Corinthians 5:10)

## Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

### Morning

**9:00 am** Mass with brief homily on  
*"The Gift of Hope"*

**Confessions for SPS students only immediately after Mass**

### Evening

**7:00 pm** Conference and Penance Service  
with Benediction  
Confession will be available

**Conference Regarding Hell** – The teaching of Hell bothers a lot of modern Christians who have had God's love emphasized to the exclusion of just about everything else about God. No one loves you more than Jesus does, and yet no one warned of Hell and judgment more than Jesus did in parable after parable, warning after warning



## Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

### Morning

**9:00 am** Mass with brief homily on  
*"The Gift of Love"*

**After Mass the Sacrament of Penance** will be available by Fr. Pio

### Evening

**7:00 pm** Closing Mass  
Marian Lenten Mass

**Closing Homily on Heaven** – Scripture says, "Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is." (1 John 3:2)  
Procession around the Church and dedication of the Parish to Our Lady in this Year of Faith



## Stations of the Cross & Benediction

**7:00 PM – Fridays of Lent**

**March 16<sup>th</sup> & March 23<sup>rd</sup>**

### The Living Stations of the Cross

**Good Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in Church**

Our young parishioners will continue the tradition of reenacting the Passion of Our Lord on Good Friday. It will be a sacred moment of communion with the "Man of Sorrows".

### Perpetual Adoration Chapel

Our Adoration Chapel is open **24** hours a day. This offers you another opportunity during Lent to make a Holy Hour, if not daily, at least once a week.

### Miraculous Medal Novena

Rosary @ 7:05 pm & Novena @ 7:30 pm

Every Monday (except March 5<sup>th</sup> which is the Monthly Mass of Reconciliation at 7:00 PM)

### Lenten Mass Schedule

6:45 AM Monday through Friday

9:00 AM Monday through Saturday

### Confession Schedule

This is the most perfect form of penance that one can perform, and the best preparation for Easter.

**Saturdays 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

**7:30 PM – 8:00 PM**

### During the Parish Mission

**Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> after 9:00 AM Mass**

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup> after 9:00 AM Mass**

## REVISED SCHEDULE FOR PARISH MISSION WEEK

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

**MORNING CONFESSION FOR  
SPS STUDENTS ONLY**

Confession will be offered after 7:00 PM Service

**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup> - NO CONFESSIONS**

### Holy Week Confessions

**Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>**

**3:30 PM – 5:00 PM & 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Wednesday, March 28<sup>th</sup>**

**9:30 AM – 10:30 AM & 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM**

**Holy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>**

After Mass of the Lord's Supper

**Holy Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>**

**1:00 PM – 2:00 PM**

## A GIFT FOR YOU: THE BEST CATHOLIC MATERIAL AVAILABLE!



### FORMED.org an Inspiring, Informative, and Free on-line Program!

Are you looking for a faithful and inspiring way to deepen your faith in the comfort of your own home? *Thanks to a gift from one of our parishioners, our parish has subscribed to a remarkable website, FORMED.org*, which offers plenty of content to watch and enjoy. On this website you will find the best Catholic programs, movies, audio talks, and eBooks that will nourish your spiritual life. You will quickly see the benefits of belonging to the FORMED community. It is easy to navigate around FORMED. You will be inspired by the programs that you find and will want to return again and again. On top of it all, as a parishioner of St. Peter's, you are invited to take advantage of the FREE parish subscription! Follow the directions listed below and let your journey begin. Lent is a perfect time to avail yourself of these materials. They are great for the whole family. *I would also recommend that parishioners create among themselves small discussion/study groups around the materials from FORMED.org.*

### Directions for Accessing FORMED.org

1. Go to the website:  
[www.saintpetermerchantville.formed.org](http://www.saintpetermerchantville.formed.org)
2. On the top right corner, click "Sign Up"
3. Create your own file by completing the registration information and creating your own password.
4. Click "Get Started" and it will take you to the home page. You will be able to search for programs, videos, audio talks, or eBooks.

You may use this website's material on any device with internet access such as your computer, tablet, or smartphone.

*Fr. Tim Byerley*  
*Pastor*

## Lenten Regulations



The days of **both Fast and Abstinence** during Lent are **Ash Wednesday and Good Friday**. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of **Fast**, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Catholics from the age of 18 to the age of 60 are obliged to fast.

On a day of **Abstinence**, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of Abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially" or as a whole is a serious obligation.

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of Penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as Penance.

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 18, 2018 to the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, May 27, 2018.

## Parish Sick List



Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to add a loved one to the list. *You are kindly asked to inform the person that their name will appear in the Bulletin.* Maria Angelini, Joan Anders, Vincent Barone, Buzzy Bianco, Joseph Bonifacio, Theresa Brown, Barbara Brownholtz, Carol Burg, Eva Burgess,

Harry Burkhardt, Matt Curley, Ray Dick, Anthony DiFranco, Rose Marie Finnegan, Jimmy Genzano, Louis Grosso, Donna Hartman-Maglio, Bridget Hopkins, Hailey Hunt, Joe Junikka, Maryann Kearney, Alicia Kureczka, Irving Lamb, Jr., Joseph Lesniak, Agnes Marcella, Scott McDowell, Salim Mikhael, Mary Moran, Marilyn Ott, Frank Pedano, John Petrowsky, Bob Piekarski, Frances Roberts, Francis Rooney, Geraldine Rooney, Pat Shaffer, Daniel Sitzlow, Joyce Stiles, Mark Stevens, Joe Teti, Alan Young, Andrea Young.

*May God heal them in mind, body and spirit!*

*Thank you for your prayers for our sick and shut-ins.*

**PLEASE call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373  
when your loved one has recovered!**



## Mass Intentions

*\*Mass Celebrant Code:*

*TB = Fr. Tim Byerley – FK = Fr. Francis Kim – PM = Fr. Peter Muttathottil – MS = Deacon Mike Scott*

<b>Intentions:</b>	<b>Requested by:</b>	<b>*Mass Celebrant</b>
<b>Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup></b>		
6:45 AM James Shanahan	James O'Donnell	TB
9:00 AM Joan L. McCloskey	Beth Polo	Fr. Pio
<b>Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup></b>		
6:45 AM Joseph Szolack, Sr.	Ken & Maggie Johnson	TB
9:00 AM Eilish Twohig	Sr. Philomena	Fr. Pio
<b>Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup></b>		
6:45 AM Friends & Family	DeRose Family	TB
9:00 AM Maria Morris	John & Janet DiCiurcio	Fr. Pio
<b>Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup></b>		
<b>NO MORNING MASSES</b>		
7:00 PM Parishioners of St. Peter Parish		TB
<b>Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup></b>		
6:45 AM Mark Leahy	Karen Burns	PM
9:00 AM Linda Denz	Linda, June & Jean	Fr. Pio
<b>Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup></b>		
9:00 AM Ruth Iulucci	Katerina Beatty	PM
5:00 PM Grace Walter	Amy & Frank	TB
<b>Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup></b>		
7:30 AM Parishioners of St. Peter Parish		PM
9:00 AM Carmen Cordero	Family	TB/MS
10:30 AM Francis, Rita & Bonnie Walker	Family	TB
Andrew P. & Richard A. Napoli	Orem Family	TB
Czeslaw Wojcieczek	Redziniak Family	TB
Anita Frenzel	Her Niece, Jean DeAngelis	TB
Della Doherty	Howie Family	TB
7:00 PM Helen Bellm	Lorraine, Shawn & Josh	FK

### Sanctuary Lamp in the Church

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in Memory of  
James J. Shanahan  
the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>  
requested by Andy & Maria Lipenta.



### Sanctuary Lamp in the Convent Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the  
Holy Souls in Purgatory  
the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>  
requested by A Parishioner.



### Sanctuary Lamp in the Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the  
Holy Souls in Purgatory  
the week of March 11<sup>th</sup> – March 17<sup>th</sup>  
requested by A Parishioner.

**F**ather's **Q**uick **Q**uote “**M**y past, O Lord, to  
Your mercy; my present, to Your love; my future to  
Your providence.”  
~ *St. Padre Pio*



## Parish Weekly

First Collection for the weekend of  
March 4<sup>th</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> was **\$14,859.55.**  
Second Collection was **\$2,700.55**  
for a total of **\$17,560.10.**

*Thank you for building up God's Kingdom  
in our Parish!*

## Miraculous Medal Novena Schedule



**Rosary @ 7:05 pm & Novena @ 7:30 pm**  
**Every Monday of the Month**  
**except the First Monday which is**  
**reserved for the Monthly**  
**Mass of Reconciliation @ 7:00 pm**



**Weekly Readings**  
*Your Word is a lamp to light my path*

### Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

#### **Fourth Sunday of Lent**

First: 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23  
Second: Ephesians 2:4-10  
Gospel: John 3:14-21

### Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>

First: Isaiah 65:17-21  
Gospel: John 4:43-54

### Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

First: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12  
Gospel: John 5:1-16

### Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>

First: Isaiah 49:8-15  
Gospel: John 5:17-30

### Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>

First: Exodus 32:7-14  
Gospel: John 5:31-47

### Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>

First: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22  
Gospel: John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

### Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>

#### **St. Patrick, Bishop**

First: Jeremiah 11:18-20  
Gospel: John 7:40-53

### Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

#### **Fifth Sunday of Lent**

First: Jeremiah 31:31-34  
Second: Hebrews 5:7-9  
Gospel: John 12:20-33

## Upcoming Baptismal Classes

**Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Monday, April 16<sup>th</sup>**

*Class begins at 8:00 PM in the Senior Center.*

**You may schedule the Baptismal date at the class.**

Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to register for a class so that we have adequate materials. Godparents are welcome, if able to attend. Both parents are encouraged to attend the class and children are welcome.

### **REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL GODPARENTS**

- ✓ They are Baptized Catholic having received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✓ They are 16 years of age or older.
- ✓ If single, they are living a chaste life, that is, not "living together" with someone.
- ✓ If married, the marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church.
- ✓ They attend Holy Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation.

## **BINGO AT ST. PETER'S WEDNESDAY EVENINGS!**

Doors open at 5:30 PM. **BINGO starts at 7:00 PM.**  
Admission is \$3 & includes cards for 7 regular games.

### **Service Dates for Bingo Teams**

March 14 – NO BINGO ~ March 21 – Team A

## School News ~ PTA

**five BELOW  
[FUNDRAISER]**



**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**TO A FUNDRAISING SHOPPING EVENT FOR**

**St Peters School PTA**

**DATE:** Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> to Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup>

**TIME:** Mon-Sat 10am-9pm Sun 10am-7pm

**WHERE:** 1598 N Kings Hwy Cherry Hill  
Ellisburg Shopping Center

**it's simple! 10% of the purchases made by  
members of your group will be donated back to  
your organization.**

**all we ask is that this flyer is presented to our cashier at the time of  
purchase, please note that we do not allow flyers to be handed out in our store  
or shopping center at any time before, during or after your event.**

this section to be completed by five below associate

**PURCHASE AMOUNT (PRE-TAX) \$** \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTER:** 1 2 3 4 5 6 (circle one)

**ASSOCIATE NAME** \_\_\_\_\_

**sports. media. crafts. party. candy. room. style. now.**

**fivebelow.com**

## Community News



**Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup>**

Super Stretch with Rossana

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Trivia with Rocky

Senior Portraits

**Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup>**

Fit & Focused with Rossana

Intercessory Rosary led by the Legion of Mary

Senior Portraits

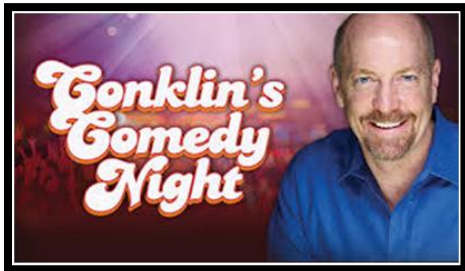
**Thursday, March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Bingo with Joyce

**Friday, March 16<sup>th</sup>**

"Balancing Act" with Rossana

## SAVE THE DATE



St. Peter Senior Ministry Fundraiser

Presenting

**Joe Conklin**

**"A Man of a Thousand Voices"**

Saturday, May 12, 2018

6:30 pm to 11:00 pm

St. Peter Pastors' Hall

Includes: Food & Draft Beer

**Cost: \$35 per person**

Tickets will be sold in Pastors' Hall after all

Masses beginning

March 17, 2018 after the 5:00 pm Mass.



## Special News ~ St. Vincent DePaul Society

During this season of Lent St. Peter's Knights of Columbus will help stock our pantry shelves and are requesting additional involvement from the parish.

**For every 1000 lbs. of food or \$500.00 donated by the parish during Lent, the Knights will receive a monetary reward from their Supreme council and this reward will be shared with the St. Vincent DePaul Society.**

We appreciate the constant support from our Knights and hope that those who can make the extra effort during Lent by dropping off another canned good or an additional box of pasta, cereal etc. in the church donation barrels.

**We will also be collecting hams to complete our Easter boxes on the weekends of March 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> and March 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Please do not leave them in the food barrels.** If you cannot donate food, you can make a monetary donation in the poor boxes at the doors of the church. If you know of someone in need of help, please call our hotline at 856-904-7397.

*Thank you for all your generosity to our Ministry.*

## Adoration Chapel

*You are cordially invited to spend an hour with Our Lord!*

***All hours are available most especially:***

Sundays ~ 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM

Sundays ~ 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Mondays ~ 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Tuesdays ~ 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Wednesdays ~ 8:00 PM – 9:00 PM

Fridays ~ 4:00 AM – 5:00 AM

Fridays ~ 9:00 PM – 10:00 PM

Saturdays ~ 4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

Saturdays ~ 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Call Flora @ 665-4833 or Stacey @ 856-304-2261 or

Ben @ 662-4338 to schedule your hour.

## Intercessory Rosary Group

Meets the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month

@ 3:00 PM in the Convent Chapel. ***All are welcome!***

## Knights of Columbus Meeting

**Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup>**

Monthly Business Meeting @ 8:00 PM

in the Knights' Room

Tim Hesser

Bob Blessinger

[BNABLES315@verizon.net](mailto:BNABLES315@verizon.net)

Grand Knight

Membership Director

(856) 317-5855

Please join us in Pastors' Hall for  
**Hospitality Sunday**  
**Once-a-Month Book Store**  
 and the  
**Legion of Mary Literature Table**  
**TODAY ~ Sunday ~ March 11<sup>th</sup>**  
 Light refreshments will be served after the  
 9:00 AM and 10:30 AM Masses  
*All are welcome!*

## **PILGRIMAGE TO ITALY: INSPIRATION OF THE EUCHARIST**



Fr. Tim Byerley will be leading a pilgrimage  
 to Italy with the Collegium Center for Faith and Culture  
**May 21 – May 30, 2018**

The pilgrimage will include visits to all of the key  
 religious and historical sights of Rome, a papal audience,  
 the Vatican Museum, St. Peter's Basilica, the  
 Catacombs, and day-excursions to Assisi, Orvieto and  
 Siena. Orvieto is the place where the miraculous host is  
 reserved that turned into flesh and began to bleed during  
 Mass in 1236. The cost is \$4,095.00 from Newark.

For more information, contact Kristine at Select  
 International Tours @ 800-842-4842 or via email @  
[Kristine@select-intl.com](mailto:Kristine@select-intl.com).

## **Around the Diocese**

### **UPCOMING CAP SESSIONS**

#### **CAP Phase 1**

Tuesday, March 20<sup>th</sup> @ 7:00 PM

Paul VI High School ~ 901 Hopkins Road - Haddonfield

#### **CAP Phase 2**

Wednesday, March 14<sup>th</sup> @ 6:30 PM

Sacred Heart School ~ 4<sup>th</sup> & Jasper Streets – Camden  
 To attend one of these classes, please call the CAP  
 REGISTRATION LINE at the Office of Child and  
 Youth Protection @ 856-583-6165 or contact  
[Maryellen.schell@camdendiocese.org](mailto:Maryellen.schell@camdendiocese.org).

## **Lenten Wednesdays**

Collegium Center For Faith and Culture  
 301 White Horse Pike, Haddon Heights, NJ 08035

"Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession,  
 A Lent to Remember". For information on each  
 evening's topic, please visit [www.thecollegiumcenter.org](http://www.thecollegiumcenter.org)



Bishop Sullivan invites the faithful of the diocese to  
 join him and his priests for the Chrism Mass at  
 4:00 PM on Tuesday, March 27, 2018 at St. Agnes  
 Church/Our Lady of Hope Parish in Blackwood.  
 The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the priesthood  
 and the occasion at which the bishop consecrates  
 the sacred oils used in the sacramental life of the  
 Church. Your presence and prayerful support will  
 be greatly appreciated.

## **Service Schedule**

### **Extraordinary Ministers for March 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM	C. Foti, P. Foti, B. Kwiatkowski, C. Petrowsky
7:30 AM	C. Aghaji, P. Bilinsky, T. Presenza, M. Ralbusky
9:00 AM	M. Campbell, J. Dymond, M. O'Callaghan, K. O'Callaghan
10:30 AM	K. Bailey, T. Crymes, M. Kenney, A. Naidas, E. Valenti
7:00 PM	M. D'Amico, M. DiPiero, C. Gundersen, E. Kradzinski, D. Montes

### **Lectors for March 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM	R. Dominiano & J. Badolato
7:30 AM	J. Foster & M. Callahan
9:00 AM	O. Rivera & A. Lipenta
10:30 AM	M. DeFranco & A. DeFranco
7:00 PM	T. Taylor

### **Altar Servers for March 17<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup>**

5:00 PM	Jackson DiBease, Brian Dungee, Taylor Megee, Ryan O'Callaghan
7:30 AM	Anthony Faust, Teresa Faust, Shane Wood-Embry, Marian Yanka
9:00 AM	Gabe Fowler, Ronan Fowler, Peter Frombach, Anthony Marinelli, Giovanni Marinelli
10:30 AM	Matthew Abate, Martin Deluhery, Theodore Deluhery, Augustine Miller, Charlie Miller
7:00 PM	Anthony Schiavo, Justin Schiavo, Nicholas Schiavo, Anthony Segrest, Benedict Segrest

### **Altar Servers for the Week of March 19<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday**

9:00 AM Jackson DiBease & Peter Frombach

#### **Monday Night Miraculous Medal Novena – 7:00 PM**

Anthony Schiavo, Justin Schiavo, Nicholas Schiavo

#### **Thursday – Friday – Saturday**

9:00 AM Taylor Megee & Brian Dungee

## Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent ~ March 11, 2018

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### **Reading I – 2 Chronicles 36:14-16, 19-23**

In those days, all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people added infidelity to infidelity, practicing all the abominations of the nations and polluting the LORD's temple which he had consecrated in Jerusalem.

Early and often did the LORD, the God of their fathers, send his messengers to them, for he had compassion on his people and his dwelling place. But they mocked the messengers of God, despised his warnings, and scoffed at his prophets, until the anger of the LORD against his people was so inflamed that there was no remedy. 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 and his sons until the kingdom of the Persians came to power. All this was to fulfill the word of the LORD spoken by Jeremiah: "Until the land has retrieved its lost Sabbaths, during all the time it lies waste it shall have rest while seventy years are fulfilled."

In the first year of Cyrus, king of Persia, in order to fulfill the word of the LORD 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!"

### **Responsorial Psalm - Psalm 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6**

***℟. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

By the streams of Babylon we sat and wept when we remembered Zion. On the aspens of that land we hung up our harps.

***℟. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

For there our captors asked of us the lyrics of our songs, And our despoilers urged us to be joyous: "Sing for us the songs of Zion!"

***℟. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

How could we sing a song of the LORD in a foreign land? If I forget you, Jerusalem, may my right hand be forgotten!

***℟. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***

May my tongue cleave to my palate if I remember you not, If I place not Jerusalem ahead of my joy.

***℟. Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you!***



## **Reading II - Ephesians 2:4-10**

Brothers and sisters:

God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ -by grace you have been saved-, raised us up with him, and seated us with him in the heavens in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. 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. For we are his handiwork, created in Christ Jesus for the good works that God has prepared in advance, that we should live in them.

## **Gospel - John 3:14-21**

Jesus said to Nicodemus:

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life."

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. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him. Whoever believes in him will not be condemned, but whoever does not believe has already been condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the only Son of God. 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.

