

2021 Lenten Small Group Materials

February 17: ASH WEDNESDAY – NOON LIVESTREAM MASS

Joel 2:12-18 / Psalm 51 / 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2 / Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

Jesus said to his disciples: "Take care not to perform righteous deeds in order that people may see them; otherwise, you will have no recompense from your heavenly Father. When you give alms, do not blow a trumpet before you, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets to win the praise of others. Amen, I say to you, they have received their reward. But when you give alms, do not let your left hand know what your right is doing, so that your almsgiving may be secret. And your Father who sees in secret will repay you." (Matthew 6:1-4)

The Spirit and the Sacraments: <https://youtu.be/dh5iAICuMiM>

The sacraments are always an encounter with the Holy Spirit. In this segment we will look at how the Holy Spirit is present in the Sacraments of Baptism, Confirmation, and Marriage, and how this can impact your life.

- How should a baptized Christian's life be different?
- How is baptism a gateway to a life in the Holy Spirit?
- In what ways does Confirmation make a person gifted?
- What does "life in the Holy Spirit" look like to you?
- In what ways could the Holy Spirit help those who are married?

February 21: FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 9:8-15 / Psalm 25 / 1 Peter 3:18-22 / Mark 1:12-15

Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel." (Mark 1:14-15)

Fruits of the Holy Spirit: <https://youtu.be/n0hXAt-zkYI>

By the way we live, our lives produce some type of fruit. When we live animated by the Holy Spirit, our lives produce fruit that not only makes our own life more peaceful, patient, and loving but also influences positively those whom we encounter each and every day.

- How would others describe the life you live?
- As a believer, what types of fruit does your life produce?
- How do the temptations of the world distract you from the fruits of the Spirit?
- What helps you to be victorious over self-indulgence?
- Which fruits would you pray the Holy Spirit would make visible for others to see in you?

February 28: SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

Genesis 22:1-18 / Psalm 116 / Romans 8:31-34 / Mark 9:2-10

“Jesus took Peter, James, and John and led them up a high mountain apart by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, such as no fuller on earth could bleach them.” (Mark 9:2-3)

The Spirit and the Desert: <https://youtu.be/TU2cze30b7M>

The desert was a place of isolation, death and defeat but Jesus was led to the desert so that it would be forever changed. The desert is a part of every Christian's life but does not have to be a place of despair or isolation.

- What does time with Jesus look like to you?
- In what ways does being with Jesus make you vulnerable?
- What will it take for you to believe that God is for you, not against you?
- In what ways can you experience the Lord's presence in your time of need?
- How does your relationship with God change with your image of God?

March 7: THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

Exodus 17:1-7 / Psalm 95 / Romans 5:1-2, 5-8 / John 4:5-42

Jesus said, “Go call your husband and come back.” The woman answered and said to him, “I do not have a husband.” Jesus answered her, “You are right in saying, ‘I do not have a husband.’ For you have had five husbands, and the one you have now is not your husband. What you have said is true.” ... The woman said to him, “I know that the Messiah is coming, the one called the Christ; when he comes, he will tell us everything.” Jesus said to her, “I am he, the one speaking with you.” (John 4:16-18,25-26)

The Spirit Convicts: <https://youtu.be/I4z9JYvSxVk>

The Spirit of God convicts us of our sin not to condemn us but to convert us. In this segment we will see how the Spirit draws us closer to Christ by revealing to us our sin.

- In what ways does society or culture keep me from recognizing my sins?
- How does my becoming aware of my sin draw me closer to God?
- Why does getting closer to Christ help me to become more aware of my sin?
- In what ways have I experienced God's mercy and forgiveness?
- How are there people in heaven who have sinned?

March 14: FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

1 Samuel 16:1-13 / Psalm 23 / Ephesians 5:8-14 / John 9:1-41

Jesus found the man born blind and said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” He answered and said, “Who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, the one speaking with you is he.” He said, “I do believe, Lord,” and he worshiped him. (John 9:35-38)

The Spirit's Freedom: <https://youtu.be/6H-a0fxRrk0>

The Holy Spirit brings freedom from fear, anger, and the past. So often Christians find themselves bound by many things and are not aware that the Holy Spirit wants to bring the freedom of God to them.

- What stirs in your heart when you hear that God wants you to be free?
- What is keeping me from being totally free?
- What does living in freedom look like to me?
- Why does God want me to be free?
- How would my life be different if I lived free from fear, anger, the past, worry, etc.?

March 16: RECONCILIATION SERVICE & GENERAL ABSOLUTION

2 Corinthians 5:17-21 / Luke 15:11-32

March 21: FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Ezekiel 37:12-14 / Psalm 130 / Romans 8:8-11 / John 11:1-45

Jesus told Martha, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world." When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary. (John 11:25-28)

The Spirit Gives Witness: <https://youtu.be/O9SGOIYMtBA>

It is also the Holy Spirit that inspires us to give witness to Christ by our words and actions. In this segment we will look at how we are best able to cooperate with the Holy Spirit so that we may see Jesus as He is and give witness to Him.

- In what ways have you understood more profoundly and personally who Jesus is?
- Is it easy or not so easy for you to share your faith?
- What are your concerns or anxieties about sharing your faith?
- How has coming to know Jesus changed my life?
- In what ways can these changes inspire others?

March 28: PALM SUNDAY

Mark 11:1-10 / Isaiah 50:4-7 / Psalm 22 / Philippians 2:1-11 / Mark 14:1-15:47

"Pilate said to them, 'Why? What evil has he done?' They only shouted the louder, 'Crucify him.' So Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released Barabbas to them and, after he had Jesus scourged, handed him over to be crucified." (Mark 15:14-15)

The Spirit Remembers: https://youtu.be/3y7pX0Rj1_4

One of the blessings of the Holy Spirit is that the Spirit reminds us what Jesus said and what He has done for us. There is no limit to what God has done or what He desires to do in our lives.

- What is it that causes you to forget what God has done for you?
- In the busyness of your day how do you make time for God?
- How do you use that time that you make for God?
- What happens to us when we spend time with God?
- In what ways can spending time with others be spending time with God?

April 1: HOLY THURSDAY

Exodus 12:1-14 / Psalm 116 / 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 / John 13:1-15

April 2: GOOD FRIDAY

Isaiah 53:1-12 / Psalm 31 / Hebrews 4:14-5:9 / John 18:1-19:42

April 3: EASTER VIGIL

Exodus 14:15-15:1 / Exodus 15 / Isaiah 54:5-14 / Psalm 103 / Baruch 3:9-15 / Psalm 42 / Romans 6:3-11 / Mark 16:1-7

April 4: EASTER SUNDAY

Acts 10:34-43 / Psalm 118 / Colossians 3:1-4 / Mark 16:1-7