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## Mass Intention



Our Parishioners

Contact Elizabeth to schedule a Mass  
or if you have any questions. Please  
give Mass intentions to Father.

Póngase en contacto con Elizabeth  
para programar una misa o si tiene  
alguna pregunta. Por favor, den inten-

## Praying With Next Week's Readings

Reading I: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12  
Responsorial Psalm: 34:2-3, 4-5,  
6-7

Reading II: 2 Corinthians  
5:17-21

Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

## March Birthdays

Our Lady of the Lake



Council 9309

- 1 **John Holtkamp**
- 3 **Tiffany Geonzon**
- 4 **Christine Brophy**
- 5 **Niurka Verduzco**
- 5 **Kenji Carillo**
- 5 **Matthew Conte**
- 7 **Janet McKenzie**
- 9 **Usiel Morales**
- 10 **Jerome Moleno**
- 11 **Venise Carillo**
- 15 **Maribel Gomez**
- 18 **Milaide Arguelles**
- 18 **Vanessa Ramirez**
- 18 **Stanley Hanhauser**
- 26 **Kelly Plascencia**
- 28 **Stella Hanhauser**

### Officers for 2021-2022

Chaplain: Fr. Jong R. Bayta

Grand Knight: Bobby Berndt  
Deputy Grand Knight:

Chancellor: Dave Thomas  
Recorder: Bob Hathaway  
Treasurer: Jay Warfel, PGK  
Financial Secretary:

Tom O'Neill, PGK

Advocate: Bob Oravits

Warden: Paul Kurilla

Guards:

Inside: Kip Boisot, PGK

Outside: Richard Rumprik

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES:

Trustee One Year:  
Mark Fracassa

Trustee Two Years:  
Tom Eddy, PGK

Trustee Three Years:  
Chuck Youse

If you are a Catholic man 18  
years or older and wish to join  
our Council, please contact  
Bobby Berndt (434)636-2565  
or Tom O'Neill (252)308-0493.



Please use this list to pray for  
those who are in need. May we  
all lift one another up in prayer.  
Steven Goellner; Rosemary  
Buskirk, Robert Taylor,  
Mary Frances Kramer, Nina  
Gendron & family

Please contact the office with  
updates.

## St. Richard Catholic Church

[office@strichardscatholicchurch.org](mailto:office@strichardscatholicchurch.org)

[www.strichardscatholicchurch.org](http://www.strichardscatholicchurch.org)

117 Laurel Street, Emporia, VA 23847



We welcome all visitors and guests to our parish family and wish you safe travels and a happy visit to Emporia.

### Mission Statement:

We, the Church of Saint Richard, have been anointed by Jesus Christ to continue His Mission. For us to participate in the mission of Jesus, we are challenged by the Gospel to a daily conversion to God, leading to spiritual growth and holiness. We invite others to join us at the Eucharistic table. Mindful of our neighbors, we will work to bring about a just and peaceful society. At every opportunity, we will work with other faith communities to further God's Kingdom.

**Pastor:** Fr. Jong R. Bayta

[jbayta@richmonddiocese.org](mailto:jbayta@richmonddiocese.org)

Rectory: 434-636-7782

**Secretary/Bookkeeper:**

Elizabeth Martin

434-636-6277

## Liturgical Schedule

Weekend Masses:

**Saturday—1:00 pm (Spanish)**

**Sunday—10:30 am**

Rosary:

**Sunday—10:00 am**

Reconciliation:

**Sunday—10:00 am**

**Pastoral Council**—Jenny Holtkamp: 515-201-3761

**Finance Council**—Dr. Fitzgerald Marcelin: 804-984-0277

**Religious Formation**—John Holtkamp: 937-935-4516

**Music Coordinator**—Luz Zapanta: 434-430-6092

**Altar Ministry**—Stevie Thomas: 434-634-6713

# Third Sunday of Lent—March 20, 2022

## Study of the Readings

### Focusing the Gospel

**Key words & phrases:** sinners, repent, cut it down, I shall cultivate ... and fertilize it, may bear fruit

**To the point:** The owner of the fig tree only cares about whether the tree bears fruit—he has no regard for the tree and its life. The gardener, on the other hand, cares about the fig tree, sees the life still there, and wants to give it every chance (“I shall cultivate ... and fertilize it”) to produce. He understands

that as long as there’s life, there’s potential to bear fruit. What wastes away life within us and prevents us from bearing fruit is sin. Repentance, then, means choosing to nurture new life and all the fullness it can bring.

### Connecting the Gospel

**... to the Second Reading:** Paul, like Jesus, offers examples from Israel’s history as a “warning to us” not to stray from God’s guidance. God offered every means for coming

to new life to the people of Israel; so, too, Jesus offers us every means for coming to new and fruitful life (“I shall cultivate the ground ... and fertilize it”).

**... to experience:** Growing up takes hard work. Getting ahead in life takes hard work. Deepening our relationship with God and others takes hard work. It is no surprise, then, that repenting takes hard work. The discipline of Lent includes this kind of hard-work repentance which leads to the new life Easter promises.

## PARISH NEWS

In today’s Gospel, Jesus calls out an uncomfortable truth about our fallen human nature: we like to locate fault and blame outside ourselves. Jesus corrects this tendency, which is too often an excuse for ignoring our own need for conversion — our own need to produce good fruit. Lent is a season dedicated to overcoming this “blame-shifting” tendency. It’s a season of self-reflection, repentance, and growth in our relationship with God. Our Lenten disciplines and practices give us a concrete opportunity to stop focusing on the perceived shortcomings of others, and to focus on making concrete acts of love and producing

good fruit. One discipline we’ve been focusing on this Lent is the practice of almsgiving. Being challenged to give to others doesn’t allow us to point fingers and highlight their shortcomings. It forces us to reflect on our own generosity and trust in the Lord. Rather than something scary, this should be a welcomed opportunity to be more fully converted to Christ. We have many concrete opportunities for almsgiving, including giving to our Annual Diocesan Appeal. Reread Christ’s parable about the fig tree and see what kind of good fruit he might be asking you to produce.

### Lenten Schedule

Stations of the Cross—every Friday at 5:30 pm  
 Mass of the Lord’s Supper-April 14 at 5:30 pm  
 Easter Sunday Mass-April 17 at 10:30 am

Next weekend we will take up The Catholic Relief Services Collection. These funds provide food to the hungry, support displaced refugees, and bring Christ’s love and mercy to vulnerable people. Reveal Christ’s love to those most in need by giving to the collection.

### Last Week’s Offertory

	Needed	Actual
Offertory:	\$807.70	\$898.00
		<b>\$90.30</b>

**MASS ATTENDANCE:**  
**March 13th**  
**73**

# Tercero domingo de Cuaresma

## Estudio de las lecturas

### Enfocando el Evangelio

#### Palabras y frases claves:

pecadores, arrepíentanse, córtalo, yo cultivaré... y fertilizarlo, puede dar fruto

**Al punto:** Al dueño de la higuera solo le importa si el árbol da fruto, no tiene consideración por el árbol y su vida. El jardinero, por otro lado, se preocupa por la higuera, ve la vida todavía allí y quiere darle todas las oportunidades (“Cultivaré ... y fertilizarlo”) para producir. Él entiende que mientras haya vida, hay potencial para dar fruto. Lo

que desperdicia la vida dentro de nosotros y nos impide dar fruto es el pecado. El arrepentimiento, entonces, significa elegir nutrir una nueva vida y toda la plenitud que puede traer.

### Conectando al Evangelio

#### ... a la Segunda Lectura:

Pablo, como Jesús, ofrece ejemplos de la historia de Israel como una “advertencia para nosotros” de no desviarnos de la guía de Dios. Dios ofreció todos los medios para venir a una nueva vida al pueblo de Israel; así también Jesús nos ofrece todos

los medios para llegar a una vida nueva y fructífera (“Cultivaré la tierra... y fertilizarlo”).

**... experimentar:** Crecer requiere mucho trabajo. Salir adelante en la vida requiere mucho trabajo. Profundizar nuestra relación con Dios y con los demás requiere trabajo duro. No es de extrañar, entonces, que el arrepentimiento requiera trabajo duro. La disciplina de la Cuaresma incluye este tipo de arrepentimiento de trabajo duro que conduce a las nuevas promesas de vida de pascua.

## NOTICIAS PARROQUIALES

En el Evangelio de hoy, Jesús habla de una verdad incómoda acerca de nuestra naturaleza humana caída. A nosotros nos gusta encontrar faltas y culpas en otros que no seamos nosotros mismos. Pero Jesús corrige esa tendencia, la misma que a menudo es una excusa para ignorar nuestra propia necesidad de conversión y nuestra propia necesidad de producir buenos frutos. Cuaresma es un tiempo dedicado a vencer esta tendencia de “cambio de culpa”. Es un tiempo de autorreflexión, arrepentimiento y crecimiento en nuestra relación con Dios. Nuestras disciplinas y prácticas Cuaresmales nos dan oportunidades concretas para no enfocarnos en los defectos de otros y así concentrarnos en realizar actos

concretos de amor y producir buenos frutos. Una disciplina que nos hemos enfocado en esta Cuaresma es la práctica de la limosna. El ser desafiados a dar a otros, no nos permite señalar con el dedo para resaltar sus defectos. Nos obliga a reflexionar acerca de nuestra propia generosidad y confianza en el Señor. En vez de que sea algo aterrador, esto debería ser una oportunidad favorable para estar totalmente convertidos a Cristo. Nosotros tenemos muchas oportunidades concretas, incluyendo el dar a nuestra Campaña Anual Diocesana. Vuelva a leer la parábola de Cristo sobre la higuera y vea que tipo de buen fruto Él le está pidiendo que produzca.

El próximo fin de semana retomaremos la Colecta de Servicios de Socorro Católicos. Estos fondos proporcionan alimentos a los hambrientos, apoyan a los refugiados desplazados y llevan el amor y la misericordia de Cristo a las personas vulnerables. Revela el amor de Cristo a los más necesitados dando a la colecta.

### Next Week’s Ministry Schedule

READERS	BODY OF CHRIST	USHER
Melanie Sanchez	Steve Brophy	Elizer Carillo
Toni Ferris		Dave Thomas

### Upcoming Events:

**March 21**-Office Closed  
**March 22**-Knights of Columbus Meeting  
**March 25**-Stations of the Cross at 5:30 pm  
**March 27**-Finance Council Meeting