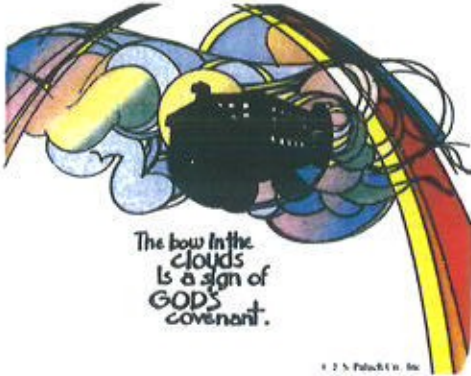


## FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

Your ways, O LORD, make known  
to me;  
Teach me your paths.  
~ Psalm 25:4



### REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Lent is the time of the year we devote to scrutinizing our lives in the light of the our baptism into the death and resurrection of Jesus. Today's readings are a nice shorthand catechism of what our baptized lives mean. As Noah passed through the waters of the flood to a covenant, with God, so did we enter into a covenant, a promised relationship with God through our baptism.

Peter's letter gives an explicit explanation of what our baptism means: it is an appeal we make to God for a clear conscience. How do we obtain this clear conscience? The words proclaimed by Jesus immediately following his temptation show us the way: "Repent, and believe in the gospel" (Mark 1:15).

It might be a good spiritual exercise to keep these readings before us throughout the entire season of Lent, a means to help us return to a life lived by our baptismal promises.  
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### TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — I will set my bow in the clouds to serve as a sign of the covenant between us and the earth (*Genesis 9:15*).

**Psalm** - Your ways O LORD are; love and truth to those who keep your covenant (*Psalm 25*)

**Second Reading** — The water of the flood prefigured baptism, which saves you now (*1Peter 3:18-22*)

## SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Edith Bolder	Home
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Inell Hunter	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Home
Jackie Countee	Home
Sharon Shackelford-Allen	Home
Earnestine Nard	Home
Mable & Donald Parson	Home
Raymond Myers	Home
Paris Harrington	Home
Earl Greene	Home
Mary Ann Grayson	St. Joseph Rehab.
Carol Myers	Home
Michael Mize	Home
Chaunceyetta Mize	Home
Margaret Jones	Home
Flora Waddell	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
John Johnson	Home
Deacon Greene	Home
Vera Brown	Home
Ovell Thomas	Home
Dorothy Wyatt	Home
Terese Chambers	Home
Alvin Brooks	Home

**FAMILY MEMBERS:** Please inform Father Leonard, when a loved-one has become home-bound, or has been hospitalized, 816-471-3696, or [leombuthia@yahoo.com](mailto:leombuthia@yahoo.com)



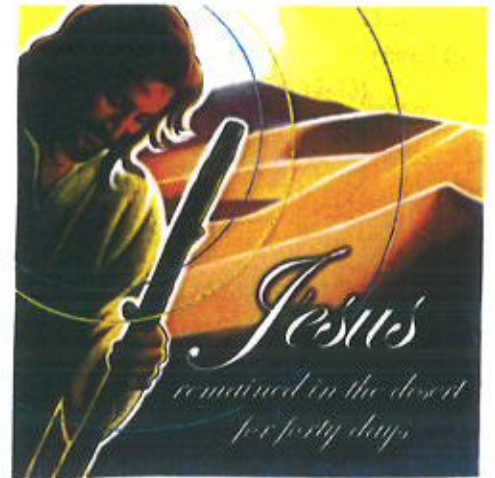
Must wear mask at all times  
- to attend.

### SUNDAY:

8:00 a.m. (Live)  
10:00 a.m. (Live & Recorded)

### WEDNESDAY

9:00 a.m. MASS (Live)  
6:00 p.m. Prayer Meeting



### READINGS FOR THE WEEK

<b>Monday:</b>	1Pt 5:1-4; Ps 23:1-3a, 4-6; Mt 16: 13-19
<b>Tuesday:</b>	Is 55: 10-11 Ps 34:4-7, 16-19; Mt 6:7-15
<b>Wednesday:</b>	Jon 3-1-10; Ps 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-18; Lk 11:29-32
<b>Thursday:</b>	Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25; Ps 138:1-3, 7c-8; Mt 7:7-12
<b>Friday:</b>	Ez 18:21-28; Ps 130:1-8, 7c-8; Mt: 5:20-26
<b>Saturday:</b>	Dt 23:16-19; Ps 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8; Mt 5:43-48
<b>Sunday:</b>	Gn 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18; Ps 116:10, 15-19, Rom 8:31b-34; Mk 9:2-10

### SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

<b>Sunday:</b>	First Sunday of Lent; Rite of Election; Rite of Calling the Candidates to Continuing Conversion; Rite of Sending
<b>Monday:</b>	Washington's Birthday; Julian Calendar Lent Begins
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Polycarp
<b>Thursday:</b>	Purim (Jewish observance) begins at sunset
<b>Friday:</b>	Abstinence
<b>Saturday:</b>	St. Gregory of Narek

**FEAST OF FAITH  
SEASONAL CHANGES FOR THE LITURGY OF LENT**

Today is the first Sunday of Lent. During this season of preparation for Easter, our churches look stark and simple – no flowers at the altar, no festive banners or decoration. And our liturgies feel different, too. The organ is quiet except to accompany the singing of the assembly. The Gloria, our Sunday Song of rejoicing, is not heard, except on solemnities, and we will not sing the alleluia, our joyful affirmation of praise, until the Easter Vigil. (Alleluia cannot not / always be our song while here below), says – an eleven century hymn. (Alleluia our transgressions / make us for a while forego: / for the solemn time is coming / when our tears for sin must flow) Alleluia dulce carmen, J. M. Neale, trans). These changes in the liturgy will catch our attention, and make us eager for the festive outpouring of joy that will return with Easter. This year, may the stripped -away liturgies of Lent remind us to strip away what is not essential in our lives to make space for the crucified and risen One, and thus be ready to sing "Alleluia once again when Easter returns.

*Conna Laughlin Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*

**HOSPITALITY MINISTERS**

We are looking for 2-3 people to serve as Hospitality Members at the 10:00 a.m. Mass each week. It would be great to have around 12 people to sign up, so that we can have a four – week rotation. The past month we have had about 50 people at the 10:00 a.m. Mass. **CLICK & COMPLETE THE SURVEY BELOW IF YOU ARE INTERESTED** <https://forms.gle/HArgBN1wgYAV7ssw8> or contact Kim Urenda, at 913-226-2085, or email at [urendak@gmail.com](mailto:urendak@gmail.com). Thank you!

**CATHOLIC CHARITIES  
EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE  
FUND - 2<sup>nd</sup> Collection**

Please help Catholic Charities of KCSJ as we strive to serve and lift our clients. Next week's second collection is for the Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Fund. This past year has been especially hard on our neighbors in need.

Your donation will help support at-risk families. There is a special collection envelope in your packet for Feb. 20/21. Please

be generous. Contact Patrick Savageau, Donor Stewardship Specialist, for more information or to help at [psavageau@ccharities.com](mailto:psavageau@ccharities.com) or 816-659-8259.

**Bulletin Deadline – Wednesday  
NOON**

**FORWARD IN FAITH**



The Stewardship Committee extends a heartfelt thank you to all the St. Monica parishioners for the success of our 110 Anniversary Celebration and Virtual Silent Auction. The Committee worked with precision as a team, under the capable leadership of Mrs. Shirley Thaw, with expert guidance on the auction from Mrs. Angela Curry, Kim Urenda's technical assistance, and Dwight's performance as the announcer contributed to raising a total amount that exceeded our goal! Our success would not have been possible without your support. You donated and bid on many of the 56 available items.

During the process, we added St. Monica Twitter and Instagram accounts to expand our reach on social media. We expect the addition will attract new members as the downtown and 18<sup>th</sup> and Vine areas expand housing opportunities near the church. Thank you again and look forward to future events to work on together as our parish moves "Forward in Faith." Our goal is, to raise \$150,000 by October 2021. So far, we have received \$57,551.50 and \$92,448.50, still to go.

The goal is huge, but God is faithful.

*God bless you all!*

*Fr. Leonard*



**ST. MONICA - 2020-2021  
CONFIRMATION CLASS**

September 2020 marked our inaugural, virtual class format via **Zoom**.

The challenge involved providing interactive, engaging, and spiritually motivating sessions while maintaining safety during a pandemic. We are pleased with the success experienced and grateful our selected Confirmation curriculum meets the intended standards of training for this important sacrament. This year's parish candidates will join other area candidates to celebrate

**The Rite of Confirmation**

**Friday, March 26, 2021,**

**7:00 p.m. at**

**St. Mark's Catholic Church,  
Independence, Missouri.**

*Please keep them in your prayers*

**Dominion Doakes Yarbrough**

Freshman, Rockhurst High School  
Son of Vaughn Yarbrough and  
Dr. Caresa Doakes Yarbrough  
Sponsor: Ramonda Doakes

**Gabriel Kagwanja,**

Sophomore, Pembroke Hill School Son of  
Domenic Kawanja and Patricia Mutiso  
Sponsor: Richard Bukenya

*The Confirmation Training Team,  
Rose Alexander, Remona Miller and Linda  
Hall, Coordinator*