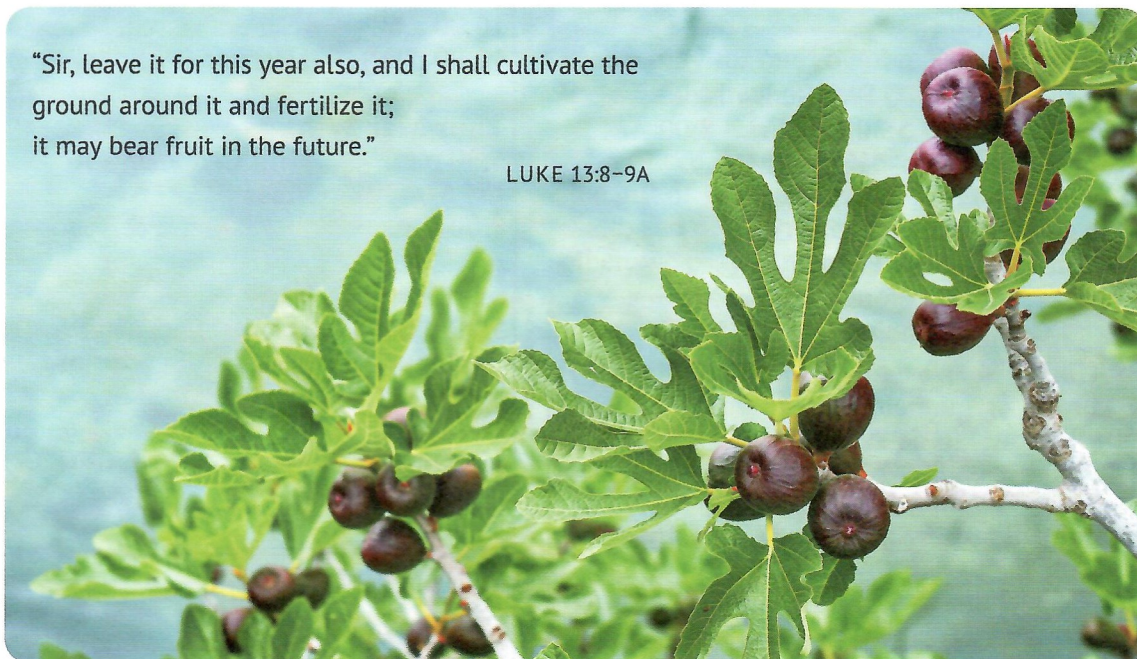




"Sir, leave it for this year also, and I shall cultivate the ground around it and fertilize it; it may bear fruit in the future."

LUKE 13:8-9A



A Gardener God

FR. JOSEPH JUKNIALIS

Charles Baudelaire was a French poet and essayist in the mid-1800s. He once observed that life is like a hospital in which each patient is possessed by the desire to change beds. In other words, he thought everyone seemed to think life would be so much better if only they had a different set of circumstances, a different job, a different marriage, a different place in life. Like trees, however, not everyone grows and matures at the same pace. There are forty-year-olds who still act and think like teenagers, and there are ten-year-olds who have an attitude toward life like that of an elder. Over time, we all grow into the lives we're given.

In this week's Parable of the Barren Fig Tree, some think God is like the owner who planted the tree, as

if God is impatient with us to begin bearing fruit and quick to uproot us if we fail. A case could be made, however, for God to be the gardener who patiently fertilizes and nurtures. In the beginning, it was God who had a garden called Eden, filled with all kinds of trees and plants among which God walked with Adam and Eve in the cool of the evening. After the resurrection, it was Mary Magdalene who went looking for the body of Jesus and mistook him for the gardener. It is God who hovers over us, watering and nudging and nurturing, waiting until in God's good time, we begin to bear fruit. ●

Reflect

***What needs nurturing in my life,
and what needs weeding out?***

**St. Mary's & St. John's
Brush CO & Stoneham CO**

Pastor: Rev. Herman Nsubuga
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Maurice Okeke

Masses:

Brush: Sat. - 5:00 PM, Sun. - 10:00 AM
Thurs. - 5:30 PM, Fri. - 8:00 AM
Stoneham: Sun. - 12:00 PM

Sacrament of Reconciliation:

Brush: Sat. - 3:00 PM
1/2 hr. before weekday Masses
or by appointment
Stoneham: Sun. - after Mass

Adoration & Benediction: 1st Friday of the
month immediately after Mass (till 9:00 a.m.)

Anointing of the Sick: - call the Office

Office: Thursday & Friday
Leave a message **970-842-2216**

Website: www.stmarybrush.org

Sign up for Flocknote

www.flocknote.com/stmarybrush

or text **Brush** to **84576**

Facebook: www.facebook.com/STMBrush

Donate Online: Visit www.stmarybrush.org
Click "Donate" and select your church.
Thank you for your ongoing support!

Visit Formed.org & watch for free!
Sign Up & Select "I belong to a Parish"
Enter 80723 / select St. Mary's
Enter your e-mail - and you are in!

Mass Intentions

Sat Mar. 22 Vigil
5:00 p.m. Graces/Logan Jarrell - PD
Sun Mar 23 Mass/3rd Sunday of Lent
10:00 a.m. †Sandra Garcia Madigan
12:00 p.m. †Harvey & †Peggy Ericson-JJ

Thur Mar 27 Mass
5:30 p.m. †Bill Chapman - JC
Fri Mar. 28 Mass
8:00 a.m. †JesusMaria & Teodosia Perez
- FIR

Sat Mar. 29 Vigil
5:00 p.m. †Robert Guzman Sr. - TG

Sun Mar 30 Mass/4th Sunday of Lent
Laetare Sunday
10:00 a.m. †Manuel Benitez - family
12:00 p.m. Special Intentions (R) - MK

PLEASE PRAY FOR:

Our Sick:

Joseph Wilson, Gia Marquez, Rosa Maria Santos, Jan Yokum, Deja Adam, Kane Schrock, Bernice Padilla, Rosemary Garcia, Sean Gleason, Ben Mettlen, Arabella Macias, Brianna Hill, Gina Mortenson, Caiden Lee, Paula & Delbert Meier, Sheryl Garvik, Izaac Morales, Kayla Albrant, Stan Prather, Christy Chapman, Anthony Steven Villarreal, Shelby Daughenbaugh, Norma Wolfe, Stella, Fritz & Irene Ramirez, Amanda Weisensee, Eloy Padilla, Nadine Odell, Jennifer Romero, Pennie Haller, Armando Saucedo, Carmona Family, Leo Millburg, Gary Bloemker, Josie Contreras, Emmalyn Potts, Anne Mertens, Carter Wiedrich, Apolonio Ramirez, Felix Acosta, Aurelia Lopez, Dave Willich, Chuck Blackwelder

March 24 / 3-Hour Perpetual Adoration

Monday 4:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Come, spend time with the Lord!

March 25 / Bible Study

6:30 p.m. in the RE building

LENT 2025

Fridays of Lent at St. Mary

A Day of Abstinence

5:30 p.m. - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

6:00 p.m. - Knights dinner

Parish Hall (basement) /good-will offering

Dates: March 28, April 4, 11

Tuesdays of Lent at St. John's:

6:00 p.m. - STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Dates: March 25, April 1, 8, 15

Lenten Penance Services at 6:00 p.m.

April 3 / Thursday / St. Anthony, Sterling

April 8 / Tuesday / St. Joseph, Akron

April 10 / Thursday / St. Mary, Brush

SPIRITUAL FOOD IN LENT

Prayer and Repentance

A simple, heartfelt prayer is powerful. God welcomes a humble heart. (Ps. 51:17) – “The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise.” 1Jn. 1:9) – “If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us...”

Charity and Love

Lent is also about acts of love, mercy and kindness. (Is. 58:6-7) “Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of wickedness..” (Lk 6:36) “Be merciful, just as your father..”

St. Mary's Divine Mercy Prayer Group

Friday, March 28 after 8:00 a.m. Mass



Anointing of the Sick

March 29/30 after each Mass

Please pray for our youth, making their faith retreat on next Saturday.



“Dear Lord, let them receive freely the gift of faith, accept it with gratitude, and develop it with generosity towards other, we pray. Amen”

Knights of Columbus Scholarship

If you are a graduating high school senior (male or female) who is planning to attend college in the fall, you are eligible to apply for a Knights of Columbus scholarship.

Applicants must be parishioners of St. Mary's or St. John's parishes.

Please apply online at

<https://www.stmarybrush.org/knights.html>

Applications are due: April 15, 2025

Saturday, April 5 / Lenten Retreat

8:15 am - 5:00 pm / Jessica Navin,

St. Helena's , Ft. Morgan, CO

REGISTER ONLINE by March 28th

\$20 per person @<https://>

www.stmarybrush.org/lenten-retreat.html

No computer > use registration form

For more: **Jeanett Baker 303-902-9994**

Bridget Link at nocoretreat@gmail.com



FEED THE HUNGRY

Food Drive - Help feed families

Consider canned goods & items for the Brush Food pantry.

Monetary donations welcomed.

Drop off at St. Mary's

Thank you for your support!

Dear Padre,

May I receive Communion if I'm divorced and haven't gotten an annulment?

Yes, you may. Divorce, in itself, is not an impediment to the reception of Communion. Divorce, although regrettable because of the many ramifications that may be part of the experience, is not in itself a sin. There are situations when divorce may be the most loving choice and make it possible for all parties involved to live the lives God is calling them to live.

Remarriage, when a person is not free to marry because of the presence of a previous bond, is an impediment to the reception of holy Communion. Although this situation is more and more common, it does not mean that the law of the Church, representative of the teaching of Jesus, can be set aside. As part of the process of healing from your divorce and moving on with your life, you may want to seek an annulment, particularly if you think you might want to marry again. The annulment process can often be healing and a source of great blessing. It also provides a rare opportunity to reflect on what was lost as a result of the original divorce and what can be learned as a way of moving forward and building a second marriage that is strong and life-giving.



STEVE LOVERHONEY / SHUTTERSTOCK

Fr. Thomas M. Santa, CSsR / DearPadre.org

Do you have a question for the Padre?

Go to DearPadre.org to send your question and to learn more about *Dear Padre*.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
March 24	March 25	March 26	March 27	March 28	March 29	March 30
<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>The</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Lenten Weekday</i>	<i>Fourth Sunday of Lent</i>
2 Kgs 5:1-15b Lk 4:24-30	<i>Annunciation of the Lord</i> Is 7:10-14; 8:10 Heb 10:4-10 Lk 1:26-38	Dt 4:1, 5-9 Mt 5:17-19	Jer 7:23-28 Lk 11:14-23	Hos 14:2-10 Mk 12:28-34	Hos 6:1-6 Lk 18:9-14	Jos 5:9a, 10-12 2 Cor 5:17-21 Lk 15:1-3, 11-32



VATICAN MEDIA

A WORD FROM POPE FRANCIS

I like to think that a nice name for God could be “the God of another possibility”.... [God] does not look at the achievements you have not yet reached, but the fruits you can still bear. He does not keep track of your shortcomings but encourages your potential. He does not dwell on your past, but confidently bets on your future.

ANGELUS, ROME, MARCH 20, 2022

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