

March 23, 2025

Third Sunday of Lent

MagnifiKid!



“ Sir, leave it for this year also ”



While sorting through some magazines, I found an entry form for participating in a contest!



Today is the last day you can send it in...

What can you win?



I don't know, I had already cut out an article on beetles...



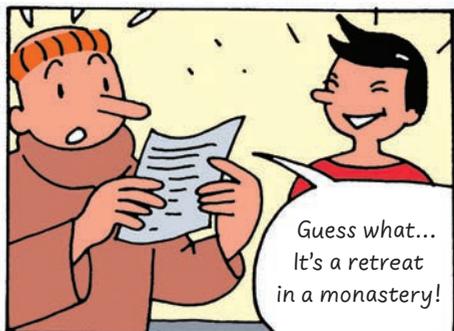
It's going to be a surprise!

First you have to win...



A few weeks later

Barnabus!
Come, please...
I won!



Guess what...
It's a retreat
in a monastery!

► **Bearing fruit**

This week, you can continue your Lenten efforts by visiting or calling a sick person and then praying for him or her. This is an excellent way to bear good fruit.

Called to bear fruit

God loves us, and he is rich in patience and mercy. Like the gardener in the Gospel, who wants to give the fig tree a second chance, God never gives up on us, even when we sin. God sees us with the eyes of hope. God isn't looking for an excuse to send people to Hell. On the contrary, he sends his Son, Jesus, to convert and save men and women. The gardener in the Gospel is ready to work an extra year so that the tree is not cut down. The gardener is like God, and the tree is like us. The fig tree does not give any fruit, but the gardener refuses to give up on it. By being patient, he saves the tree. Likewise, God does not give up on us, and he wants us to never give up on ourselves or others. Let's learn to think like the gardener and stop saying things like, "I'll never make it" or "That bad person will never change." Instead, let's be filled with patience and hope!

Lisa Reno



Living in hope

This week, try to look at the people and events in your life through the eyes of hope. In your Lenten booklet, draw or tell about an act of charity or an attitude of hope that a person could show when faced with a difficult situation.

Sunday, March 23rd

Third Sunday of Lent

At Masses where the Scrutinies are celebrated for those to be admitted to the Sacraments of Christian Initiation at the Easter Vigil, the readings from Year A are always used. The readings and prayers provided here are for the current Sunday (Year C).

→ When the Entrance Chant is concluded, the Priest says:

🗨 **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

→ The people reply:

🗨 **Amen.**

Greeting

🗨 **The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,/ and the love of God,/ and the communion of the Holy Spirit/ be with you all.**

🗨 **And with your spirit.**

Penitential Act

🗨 **Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins,/ and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

🗨 **I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned,**

in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done

and in what I have failed to do,

→ *And, striking their breast, they say:*

through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

→ *Then they continue:*

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,

all the Angels and Saints,

and you, my brothers and sisters,

to pray for me to the Lord our God.

🗨 **May almighty God have mercy on us,/ forgive us our sins,/ and bring us to everlasting life.**

🗨 **Amen.**

Kyrie, eleison

🗨 **Lord, have mercy.**

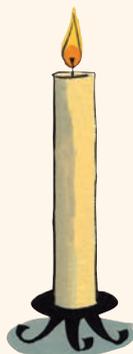
🗨 **Lord, have mercy.**

🗨 **Christ, have mercy.**

🗨 **Christ, have mercy.**

🗨 **Lord, have mercy.**

🗨 **Lord, have mercy.**



→ *The Gloria is omitted during Lent.*

Parable

A parable is a very simple story that tells about daily life and that helps to explain complicated or invisible things. In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells a parable in which a fig tree doesn't bear any fruit. He tells us this to make us understand that, like the gardener, he has lots of patience with us even though we don't always bear fruit.

Collect

🗨️ **O God, author of every mercy and of all goodness,/ who in fasting, prayer and almsgiving/ have shown us a remedy for sin,/ look graciously on this confession of our lowliness,/ that we, who are bowed down by our conscience,/ may always be lifted up by your mercy./ Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,/ who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ God, for ever and ever.**

🗨️ **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD



A reading from the Book of Exodus

"I AM" sent me to you.

Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian. Leading the flock across the desert, he came to Horeb, the mountain of God. There an angel of the LORD appeared to Moses in fire flaming out of a bush. As he looked on, he was surprised to see that the bush, though on fire, was not **consumed (1)**. So Moses decided, "I must go over to look at this remarkable sight, and see why the bush is not burned."

When the LORD saw him coming over to look at it more closely, God called out to him from the bush, "Moses! Moses!" He answered, "Here I am." God said, "Come no nearer! Remove the sandals from your feet, for the place where you stand is holy ground. I am the God of your fathers," he continued, "the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God. But the LORD said, "I have witnessed the affliction of my people in Egypt and have heard their cry of complaint against their **slave drivers (2)**, so I know well what they are suffering. Therefore I have come down to rescue them from the hands of the Egyptians and lead them out of that land into a good and spacious land, a land flowing with milk and honey."

Moses said to God, "But when I go to the Israelites and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' if they ask me, 'What is his name?' what am I to tell them?" God replied, "I am who am." Then he added, "This is what you shall tell the Israelites: I AM sent me to you."

God spoke further to Moses, "Thus shall you say to the Israelites: The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.

THE DIFFICULT WORDS

- (1) As wood burns, it turns into ashes. Therefore, we say that it is **consumed**. This bush burns, but it does not turn into ashes. It is not consumed.
- (2) A slave was someone who was forced to work without pay. **Slave drivers** were those who ordered the slaves to work.
- (3) A **generation** is the amount of time it takes for children to grow up, become adults, and have children of their own.

“This is my name forever;/ thus am I to be remembered through all **generations (3)**.”

(Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15)

🗨️ **The word of the Lord.**

🗨️ **Thanks be to God.**



Psalm 103

℟️ **The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Bless the LORD, O my soul;
and all my being, bless his holy name.

Bless the LORD, O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits. ℟️

He pardons all your iniquities,
he heals all your ills.

He redeems your life from destruction,
crowns you with kindness and
compassion. ℟️

The LORD secures justice
and the rights of all the oppressed.

He has made known his ways
to Moses,
and his deeds to the children
of Israel. ℟️

Merciful and gracious is the LORD,
slow to anger and abounding in
kindness.

For as the heavens are high above
the earth,
so surpassing is his kindness toward
those who fear him. ℟️



A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

The life of the people with Moses in the desert was written down as a warning to us.

I do not want you to be unaware, brothers and sisters, that our ancestors were all under the cloud and all passed through the sea, and all of them were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea. All ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the same spiritual drink, for they drank from a **spiritual rock (4)** that followed them, and the rock was the Christ. Yet God was not pleased with most of them, for they were struck down in the desert.

These things happened as examples for us, so that we might not desire evil things, as they did. Do not grumble as some of them did, and suffered death by the **destroyer (5)**. These things happened to them as an example, and they have been written down as a warning to us, upon whom the end of the ages has come. Therefore, whoever thinks he is standing secure should take care not to fall.

(1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12)

THE DIFFICULT WORDS

(4) In order to satisfy the thirst of the Jewish people in the desert, Moses struck a rock and water gushed out. For Paul, this is an image of the strength that comes from God because this **spiritual rock** was Christ protecting and guiding the believers.

(5) The **destroyer** is the enemy of God and man. As long as we live with God, we are safe and secure. But if we separate ourselves from God, the destroyer has the power to hurt us.

🗨️ **The word of the Lord.**

🗨️ **Thanks be to God.**

Verse before the Gospel

🗨️ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

🗨️ **Repent, says the Lord; the kingdom of heaven is at hand.**

🗨️ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, king of endless glory!**

Gospel

🗨️ **The Lord be with you.**

🗨️ **And with your spirit.**

🗨️ **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.**

🗨️ **Glory to you, O Lord.**



 **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

If you do not repent, you will all perish as they did.

Some people told Jesus about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with the blood of their sacrifices. Jesus said to them in reply, “Do you think that because these Galileans suffered in this

way they were greater sinners than all other Galileans? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not **repent (6)**, you will all perish as they did! Or those eighteen people who were killed when the tower at Siloam fell on them—do you think they were more guilty than everyone else who lived in Jerusalem? By no means! But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish as they did!”

And he told them this parable: “There once was a person who had a fig tree planted in his orchard, and when he came in search of fruit on it but found none, he said to the gardener, ‘For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it **exhaust (7)** the soil?’ He said to him in reply, ‘Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and **fertilize (8)** it; it may bear fruit in the future. If not you can cut it down.’”

(Luke 13:1-9)

🗨️ **The Gospel of the Lord.**

🗨️ **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily

Profession of Faith

**I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,**

THE DIFFICULT WORDS

(6) We **repent** when we feel regret or sorrow about something that we have done or have failed to do.

(7) Soil can be **exhausted** when it is used over and over again for planting with no rest in between. This exhausts or removes the

soil's nutrients.

(8) **To fertilize** the ground means to add nutrients to the soil so that plants will grow better.

maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial
with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

→ *All bow until the words: "and became man."*

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate
of the Virgin Mary,
and became man.
For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,
he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.
He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father

and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is
adored and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.
I believe in one, holy, catholic
and apostolic Church.
I confess one Baptism
for the forgiveness of sins
and I look forward to
the resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come.

Amen.



Prayer of the Faithful

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation and Preparation of the Gifts

→ *If the Offertory Chant is not sung, the Priest may speak these words aloud:*

🗨 **Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,/ for through your goodness we have received/ the bread we offer you:/ fruit of the earth and work of human hands,/ it will become for us the bread of life.**

🗨 **Blessed be God for ever.**

🗨 **Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation,/ for through your goodness**

Wine

In the Bible, there is often talk of grapevines, of vinedressers, and of wine. Wine is a drink that is very much appreciated and valued; there is never a celebration without serving

• the best wine possible! Wine is also used in the sacrifices offered to God. In order for a grapevine to give good grapes for wine, it needs to be cultivated with care. For these

we have received/ the wine we offer you:/ fruit of the vine and work of human hands,/ it will become our spiritual drink.

🗨 **Blessed be God for ever.**

Invitation to Prayer

🗨 **Pray, brethren (brothers and sisters),/ that my sacrifice and yours/ may be acceptable to God,/ the almighty Father.**

🗨 **May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.**

Prayer over the Offerings

🗨 **Be pleased, O Lord, with these sacrificial offerings,/ and grant that we who beseech pardon for our own sins,/ may take care to forgive our neighbor./ Through Christ our Lord.**

🗨 **Amen.**

Eucharistic Prayer

🗨 **The Lord be with you.**

🗨 **And with your spirit.**

🗨 **Lift up your hearts.**

🗨 **We lift them up to the Lord.**

🗨 **Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.**

🗨 **It is right and just.**

Preface II of Lent: Spiritual penance

→ *The Priest may choose a different Preface.*

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation,/ always and everywhere to give you thanks,/ Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God./ For you have given your children a sacred time/ for the renewing and purifying of their hearts,/ that, freed from disordered affections,/ they may so deal with the things of this passing world/ as to hold rather to the things that eternally endure./ And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

🗨 **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes

in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

→ *The Priest has over ten different texts to choose from. During this prayer, he asks the Holy Spirit to transform the bread and wine so that they become the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The Priest then says the words of Jesus:*

THIS WEEK'S SPOTLIGHT

reasons, wine is both a sign of the joy God gives and of our need to work at our tasks patiently.



“TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,/ FOR THIS IS MY BODY,/ WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.”

“TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK FROM IT,/ FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD,/ THE BLOOD OF THE NEW AND ETERNAL COVENANT,/ WHICH WILL BE POURED OUT FOR YOU AND FOR MANY/ FOR THE FORGIVENESS OF SINS./ DO THIS IN MEMORY OF ME.”

→ After the Body and Blood of Christ are raised, we say or sing an acclamation. This is the most common one:

🗨 **The mystery of faith.**

🗨 **We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

→ During the rest of the Eucharistic Prayer, we pray for the whole Church. At the end, the Priest says:

🗨 **Through him, and with him, and in him,/ O God, almighty Father,/ in the unity of the Holy Spirit,/ all glory and honor is yours,/ for ever and ever.**

🗨 **Amen.**

Communion Rite

🗨 **At the Savior’s command/ and formed by divine teaching,/ we dare to say:**

🗨 **Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come,**

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

🗨 **Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,/ graciously grant peace in our days,/ that, by the help of your mercy,/ we may be always free from sin/ and safe from all distress,/ as we await the blessed hope/ and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.**

🗨 **For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.**

🗨 **Lord Jesus Christ,/ who said to your Apostles:/ Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,/ look not on our sins,/ but on the faith of your Church,/ and graciously grant her peace and unity/ in accordance with your will./ Who live and reign for ever and ever.**

🗨 **Amen.**

🗨 **The peace of the Lord be with you always.**

🗨 **And with your spirit.**

🗨 **Let us offer each other the sign of peace.**



Your prayer after Communion

After receiving Holy Communion, you can say this prayer silently to yourself. If you have not yet received your First Communion, you can still say this prayer because of your desire to receive Jesus.

• Father, through Jesus, in union with the whole Church, I thank you for coming into my heart. I turn to you this day and praise you for feeding me with the Body and Blood of your Son. Please let this Communion

→ Then the Priest takes the host, breaks it over the paten, and places a small piece in the chalice. Meanwhile, the following is sung or said:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins
of the world,
grant us peace.

Invitation to Communion

→ While holding up the consecrated host, the Priest says:

🗨 **Behold the Lamb of God,**/ behold
him who takes away the sins of the
world./ **Blessed are those called to**
the supper of the **Lamb**.

🗨 **Lord, I am not worthy**
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

Prayer after Communion

🗨 **As we receive the pledge/ of**
things yet hidden in heaven/ and are
nourished while still on earth/ with
the **Bread** that comes from on high,/
we humbly entreat you, **O Lord,**/
that what is being brought about

nourish my desire to know you better and
grow in your love.

in us in mystery/ may come to true
completion./ Through Christ our Lord.
🗨 **Amen.**

CONCLUDING RITES

Brief announcements

Prayer over the People and Final Blessing

🗨 **The Lord be with you.**

🗨 **And with your spirit.**

🗨 **Direct, O Lord, we pray, the**
hearts of your faithful,/ and in your
kindness grant your servants this
grace:/ that, abiding in the love of
you and their neighbor,/ they may
fulfill the whole of your commands./
Through Christ our Lord.

🗨 **Amen.**

🗨 **And may the blessing of almighty**
God,/ the Father, and the Son, ✠ and
the Holy Spirit,/ come down on you
and remain with you for ever.

🗨 **Amen.**

Dismissal

🗨 **Go in peace, glorifying**
the Lord by your life.

🗨 **Thanks be to God.**



● Now, listen attentively to the prayer that the
● Priest is going to say in the name of the entire
● congregation. It is your prayer, too. You can
● follow along in *MagnifiKid!* It is the Prayer after
● Communion.



In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Open the doors of our hearts so that we might hear the Word of the Lord!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

As this new day begins, I give thanks for being alive. Help me to remember that you give me your love so I can share it with others.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Pray Morning Evening

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Let us be converted so that we believe in the Good News!

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

Lord, you are slow to anger and full of love. Forgive me for all that I have done wrong today and for all the times when I failed to hope in your mercy.

Our Father, who art in heaven...

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.



If you want to, before falling asleep, you can also say the Hail Mary.

Bringing It All Together



This week you have tried to look at everything around you in the same way that Jesus Christ looks at us, with the eyes of hope. Perhaps this has led you to say something nice to someone, or to smile at someone, or to help someone. All these little actions are very special to the Lord. They show that we are all brothers and sisters, and that we care for each other like families should. When you say your prayers tonight, remember the little actions of love you have done, and offer them to the Lord.



Sometimes it is hard to look at the people around us with the eyes of hope. To help us to have a more hopeful outlook, Jesus tells us to do three things: to give alms, to pray, and to fast.

Find the definitions of these words in your Lenten booklet (p. 4): **almsgiving**, **praying**, or **fasting**. Now, look closely at the drawings on this page and write down what is shown below each picture.



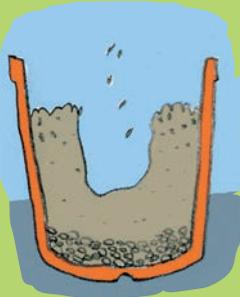
Answers from the Lenten booklet

- To give alms is to give something to someone who is in need.
- Praying is talking to God. To pray is to enter into a friendship with God, to invite him into our lives, and to let his Word change our hearts.
- Fasting is giving up food for a while, or giving up something else that we like.

Gardening

Whether you have a window sill or a yard, you can do some gardening by planting tomatoes or beans in pots or directly into the ground.

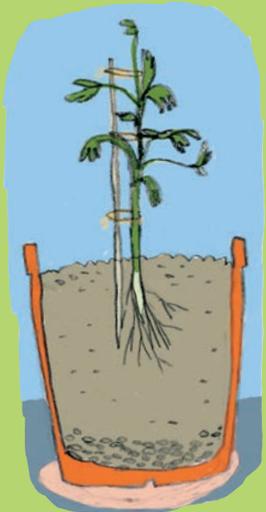
✗ For city children:



✗ Fill your pot with a mixture of dirt and potting soil, making an indentation about the size of your fist. Put about 4 to 5 seeds into the hole, cover them, and press the dirt down lightly. Place the saucer underneath the flower pot, and water what you have planted. Put it in a well-lit spot, not too close to a radiator. By watering your plant each day, you will soon see young plants poking up out of the dirt.

✗ Let them grow, then decide which one is the biggest and strongest. Pull out the other ones. Poke the stake into the dirt a couple of inches away from the plant you have kept. Attach the stem to the stake with a bit of twine without tying it too tightly and being careful not to damage the stem.

✗ When the good weather returns, and when there is no longer a risk of freezing temperatures, you can put your pot outside and water it every evening.



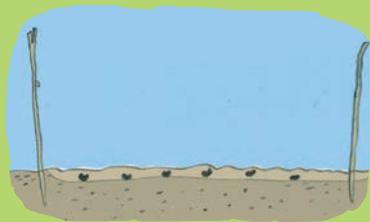
✗ The tomato plants will begin to grow yellow flowers. It is good to trim off the growths that appear at the intersections of the stem and the branches. These growths unnecessarily use up the plant's energy and keep the tomatoes from becoming as big as they could be. The tomatoes are ready to be picked when they are red and about the size of cherries.



You will need some patience as your plants will take a few weeks to mature; but what a great pleasure it is when you are finally ready to harvest your fruits and vegetables!

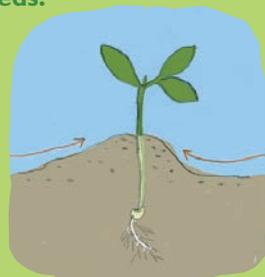


✕ For country children:



✕ Make a trench in the dirt about 1 inch deep and three feet long and drop seeds into it—one seed every six inches. Cover the seeds and plant the stakes at each end of the trench. This will indicate where you have planted your seeds.

✕ Water the trench regularly and, in a few weeks, you will see stems and leaves appearing. When the plants are about six inches tall, make a little mound at the base of each stem. If there is wind, you can tie a string from one stake to the other to help the plants grow.



✕ When the plant is flowering, eliminate the flowers at the very ends of the small branches by pinching them off with your thumb and index finger. In this way you will have larger beans and fewer aphids.

✕ This summer, you can harvest your beans when they are still young and eat the seeds right out of the pods. When the beans are fully grown, your parents can cook them.



Answers from left to right: there is an extra bush; a sheep and a cloud have disappeared; the sandal on the right is turned a different way; the shepherd's staff has changed color; an extra flame of fire has appeared on the bush; there is an extra stone.



There are seven differences between these two pictures.

Can you find them?

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