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# CHURCH OF ST. MATTHEW

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# M A D E



He made a whip out of  
cords and drove them all  
out of the temple area.

JOHN 2:15A

# WEEKLY PRAYER

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2021

<b>SUN 3/07</b>	Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/Ps 19:8, 9, 10, 11 [Jn 6:68c]/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn 2:13-25 or Ex 17:3-7/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42
<b>MON 3/08</b>	2 Kgs 5:1-15ab/Ps 42:2, 3; 43:3, 4 [cf 42:3]/Lk 4:24-30
<b>TUE 3/09</b>	Dn 3:25, 34-43/Ps 25:4-5ab, 6 and 7bc, 8-9 [6a]/Mt 18:21-35
<b>WED 3/10</b>	Dt 4:1, 5-9/Ps 147:12-13, 15-16, 19-20]/Mt 5:17-19
<b>THR 3/11</b>	Jer 7:23-28/Ps 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9 [8]/Lk 11:14-23
<b>FRI 3/12</b>	Hos 14:2-10/Ps 81:6c-8a, 8bc-9, 10-11ab, 14 and 17 [cf. 11 and 9a]/Mk 12:28-34
<b>SAT 3/13</b>	Hos 6:1-6/Ps 51:3-4, 18-19, 20-21ab [cf. Hos 6:6]/Lk 18:9-14
<b>SUN 3/14</b>	2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Ps 137:1-2, 3, 4-5, 6 [6ab]/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21 or 1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4m 5, 6 [1]/ Eph 5:8-14/Jn 9:1-41 or 9:1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38

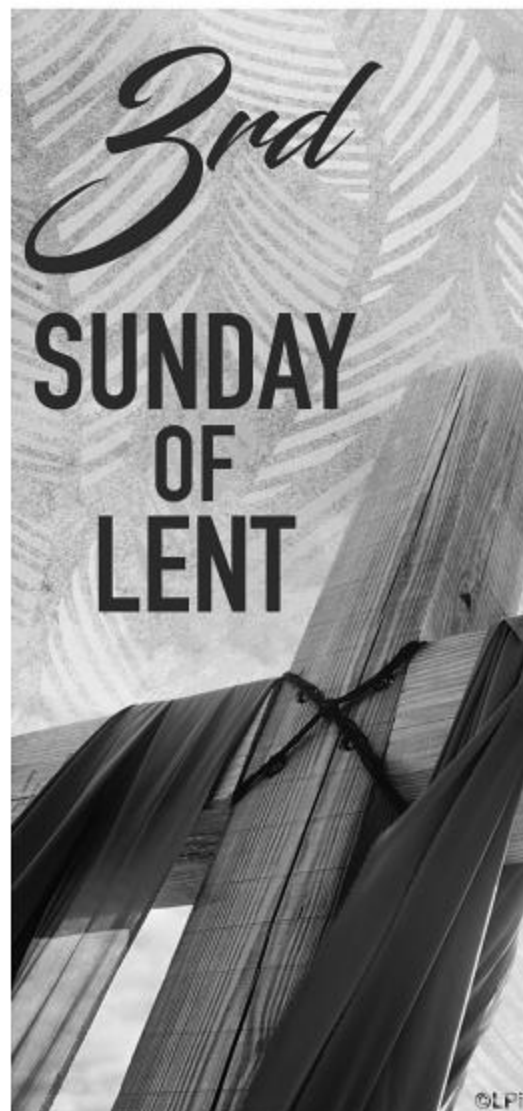
## OBSERVANCES FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 7, 2021

<b>Sunday:</b>	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Lent
<b>Monday:</b>	St. John of God, Religious
<b>Tuesday:</b>	St. Frances of Rome, Religious
<b>Sunday:</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent; Daylight Saving Time begins

## LIVE THE LITURGY

### Inspiration for the week

With our world in such constant turmoil and conflict, it makes such good sense to return to the simple directives given in the Ten Commandments. God's unassuming guidelines provide the perfect recipe for ordering our relationships with God, others, and even ourselves. But yet, we are so quick to glance beyond them and even remove them from public view because we foolishly believe we can create something better. Arrogance runs far deeper in the members of our society than we can ever imagine. Lent is a perfect time to call ourselves back to our foundations and the basic relationships that comprise our lives. It is also a time to remember that Jesus is the true sign of God's presence. Everything he says and does, including his suffering and death, is a sign of the God who sent him. The anger we witness when Jesus exhorts those in the temple to stop making his Father's house a marketplace can equally be seen in his anger and frustration over humanity's constant mission to turn God's creation into a secular world. We have a lot of work to do for sure.



*Your words are  
everlasting  
life.*

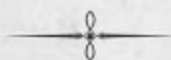
— PSALM 19 —

# WORSHIP & MEDITATION



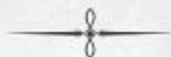
## FIRST READING

In six days the LORD made the heavens  
and the earth,  
the sea and all that is in them;  
but on the seventh day he rested. (Ex 20:11)



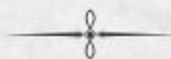
## PSALM

Lord, you have the words of everlasting life.  
(Ps 19)



## SECOND READING

For the foolishness of God is wiser  
than human wisdom,  
and the weakness of God is stronger than  
human strength. (1 Cor 1:25)



## GOSPEL

"Destroy this temple and in three days  
I will raise it up." (Jn 2:19)

*Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001,  
1998, 1970 CCD. The English translation of Psalm  
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## GOSPEL MEDITATION

### Encourage Deeper Understanding of Scripture

Many prefer a "create as you go" approach to life where laws and protocols primarily exist to secure and protect liberties rather than dictate and outline proper and right behavior. There are no real benchmarks for acceptable ethical and moral behavior, with a "you can't tell me what to do" attitude prevailing. Parents are even limited in what they can request of their children, and dealing with threatening behaviors, especially from adults, are a challenge as well. Acceptable and expected conduct seems to amount to safeguarding each other's space rather than increasing awareness of necessary relationships that require a more refined and higher response.

We have lost our axis to the world of "anything goes" and no longer see the Ten Commandments as practical and wise guideposts to effective living. We live on "relativism island" where only a possible suggestion to "love and do not harm" may be the only standard able to be preached. While Jesus most certainly emphasized love above anything else, it was never about warm fuzzy feelings or halfhearted humanitarian efforts. The love of which Jesus spoke establishes an intimate connection with God, neighbor, self, and creation. Because this love, who is God Himself, is at the foundational core of our lives, it demands actions and attitudes that serve to build up, increase, and free up those relationships. Love requires proper conduct. Preserving and enhancing these love centered relationships is at the heart of the Ten Commandments (and the Beatitudes) and the reason for Jesus' display of anger in the temple.

The Ten Commandments can save the world from turmoil and conflict by instilling basic moral and relational principles within us. They also hold a healthy sense of sin in balance and always remind us of our relationship with God and the freedom God offers. Our faith preserves these jewels of truth that we often look beyond, dismiss altogether, or seek to remove from public view. Human beings can be so arrogant at times. Our Lenten journey, especially when embarked upon with sincerity and resolve, can restore all of our essential relationships. When we get absorbed in life's preoccupations and demands, things can quickly get distorted and we can find ourselves way off track. In short, we find ourselves in sin. Humanity is losing a sense of both grace and sin. We need both to understand what is real and true. Until we do, the oppressive systems and ideologies that hurt so many will never change. We will never change. We are grateful for those courageous souls who willingly embrace the conversion and hard work Lent demands and stand against antiquated systems and ideologies. They give us hope that all is not lost.

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