

# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main Street, Johnstown, Ohio 43031 • 740-967-7871 • [www.johnstownascension.org](http://www.johnstownascension.org)

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**Baptism Preparation Class**

Molly & Bob Orsini | 614-446-5622

**Social Committee**

Daryl Wernette | 217-721-0802

**St. Vincent de Paul Society**

24-hour Hotline | 740-349-0989

**Home School Contact**

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[christie311@proton.me](mailto:christie311@proton.me)

## MISSION STATEMENT

*Church of the Ascension is a Catholic community in Johnstown, Ohio that keeps Christ at the center of our hearts, families, homes and parish, so we can live the truth and share it with others*

*(John 14:6; 1 Peter 3:15).*

*With the help of sacred scripture, tradition, and the sacraments, we strive to know, love and serve God in this world, while encouraging others to do the same, so we may live eternally in heaven with Christ, the angels, and the saints*

*(Ephesians 2:4-8).*

Ascension of Christ, Gebhard Fugel (c. 1893)

### WEEKEND MASSES

Saturday 4:00 p.m.

Sunday 8:30 a.m. • 11:00 a.m.

### HOLY DAYS

Vigil 6:30 p.m.

8:00 a.m. • 7:00 p.m.

### ADORATION

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

### DAILY MASS

Monday 8:00 am

Tuesday 6:30 pm

Wednesday-Saturday 8:00 am

### CONFESSIONS

Tuesday 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Saturday 8:30-9:30 a.m.

WELCOME TO OUR FAITH COMMUNITY AT CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION.

TO REGISTER IN THE PARISH, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH OFFICE AT 740-967-7871.



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# CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

555 S. Main Street, Johnstown, OH 43031 • 740-967-7871 • www.johnstownascension.org

MARCH 10, 2024 • FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

## Mass Intentions

### SATURDAY, MARCH 9

8:00 a.m. NO Mass  
8:30 a.m. NO Adoration & Confessions  
4:00 p.m. Parish Family

### SUNDAY, MARCH 10

8:30 a.m. Smitty & Catherine Williams  
by the Williams Family  
11:00 a.m. Andrea Esselstein  
by Janet Flood

### MONDAY, MARCH 11

8:00 a.m. Virginia Howe  
by Maureen &  
Mike Keebaugh

### TUESDAY, MARCH 12

5:00 p.m. NO Adoration & Confessions  
6:30 p.m. NO Mass  
7:00 p.m. PENANCE SERVICE

### WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased  
Members of the  
Corradetti Family  
by Dr. Pat Scarpitti

### THURSDAY, MARCH 14

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased  
Members of the  
Antes Family  
by Dr. Pat Scarpitti

### FRIDAY, MARCH 15

8:00 a.m. For the Intention of  
Joan Spratt by a friend  
7:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

### SATURDAY, MARCH 16

8:00 a.m. For Living & Deceased  
Members of the Scarpitti  
Family by Dr. Pat Scarpitti  
8:30 a.m. Adoration & Confessions  
4:00 p.m. Jack & Lucy Walsh  
by Stephen &  
Kathryn Eyerman

### SUNDAY, MARCH 17

8:30 a.m. Parish Family  
11:00 a.m. Mel Hawkins  
by Mark & Joanne Hawkins

## Pastor's Corner

### Dear Brothers and Sisters,

This Sunday, the Church comes to the middle of Lent. She marks the occasion by calling for a small pre-Easter celebration of joy. Today is called Laetare Sunday in Latin, with the word laetare meaning "rejoice." And so, today is "Rejoice Sunday."

Are we rejoicing? What are we supposed to be rejoicing about?

The entire Lenten season points us to celebrating and reliving the Paschal Mystery, namely, the Passion, death, and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In order for us to live this mystery, we must cooperate with grace and let it draw us closer and closer to the Lord. The spiritual tradition of the Church calls this the purgative way.

We can see an example of the purgative way in the blind man in today's Gospel reading. The man goes from calling the Lord "the man called Jesus," to "a prophet," to recognizing Him as "the Son of Man."

As with the blind man, so with each of us. The Lord wants to draw us close to Him. For this to happen, we must accept the purgative way.

The purgative way is an interior purification of our souls. It is a divine "cleaning up" and maturing of our hearts to the supernatural life offered to us in Jesus Christ.

Saint Paul expresses this reality, when he writes: "I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me."

In the darkness of the purgative way, God reorients the soul. Our feelings, which usually want to follow our passions, are spiritualized and channeled to a deeper love of God and neighbor.

Since grace belongs to the supernatural order, it escapes our experience and can only be known by faith. While our feelings may not experience it, God is close to us in the purgative way. He can bring about a great work in our souls if we allow Him. It is very important that we realize the place and purpose of the purgative way – there is a goal. The spiritual suffering leads us to a greater freedom and to a deeper relationship with God.

In the purgative way, we must permit a harrowing of our faith. While first given to us as a supernatural gift in Baptism, we are called to fan our faith into a flame.

As with the blind man in our Gospel today, the purgative way can involve misunderstanding, rejection, internal confusion, and frustration.

Through the process of purgation, we must cling to the sure conviction that God is with us, he loves us, and desires for us to know him in a more profound way. He wants us to experience and relive the Paschal Mystery. As the Lord Jesus underwent the Paschal Mystery, so each of us as "sons in the Son" are called to do the same.

There is no spiritual growth without the purgative way. There is no path to go from seeing the Lord Jesus as a man, to a prophet, to the Son of Man without spiritual purification. If we are going to truly know Jesus Christ, the Crucified and Risen One, then misconceptions must be dismissed, false images must be reformed, and love must be intensified. Such a work only happens through the school of suffering. Such depth can only be given through the Paschal Mystery.

As we rejoice this Sunday, we are called to welcome the purgative way, so that when Holy Week comes, we'll be ready to liturgically celebrate the Paschal Mystery that we are actively living in our own lives.

*God bless,*  
**Fr. Smith**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent* MARCH 9-10, 2024

	<i>SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.</i>
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b>	Ethan Wnek	Brendan Sheehan	Bode Cherry
	Christian Dorsten	Billy Staneart	Mathew Cherry
	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Paul Cuthbert	Ben Orsini
<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:</b>	Dennis Murnane – Host	Tom Staneart – Chalice	Keith Ryan – Host
		Rachel Barb – Chalice	
		Dale Anne Davidson – Host	
<b>LECTORS:</b>	Diana Lewis	Nadia Staneart	Peter Luhrman
	Dennis Murnane – Angelus	Ali Staneart – Angelus	Sally Blubaugh - Angelus
<b>GREETERS/USHERS:</b>	Shelli Writesel	Mark Sheehan	Anna & Olivia Ryan
	Mary Ann Shaffer	Mary Sheehan	Mike Dunfee
<b>LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:</b>			Misiunas Family

*Fifth Sunday of Lent* MARCH 16-17, 2024

	<i>SATURDAY • 4:00 P.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 8:30 A.M.</i>	<i>SUNDAY • 11:00 A.M.</i>
<b>ALTAR SERVERS:</b>	Jolene Bogner	Paul Cuthbert	Ben Orsini
	Ethan Wnek	Annie Muntz	Joey Barb
	Christian Dorsten	Billy Staneart	Cole Fox
<b>EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS:</b>	Linda Droege – Host	Tom Staneart – Chalice	Mark Hawkins – Host
		Michael Robbins – Chalice	
		Jerri Burgel – Host	
<b>LECTORS:</b>	<b>Volunteer Needed</b>	Carrie Suess	Class Mass Volunteer
	Dennis Murnane – Angelus	Diana Lewis – Angelus	Class Mass Volunteer – Angelus
<b>GREETERS/USHERS:</b>	Mary Ann Shafer	Mark Sheehan	Class Mass Volunteers
	Jan Orkis	Mary Sheehan	
<b>LIVESTREAM OPERATOR:</b>			Jeff Thomas

*Your Prayers are Requested*

Your prayers this week are asked for Bob & Sylvia Freed, Rick Potter & Family, Justin King, Virginia Ankrom, Maxine Nann, Letha Patton, Wesley Potts, Susan Welch, Joyce Curran, Gabrielle & Shawn, Dana Caswell, Suzanne Kubin, Sharon Freitag, Di Habash, Gordon Cromwell, Joe Lindsay, Ivan Booth, Donna Dellapina, Mark & Cathy Mann, Peggy Hall, Terry Baesmann, John & Helen Tomich, Barbara Penhorwood, Margie Easterday, John & Neva Stover, Jared Writesel, Don Vocca, Karen Reitz, Jeff Ankrom, JoAnn Wright, Bob Muench, Ron & Ann Mullins, Ron Gallo, and for those who have no one to pray for them.

**Are you or someone in your family on active duty in the military? Please let us know and we will add the names to our Prayer Requests.**



## Your Gifts to God

**WEEKLY NEED \$7,115.00**

430 REGISTERED FAMILIES

**MARCH 2/3, 2024**

<b>Total Offering</b>	<b>\$ 8,359.84</b>
76 Envelopes	\$ 4,640.23
Loose Cash	\$ 366.61
Online	\$ 3,353.00
St. Vincent de Paul	\$ 160.96
B & I Missions	\$ 5.00
Easter Flowers	\$ 116.00
Good Friday/Holy Land	\$ 30.00
CRS	\$ 5.00
Central & Eastern Europe	\$ 5.00
Kroger Rewards	\$ 756.58
Youth Group Donation	\$ 50.00

Do you return a portion of your time/skills/possessions to God in a spirit of gratitude? Looking for an easier way to give? Scan the QR code to open a link to the Church of the Ascension ParishSOFT Giving. Simply hold your phone's camera over the square and touch the link that appears at the top of your camera screen, or visit <https://giving.parishsoft.com/app/giving/ascensionjohnstown>.



If you would like a **STATEMENT OF CONTRIBUTIONS FOR 2023**, please email the church office at [office@johnstownascension.org](mailto:office@johnstownascension.org), drop a note in the collection basket, or call the Parish Office at 740-967-7871. Please let us know if you would like to receive it via email or snail mail.

### REST IN PEACE

We ask your sympathy and prayers for the family and friends of **Gordon R. Cromwell, Jr.** who passed away on March 2, 2024. A Funeral Mass will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024. Visitation from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m. Mass at 11:00 a.m. Burial and funeral luncheon following. May God grant him eternal rest.

### RCIA

Wednesday, March 13, 2024, 7:00 p.m.  
Virtues and Vice (Call to Holiness)



### NEW! ONLINE BOOKING

Fr. Smith is using a new, easier online booking system to meet with parishioners. If you'd like to schedule a meeting with Fr. Smith, please scan the QR code or visit his calendar at <https://calendly.com/frstephensmith>.

### PENANCE SERVICE

This Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Commemorate Jesus' Passion and death on the Cross Fridays during Lent at 7:00 p.m. after the Fish Fry.

### 40 CANS FOR LENT

Donate a can for every day of Lent to benefit the Johnstown-Northridge Food Pantry. Just bring your cans to the church. Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus.

Our **ANNUAL LENTEN FISH FRY** will take place every Friday in Lent, running through March 22 from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m.

Dinners include fish, baked potatoes or fries, coleslaw, bun, dessert and drink.

Cost: Adults, \$12.00; Children 6-12 and Senior Citizens, \$8.00; Children 5 and under eat free! Carry-out is available!

If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop it off on Thursday or Friday.

Any questions, call Bill Paider at 614-348-4216.

### NO GREATER LOVE

A Biblical Walk Through Christ's Passion Video Series is continuing every Monday night at 7:00 p.m. through Lent. You're welcome to join us!

### WOMEN OF ASCENSION

The **WOMEN OF ASCENSION** will meet on Wednesday, March 13 at 7:00 p.m. in Classrooms 3 and 4. The WOA have invited Darcey McCampbell of Kingdom Pillars Strong Tower to come and tell us about her ministry. This is a ministry in Newark that serves women coming out of trafficking. In the past, our Knights have participated in the Walk a Mile in Her Shoes to help raise funds for the safe home the women stay in, as well as the program they go through for rehabilitation. The ministry focuses on young women that age out of the foster care system, but serves any woman coming out of trafficking. Join us to hear about the home, the program and the needs these women have. For further information, here is a link to the website <https://kpstrongtower.org/>.

### MINISTERS ARE NEEDED FOR ALL MASSES

Please consider giving an hour of your time to be ministers to the Lord at Mass. We are in desperate need for all Mass times, especially the 4:00 p.m. Mass. We need Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers (5th grade-Adult) and Greeters. Training provided. Contact Fr. Smith at [frsmith@johnstownascension.org](mailto:frsmith@johnstownascension.org).



**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE**

The Red Cross is experiencing an **emergency blood shortage** as the nation faces the lowest number of people giving blood in 20 years. Blood products are currently going to hospitals faster than blood donations are coming in, and in recent weeks, the Red Cross has had to limit distributions of Type-O blood products – among the most transfused blood types – to hospitals. **Our next Blood Drive is scheduled for Monday, March 18 from 12:00 Noon-6:00 p.m.**

**BECOME A SERRAN!**

Serrans ensure the future of the Catholic Church by creating a culture of vocations in our Columbus Diocese. Serrans affirm and encourage our priests and supporting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Serrans assist and encourage one another to respond to God's call to holiness. Check out our website at [SERRACOLUMBUS.ORG](http://SERRACOLUMBUS.ORG) for more information and scheduled events.

**CHECK OUT OUR BACK COVER!**

Please take some time to look at the ads on the back of our bulletin. We have some new ones this year and there are some coupons on there. These advertisers provide us the opportunity to have such a nice bulletin from Dee Printing. Please patronize them as often as possible.

**LAGHI CHAIR LECTURE AT THE JOSEPHINUM**

The Pontifical College Josephinum's 2024 Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair Lecture will feature a presentation by alumnus Father Thomas Petri, OP, STD, President of the Pontifical Faculty of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He will present "Grace, Freedom, and Beauty: Saint Thomas Aquinas on the Blessed Mother" on Wednesday, March 13, at 7:00 p.m., in the Jessing Center. Free admission and parking; reservations not required. For more information, please call 614-985-2274.

The Pio Cardinal Laghi Chair was inaugurated at the Josephinum in 1992 in honor of Pio Cardinal Laghi, then Prefect of the Congregation for Catholic Education. American cardinals and presidents of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops promoted the funding of this chair in recognition of Cardinal Laghi's dedicated service to the Catholic Church in the United States.

**GOOD FRIDAY WAY OF THE CROSS WITH BISHOP EARL K. FERNANDES**

Please join us in walking the Way of the Cross through downtown Columbus on Good Friday, March 29, led by Bishop Fernandes. The procession will begin at 2:00 p.m., directly following the Good Friday service in the Cathedral, and will conclude at 4:00 p.m. The route begins on the Cathedral steps and has five stops throughout downtown, where people carry their crosses every day. Each stop will have moments of readings, music and poetry. The Way of the Cross is organized by the lay ecclesial movement, Communion and Liberation. For more information, please contact Alessandro at [ando.scotti@gmail.com](mailto:ando.scotti@gmail.com).

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS, ORGAN IMPROVISATION**

On Sunday, March 17, 2024 at 3:00 p.m., a special Stations of the Cross will be held at St. Joseph Cathedral. The Stations, presided over by Fr. Paul Keller, O.P., Director of Divine Worship, will have a unique addition of an organ improvisation by Dr. Richard Fitzgerald, Director of Diocesan Music. Although the Stations of the Cross are a traditionally a Catholic Lenten meditation on the sufferings of Christ's Passion, Christians of all denominations are welcome to attend. Each Station will have a musical reflection and a prayer composed of musical notes as we contemplate Christ's suffering and death on the cross.

**Allow Him to lead**

Let this Lent be the start of an enriched faith journey. Join the Knights of Columbus.



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[kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join)

**BECOME A KNIGHT!**

Men – this Lent, are you looking for a way to enrich your faith, make a difference in the world and build friendships with like-minded men in your parish? Become a Knight at [kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join) or scan the QR code. Use 4324 as your local council.

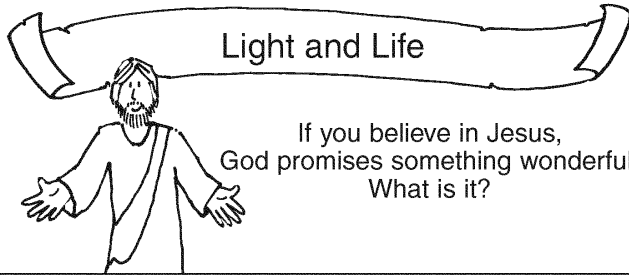
**CATHOLIC SCHOOL HOUSE HOMESCHOOL CO-OP**

Church of the Ascension is hosting a Catholic School House Homeschool Co-op that focuses on Pre-K through 3rd grade students. Along with the CSH curriculum, the group focuses on Catholic liturgical living. We are currently on a break, but will be meeting on Thursdays from 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. with the opportunity to attend the 8:00 a.m. Mass. If you would like to join us or would like more details, please contact Jessica Santareilli at 614-330-2903 or Erin Young at 614-329-3107.

**MASS INTENTIONS AVAILABLE**

We have many open dates for Mass Intentions on our calendar. Please contact us in the office at 740-967-7871, [office@johnstowncathedral.org](mailto:office@johnstowncathedral.org) or drop a note in the collection with the intention and your name. The Mass Stipend is \$10.00. We will do our best to accommodate any special date requests.

Activities for Children



If you believe in Jesus,  
God promises something wonderful!  
What is it?

Add and subtract words and letters.

1. - B D + - K I +  
 - I G + - B L = \_\_\_\_\_

2. - G H T + - A N  
+ - A R = \_\_\_\_\_

God did something very special for everyone  
because God loves us.  
How much does God love us?

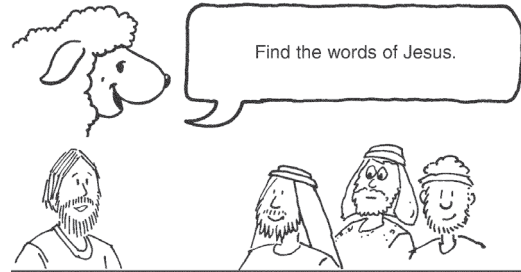
Reading from left to right, write all of the 1's in order. When you reach the last 1, return to the top and write all of the 2's in order. Then return to the top and write all the 3's in order.

➔ 1 - For	2 - gave	3 - Him	1 - God
2 - His	3 - shall	1 - so	2 - only
3 - not	1 - loved	2 - Son	3 - perish
1 - the	2 - that	3 - but	1 - world
2 - whoever	3 - have	1 - that	2 - believes
3 - eternal	1 - He	2 - in	3 - life

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



Finish the words below using these letters.  
Then read the verse.

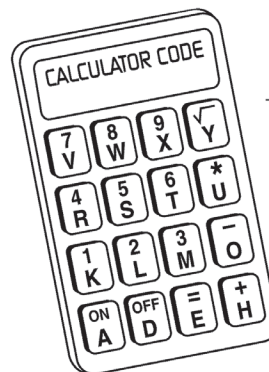
ght	en	es	ly	ne	th
tr	at	mes	h	ay	
ever	en	th	ough	as	

"Who \_\_\_\_\_ liv \_\_\_\_\_ by the \_\_\_\_\_ uth  
co \_\_\_\_\_ to the li \_\_\_\_\_, so \_\_\_\_\_ at it  
m \_\_\_\_\_ be se \_\_\_\_\_ plain \_\_\_\_\_ at  
wh \_\_\_\_\_ they \_\_\_\_\_ ave do \_\_\_\_\_ h \_\_\_\_\_  
be \_\_\_\_\_ thr \_\_\_\_\_ God."

Why did God send Jesus to us?



Use the calculator to find the answer.



6 - \_\_\_\_\_  
5 ON 7 = \_\_\_\_\_  
6 + = \_\_\_\_\_  
8 - 4 2 OFF !





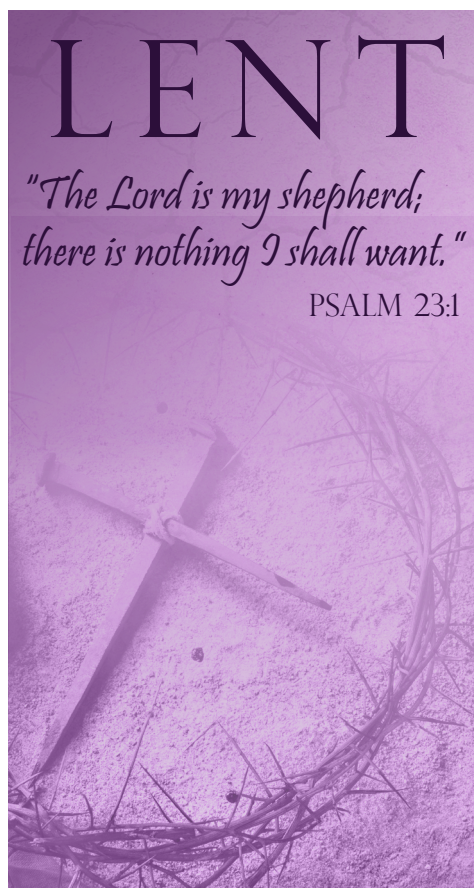
**MESSENGER***Reflection on John 3:14-21*

Sometimes the messenger is a complete stranger, maybe someone at the door or on the other end of the call, who confronts me with my impatience, or rudeness, or prejudice I have nurtured.

Sometimes the messenger is my inner voice that comes when all is quiet and still and I have a chance to review the day – what I have done and said – and bring it to the light.

In the first reading from the book of Chronicles we are told that “early and often did God send his messengers to his people...” God is still sending His messengers to us, to wake us up to renewal and reform. As John says today, God did not send His Son into the world for a visit, but for life, for eternity. Jesus is ever-present as we encounter Him in His Word and in the Eucharist, in creation and sacrament, in the unique giftedness of each human person. We are called to be open to His messengers, bearers of grace and instruction, so that we may experience all that God desires for us: abundant life!

~ Fr. Jay

**WEEKLY SCRIPTURE****Sunday, March 10, 2024**

*Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
1 Sm 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a  
Ps 23: 1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6  
Eph 5:8-14  
Jn 9:1-41

**Monday, March 11, 2024**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 65:17-21  
Ps 30:2 and 4, 5-6, 11-12a and 13b  
Jn 4:43-54

**Tuesday, March 12, 2024**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Ez 47:1-9, 12  
Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9  
Jn 5:1-16

**Wednesday, March 13, 2024**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Is 49:8-15  
Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18  
Jn 5:17-30

**Thursday, March 14, 2024**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Ex 32:7-14  
Ps 106:19-20, 21-22, 23  
Jn 5:31-47

**Friday, March 15, 2024**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Wis 2:1a, 12-22  
Ps 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 and 23  
Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

**Saturday, March 16, 2024**

*Lenten Weekday*  
Jer 11:18-20  
Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12  
Jn 7:40-53

Access Daily Readings from  
the New American Bible,  
Revised Edition (NABRE) online at  
<https://bible.usccb.org>

*May we reach out with joy  
to grasp your hand.*

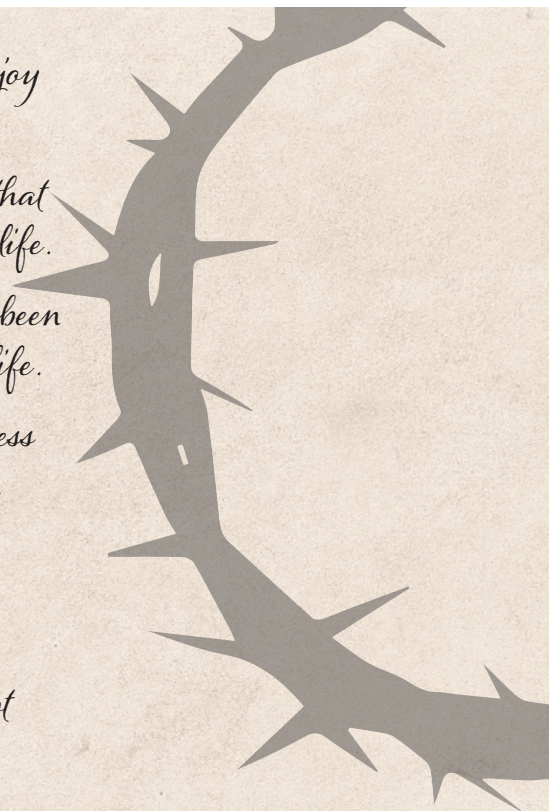
*We keep acknowledging that  
God is the source of our life.*

*We realize that we have been  
seeking other sources of life.*

*We recognize our weakness  
and turn to God for help.*

*Though our hearts are  
being opened up to their  
depths, though we cry out  
to God for help, we are not  
discouraged.*

*The Lord is near to broken  
hearts.*





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Want to make a difference in the world and build friendships with like-minded men in your parish?  
Become a Knight at [kofc.org/join](http://kofc.org/join) or scan the QR code. Use 4324 as your local council.

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