

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
MARCH 21, 2021



I will place my law within them
 and write it upon their hearts;
 I will be their God,
 and they will be my people.

~ **Jeremiah 31-33**

THE NEW COVENANT

Today's first reading is an enormously important passage, not only in the history of the Jewish people, but also for us as disciples of Jesus, who see in it a foreshadowing of the Christian dispensation. The prophet announces that God has chosen to forgive the people, and that as a sign of divine forgiveness a new covenant will be established. Contrasting the new covenant with the one made with Moses on Mount Sinai, Jeremiah says that the new covenant will be written on the people's hearts rather than on tablets of stone. No longer will the community's tradition be the sole bearer of the covenant; henceforth, God will speak directly and personally to each individual, forgiving sin and calling for a return to God in faithfulness. No longer will mere outward compliance with the dictates of the Law suffice; henceforth, God asks for an obedience that springs from the depths of one's heart.

Precisely that kind of obedience is highlighted in today's second reading, where the author of the Letter to the Hebrews describes Jesus as the mediator of the new covenant whose obedience has made him the source of salvation for all who, in turn, obey him.
 Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — I will make a new covenant; I will write my law upon their hearts (Jeremiah 31:31-34) or Ezekiel 37:12-14.

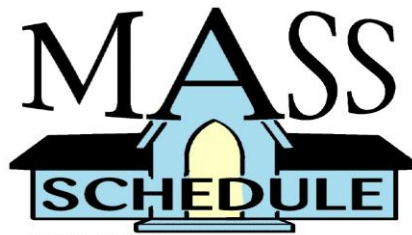
Psalm — Create a clean heart in me, O God (Psalm 51) or Psalm 130.

Second Reading — Christ learned obedience and became the source of eternal salvation (Hebrews 5:7-9) or Romans 8:8-11.

SPECIAL PRAYER LIST

Edith Bolder	Holmesdale Care Center
Jeanette Hamilton Evans	Home
Inell Hunter	Home
Carlos Nix	Home
Lavel McCullough	Home
Rosa Birch	Home
Sandra Cloyd	Home
Kevin Brown	Home
Jackie Countee	Home
Sharon Shackelford-Allen	Home
Earnestine Nard	Home
Earl Greene	Home
Michael Mize	Home
Flora Waddell	Home
Delores Bazy	Home
Deacon Greene	Home
Vera Brown	Home
Ovell Thomas	Home
Joann James	Home
Dorothy Wyatt	Home
Terese Spears Chambers	Home
Alvin Brooks	Home
Mary Ann Grayson	Home
Herman Lovett	Home
Mabel & Donald Parson	Home
John Johnson	Home

FAMILY MEMBERS: Please inform our **Pastor, Fr. Leonard** when a loved-one is home bound or has been hospitalized.
 Call 816-471-3696 or email: stmonica1616kc@hotmail.com



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

Must wear mask at all times
 — to attend.

SUNDAY

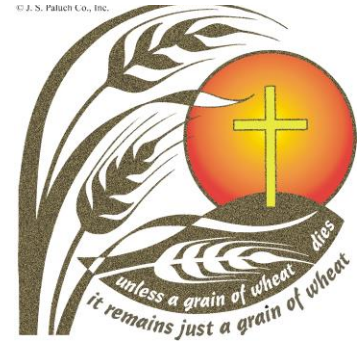
8:00 a.m. (Live)
 10:00 a.m. (Live & Recorded)

WEDNESDAY

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

TODAY'S GOSPEL

— If a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it produces much fruit (John 12:20-33) or **John 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45].**



READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Dn 13:1-9, 15-17, 19-30, 33-62 [41c-62]; Ps 23:1-6; Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday: Dn 3:14-20, 91-92, 95; Dn 3:52-56; Jn 8:31-42

Thursday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38

Friday: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42

Saturday: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11:45-56

Sunday: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:116 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1 — 15:47 [15:1-39]

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Sunday: Fifth Sunday of Lent; Third Scrutiny

Tuesday: St. Turibius of Mogrovejo

Thursday: The Annunciation of the Lord

FRIDAY: Abstinence



STATIONS OF THE CROSS
6:00 P.M.

FEAST OF FAITH

The First Reading

Each Sunday, we listen to three scripture readings. The first reading usually comes from the Old Testament. "The New Testament lies hidden in the Old; the Old Testament comes fully to light in the New," we read in the *Introduction to the Lectionary*. "Christ himself is the center and fullness of the whole of Scripture" (5). On Sundays, these readings usually have a close connection to the Gospel. In this season of Lent, for example, the Exodus account of the thirst of the Israelites in the desert is paired with the Samaritan woman's encounter with Jesus at the well. Ezekiel's vision of the Lord raising people from their graves is paired with the narrative of Christ raising Lazarus from the dead.

The readings are taken from many sources—historical books like Judges, Kings, and the Acts of the Apostles, prophets like Isaiah and Ezekiel, wisdom literature like Proverbs or Ecclesiastes. But no matter its genre, the first reading always ends with the same acclamation: "The word of the Lord." The scriptures are written by human authors who wrote in widely different cultural and historical contexts, but these human authors are also divine instruments through whom God speaks to us. And so we say, "Thanks be to God."
—*Corinna Laughlin, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.*



© J. S. Paluch Co., Inc.

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 18th 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

**Bulletin – Deadline - Wednesday
NOON**

CONDOLENCE

The St. Monica Church Family extends our heartfelt condolences and prayers, to the family of **Mrs. Ollie Shannon**, (mother of Melanie Jefferson, grandmother of Mathew Davis). Mrs. Shannon passed on to be with our Lord on Saturday, March 13, 2021, following a long illness. Please continue to lift up the Family in your Prayers, in this time of mourning. May she rest in peace.

PROJECT GRACE

St. Monica Parish is one of three local churches participating in a University of Missouri Community Research Project. Our parishioners, between the ages of 55 and 90, are encouraged to participate in an on-line survey .

The survey is designed to gather data and share information regarding **Alzheimer/dementia** .Project Grace offers a digital money card valued at \$25 for each eligible participant completing the base-line survey.

A post-survey assessment pays \$30 to each eligible participant. Project Grace begins on March 7 and **concludes on March 27, 2021.**

Fr Leonard recommended St. Monica's involvement in this research effort which includes private/confidential screening for dementia, weekly text messages, Sunday bulletin announcements, and periodic messages from UMKC's Research Department.

Please go to St. Monica's web page, or Facebook page to sign in for the base-line survey.

COVID – 19 VACCINE OPPORTUNITY

Sean Akridge (Parishioner) is working with Morning Star Baptist Church in rolling out COVID -19 Vaccines. He is willing to help with our senior parishioners in getting the vaccine. He has asked to publish his name, contact information on our Bulletin and Facebook page for anyone who would like to receive the vaccine. His phone number is 816-889-5055 ext. 1417.



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

You are invited

This year Saint Monica's 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.

Dominion Doakes Yarbrough

Freshman, Rockhurst High School

Son of Vaughn Yarbrough and

Dr. Caresa Doakes Yarbrough

Gabriel Kagwanja,

Sophomore, Pembroke Hill School Son of Domenic Kwanja and Patricia Mutiso

Sponsor: Richard Bukenya

Please keep them in your prayers.

The Confirmation Training Team,

Rose Alexander, Remona Miller and Linda Hall, Coordinator