

Third Sunday of Lent – March 24, 2019

Fruits of the Fig

Readings: Exodus 3:1–8, 13–15; Psalm 103:1–4, 6–8, 11; 1 Corinthians 10:1–6, 10–12; Luke 13:1–9

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today’s First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see **Exodus 2:24**), God came down to rescue His people from the slave drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see **Luke 1:54–55, 72–73**), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today’s Psalm tells us.

Paul says in today’s Epistle that God’s saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink.

Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a “warning”—that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

At any moment, Jesus warns in today’s Gospel, we could perish—not as God’s punishment for being “greater sinners”—but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits.

Jesus calls us today to “repentance”—not a one-time change of heart, but an ongoing, daily transformation of our lives. We’re called to live the life we sing about in today’s Psalm—blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see **Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1–10**). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see **Luke 3:8**).

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let “the gardener,” Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.

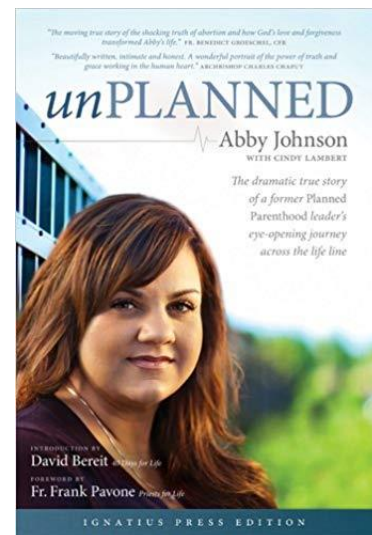
Father Blake Evans, Pastor

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Rest in peace

Charles Christian died on Thursday, March 21. Family is making arrangements for his funeral at Nativity and with Rhines Funeral Home. Call the Rectory for more information
Eternal rest grant unto him, oh Lord!

Bible Study is back! - We return to Corinth and St. Paul's famous 1st/2nd Letter to the Corinthians. 5:45pm - 7pm Mondays with Fr. Evans.



Pro Life! Recommended book & movie. You can buy the book at amazon.com or christianbook.com. Watch the movie at AMC theaters near you.



Youth choir Practice. First Rehearsal & preparation for Easter morning Mass will be on April 16th from 2:30 – 4:00 pm (please don’t be late). Contact our Music Director,

Patrick Edwards, at nativity.patrick@gmail.com if you need more information.

Free Brochures on The Mercy of God are available in the Church. Published by New Hope, KY's devout Saint Martin de Porres Lay Dominican Community. Includes quotes from Scripture and the Catechism and was edited in part by the Rev. Dr. Frederick Miller formerly of The Mount, one of Fr. Evans's professors.

Mass Intentions

FOR THE WEEK

March 23 - 30, 2019

Sat. 3/23	8:00 am	+Mr. & Mrs. Jack Gossette
	5:30pm	+Janet Gossette Rodenbaugh
Sun. 3/24	8:00am	+Jonathan C. Mitchel & Deceased family members
	10:00am	+Martha Soto de Alosilla, Anibal Alosilla Lanaul & Isabel Soto Espinoza
	1:00 pm	People of the Parish
Mon. 3/25	12:00	Evelyn Lowey
Tue. 3/26	12:00	+Jennifer Santana
Wed. 3/27	12:00	+Leonard Gilchrist
Thu. 3/28	12:00	+Bishop William Curlin
Fri. 3/29	12:00	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tan
Sat. 3/30	8:00 am	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Connick Jr. & family
	5:30pm	+Roger Chancellor

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *William Cammack, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Eileen Carroll-Doshier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege, *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, *Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *James Humphries, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Kennedy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Emilio Lowey, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Clarence Morris, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *Father Everett Pearson, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Auristela Roman, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo, *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta.

Stations of the Cross - Fridays after the daily mass in Chapel. **Friday at 6 pm** during Holy Hour/Adoration in the Great Upper Church

Reconciliation: Every Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 PM at **St. Gabriel Church** (26 Grant Circle, NW. Washington, DC 20011)

Attendance Report

	3/10/19	3/17/19
Attendance:	356 souls	415 souls
Offerings & Tithes:	\$8,156	\$7,519
Spanish Mass:	\$655	\$397
Utility fund:	\$180	\$526

Catholic Daughters. Our Lady of the Americas, Court 2344, will meet on Sunday, March 31st. All Catholic Daughters are encouraged to arrive promptly at 7:30 am. After the Litany and Mass, the CDA Court will meet in the Lounge for regular meeting.



Lenten Fish Fry. Every Friday at 6 pm in the Lounge. This event will occur every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Dinners are

\$10, sandwiches \$5. Proceeds provide grants, scholarships, and awards for parish activities. More information call Stephen Hawkins 202.285.6356 or Peter Gervais 202.494.7347

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?

Nativity Sodality would like to thank Fr. Evans for giving us the opportunity to host Community Sunday. A big thank you! to all parishioners for their support in making this event a success.

Two New USA Bishops: Pope Francis has named 2 new Bishops for the US's Military Archdiocese, Father (Captain) William Muhm (Navy/NY), and Father (Captain) Joseph Coffey (Navy, Philadelphia; serving San Diego). They will be Consecrated Bishops by Archbishop Brolio of the Military Archdiocese, Cardinal Dolan of NYC, and Archb. Chaput, OFM Cap of Phil. March 25th (Annunciation) at 2pm at The Basilica. All are welcome!

Catholic Appeal. The theme of the 2019 Appeal is "Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission." and is much different from a one-time special collection. Please find the Annual Appeal brochure and Frequently Asked Questions in your pew for your review. A gift to the Annual Appeal will touch the lives of thousands of people in a very positive way. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

Spring clean-up. Grab your work gloves and mark your calendar to join us for a Nativity Church spring cleaning of our outside campus grounds. We will also do some painting of the outside hand railings, so bring a paint brush or two if you enjoy painting. We will get together on Saturday morning, April 13, 10am - 12 noon, gathering at the Youth Center. I'll break out the grill for a lunch of hotdogs, brats, and hamburgers, some vegan as well. For additional information, please contact Amado Alvarez 202-381-9276.