

Fruits of the Fig: Scott Hahn Reflects on the Third Sunday of Lent

In the Church, we are made children of the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob – the God who makes known His name and His ways to Moses in today's First Reading.

Mindful of His covenant with Abraham (see Exodus 2:24), God came down to rescue His people from the slave-drivers of Egypt. Faithful to that same covenant (see Luke 1:54-55, 72-73), He sent Jesus to redeem all lives from destruction, as today's Psalm tells us.

Paul says in today's Epistle that God's saving deeds in the Exodus were written down for the Church, intended as a prelude and foreshadowing of our own Baptism by water, our liberation from sin, our feeding with spiritual food and drink.

Yet the events of the Exodus were also given as a "warning" – that being children of Abraham is no guarantee that we will reach the promised land of our salvation.

At any moment, Jesus warns in today's Gospel, we could perish – not as God's punishment for being "greater sinners" – but because, like the Israelites in the wilderness, we stumble into evil desires, fall into grumbling, forget all His benefits.

Jesus calls us today to "repentance" – not a one-time change of heart, but an on-going, daily transformation of our lives. We're called to live the life we sing about in today's Psalm – blessing His holy name, giving thanks for His kindness and mercy.

The fig tree in His parable is a familiar Old Testament symbol for Israel (see Jeremiah 8:3; 24:1-10). As the fig tree is given one last season to produce fruit before it is cut down, so too Jesus is giving Israel one final opportunity to bear good fruits as evidence of its repentance (see Luke 3:8).

Lent should be for us like the season of reprieve given to the fig tree, a grace period in which we let "the gardener," Christ, cultivate our hearts, uprooting what chokes the divine life in us, strengthening us to bear fruits that will last into eternity.

Our Lady of Peace

Fort George G. Meade
Catholic Community



**Third Sunday of Lent
24 March 2019**

Welcome to Our Lady of Peace Military Catholic Community!

We invite all newcomers to register yourself and/or your family with us. Please contact the Catholic Community Coordinator for a registration form or go to www.olopfortmeade.org. Thank you for being a part of our great community!

We pray for all our deployed military and civilians especially from Fort Meade; for their families and their loved ones.

CH (LTC) Jerzy Rzasowski (Father George)
jerzy.rzasowski.mil@mail.mil

Phone: (410) 730-0301
Call for confessions, counseling, sacraments, and other pastoral matters.

Ms. Sheila Stewart
Religious Education Coordinator
sheila.m.stewart.civ@mail.mil

Phone: (301) 677-6038
Office Hours: Sun-Thu, 0800-1600 Contact for all CCD matters.

Mr. Alex Gogue
Music Director
asgogue@gmail.com

Nilda & Javier Melendez
Marriage Preparation/Pre-Cana
milelolai@verizon.net

Mrs. Joycelyn Laus
Catholic Community Coordinator
larryjoyce4760@gmail.com

Email for appointments on marriage preparation, baptism, and to register yourself and/or your family.

MASS SCHEDULE EFFECTIVE JUNE 10, 2018

Sunday Mass

9:00 am, -Argonne Hills Chapel Center
7100 Rockenbach Road
Fort Meade, MD 20755

Weekday Mass (Starting October 30, 2018)
Every Tuesday, 12 noon, Main Post Chapel

For other Mass schedules and locations outside Fort Meade, visit: www.archbalt.org

Confessions: Half an hour prior to scheduled Mass in the Chapel that the Mass is located, and after Mass.

Readings of the Week	
3/24/2019-3/31/2019	
SUN	EX 3:1-8A, 13-15 1 COR 10:1-6, 10-12 LK 13:1-9
MON	IS 7:10-14; 8:10 HEB 10:4-10 LK 1:26-38
TUE	DN 3:25, 34-43 MT 18:21-35
WED	DT 4:1, 5-9 MT 5:17-19
THU	JER 7:23-28 LK 11:14-23
FRI	HOS 14:2-10 MK 12:28-34
SAT	HOS 6:1-6 LK 18:9-14
SUN	JOS 5:9A, 10-12 2 COR 5:17-21 LK 15:1-3, 11-32

“God’s Plan for Giving”
“As each one has received a gift, use it to serve one another as good stewards of God’s varied grace.” I Pt. 4:10

Attendance and collection
17 March 2019

Attendance	Offering
230	\$1290.75

Our ministries and programs are supported by your weekly offerings.

Please make checks payable to CTOF.

Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

May God bless you!
-Father George

Catholic Community Events

- **March 29:** Stations of the Cross, 6 pm, Main Post Chapel
- **April 5:** Stations of the Cross, 6 pm, Main Post Chapel
- **April 6:** Confirmation retreat, St. Anthony Shrine
- **April 9:** Chrism Mass, Crypt Church, Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, 6 pm,
- **April 10:** Penance Service, 5 pm, Main Post Chapel

MINISTRY INFORMATION

Sarah’s House: We prepare and serve lunch every 3rd Saturday of the month. Meet us at Sarah’s House at 9:30 am if you want to help (subject to change without notice). POC: Mrs. Violeta Burgos violeta.burgos@comcast.net

Pilgrim Divine Mercy Statue: POC: Community Coordinator

Catholic Women of the Chapel (CWOC): Open to all women in the community 18 years and older; active duty, retiree, and civilian. Join us for prayers, faith study, fellowship, and service/outreach. We meet for prayers and faith study every Tuesday at 10 am to 12 pm at the Main Post Chapel. We also meet for outreach and fellowship at our evening program on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 pm at the Chapel Center.

POINTS OF CONTACT: Mrs. Kristina Pagan kristinaelaus@gmail.com Mrs. Celina Ketz ftmeadecwocsecre-tary@gmail.com

Music Ministry: We sing at the Sunday 9 am Mass at Chapel Center. Practice is on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm at the Argonne Hills Chapel Center.

POC: Alex Gogue asgogue@gmail.com website: www.olpmusic.org

Catholic Men of the Chapel (CMOC): Open to all men of the chapel 18 years old and older-active duty, retiree, and civilian. We will collect your non-perishable donation for Sarah’s House during Mass every 3rd Sunday of the month. We thank you in advance! POC: Joshua Coe joshua.coe11@yahoo.com

Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA): Contact Father George at jerzy.rzasowski.mil@mail.mil, Melissa Weeks at weeksma@live.com or our Religious Education Coordinator, Ms. Sheila Stewart at sheila.m.stewart.civ@mail.mil for more information.

Youth Ministry: We meet the first Tuesday of every month from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at the Main Post Chapel. We'll be building friendships and community, and strengthening our faith and understanding of the Catholic religion with activities, food, and teachings using media and scriptures.

Youth Mass: On the first Sunday of the month, the 9:00 am Mass is youth-oriented. Youth are invited to serve as Mass greeters, lectors, ushers, altar servers, music, and gift bearers.

POC: Ms. Raquel Madera-O’Connor rmadera.OLP@gmail.com

LITURGICAL MINISTRY SCHEDULE (2018)			
Date	Eucharistic Minister	Lector	Altar Servers
24 March	Rankin, Rogers, Sanchez	Barajas, Brousseau	Lopez, Penaso
31 March	Laus, Willard, Willard	Colantuono, Coe	Coe, Coe