



SANTA CRUZ ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH  
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YOU WILL  
worship

The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert,  
and he remained in the desert for forty days,  
tempted by Satan.  
He was among wild beasts,  
and the angels ministered to him.

MARK 1:12-13

FIRST  
SUNDAY OF  
LENT

FEBRUARY 21, 2021

## FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT 2021

The Gospel of Mark is the shortest of the 4 Gospels – only 16 chapters; John has 21, Luke has 24 and Matthew is the longest at 28. Today's Gospel of Mark is just 4 verses and, in its brevity, sums up Mark's style of writing – simple, direct and essential. It is almost as if he is in a hurry to tell us the Good News.

He records the Humanity of Jesus in the solitude of the desert, being tempted as we are, yet at peace with the wild beasts and being ministered to by the angels. From there he moves on to the core of the preaching of Jesus "Repent and believe in the gospel".

Both are most important for us today as we try to follow our Lord and Master and try to enter deeply into the spirit of Lent and be renewed in our faith. We too are tempted in many ways in our own time and our own social setting. We are called to come face to face with our modern temptations, maybe the tendency to individualism, to addictions and to our own ideologies that keep us from opening our hearts to the Good News that Jesus brings to every age. He has come to set us free from all that shackles us by the power of his saving Death and Resurrection. Lent is a great time to face ourselves, to touch the Savior's presence in our world today and to look forward to the joy of Easter.

The first reading from Genesis is also very inspiring, especially in the sign God gives of His new covenant with Noah – the rainbow. Who is not delighted to see the rainbow in the sky? It is the great reminder that God will never destroy our world or rather the world He has made for us – it is His world. Despite all the problems we face we can find joy and delight in His promises.

Finally, if you are desiring to make a good retreat during Lent why not consider the Carmelite Online Lenten Retreat with St Teresa of Avila. It is free; you can follow it in English or in Spanish; check it out at

**[www.retreat-online.karmel.at](http://www.retreat-online.karmel.at)** and benefit from the wonderful teaching of St Teresa of Avila. Have a lovely Lent.

~ *Fr. David Costello, O.C.D.*

Marco and Lourdes Leon are both native Tucsonans with a deep faith that was fostered by their parents. Marco is an A.P. Government and Civics teacher at Desert View High School in the Sunnyside School District. Lourdes teaches fifth grade at St. John the Evangelist Parish School. Together they have about 50 years of experience in the education of youth.

Their paths first crossed in 1997 when Lourdes was invited to play at a Mass for a group of teens under the direction of Marco. They started a brief friendship, but went their separate ways for about ten years when youth ministry led them together again. They received the Sacrament of Matrimony in April 2009. Soon afterwards they were invited by Yolanda and Peter Martinez to join them in the youth ministry at Santa Cruz Parish. They followed and were accepted with open arms from the community. They served for four years as co-directors of Elijah's Knights, Santa Cruz Youth Group. Lourdes was invited to continue her music ministry and Marco served as a lector and Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion.

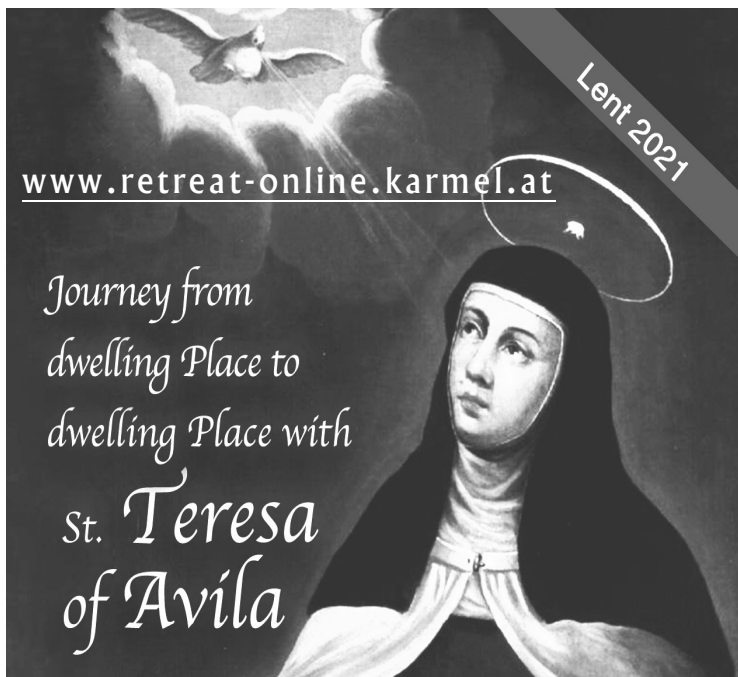
During this time, Marco and Lourdes pursued adoption since they were unable to conceive children of their own. Their prayers were answered when they were selected from a pool of families to adopt twins - Suzanna and Isaiah. Most parents have nine months to prepare a house for a newborn. They had only seven days to get their house ready for a pair of 4-year-old twins. The twins were brought into the Leon home and began their journey as a family of faith.

Marco and Lourdes brought the twins to Santa Cruz Church on the very first day they received them so they could thank God as a family. The children had never set foot in a church before nor did they understand the many expressions of our faith like the sign of the cross. The twins learned that as a family they pray together, eat together, play together, and work together! This has been their motto and continues to help center them when they are distracted.

Last year when the pandemic caused schools and businesses to close in March 2020, Marco and Lourdes used Facebook at the request of friends and family to lead others in prayer in a time of chaos and loss. They lead rosaries, novenas, and during lent set up their backyard to lead others in the Stations of the Cross with the help of their children. They have also continued to serve at Santa Cruz at the Sunday livestream Masses. Lourdes, alongside her sister and daughter, continue to provide music at the Sunday liturgies and Marco serves as a lector. Isaiah serves as an altar server and assists the sacristan.

Marco describes their home as a place for grandparents, aunts, and uncles to gather in friendship and enjoy a "huge spectacle of making a meal from scratch" on Sundays, a tradition that has taken a hit during the COVID-19 pandemic. The Leon's hospitality extends to students who are kicked out of their own homes. They can temporarily stay with the Leon's. "We're called to action," Marco says of the family's decision to open their home.

The faith and Christian values of the Leon family is like a leaven in their community. We are pleased to honor them Santa Cruz Parish Family of the Year. ~ *Fr. Stephen F. Watson, O.C.D.*



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Journey from  
dwelling Place to  
dwelling Place with  
st. Teresa  
of Avila

### Santa Cruz Catholic Church Mass Schedule

**Saturday, 3:30—5:00 pm** (English/Español) Confession  
in Church and Courtyard. You must wear a mask.  
Confesión en el patio de la iglesia.  
Debes usar una mascara.

Beginning on the First Sunday of Lent, February 20-21  
3:00 p.m. Saturday Vigil Mass in the school field

#### Sunday, February 21st

9:30 a.m. Mass in the church patio  
11:00 a.m. Live-stream Mass  
3:00 p.m. Mass in the school field  
6:00 p.m. Mass inside church

#### Beginning Monday, February 22

Weekdays Mon-Fri 8:00 a.m. Mass inside church

There will be **Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 6 p.m.**  
We are also planning to have an outdoor Lenten  
mission in March. The dates and times are still to be  
determined.

## Mass Intentions

Special Int./Anna Davis  
James Hawkins/R.I.P.

Santa Cruz Parishioners  
Amber Acosta/R.I.P.

Special Int./Pueblo High School,  
Administration & Community  
Leon Perez/R.I.P.

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Sister Joan Lundy, O.C.D./R.I.P.  
Special Int./Steven Rene Gonzalez

In Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus/  
Int. Nieves Ortiz & Family

Martha Lucia Franco/Happy Birthday

Sister Mary Davin, O.C.D./R.I.P.  
In Honor of San Pedro

Pilar Ortega/R.I.P.

Special Int./Rosemary M. Valenzuela

In Honor of Our Lady of Guadalupe  
Conrad Yrigolla/Happy Birthday

### Parish Collection February 14th, 2021

**Collection: \$ 2,792.57**

*Thank you and God bless your generosity!  
¡Gracias y que Dios bendiga su generosidad!*

**Thanking You for Your  
Service to Our Parish**

Most Rev. Edward J. Weisenburger  
Diocese of Tucson (520) 838-2500

**Santa Cruz Catholic Parish**  
1220 South Sixth Avenue  
Tucson, Arizona 85713

Parish Office (520) 623-3833 Fax (520) 903-2742

~ **Website** [santacruzchurchtucson.com](http://santacruzchurchtucson.com) ~

~ **Email** [avemarias@hotmail.com](mailto:avemarias@hotmail.com) ~

**Business Hours** Monday - Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm

**Closed for lunch** 12:45pm - 1:45pm

Pastor:

In Residence:

In Residence:

Rev. Stephen Watson, O.C.D.

Rev. Jose Luis Ferroni, O.C.D.

Rev. David Costello, O.C.D.

### New Parishioners: Always welcome!

Please register by using our forms available in our parish office.

~ **Masses** ~ Note these are suspended during COVID-19

**Sun. 6:30 am, 8 am (Spanish), 10 am, 12 noon, & 6 pm**

Mon. - Fri. 6:30 am & 8:00 am Sat. 8 am & 5:30 pm (Vigil)

**Confession:** Sat. 3:30 pm - 5:00 pm

**Baptisms:** 2nd Sunday of the Month (English) / 4° Domingo del Mes (Español)

**Matrimony:** Please call at least six months in advance.

*Por favor de llamar con seis meses de anticipación.*

Parish Administrative Assistant: Hada Reyes (520) 623-3833

Religious Education: Martin Doe, Director (520) 882-9687

Santa Cruz Catholic School: Angelina Schmidt, Director  
(520) 624-2093

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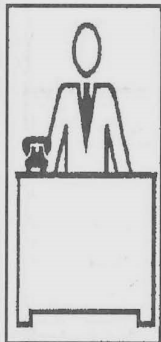
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washes with ADVERTISED soap  
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drinks a cup  
of ADVERTISED coffee  
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