

**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

**Sun. Mar 18**– Jer 31:31-34 Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15 Heb 5:7-9 Jn 12:20-33

**Mon. Mar 19** - 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16 Ps 89:2-3, 4-5, 27 & 29 Rom 4:13, 16-18, 22 Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a

**Tues. Mar 20** - Nm 21:4-9 Ps 102:2-3, 16-18, 19-21 Jn 8:21-30 or 2 Kgs 4:18b-21, 32-37 Ps 17:1, 6-7, 8b & 15 Jn 11:1-45

**Wed. Mar 21** - Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95 Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56 Jn 8:31-42 or 2 Kgs 4:18b-21, 32-37 Ps 17:1, 6-7, 8b & 15 Jn 11:1-45

**Thurs. Mar 22** - Gn 17:3-9 Ps 105:4-5, 6-7, 8-9 Jn 8:51-59 or 2 Kgs 4:18b-21, 32-37 Ps 17:1, 6-7, 8b & 15 Jn 11:1-45

**Fri. Mar 23** - Jer 20:10-13 Ps 18:2-3a, 3bc-4, 5-6, 7 Jn 10:31-42 or 2 Kgs 4:18b-21, 32-37 Ps 17:1, 6-7, 8b & 15 Jn 11:1-45

**Sat. Mar 24** - Ez 37:21-28 Jer 31:10, 11-12abcd, 13 Jn 11:45-56 or 2 Kgs 4:18b-21, 32-37 Ps 17:1, 6-7, 8b & 15

**MASS INTENTIONS**

**During Lent "Only" Masses Monday thru Saturday at 7:00am**

Sunday, Mar. 18, 2018 9:00 am Mass Rawson Wickersham Blessed Birthday Requested by The Kenney Family

Mon. Mar. 19, 2018 7:00 am MASS

Tues. Mar. 20, 7:00 am & 6:00 pm

Wed. Mar. 21, 7:00 & 6:00 pm

Thurs. Mar. 22, 7:00 am & 6:00 pm

Fri. Mar. 23, 7:00 am & 6:00 pm & 5:00 pm

Exposition & Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament

Saturday, Mar. 24, 2018 7:00 am 3:20 - 3:55 Reconciliation 4:00 p.m. Mass

Erica Edgerly Blessed Birthday Requested by The Kenney Family

(N.B. You can request Mass to be offered for you/your love ones, or any deceased person. Speak with the Pastor or call the office to schedule your mass intention).

**March Birthday List  
Happy Birthday to:**

Clinton Giron	1
Calvin Johnson	3
Yvette Spearman	5
Blake Thompson	5
Adam Jacobs	8
Michael Jackson	13
Emma Nelson	17
Tara Thompson-Ware	18
Enrique Warnell	20
Hazel Johnson	21
Dominique Guillory	24
Orion Guillory	24
Felicia Richard	24
Florence Craig	24
Lisa Jackson	26

**Happy Anniversary**

Gerald & Virginia Richard	22nd
Walter & Rose Davis	29th

**MINISTRIES FOR THE WEEKEND  
HOSPITALITY**

Saturday: Johnny Riggs, Walter Davis, Richard Scott, Willie Olivier

Sunday: YOUTH SUNDAY

**ANNOUNCER & LECTORS:**

Saturday: A: Freda Guillory  
L: Leo Jackson & Josie Curtis  
Sunday: A: Youth  
L: Youth

**ALTAR SERVER:**

Saturday: Reagan Pitre William Pitre  
Sunday: D'Ana Williams

**MINISTERS OF COMMUNION:**

Saturday Richard Scott & Russell Bottley  
Sunday: Mr. & Mrs. Adam Jacobs

**\*\*\*Congratulation's\*\*\***

Amiyah LeBlanc made JV cheerleader at LCM School for the 2nd year.

**Bishop Faith Appeal  
Goal: \$17,310 Paid:**

**It is time to begin our yearly commitment to our BFA goal for 2018. For any information please contact Shirley Ray at (409) 779-9922. We are look forward to the continued growth of our parish**

**COORDINATORS OF MINISTRIES**

**Bishop Faith Appeal** - Shirley Ray  
**Bereavement Committee** - Rose Bottley

**Donut Sunday's** - Freda Guillory\*  
Donuts and coffee in the Education Building 1st, 3rd & 4th Sunday of each month.

**Extraordinary Minister of Communion** - Shirley Ray

**Finance** - Andre' Robertson \*  
finance meetings are held every 2nd Wednesday of each month.

**Fund Rising** - Walter Davis

**Hospitality/Ushers** - Rose Davis

**Lectors** - Gary Mims

**Life Center** - Adam Jacobs

**Plumbing** - Joe Fontenot

**Mission & Retreat** - Cecilia Davis

**Music Director** - George Alexander \*  
choir rehearsal's are every Tuesday at 6:30 pm

**Pastoral Council** meetings held every 3rd Wednesday of each month.

**Socials** - Knights of Peter Claver & Ladies Auxiliary \* Parish Luncheon, the second Sunday of each month.

**Youth** - Felicia Richard

**Stewardship**-Wayne Sparrow

1st Friday of each month Fr. Donatus has 11 am Mass at Orange Villa located on 3rd Street. There will be NO evening Mass that day, adoration only, everyone is invited to come.

**Attendance**

Saturday: 39 Sunday: 41

**Weekend Collection 2nd collection for Catholic Relief Services**

Mail In / Mon.	\$ 1,647.00
Fish Fry	\$ 386.00
Cath. Relf	\$ 102.00
Loose	\$ 74.00
Mass Stipend	\$ 15.00
Saturday	\$ 735.00
Sunday	\$ 1,005.00

**Total Deposit \$ 3,964.00**

**Expenses:** locksmith <\$ 84.> spectrum < 112.30> equip. Contract <\$ 38.02> phone <\$ 216.62> Decease of Beaumont <\$ 1,901.11> Blk & Ind miss. <\$ 153.96>



**St. Therese Catholic Church**

Served by The Missionary Society of St. Paul from Nigeria since 2000

1409 6th Street 77630  
Email: sttherese1350@yahoo.com

Phone: (409) 883-3783  
Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-252-5400

Fax: (409) 883-4918  
Website: stthereseorangetx.org

**Pastoral Team:**

**Rev. Donatus Mgbajuo, MSP**

Email: donachrisneo@yahoo.com  
Contact information: cell (409) 454-3958  
Rectory: (409) 920-4007  
Deacon Julian Richard (409) 221-2743  
Deacon Hazen Kenney (512) 791-0847

Office Hours: Tuesday thru Thursday  
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.



**5th Sunday of Lent**

**March 18, 2018**

**Some bystanders heard a voice from heaven and maintained, "An angel has spoken to him"**



**Eucharistic Celebration**

**Weekends:**

Saturday Vigil: 4:00 p.m. & Sunday: 9:00 a.m.

**Reconciliation**

Saturdays: 3:20 p.m. 3:55 p.m.

**Infant Baptism:**

Please contact the pastor two (2) months in advance

**Weekdays:**

Tuesday-Friday 6:00 p.m.

**Adoration & Benediction**

1st Friday each month 5p.m.-6:30p.m.

**Marriage:**

Please call Rectory six (6) months prior to proposed date

**SECRETARY**

Cindy Hampton (409) 882-0935

**PARISH COUNCIL**

Richard Scott, Chairman	779-7587
Rose Davis, Vice Chairman	883-0762
Steven Allison, Secretary	313-0586
Cecilia Davis	920-1136
Rose Bottley	886-1525
Charlis D. Rogers	988-8719
Adam Jacobs	883-9688
Albert Hebert III	746-2627

**MAINTENANCE & GROUNDS**

Joe Ware 886-5331

**DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Sanja Popillion (409) 670-0808

**FINANCE COUNCIL**

Andre Robertson	882-0012
Robert Gobert	(504) 232-5640
Sheila Arnold	313-2062
Janice Semien	883-7126
Tina Kindle	238-4447



# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## Covenant-Obedience

The word "covenant" is almost too familiar to Christians. It is a word so often found in our liturgies, in our prayers, and in our mouths, that it comes too trippingly off the tongue. And yet, "covenant" is far too strong and too binding a word to be tossed off and trifled with. Today, most attorneys would advise against using the word "covenant" in a contract, because the word is so legally binding. When one makes a covenant with another, one is making a promise and commitment that cannot be broken without serious consequences. Christians are a people of covenant, a God-made and God-given covenant. When God established the covenant with us, God knew exactly what it entailed: God and humanity were bound in an unbreakable relationship, a relationship so strong it would outlast even death itself.

*FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34    RESPONSORIAL PSALM: Psalm 51:3-4, 12-13, 14-15*  
*SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9    GOSPEL: John 12:20-33*

## Comment

In today's first reading, Jeremiah, who had seen the fall of Jerusalem, now predicts its rise and the reestablishment of God's people. Those in exile will return home. The uprooted will be replanted. God will make a new covenant written not on tablets of stone, but on hearts of flesh. In other words, the will of God will not be something imposed from without, but something discovered from within. What's so radically "new" about this covenant, then, is its universality. No longer shall God's will and law be the purview of a few "chosen;" it shall be accessible to each and every person—to all people: "All, from least to greatest, shall know me, says the LORD."

Likewise, this new covenant will not rely on the fidelity of fickle people but on the constancy of the God of faithfulness. Because of this new covenant, all people will know, from the bottom of their hearts, that God is their God and that they are God's own. This new covenant will be so powerful as to cause the God of all remembrance to forget—to forget the sins and failings of God's people—to forget and to forgive. This new covenant is ours if we but open our hearts.

And how do we open our hearts? The author of the letter to the Hebrews gives an answer, but it is not a simple one: obedience, a word most of us do not like to hear. Yet the personification of the new covenant, Jesus Christ, is also the personification of perfect obedience, obedience to death, even to death on a cross.

Only the openhearted can afford to obey. Only the openhearted can trust enough to obey. Today's second reading calls us to be openhearted, to trust enough to walk in the footsteps of Jesus Christ. Through such obedience, salvation is guaranteed. We claim our share in the benefits of the new covenant by doing as Christ did, that is, by becoming obedient to him, by dying and rising as he did.

The Gospel graphically demonstrates the meaning of God's new covenant and the obedience it requires. Only through obedience will the grain become what it was meant to become. Only through obedience will the covenant flower. John tells us that Jesus himself is the seed who is buried and dies in obedience to God's will. Then, when John relates that Jesus says, "Whoever serves me must follow me ... The Father will honor whoever serves me," the evangelist is telling us that the covenant established by Jesus' death and resurrection is our covenant if we but follow Jesus in obedient service. Here John is inviting us to claim our share in the paschal mystery, the source and proof of the new covenant, and to realize that the salvation wrought by adherence to the covenant is no cheap grace. It will require sacrifice and suffering. Jesus himself will suffer, will give himself over to death as does a grain of wheat, only to rise, blossom, and produce grain on which others may feed. John reminds us that such is the lot of all who, through obedience, claim a share in the covenant—a dying, to be sure, but then a resurrection to a new and more glorious life.

## Reflection

Obedience is not a popular term these days. To our ears, obedience smacks too much of subservience, of giving up and giving over one's free will. And yet, Jesus was clearly *the* model of obedience. Can we really claim that Jesus is our model, too? We can if, like Jesus, we recognize that God's new covenant with us is one that is heartfelt and heart-written. We can if we realize that God's new covenant with us is one that asks no limits of and places no limits on us. Then, as heart of our hearts, God's new covenant will surely lead us to obedience. It will prompt us to give of ourselves to others, to be "lifted up" for others, even to die for others, all for the sake of the love that exists both between us and God and among all of us whose hearts God has embraced.

### PRAY FOR THE HOMEBOUND

Mary Brown  
Mary Crossley  
David Jayce Carey  
Courtney Chavis  
Therese Ferguson  
Hollis Fain  
Joe B. Forward  
Ella Mae Garrett  
Anna Garrick  
Beatrice Guillory  
Mark Mitchell Jr.  
James Mims  
Westley Popillion  
John Richard, Sr.  
Morman Richard  
Alma C Thibodeaux



### PRAY FOR THE SICK

James Arceneaux  
Mable Durio  
Alberta Fontenot  
Frances Freeman  
Debra Glaude  
Margaret Green  
Peggy Green  
Myrtle Guillory  
Rena Mae Jenkins  
Celestine Johnson  
Calvin Johnson  
Stacy Johnson  
Rose Lee Johnson  
Lakeisha Guidry-Jones  
Leothus Jones  
John Milton  
Ruby Milton  
Bettye Odom  
Clayona Pilette  
Doris Robertson  
Brushelle Scott  
Richard Scott  
Robert Simmons  
Mary Ware  
Joe Ware

### \*\*\*TOLTON "From slave to Priest"\*\*\*

**When:** Monday, March 26, 2018  
**Where:** Lamar University, Beaumont  
**Time:** 7:00 pm  
**Admission:** Free-Will Offering

The performance tells the remarkable true story of Fr. Augustus Tolton, the first African American priest. The program is filled with all the elements of professional theater, runs 75 minutes and is suitable for ages 10 and up

### INVITATION TO CHRISM MASS MARCH 27, 2018

Bishop Curtis J. Guillory, S.V.D., invites you to attend the Chrism Mass that Bishop will concelebrate with all the priests of the Diocese of Beaumont on Tuesday of Holy Week, March 27, 2018. The Mass will be celebrated at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica, 700 Jefferson Street, Beaumont, at 6:30 PM. In addition, during the Chrism Mass all the priests will, with Bishop and the Assembly, renew their priestly promises. The Chrism Mass manifests the diversity of the Body of Christ in the Diocese of Beaumont as seen in the many cultures participating, in the liturgical ministers and in the music. The Chrism Mass is a most prayerful way to journey through Holy Week.

### \*\*\*Lenten Mission\*\*\* "three (3) nights"

**When:** Wed. March 21, Thurs. March 22, & Fri. March 23  
**Where:** St. Therese Church  
**Time:** 6:00 p.m.

Fr. Mark will be the Homilist for the Mission. On Friday, March 23, Fr. Donatus and Fr. Mark will be available to hear confessions, everyone is encouraged to attend. After each night cookies and punch will available in the life center.

### \*\*\*Attention Veterans\*\*\*

Jefferson County Bar Association is offering free legal advice to veterans and spouse of deceased veterans Sat. April 7, 2018 9 am-12 pm Bridge City Senior Citizens Hall 670 Round Bunch, Bridge City, TX 409-835-8647

To all our sick and homebound THANK YOU so much for your unwavering commitment and contributions to our parish. To better serve everyone Fr. Donatus is available to visit **ALL** parishioners at the appointed time. However, Fr. Donatus has reserved the second and forth Friday of the month for the homebound.

### \*\*\*Last Friday for Fish Dinners\*\*\*

*Fried or Grilled Fish*  
*Seasoned Rice      Potato Salad*  
*Green Beans      Sliced Cake & Bread*

The cost of the dinners will be \$8.00. Thank you for serving and supporting us in whatever capacity you choose.

### \*\*\*St. Mary's\*\*\*

St. Mary Catholic School is participating in the ACE Scholarship Program that offers scholarships to new enrolling families. Contact Dr. Cynthia M, Jackson at 409 883-8913 for more information.

### \*\*\*Attention ALL Lectors\*\*\*

ALL Lectors, youth and adult are expected to be at the lectors meeting Monday March 19, 2018 at 6:00 pm. It is important to be in attendance for participating in the Holy week celebration.

*We are encouraged this Lenten season to drink **BEER***

*Bible* -read the word of God

*Empathy* -have compassion for one another

*Eucharist* -accept him into your life

*Reconciliation* -reconcile ourselves to God

### \*\*\*Scholarship\*\*\*

NAACP is offering scholarships to individuals in grades 6-12 and Knights of Columbus is offering one to a graduating senior. There is a criteria to be met and these scholarships are based on a written essay by the student on a subject chosen by their committee. Contest entries winners are, first place, \$500 or \$100 second place \$75 and third place \$50 for more information **please contact the parish office**