



MARCH 14, 2021

*Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert,  
so must the Son of Man be lifted up,  
so that everyone who believes  
in him may have eternal life.*

*John 3:14-15*

**St. John the Evangelist Church**  
309 Lotz Avenue, Altoona, PA 814-942-5503  
[www.stjohnsaltoona.org](http://www.stjohnsaltoona.org)

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**Mark Krepich** - Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults - [mark.krepich@gmail.com](mailto:mark.krepich@gmail.com)

**Ken Dunmire** - Maintenance

**NEXT WEEK'S APPOINTMENTS**

**LECTORS**

Sat. Mar. 20 - 4:00 PM - NOT FILLED, NOT FILLED

Sun. Mar. 21 - 8:00 AM - Daniel Turcovsky,  
Diane Turcovsky

Sun. Mar. 21-11:00 AM - Gary Johnson, Donna Moyer

**ALTAR SERVERS**

Sat. Mar. 20 - 4:00 PM - Keaton Swope, NOT FILLED

Sun. Mar. 21 - 8:00 AM - Mai Linh Do, Nicholas Helsley

Sun. Mar. 21 - 11:00 AM - Evie Koch, Estella Koch

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

Sat. Mar. 20 - 4:00 PM - Connie Baker

Sun. Mar. 21 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Mar. 21 - 11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Kenneth  
Gorman, Cecelia Bloom

**MINISTERS OF HOSPITALITY**

Sat. Mar. 20 - 4:00 PM - Billy Sweet, Judy Sneath,  
Larry Van Sickle, NOT FILLED

Sun. Mar. 21- 8:00 AM - Ed Stoltz, Mary Truesdale,  
Charlie Moore, Carolyn English

Sun. Mar. 21-11:00 AM - Walter Bloom, Mary Grace  
Horton, Peg Madden, Patrick Podoletz

**SACRISTAN**

Sat. Mar. 20 - 4:00 PM - Mary & Ray King

Sun. Mar. 21 - 8:00 AM - Darlene Scarpaci

Sun. Mar. 21 - 11:00 AM - Barbara Bundy

**SCRIP**

Sat. Mar. 20 - 4:00 PM- NOT FILLED, Julie Beiswenger

Sun. Mar. 21- 8:00 AM- Chris Palazzi, Heather Yasolsky

Sun. Mar. 21-11:00 AM-Peg Madden, Marge Rudolph

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FOURTH  
SUNDAY OF

Year of  
**ST. JOSEPH**



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## A Few Words from the Pastor:

**OUR PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING!** The church universal rejoices at the remarkably spirit-filled visit of Pope Francis to the war-torn country of Iraq. His visit to the birthplace of Abraham, his messages of hope to religious leaders in war-torn communities, and his outreach to Muslim leaders, all this is indicative of a man with a courageous heart. We rejoice at his safe journey, a true pilgrimage of faith, which not only strengthens the Christian communities of Iraq, but forged a greater sense of fraternity with the Muslim community. How proud we must be of Christ's Vicar on earth!

**OUR ROSE COLORED VESTMENTS** - On one Sunday each Advent and Lent, the priest and deacon wear rose vestments. The use of rose vestments during the sacred liturgy on these Sundays (*Laetare* Sunday in Lent) has been a part of the Church's tradition for many centuries. The entrance hymn for each Sunday focuses upon hope and joy! Rose gives us joy and a promise of hope! Pope Francis has put a lot of emphasis on joy and even dedicated an entire encyclical to the "Joy of the Gospel." He writes in the opening paragraph, "*The joy of the gospel fills the hearts and lives of all who encounter Jesus. Those who accept his offer of salvation are set free from sin, sorrow, inner emptiness and loneliness. With Christ joy is constantly born anew. In this Exhortation I wish to encourage the Christian faithful to embark upon a new chapter of evangelization marked by this joy, while pointing out new paths for the Church's journey in years to come.*"

**LENTEN FOOD COLLECTION** - Our parish has been exceptionally generous with our Second Sunday food collection. For the Lenten season, let's make every Sunday a food collection Sunday, given the struggles which many families are facing in light of the pandemic and the economic downturn. Given the upcoming closing of the paper mill in Roaring Spring, we will explore ways that we might expand our reach to the 300 families affected by the expected layoffs.

**CONFESSIONS IN LENT** - All are encouraged to take advantage of the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the Lenten season. Repentance is at the heart of the Lenten message. Please note that in addition to the usual scheduled time for confession (Wednesday at 5:30 and Saturday at 3 PM), I will be available after each weekend Mass from now until the Palm Sunday! The celebration of the Sacrament of Penance is our sharing in the mystery of Christ's redeeming death and resurrection.

**BE A DISCIPLE OF HOPE!** Today is Commitment Sunday for the Catholic Ministries Drive. Your sacrificial gifts of prayer and treasure will make an immediate impact on ministries that care for the poor, strengthen family life, nurture our youth, and provide leadership development for clergy and laity. During Lent, and throughout the year, we are challenged to renew our spiritual devotions and duties – and one of those holy duties is to support the Church. We are challenged to open our eyes and see those in our midst that bring hope to life through their time and talent in serving the community through the 14 ministries supported by the Catholic Ministries Drive. *Our goal is \$42,813.* If you didn't bring your Commitment Card to mass this weekend, please bring it next weekend or you may make an online gift at [www.dioceseaj.org/giving](http://www.dioceseaj.org/giving). 100% of your gift goes directly to these ministries!

**CONFIRMATION THIS SPRING** - Because of concerns regarding Covid-19, the bishop has instructed pastors to again schedule Confirmation in their own parish. We have set the date for Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 PM. While we might miss the solemnity of having Confirmation in the Cathedral, there is a beautiful simplicity in celebrating in our home parish.

**THE YEAR OF SAINT JOSEPH** - To celebrate the 150th anniversary of Blessed Pope Pius IX's declaration of St Joseph as Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis has proclaimed a special "Year of St Joseph," beginning on the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception 2020 and extending to the same feast in 2021. St. Joseph, pray for us! A banner is displayed in our church, reminding us of his place in our lives as patron of the Church.

**BIBLE STUDY ON WEDNESDAY EVENING** - All are most welcome to join our evening zoom Bible study. Each week we take a careful look at the reading for the coming Sunday! If you would like to participate, please send us a copy of your email so that you will get the link for the meeting! We would love to have you!

**THE QUESTIONS JESUS ASKS!** - Throughout the season of Lent, my daily online reflection will consider the dozens of questions which Jesus asks his followers! In the gospels he addresses questions to individuals, to his apostles, and to the crowds. We read the gospels and consider that Jesus is asking each of those questions to you and to me, as individuals!

## **FAITH FORMATION NEWS**

**Sunday, March 21: 11<sup>th</sup> Grade Rite of Sending and Discipleship Retreat**

**Confirmation Mass - Wednesday, April 14 @ 7:00 PM**

**First Communion Mass - Sunday, April 25 @ 11:00 AM**

If you have any questions about Faith Formation, please contact Diane Ryan in the parish office at 942-5503 or by emailing [stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net](mailto:stjohnsecretary@atlanticbb.net).

**ALL WOMEN OF ST. JOHN'S PARISH** are invited to join our Women's Outreach Group. This is a unique club - no dues, no meetings, no official titles, no agenda! WE HELP. Yes, we offer support to the parish, to individuals or families in the parish & community. When we learn of a need, an email is sent to you giving all details. You may agree to help by replying to the email. No pressure to respond to every need. Some of the programs/support we have assisted: Toasty Toddlers, Teen Shelter, baking or helping out with various events in the parish, gardening or yard work - to name a few. Also, we like to socialize with each other, so we may schedule an outing/lunch/dinner (Bell Mansion Tea House was a favorite). If you'd like to become a member, please contact the office, Barb Bundy, Ginny Reeder or Deb Johnson. We hope you will join us!

**STATIONS OF THE CROSS** are scheduled at 7:00 PM on the Fridays of Lent. The Stations of the Cross or the Way of the Cross is also known as the Way of Sorrows or the *Via Crucis*. The stations grew out of imitations of Via Dolorosa in Jerusalem which is believed to be the actual path Jesus walked to Mount Calvary. We pray the stations to help us make a spiritual pilgrimage through contemplation of the Passion of Christ. Please join us at 7 this Friday!

**FOOD DONATIONS:** In an effort to declutter our Gathering Space, we have placed bins for food donations under the coat rack in the hallway that leads to our restrooms. We will keep one bin in the Gathering Space for your convenience, but if it is full, please place your food items in the extra bins under the coat rack.

**ADDITIONAL VIDEOS AVAILABLE FOR LENT:** If you would like to find out where and how integral the Mass is to the Scriptures; Dr. Scott Hahn at the St Paul Center for Biblical Theology is offering a FREE course during Lent called: Parousia: The Bible and the Mass. Type this title into your browser, then click the link to St. Paul Center that comes up. From the Genesis to the Heavenly Liturgy in the Book of Revelation, this course will help you to see the connections and strengthen your faith in the New Covenant which is celebrated daily in the Mass.

Once you have logged on to the site, be sure to bookmark [StPaulCenter.com/streaming](http://StPaulCenter.com/streaming) for easy access to each subsequent lesson.

## **ST JOHN'S PRAYER LIST**

Please call Ginny Reeder (695-7671) or email her at [giny.reeder@gmail.com](mailto:giny.reeder@gmail.com) to add or remove someone from the prayer list. PLEASE PRAY FOR THE FOLLOWING and their caregivers and give thanks for those who have recovered. *Lord we ask for your blessings and care for these and all people in need:*

**Aiden • Cari Ann • Amy B. • Scott Brenneman  
Dan Burley • Robert Cole • Michelle Cooney  
Jim DeStefano • Michael DeStefano • Bernadine Farrell  
Kathy Felty • Mary Ann Flinn • Leann Frazier  
Molly Grenfell • Ken Hartman • Randy Horton  
Alexandra Hudson • Mary Jo Ivory • Amy Langenbacher  
Lisa • Sherri Maffettone • Camden Michael  
Susie Miller • Sylvia Louise Mills • Barbara Moore  
Ailani Myers • Patricia Olson • Mary Oricko  
Linda Pletcher • Ron Peschock • Connie R.  
Mary Rajnish • Allison Recker • Vicki Riley  
Allison Ritchey • Olga Romerowicz • Mike Rudolph  
Bruce Shank • Anne Showalter • Tim Temofonte  
Bill Teufel • Kathy Wagner • Lois Werfel • Len Whitten  
Milan & Family**

### **HOME WITH THE LORD**

Your prayers are requested for the repose of the soul of:

**Joseph Louis Saad, Sr.** - son of Bonnie Saad Stevens  
*May he rest in the peace and joy of the Lord.*

**STEWARDSHIP CORNER:** Jesus tells us that if we live our lives as faithful stewards our deeds will shine out and be clearly seen as we reflect God's dream. What can we do so our deeds will bring light to the world in those around us? And how do we cultivate hearts worthy of God? It starts in prayer, giving God undivided attention each day. Through this week set time aside for our Lord, He will work on our hearts so that they will become more like him. (*Stewardship Bulletin Reflection, Catholic Stewardship Consultants, February 15, 2021*)

### **February 28, 2021**

Envelopes	\$ 5,295.00
Loose Offerings	\$ 1,060.82
Children's Offering	\$ 3.00
Catholic Education	\$ 95.00
Catholic Home Missions	\$ 5.00
Ash Wednesday	\$ 160.00
Black & Indian Mission	\$ 90.00
Easter Offering	\$ 40.00
Easter Flower Offering	\$ 115.00
Holy Thursday	\$ 15.00
Good Friday	\$ 15.00
Food Bank Collection	\$ 235.00
<i>Subtotal</i>	<i>\$ 7,198.82</i>
Online Giving	\$ 1,795.00
<b>Total Offertory</b>	<b>\$ 8,993.82</b>

### **Restore\*Repair\*Rejoice**

Payments/Donations	\$170,995
Pledge Payment Committed	\$14,224
Total Pledges/Donations	\$185,219

**2021 Catholic Ministries Drive Goal - \$42,813**

**RICE BOWL: TRYING NEW FOODS IN TIMOR-LESTE**  
Timor-Leste has the highest rate of child malnutrition in Asia, and many children suffer from stunting, which makes a big impact on a child's growth and future. Home gardens and fishponds are helping families provide better nutrition for their children. What do you eat to stay healthy? What can you do to ensure children have enough food to thrive? Visit [crsrice-bowl.org](http://crsrice-bowl.org) to learn more.



**FAMILIES AND THE GOSPEL:** (John 3: 14-21) Today's gospel speaks of light and darkness. Often a parent is deliberately "left in the dark." Darkness can be comforting for it makes no demands on us. Light can be disturbing for it forces us to take action. Parents walk a delicate balance of when to "sit in the dark" and when to "turn on the lights." *Reprinted with permission: A Family Perspective by Bud Ozar.*

**TURKEY DINNER:** The Basilica of St. Michael the Archangel Annual Men's Turkey Dinner will be held on Sunday, March 21<sup>st</sup> as a drive-thru dinner. Simply stay in your vehicle - multiple lines for faster service! 11AM-3PM or sold out. Turkey dinner with all of the trimmings- \$12.00

**SOUP SALE IN LILLY:** Our Lady of the Alleghenies Roman Catholic Church in Lilly, PA will sponsor a soup sale Saturday, March 27th. Soups offered will be Homemade Chicken Noodle and Beef Vegetable. The cost will be \$8.00 per quart. Pick-up time will be 10:00 am until Noon. All soups will be prepared under license and COVID compliances at Custer's Market in Lilly. If you are interested in pre-ordering any soup, please call Amy Hazlett, 814-418-0516.

**TAKEOUT FISH LUNCH/DINNERS:**

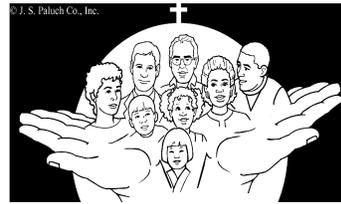
**Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament:** Drive-thru fish lunch every Friday, except Good Friday, 11:00 AM – 1:30 PM Cost: \$9



**St. Therese of the Child Jesus:** Curbside takeout only, phone or curbside orders Fridays 4:00 PM – 7:00 PM (or until sold out) – Cost: \$10

**St. Patrick:** Seafood: \*Drive Thru Only\* Meals will be available for purchase in the school parking lot every Friday in Lent, including Good Friday, from 4pm until meals are sold out.

**Utter Uns:** 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM or until sold out, February 19th until April 2nd. Dinners will be available for take out; limited seating is available due to Covid-19 limitations. Cost: \$10.00 for adults, \$5.00 for children under 10. You do not have to be a member of the Utter Uns to attend.



**Fourth Sunday of Lent  
March 14, 2021**

God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him.

— John 3:17

**Schedule for the Week**

**Sunday, March 14 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00 AM - Mass for *Barbara Prostejovsky* requested by Her Loving Husband  
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

**Monday, March 15 – Lenten Weekday**

6:00 PM - Mass for *Diane Long* requested by Joanne Beringer

**Tuesday, March 16 – Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Audrey King* requested by Ray & Mary King

**Wednesday, March 17 – Lenten Weekday**

5:30 PM - Confessions  
6:00 PM - Mass for *David Petrak* requested by Dave & Tracy Auerbeck

**Thursday, March 18 – Lenten Weekday**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Ruthie Dodd* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe

**Friday, March 19 – St. Joseph, Husband of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

8:30 AM - Mass for *Irene Becker* requested by Bill & Ruth Mulhern  
7:00 PM - Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 20 - Vigil of the 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

3:00 PM - Confessions  
4:00 PM - Mass for *Janet Szarwark* requested by Richard & Joyce Lowe

**Sunday, March 21 – 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Lent**

8:00 AM - Mass for *People of the Parish*  
11:00 AM - Mass for *Andrew Dancha* requested by Frank & Nancy Mincin  
12:30 PM - Communion in the Front Circle

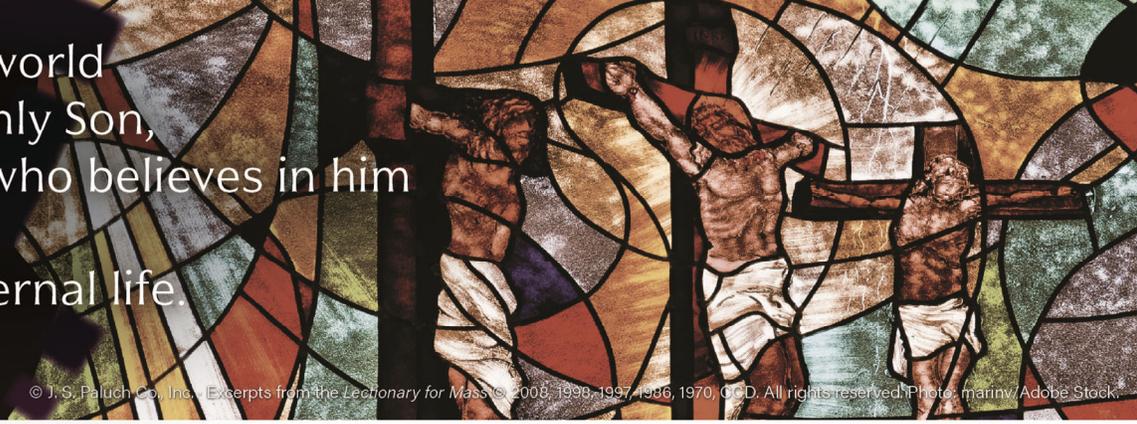
**READINGS FOR THE WEEK**

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: 2 Sm 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16; Ps 89:2-5, 27, 29; Rm 4:13:16-18, 22; Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk 2:41-51a  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53  
Sunday: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33

God so loved the world  
that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him  
might not perish  
but might have eternal life.

JOHN 3:16

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## REDEEMING HUMANITY

The end of Second Chronicles claims that “all the princes of Judah, the priests, and the people” were continuously unfaithful to their covenant with God. This infidelity ultimately led to seventy years of exile in Babylon, after which Cyrus, the Persian ruler who conquered Babylon, allows the people of Israel to return home and rebuild their temple; the Psalmist reflects on the bitterness of those seventy years. Paul is lyrical in praising God “who is rich in mercy” and who “brought us to life” with Christ, while the evangelist recounts preaching by Jesus on this same theme. This is the section of John that includes the oft-memorized John 3:16: “For God so loved the word . . .” All three readings emphasize God’s desire to rescue—or redeem—humanity from pain and suffering.

## HUMAN HISTORY . . .

Today’s reading from Second Chronicles is the conclusion of these two volumes, a brief summary of Judah’s infidelity under a sequence of kings and the subsequent seventy years of exile in Babylon. This abbreviated sequence recaps the events treated in earlier chapters, concluding with Jerusalem being conquered and its inhabitants deported by to Babylon.

After the Babylonians were conquered by Cyrus and the Persians, Cyrus built the great Persian Empire that covered almost the entire ancient Near East. Unlike the earlier Assyrians and Babylonians, Cyrus did not rule by deporting and enslaving peoples he defeated. Instead, he organized his empire into regional governments and funded their construction projects, ruling over all with the title King of Kings (among others). In this spirit, Cyrus urged the exiles to return to Jerusalem to rebuild their temple and their native culture. In Jewish terms, Cyrus was a “messiah” (Hebrew), or a *christos* (Greek), someone anointed by God to carry out this divine mission.

## . . . AND DIVINE RESCUE

The return from exile in Babylon was second only to the Exodus from Egypt as a founding narrative shaping the Jewish identity into which Jesus was born and in which his church took root and began to grow. If we read between the lines of the two New Testament readings from today, we can see the outlines of this same pattern of God bringing humanity from sorrow into joy: The Hebrews’ slavery in Egypt and the Judeans’ exile in Babylonia reveal a universal truth, that we belong to the God who is “rich in mercy,” and we are assured that “when we were dead in our transgressions,” God “so loved the world” that he sent Jesus to be the way of our redemption, our salvation.

The Fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called “Laetare Sunday,” or “Rejoice! Sunday.” Even if we feel overwhelmed by the darkness of sin (our own and others’), wondering whether God really is working on our behalf, we can put our faith in today’s Word that it is so. For this, we can truly rejoice—we are more than halfway to Easter!

## TODAY’S READINGS

2 Chronicles 36:14–16, 19–23  
Psalm 137:1–2, 3, 4–5, 6  
Ephesians 2:4–10  
John 3:14–21

FOURTH  
SUNDAY OF  
LENT  
MARCH 14, 2021

# God's Word for Children

This scripture verse tells us what a great gift God has given to us, and why it was given. Perhaps you have seen it on billboards or even homemade signs. Find it in your Bible and mark the lists below to tell where it is written.

**"For God so loved the world that he gave his only son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life."**

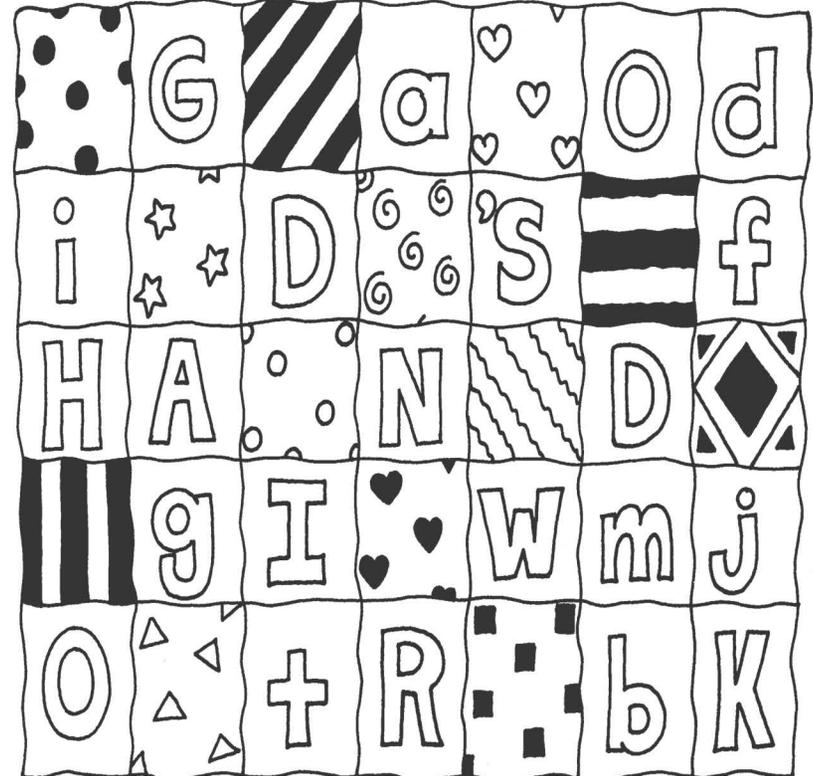
Put a check by the <u>book</u>	Put an "X" by the <u>chapter</u>	Put a ♥ by the <u>verse</u>
Moses	Ten	4
John	Seven	7
Noah	Three	25
Esther	Two	16

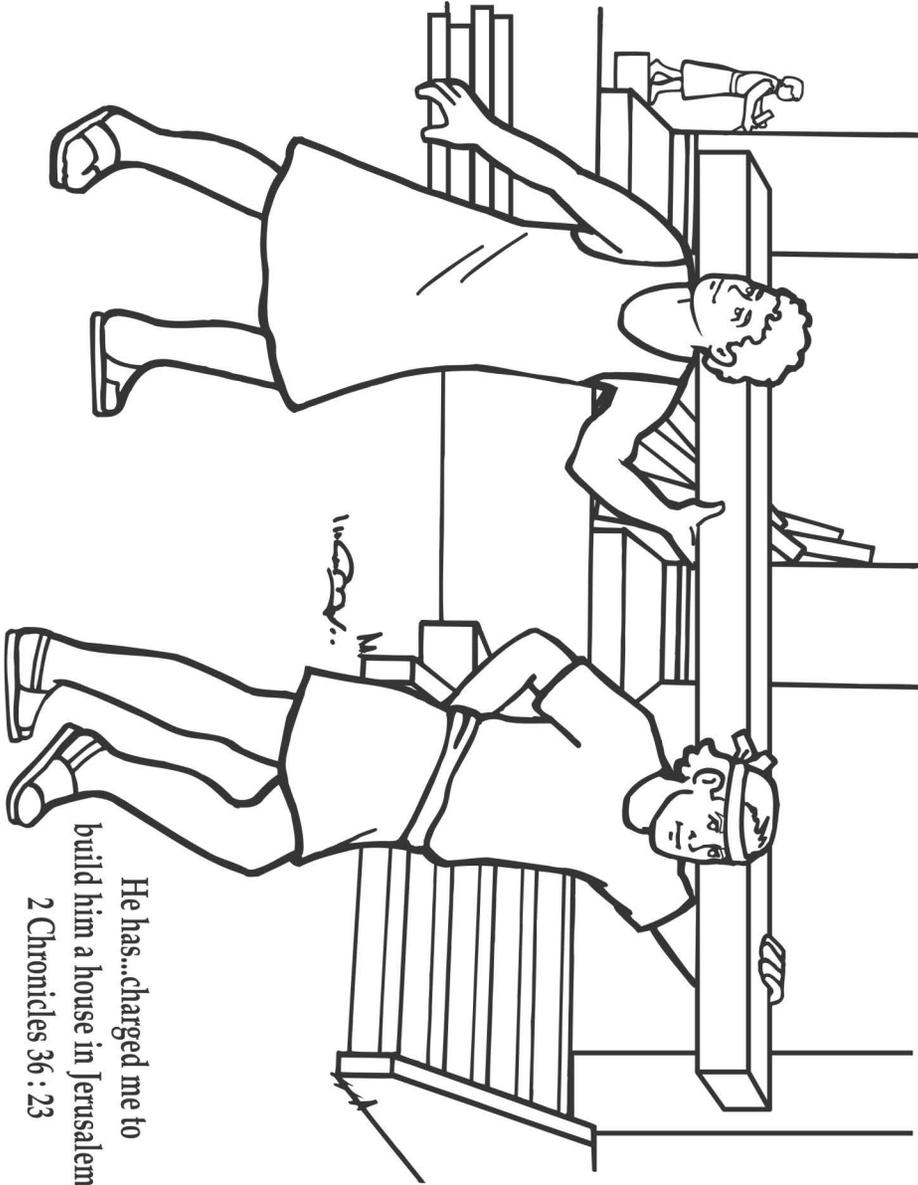
Answer: John 3:16

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## Fourth Sunday of Lent

Paul's Letter to the Ephesians (2:10) tells us what we are. Color only the capital letters in the quilt to find out.





He has...charged me to  
build him a house in Jerusalem.  
2 Chronicles 36 : 23

# CATHOLIC CORNER

## IF I EVER FORGET YOU

If there are people in your parish who will be baptized at the Easter Vigil, today you might hear the Gospel story about the man born blind. Listen for the psalm that goes with this reading.

***The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want. (Psalm 23:1)***

Otherwise, you might hear the story about a man named Nicodemus, a Gospel that contains a sentence that you might have heard and seen: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son" (John 3:16). Listen for the psalm that goes with this reading.

***Let my tongue be silenced, if I ever forget you! (Psalm 137:6ab)***

Both psalms promise that God will never forget us and will always take care of us. We promise never to forget about God. Unscramble the words below to discover something important to remember. Write the message on the lines.

oGd lilw ysalwa velo su dna reac rof su.

oGd ilwl veig su revyehitng ew dene.

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I nikth fo odG rveye yda.

I veig oGd hsktan for revyehitng I vahe.

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*If you sing the psalm at Mass today, listen carefully to the melody of the response.*

*Try to remember it and sing it during the week.*



Consider Remembering Your Parish in Your Will.  
For further information, please call the Parish Office.

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All participants who attend an estimated 60-90 minute in-home product consultation will receive a \$25 gift card. Retail value is \$25. Offer sponsored by LeafGuard Holdings Inc. Limit one per household. Company purchases, sells, and installs seamless gutter protection. This offer is valid for homeowners over 18 years of age. If married or involved with a life partner, both cohabitating persons must attend and complete presentation together. Participants must have a photo ID, be able to understand English, and be legally able to enter into a contract. The following persons are not eligible for this offer: employees of Company or affiliated companies or entities, their immediate family members, previous participants in a Company in-home consultation within the past 12 months and all current and former Company customers. Gift may not be extended, transferred, or substituted except that Company may substitute a gift of equal or greater value if it deems it necessary. Gift card will be mailed to the participant via first class United States Mail within 21 days of receipt of the promotion form. Not valid in conjunction with any other promotion or discount of any kind. Offer not sponsored or promoted by Lowe's and is subject to change without notice prior to expiration. Expires 9/30/20.



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LeafGuard operates as LeafGuard of Pittsburgh in Pennsylvania under HICPA license number PA126357 and in West Virginia under license number WV05024.

\*Guaranteed not to clog for as long as you own your home, or we'll clean your gutters for free.

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