



SUNDAY, MARCH 8, 2015

THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT; FIRST SCRUTINY OF THE ELECT
Lord, you search me and you know me

Psalm 139 could be called the Scrutiny Psalm: “Lord, you know when I sit and stand; you understand me.” The Latin root of *scrutiny* means to search or to investigate. It’s the spiritual version of what happens at the airport security gate: surrender your baggage, empty your pockets, and take off your shoes. As our Elect members near the end of their preparation for Easter’s sacraments, we pray that they search their hearts before embracing the way of Christ. They invite the Spirit’s gentle but penetrating investigation. Lent invites all of us to do the same!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Year A: Exodus 17:3-7; Romans 5:1-2, 5-8; John 4:5-42 (28).* “God is Spirit, and those who worship him must worship in Spirit and truth.”

MONDAY, MARCH 9

FEAST OF FRANCES OF ROME, RELIGIOUS
God has other plans

People often don’t recognize holiness in their midst. It happened to Jesus, of course, and to many saints who were pressured to live conventional, secular lives. Saint Frances of Rome was among the many forced by family to marry instead of taking religious vows. But she discovered her true calling within the role of reluctant matriarch by using her resources to help the poor. Like Frances, you might not immediately recognize God’s will shaping your life, and it just might surprise you on the upside.

TODAY’S READINGS: *2 Kings 5:1-15b; Luke 4:24-30 (237).* “Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.”

TUESDAY, MARCH 10 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Forgive one more time—always

God’s math can be tricky. “How many times must I forgive my brother?” Peter asks, “Seven times?” Jesus’ response is short and sweet: How about seventy-seven times. Time and again Jesus calls his followers to forgive. There is no end to this call; it is an echo of God’s infinite mercy. You are never beyond God’s goodness and love. All that God asks in return is that you have a contrite heart and humble spirit. That may not seem like a lot, but by God’s calculations the willingness to seek and an openness to share love is worth everything.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Daniel 3:25, 34-43; Matthew 18:21-35 (238).* “Should you not have had pity on your fellow servant, as I had pity on you?”

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Memory is our saving grace

Nobel Peace Prize winner and Holocaust survivor Elie Wiesel calls remembering “a noble and necessary act.” “No commandment,” he wrote in his 1986 Nobel Lecture, “figures so frequently, so insistently, in the Bible. It is incumbent upon us to remember the good we have received, and the evil we have suffered.” And for Christians, the sum and summit of our memory comes with bread broken and shared around the table of the Lord. That is where we remember all that has been offered to us and all that we must give in return.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Deuteronomy 4:1, 5-9; Matthew 5:17-19 (239).* “However, take care and be earnestly on your guard not to forget the things which your own eyes have seen.”

THURSDAY, MARCH 12 LENTEN WEEKDAY

Touched by God

Aside from being the bedrock document of both Christian and Jewish faith, the Bible makes for great literature—filled with sweeping epics, unforgettable characters, and the gamut of human experience and emotion. One of its more poetic images is that of “the finger of God,” which is used in the Book of Exodus to indicate the means by which the Ten Commandments were written on the stone tablets given to Moses on Mount Sinai. Jesus uses the phrase in reference to the power to cast out a demon. The image suggests that the smallest part of God is mighty enough to accomplish great things. Imagine what even a small amount of God can accomplish in your own life!

TODAY’S READINGS: *Jeremiah 7:23-28; Luke 11:14-23 (240).* “If it is by the finger of God that I drive out demons, then the kingdom of God has come upon you.”

FRIDAY, MARCH 13

LENTEN WEEKDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE
Give up and gain

All Fridays of the year are days of penance for Catholics, and abstinence from meat, once required on Fridays, may now be substituted by prayer and works most of the year. But the tradition of no meat on Fridays is still in place during Lent. It’s a reminder of the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday, uniting you with Christ’s sacrifice through your abstinence. And (as anyone who has attended a church fish fry can attest!) it also unites you with other Catholics in a sense of community and solidarity.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hosea 14:2-10; Mark 12:28-34 (241).* “You are not far from the kingdom of God.”

SATURDAY, MARCH 14 LENTEN WEEKDAY

What drives you?

Lent is a season that allows for the opportunity to examine what motivates and drives you. As you strip down your life, what do you find? On what or on whom are you most reliant? Do your desires direct you toward God or away? The answers you give can be humbling in the truest sense of the word—revealing not only who you are but also who is God in your life. Such knowledge is a gift and a challenge. Pay attention to your responses and listen for the options God might be offering you.

TODAY’S READINGS: *Hosea 6:1-6; Luke 18:9-14 (242).* “O God, I thank you that I am not like the rest of humanity.”



Invest just five minutes a day, and your faith will deepen and grow—a day at a time.

© 2015 by TrueQuest Communications. TakeFiveForFaith.com; 800-942-2811; mail@takefiveforfaith.com. All rights reserved. Daily email sign-up and App available online. Art may be subject to additional copyright. Noncommercial reprints permitted with the following credit: Reprinted with permission from TakeFiveForFaith.com. Scripture citations from the New American Bible Revised Edition. Contributors: Alice Camille, Sister Colleen Gibson, S.S.J., Daniel Grippo, Father Larry Janowski, O.F.M., Sister Maxine Kollasch, I.H.M., Jennifer Tomshack, Palrice J. Tuohy, Sister Julie Vieira, I.H.M.

CatholicMom.com Gospel Activities - John 2:13-25

S L K Y L J E W S G G F Q V K K W M N Z
Z G Q A Y Y Q Q Q T E S T I F Y D J B D
F Q E Q B E L I E V E G M Q K Q M Q P H
T Z G G F Q Y Q Q Q Q Y R J Y Q Q K K F
O Z O Q V R V Q M S I G N Q E Q M I X P
X G Q P D M D D K K K Q C F Q S X Z W N
E Q Q A Q J F D D W J Q Q G D V U K M X
N F Q S Q E G W R A I S E D F G G S A Z
M R F S G R G W Y J Z Q F F Q E F Q R Z
W M M O Z U D L K D Y G P X L G Q G K F
B B F V Y S X U V Y E G F P H Y C G E O
F F F E Q A K D Z Y Q S M D Q V G F T Q
V K F R Y L H U M A N E T Y M S L W P F
H D Z Z Q E G J W K T Q G R Z Q F K L Z
B O N Z G M Q Q Q F G Q Z B O S K J A Q
Q V A Q H F T H R E E F G K P Y H Y C Y
G E T K B B M B F F G G Z J Q Q Q E E Y
F S U V Q Q C O N S T R U C T I O N E G
K G R Y N P P B M V Z Y Y Y Y Q M F Q P
L G E Y V Z S C R I P T U R E Y V D S X

Word Bank

Believe, Construction, Destroy, Doves, Human, Jerusalem, Jesus, Jews, Marketplace, Nature, Oxen, Passover, Raised, Scripture, Sheep, Sign, Temple, Testify, Three, Zeal