LIVING FAITH
MARCH 20, 2022
THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT

THE GOSPEL FOR TODAY-- Lk 13:1-9

Then Jesus told this parable:
“A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard;
and he came looking for fruit on it and found none.
So he said to the gardener, “See here!
For three years I have come looking for fruit on this fig tree, and still I find none.
Cut it down! Why should it be wasting the soil?”
The gardener replied,
“Sir, let it alone for one more year, until I dig round it and put manure on it.
If it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.”

REFLECTING ON THE GOSPEL
Which character in this Gospel acts most like God? Is it the man who owned the vineyard, who wants the unproductive fig tree cut down? Or is it the gardener, who pleads with the landowner to give the fig tree one more year?

Our God is merciful and forgiving. With God, there are always second chances, third chances and more. In Lent, through the readings at Mass, through the Eucharist itself, and through the Sacrament of Reconciliation, God calls us to remember how deeply God loves us. Sometimes, we fail. We turned away from God, or from our neighbours. When that happens, God calls us to repent, and offers forgiveness. God calls us home.

God is like the gardener in the Gospel. God wants us to grow and flower and bear good fruit in the world.

TALKING WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS

• How do you hear God’s call to grow and bear fruit?
• How do you search your heart to discover when and how God calls you to turn toward God and repent?

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The Parable of the Fig Tree

Complete the paragraph by filling in the blanks with the correct words from the word bank at the bottom of the story.

Jesus Tells a Story

Then he told this ___________: "A man had a ___________ tree, planted in his ___________, and he went to look for ___________ on it, but did not find any. So he said to the man who took care of the vineyard, 'For ___________ years now I've been coming to look for fruit on this fig ___________ and haven't found any. ___________ it down! Why should it use up the ___________?"

"'Sir,' the man replied, 'leave it alone for one more ___________, and I'll ___________ around it and ___________ it. If it bears fruit next year, fine! If not, then cut it ___________.'


cut       fertilizer       parable       tree
dig       fig               soil           vineyard
down      fruit             three          year
One of Development and Peace’s strengths is our ability to mobilize thousands of Canadians like you to amplify marginalized voices from the Global South. Our partners want businesses to not be able to perpetrate abuses in their countries with impunity.

That is why our People and Planet First campaign is asking you to help ensure that Canada adopts strong due diligence laws to prevent Canadian corporations from abusing human and environmental rights across their global operations.

Sign our petition for this at devp.org/act and spread the word. Thank you for supporting our campaign!

MARCH 20th
Third Sunday of Lent
[based on the psalm]
For those who defend human rights around the world, heeding the cry of the poor, often at great risk to their reputations, their security and their very lives, we pray to the Lord.

For Pope Francis, our bishops, women, men, young people and all those journeying on the synodal path; may we open our hearts to one another with bravery and hospitality, seeking to listen and contribute, prepared to hear both joys and sorrows. Let us pray to the Lord.

SYNOD QUESTION OF THE WEEK

8. AUTHORITY AND PARTICIPATION
A synodal church is a participatory and co-responsible Church. How does our Church decide its goals and priorities? Is our Church a model of teamwork and shared responsibility? Why or why not? Give some examples.

To share your responses with the Archdiocesan Synod coordinating team, e-mail us at: rafftcssr@gmail.com
To complete the entire survey online, go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/QL8BNS5
FEASTS THIS WEEK IN THE LITURGICAL CALENDAR

ST. OSCAR ROMERO  
MARCH 24

Oscar Romero was Archbishop of San Salvador. He was assassinated on Monday March 24th 1980 as he was celebrating Mass in the chapel of the Divine Providence cancer hospital where he lived. 35 years later, he was declared a martyr of the Church, killed out of hatred of the faith, and was beatified on May 23rd 2015. He was canonized by Pope Francis on October 14th 2018.

A quote from St. Oscar Romero:

Let us not tire of preaching love; it is the force that will overcome the world. Let us not tire of preaching love. Though we see that waves of violence succeed in drowning the fire of Christian love, love must win out; it is the only thing that can. September 25, 1977

For more, go to:
http://www.romerotrust.org.uk

ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD  
MARCH 25

The feast of the Annunciation celebrates and recalls the visit of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary, during which he told her that she would be the mother of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. It is celebrated on March 25th.

More importantly, since it occurs 9 months before the birth of Jesus on Christmas Day, the Annunciation marks the actual incarnation of Jesus Christ - the moment that Jesus was conceived and that the Son of God became the son of the Virgin.

The feast celebrates two things:

- God's action in entering the human world as Jesus in order to save humanity, and
- Humanity's willing acceptance of God's action in Mary's freely given acceptance of the task of being the Mother of God.

This image of the window dedicated to the Annunciation was taken by Robert and Lynn Young in 2019. This lovely window can be found in the Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in St. John’s, NL on the clerestory (upper) level, west side. It was crafted by Louis Lichtenfeldt-Koch in Beauvais, France in the late 19th century.

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