

## Third Sunday of Lent March 24, 2019

What is the nature of a fig tree? This is easy. A fig tree's nature is to grow healthy and strong and bear sweet fruit. The fig tree in the Gospel is not doing so and so the owner of the orchard wants to cut it down. What is the nature of a person? This is a more difficult question. Humanity was created in the image of God, given dominion over all living things, and told to be fruitful and multiply. However, humanity was given free will and soon used that to give in to temptation and disobey God. There are two sides to human nature, for unlike a fig tree, a person has consciousness and the ability to decide how to act.

Saint Paul addresses the negative side of human nature. Many of the Chosen People were unfaithful during their journey through the desert. He uses this incident as a lesson: the consequences are deadly to those who "desire(d) evil things." Jesus refers to the death of eighteen people when a tower collapsed, but does not do so to condemn them. Rather, he uses this accident as a warning. You cannot know the hour of your death. Take the opportunity to repent today because you may perish tomorrow. Those who were killed tragically and unexpectedly had no last-minute opportunity to repent.

Our true nature as Christians is to live according to the promise we made in baptism, which we renew each year at Easter. When we fall short, repentance is the first step to reorient ourselves toward God. During Lent, in anticipation of Easter, we are called to do just that.

### Question of the Week

How am I like the fig tree that has not borne fruit? How can I bear fruit in the year ahead?



**Saturday, March 23, 2019**

**Vigil of Third Sunday of Lent**

**4:00.m.** Elodie Gabriel – Darrell & Bruce Gabriel – Francis Hai Cao – Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Leonard Belton – Ellsworth McKendall – Tamia James Young

**Sunday, March 24, 2019**

**Third Sunday of Lent**

**8:30a.m.** Elodie Gabriel – Darrell & Bruce Gabriel – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – France Hai Cao – Calvin Tate – Melvina Kepp – Walter Banks, III – Lawrence Miller, Jr. – Jasper Price, Jr. – Geraldine O. Dowden – Memory Britsch – Leonard Gauthreaux – Anthony Rout – James St. Charles – Thanks to St. Anthony

**10:30a.m.** Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Leonard Gauthreaux – Msgr. William Green – Fr. David Texada – Andrew Joseph, III – Simon, Carol and Simonette Dolliole – Intentions of Alana Pierre – McKinney Family

**12:00p.m.** Anna Trena Guillaume – Intentions of Joseph Simms – Intentions of St. Maria Goretti Parish

**Monday, March 25, 2019**

**8:30a.m.** Simonette Dolliole – Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Memory Britsch – Leonard Gauthreaux – Mr. Charles Winchell, Jr. – Bertha Latiolais Thomas – Intentions of Joseph Simms – Ceclia Medley

**6:00p.m.** Intentions of St Maria Goretti Parish – All souls in purgatory

**Tuesday, March 26, 2019**

**8:30a.m.** Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Memory Britsch – Fr. Henry Engelbrecht – Leonard Gauthreaux – Jerome and Grace Lomba – Simonette Dolliole – Intentions of Joseph Simms – Stacey Martin – June Theresa Pierre

**6:00p.m.** Intentions of June, Iris, Lillie, and Lana Pierre

**Wednesday, March 27, 2019**

**8:30a.m.** Joseph Ngan Cao and Mary Pham – Joseph Cong Cao – Peter & Mary Kham Nguyen – Leonard Gauthreaux – Memory Britsch – Gregory Pierre, Jr. – Simonette Dolliole – Intentions of Chaze Augustine – Stacey Martin – Joseph Simms

**6:00p.m.** Sharon and Henry Martin – Dianna Shelton-Love

**Thursday, March 28, 2019**

**8:30a.m.** Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Memory Britsch – Leonard Gauthreaux – Simonette Dolliole – Intentions of Joseph Simms – Stacey Martin – Brandon and Alana Mitchell

**6:00p.m.** Intentions of Donald and Pauline Bell

**Friday, March 29, 2019**

**8:30a.m.** Joseph Ngan Cao & Mary Pham – Simonette Dolliole – Ross & Valteau Families – Memory Britsch – Intentions of Stacey Martin – James and Tamerle Young – Joseph Simms

**6:00pm.** Intentions of the Dolliole Family

**Saturday, March 30, 2019**

**8:30a.m.** The Living and Deceased Benefactors of the Catholic Negro American Mission.

Announcements

“Remember that the Christian life is one of action, not of speech and daydreams. Let there be few words and many deeds, and let them be well done”. Eucharistic Adoration Monday thru Friday, 9:00a.m. – 12:00 noon and Saturdays, 12:00 noon – 3:00p.m.

**Bible Study Third Week of Lent. Just For Me – He Forgives My Sins!** This week we focus on repentance and forgiveness. Repentance is turning away from our rebellious ways and back to God. As a third grader put it, “to repent is being sorry for your sins enough to quit sinning.” Forgiveness is the act of excusing another despite their shortcomings or errors. Our repentance requires that we forgive those who have offended us. Unless we repent, we will perish.

**Reading I: Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15.** The first reading shows the meaning of the words, Just for Me. It shows the personal intervention of God in the lives of Moses and the people of Israel. It shows God’s capacity to save us from ourselves.

**Reading II: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12.** St. Paul warns the Corinthians not to take God’s forgiveness for granted. Though they were baptized and were following the faith, they needed to do more.

**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9.** He went on to conclude that everyone sins, and sin brings judgment. All sinners face judgment unless we repent. God’s forgiveness is personal; just for me. He forgives me when I repent.

**Application:** Bring your family together for an evening of prayer and forgiveness. Write a note to someone who you have offended. Better yet, personally ask that person for forgiveness.



Thursdays, 8:00p.m. in the Center where you might win and have some fun with friends and family.

**RCIA**

During his recent Lenten address, Pope Francis warned against, “a life that exceeds those limits imposed by our human condition and nature itself.” “The sin that lurks in the human heart takes the shape of greed and unbridled pursuit of comfort, lack of concern for the good of others and even of oneself. Unless we tend constantly towards Easter, towards the horizon of the Resurrection, the mentality expressed in the slogans, “I want it all and I want it now!” and “Too much is never enough,” gains the upper hand.

**This week we continue our focus on the Sacraments. The Right of Election. Lent is the Period of Enlightenment.**

For more information contact the RCIA Team: Deacon Terrel J. Broussard or any member of the RCIA Team or visit the website at smgnola.com

We welcome everyone into our parish. If you have not filled out a census card, the cards can be found on the table at the entrance of the church.



**Sanctuary Lamp**

The Sanctuary Lamp in the Church for this week will burn in memory of Jesse Hall and Family.  
The Sanctuary Lamps in the chapel this week will burn in memory of the St. Cyr and Torregano Families.

 **Lenten Schedule**

Daily Masses 8:30a.m. and 6:00p.m. The Way of the Cross will follow the 8:30a.m. and the Friday 6:00p.m. Mass.

 **Fasting & Abstinence**

**Fasting** is to be observed by all Catholics who are 18 years of age until the age of 59. Only one meal should be eaten on those days and **No** meat. Those who are bound to fast may also take only one full meal. Two small meals are permitted if necessary to maintain strength according to each one’s needs, but eating solid foods between meals is not permitted. **Abstinence** from meat is to be observed by all Catholic 14 years or older on All Fridays of Lent.

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*This Week in our Parish*

- Monday, March 25, 2019**
- 6:00p.m. Zumba Class – Center
  - 6:00p.m. Lakewood East HOA – Rm. 9
  - 6:00p.m. Radio Rosary – Center Rms. 3 - 4
- Tuesday, March 26, 2019**
- 12:00p.m. AARP Rms. 3 & 4
  - 6:00p.m. ENONAC – Center Rms. 3 - 4
  - 7:00p.m. Executive Board Meeting – Library
- Wednesday, March 27, 2019**
- 5:00p.m. Confessions – Church
  - 6:00p.m. Exercise Class – Center
  - 6:00p.m. Liturgical Dance – Center
- Thursday, March 28, 2019**
- 6:00p.m. Bingo – Center
- Friday, March 29, 2019**
- 12:00p.m. Fish Fry – Center & Kitchen
- Saturday, March 30, 2019**
- 6:00a.m. Election
  - 4:00p.m. Anointing of the sick – Church

**Third Sunday Of Lent Prayer**

God of the vinyard, give us reverence for life in Creation.  
Show us your beauty in the promise of eternal Spring.  
Form us in your likeness,  
and give us a heart for the grace and patience of gardening,  
that we might nurture the life you entrsted to us.  
Amen