

February 27, 2022  
Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

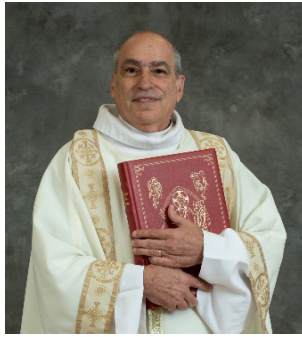
**But when fully trained,  
every disciple  
will be like his teacher.**

**Luke 6:40**

The Italian Catholic Community at  
**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH**

**From the Deacon's Desk**

*Dear friends in Christ,*



Imagine going to a foreign country, not knowing the language or anyone there. You have no translator or map and know a little about the culture or its laws. How lost, confused, and frightened you would be! Then you meet someone from your home country, someone who has lived there for many years and learned the language, customs, and geography. How ecstatic you would be!

Now you have someone to guide you because they have already been in your position but have learned how to get around there. Naturally, their experience and insight will prove your greatest aid and instruction. **Catholic Christian** leaders must first encounter **Jesus** in this way. He knows the way, and we must spend time learning from Him. We must be transformed by walking beside Him. Only then can we begin to bring others to Him.

As we stand on the threshold of the **Lenten** season with the celebration of **Ash Wednesday** on **March 2nd**, I encourage you to attend a **Catholic Church** nearest to where you live or join me at **1:00 p.m.** here at **Saint John for a Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes** service. May **Jesus** bring life and salvation, offering His very self so we may be healed and find union with Him.

This weekend, we welcome **Deacon Dean Racine** as our “**Deacon of the Month.**” **Deacon Dean** is in active diaconal ministry at **Saint Elizabeth** in North **Columbus**. He is also the **Business Manager** at **Saint Paul** in **Westerville**. Many thanks to **Deacon Dean** for joining us this day.

**Saint John the Baptist, pray for us.**  
**Blessings to you,**  
**Deacon Frank**

Dear **St. John Parishioners**, join me periodically on **St. John the Baptist Parish** livestream. If you missed it, the videos are available on **St. John's Facebook page**. If you would also like to join me for daily Mass at **St. Brigid of Kildare**, please go to **St. Brigid YouTube channel** and to **St. Brigid parish Facebook page**.

**Mass celebrant for March 6, 2022,**  
**is Fr. Noble, assisted by Deacon Frank.**

**Confessions Heard before Mass**  
**Sundays at 9:00 a.m.**

**LITURGICAL MINISTERS**

<b>Sunday, February 27, 2022, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Nick Sciarretti, Kurt Heininger
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Antonio D'Alberto, Sharon D'Alberto
<b>Sunday, March 6, 2022, 9:30 a.m.</b>	
<b>Lector 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Antonio D'Alberto, Nick D'Alberto
<b>Euch. Min 1 &amp; 2:</b>	Pat Rossetti, Sharon D'Alberto

**PAVERS:** The front **Pavilion** of **St. John Church** is covered with **Pavers**. These **Pavers** are available for purchase and engraving in remembrance of family members and loved ones. For more information, please call the office of **St. John** at **614-294-5319**.

**MASSES AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

<b>Sun. 2/27</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Ida Frissora</b> by Louise Masdea
<b>Sun. 2/27</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>John Cua</b> by Michael and Kerree Susi
<b>Sun. 2/27</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Roseanne Fuller</b> by LeDonne Members
<b>Sun. 3/6</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Lucian Susi</b> by Eva Castenada
<b>Sun. 3/6</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Wilma Reed</b> by Vince Catalogna
<b>Sun. 3/6</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Andre Joseph Goubaux</b> by Rudolph Biscuso

**PARISH INFORMATION**

*The Italian Catholic Community at St. John the Baptist*  
 Corner of E. Lincoln and Hamlet Streets  
 Church Mailing Address: 168 E. Lincoln Street  
 Columbus, Ohio 43215  
 (614) 294-5319 • Fax: (614) 294-4303

*Livestream our 9:30 a.m. Sunday Mass on our*  
*St. John the Baptist Facebook page by visiting*  
*our website [www.sjbitaliana.com](http://www.sjbitaliana.com).*

*Office Hours are from 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.,*  
*Monday through Friday.*  
*Website: [info@sjbitaliana.org](mailto:info@sjbitaliana.org)*

- Deacon Frank Iannarino** – Administrator/Rector
- Msgr. John Cody** – Retired/Holy Service on weekends
- Father Charles Klinger** – Retired/Holy Service on weekends
- Father Charles Cotton** – Retired/Holy Service on weekends
- Father Antonio Kim** – Chaplain, Korean Catholic Community
- Ms. Aggie Howard** – Executive Assistant
- Ms. Victoria Gammell** – Secretary and Bulletin Editor
- Mrs. Gina Bishop** – Director of Liturgy
- Mr. John Huffman** – Organist and Musical consultant

- Holy Sacrifice of the Mass** – 9:30 a.m. each Sunday
- Sacrament of Penance** – 9:00 a.m. (before Sunday Mass or by appointment)
- Sacrament of Baptism and Baptism preparation** (by appointment)
- Sacrament of Matrimony** (you must be registered at **Saint John** at least 6 months prior to scheduling your wedding by Deacon or Priest)
- Sacrament of Confirmation and Rites of Christian Initiation for Adults** (please make an appointment with Parish Administrator)

**Saint John Italian Festival** (please visit our website for more information)  
**Sala Hall and Marrapese Hall** (scheduled with approval of Parish Administrator)  
**Bulletin Deadline:** Announcements must be submitted in writing by **Tuesday at noon**.

**Blessed Sacrament & Marian Lights Intentions:**

- Marian Lights:** **Donna Veri**  
by Andrea & Roger Myers
- Blessed Sacrament:** **Levi Soteriades**  
by Chris Soteriades



**PLEASE REMEMBER OUR KNOWN ILL  
AND ELDERLY IN YOUR PRAYERS\*\***

\*\*If you know of any additions or corrections, please call the parish office. Due to privacy laws, we depend on your input. For Vienna D'Alberto, who is residing at the Worthington Christian Village, and Mary Spellacy, who is residing at Friendship Village in Dublin. Also, keep in your prayers Laura Williams, James Graf, Linda McCreary, Guy Williams, John Contino, and Msgr. John Cody.

If SJB parishioners want to send a card or note of prayerful support for Msgr. Cody, he is at Mohun Health Care Center, Room 413, 2340 Airport Drive, Columbus, Ohio 43219. If you would like to text him, his phone number is 614-398-7119. He will be in recovery/therapy the next 6-8 weeks.

**The Rosary before Mass on Sunday:** We begin the Rosary around 9:00-9:05 a.m., and it takes about 15-20 minutes to pray the Rosary. If you would like information on how to lead the Rosary, please contact Kevin Koesters at 937-902-7446 or via email at k.koesters32@gmail.com. Leaders for February and March are:  
 February 27, 2022 Kevin Koesters  
 March 6, 2022 Gary Bosco  
 March 13, 2022 Carl Tisone  
 March 20, 2022 Gary Bosco

**EVENTS THIS WEEK**

2/27 Sun.	<u>KCC Sunday Mass – Fr. Kim</u> 12:00 Noon, Due to Covid, No Meeting in Sala Hall after Mass <u>Howard Bridal Shower – Marrapese Hall</u> 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.
2/28 Mon.	<u>Rotary Club Luncheon</u> 11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. <u>Executive Board Meeting – Marrapese Hall</u> 6:30 p.m.
3/1 Tues.	<u>St. John's Faith Group Meeting – Marrapese Hall</u> 5:30-6:30 p.m. Join Piave Club for dinner after meeting <u>Piave Club Meeting – Marrapese Hall</u> 6:30-8:00 p.m.
3/2 Wed.	<u>St. John the Baptist – Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes, 1:00 p.m.</u>
3/4 Fri.	<u>KCC Mass – Fr. Kim</u> 6:00 p.m.
3/5 Sat.	<u>Italian Language Class – Cultural Room</u> 10:00 a.m.-12:00 Noon
	<u>Altar Guild Reminder – Every 2nd Sunday of the Month – Marrapese Hall at 10:45 a.m.</u>

**WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP AT ST. JOHN**  
February 20, 2022

Number of Envelopes used Sunday – 25

Reg. Env:	\$ 1,585.00
Loose:	\$ 135.00
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 1,720.00</b>
Less Diocesan 6% Assessment:	\$ (103.20)
	<b>\$ 1,616.80</b>
<b>Votives:</b>	<b>\$ 53.00</b>
<b>Catholic Times:</b>	<b>\$ 37.00</b>
<b>Capital Improvements:</b>	<b>\$ 10.00</b>
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$ 100.00</b>

**\$\$\$ ? HOW IS ST. JOHN DOING? \$\$\$ ?**

Budgeted Offertory for Fiscal Year (7/1/21-6/30/22)

	Budgeted	Actual	Difference (\$)	(%)
This Week:	\$ 2,885.00	\$ 1,720.00	(\$1,165.00)	-40%
FYTD:	\$98,090.00	\$89,069.56	(\$9,020.44)	-9%

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, February 28, 2022**  
Ed Pagnanelli and Aggie Howard

**SJB Collection Counters for Monday, March 7, 2022**  
Darlene Rauch and Aggie Howard

**SACRED HEART  
ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT**

There will be Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at Sacred Heart Church on April 2, 2022, from 9:00 a.m.-8:00 p.m. There will be a sign-up sheet in the Sala Hall on the back table for those who are interested in half-hour or 1-hour slots.

**ASH WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022**

St. John the Baptist	1:00 p.m. Liturgy of the Word, Distribution of Ashes
Sacred Heart Church	10:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. Mass and Distribution of Ashes

**ITALIAN FESTIVAL NEWS**

**Executive Board Meeting:** Monday, February 28, at 6:30 p.m.  
**Italian Festival First General Meeting** for all chairpersons will be held on Monday, March 7, at 6:00 p.m. in Marrapese Hall. Refreshments will be provided.

**The Catholic Times:** Do you read *The Catholic Times* online at the diocesan website or receive the newspaper in the mail? Sign up online at [columbuscatholic.org/catholictimes](http://columbuscatholic.org/catholictimes) under the subscription payments tab. Another option is to mail your \$17.00 check payable to Diocese of Columbus Catholic Times to our office at 197 E. Gay Street, Columbus, OH 43215. Your support and your readership are appreciated.

**NEIGHBORHOOD PARISH REGULAR  
MASS SCHEDULE**

Catholic Churches	Saturday	Sunday
St. Patrick's	7:00 a.m. 5:00 p.m.	7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:00 p.m.
Sacred Heart Church	4:00 p.m.	11:00 a.m.
St. Joseph Cathedral	5:15 p.m.	8:00 a.m., 10:30 a.m., 12:30 p.m., 5:15 p.m.
St. Mary, Mother of God GV	4:00 p.m.	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.
St. Francis Assisi	No Mass	9:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m.



**ST. JOSEPH'S DAY CELEBRATION: The Altar Guild: St. Joseph Day Pancake Celebration Is Sunday, March 20, 2022, after Mass.** The price is \$12.00/person (cash or check – checks made payable to St. John Altar Guild). Children 6 and under are free. The breakfast menu consists of pancakes, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausage, fresh fruit, juice, and coffee. Please bring a dessert to share for the St. Joseph table. Tickets are available and will be sold by members of the Altar Guild as well as after Mass on Sundays. Thank you to Vince Militello and his team for volunteering to prepare breakfast for this celebration!



For a synodal Church  
communion | participation | mission

# SYNODAL PROCESS MEETINGS

REGISTER ONLINE AT [COLUMBUSCATHOLIC.ORG/SYNOD](https://COLUMBUSCATHOLIC.ORG/SYNOD)



**CENTER SOUTH DEANERY - MARCH 12, 9-11AM**  
ST. MARY SCHOOL GYM, GERMAN VILLAGE

**NORTHWEST DEANERY - MARCH 19, 1-3PM**  
ST. JOAN OF ARC SOCIAL HALL, POWELL

**NORTH HIGH DEANERY - MARCH 12, 1-3 PM**  
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MARIAN HALL, COLUMBUS

**NORTHLAND DEANERY - MARCH 20, 1-3PM**  
RESURRECTION PARISH SOCIAL HALL, NEW ALBANY

**EAST DEANERY - MARCH 13, 5-7PM**  
ST. PIUS FAMILY LIFE CENTER, REYNOLDSBURG

**WEST DEANERY - MARCH 20, 1-3 PM**  
ST. CECILIA SCHOOL GYM, COLUMBUS

**MARION DEANERY - MARCH 19, 9-11AM**  
OUR LADY OF LOURDES PARISH CENTER, MARYSVILLE

**KNOX LICKING DEANERY - MARCH 13, 1-3PM**  
BLESSED SACRAMENT CHURCH, NEWARK

**MUSKINGUM-PERRY DEANERY - MARCH 12, 9-11AM**  
BISHOP ROSECRANS HS MEDIA CENTER, ZANESVILLE

**TUSCA.-HOLM.-COSH. DEANERY - MARCH 19, 1-3PM**  
ST. JOSEPH FAMILY LIFE CENTER, DOVER

**FAIRFIELD-HOCKING DEANERY - MARCH 19, 9-11AM**  
ST. MARY SPIRIT CENTER, LANCASTER

**SOUTHERN DEANERY - MARCH 13, 1-3PM**  
HOLY REDEEMER, PORTSMOUTH

**DOVER - MARZO 6, 2:30-4:30PM**  
T.C.C.E.S. SCHOOL GYM, DOVER

**MARION - MARZO 13, 5-7PM**  
ST. MARY MOIRA HALL, MARION

**COLUMBUS - MARZO 20, 3-5PM**  
ST. PETER MCEWAN CENTER, COLUMBUS

ESPAÑOL



**APPLICATIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE FATHER CASTO  
MARRAPESE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM –  
DEADLINE: MONDAY, APRIL 4, 2022**

*St. John the Baptist Italian Catholic Church* announces the **2022 Father Casto Marrapese Scholarship Program**. If you are a high school senior of **Italian** descent, attending a central **Ohio** high school, and accepted to an accredited two or four-year **College** or university in the **U.S.** for the **2022-2023** academic years, you are encouraged to apply for this scholarship opportunity. Application information has been posted on **Saint John's website**, [www.info@sjbitaliana.com](http://www.info@sjbitaliana.com), and has also been sent to central **Ohio** high school guidance counseling offices. All application materials (application form, activity listing, personal recommendation letter, school recommendation and transcript, and personal essay) must be received at **St. John** no later than **2:00 p.m., Monday, April 4, 2022**. For information, call **St. John the Baptist Catholic Italian Church** at 614-294-5319.

## **AROUND US**

**Liturgical Calendar:** Except for the first day, the entire month of **March** falls during the liturgical season of **Lent**, which is represented by the liturgical color violet or purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

**The Holy Father's Intentions for the Month of March 2022:**  
*May Christians continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.*

**Missions Office:** The weekend of **March 5-6** is the **Black and Indian Missions Collection**. This collection helps impoverished communities among the **Black, Indian, Inuit, and Aleut** people in our country. These communities exist in almost every archdiocese and diocese in the **United States**. Missionary priests, religious brothers and sisters, catechists, and devoted lay people work tirelessly in parishes, missions, and reservations to bring the light of Christ to these communities. Thank you for your generosity.

**J.O.I.N.:** (Part of) Our **Ash Wednesday** collection will benefit the **Joint Organization for Inner-city Needs (JOIN)**. JOIN is a ministry of **Catholic Charities** of the **Columbus Diocese**. JOIN's mission is to encourage self-sufficiency and share **God's** unconditional love for all. Located downtown at **578 E. Main Street**, emergency assistance is provided to the poor and vulnerable throughout the **Diocese**. Services may include food, life-sustaining medications, utility assistance, helping a **SVDP Conference** meet a neighbor's needs, birth certificates, transportation, personal care/household items, etc. All donations go directly to serving these essential necessities.

**Come and See Weekend at the Pontifical College Josephinum:** in **Columbus, Ohio**, has scheduled a "**Come and See**" **Live-In weekend for March 10-12, 2022**. The weekend has been set aside to allow young men (high school juniors, seniors, and college-age students) to visit the seminary for a few days. Live-In participants will experience seminary prayer life, classes, communal worship, and interaction with current seminarians, faculty, and staff. Live-In weekends include introductory presentations on discernment, student life, and the college seminary formation program. The weekend begins with arrival at **4:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 10**, and concludes with departure at noon on **Saturday, March 12**. All meals and recreation are included. There is no charge to participate. For more information, contact the **Vocations Office** at 614-221-5565, or email [vocations@columbuscatholic.org](mailto:vocations@columbuscatholic.org), or contact your parish priest.

**North High Deanery:** In **2021**, **Pope Francis** announced a worldwide synod to focus on the life and mission of the **Church** as we move forward together. The theme for this synod is, "**For a Synodal Church: Communion, Participation and Mission.**" Rather than simply a meeting of bishops, **Pope Francis** has asked us, the **People of God**, to take part in the synod – to "journey together" with our brothers and sisters in **Christ** along the path of renewal, guided by the **Holy Spirit**.

Our **Deanery** will conduct a synodal listening session at the **Marian Hall of Immaculate Conception Church, 414 East North Broadway, Columbus**, on **Saturday, March 12, 1:00-3:00 p.m.** This session will provide an opportunity to share our thoughts and feelings, but more importantly to discern how the **Holy Spirit** is guiding us in our journey together. Please join us for this important event by registering at this link: <https://columbuscatholic.org/events/synod-listening-meeting-north-high-deanery>.

**40 Days of Adoration:** Starting on **Ash Wednesday (March 2)**, **Parishes** throughout the diocese will host a day of **Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament** during **Lent**. The purpose of this is twofold. The first is to celebrate the great gift of **Jesus Christ** in the **Eucharist**. Secondly, this time of prayer is also meant to help the **Diocese** for planning for the future presence of the **Church** and her mission of evangelization in the local community. **St. Joseph Cathedral** has the privilege of being the first parish for these days of **Adoration**. **Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament will begin following the 7:30 a.m. Mass and will continue until 8:00 p.m., interrupted by the 11:00 a.m., 12:05 and 5:15 p.m. Masses.**

**"Faith is born and reborn: not from a duty, not from something to be done, but from a gaze of love to be welcomed. Christian life thus becomes beautiful, if it is not based on our abilities and our plans, but on God's gaze."**

*~ Pope Francis @Pontifex on Twitter*



***Jesus told his disciples a parable, "Can a blind person guide a blind person? Will not both fall into a pit? No disciple is superior to the teacher; but when fully trained, every disciple will be like his teacher. Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own? How can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me remove that splinter in your eye,' when you do not even notice the wooden beam in your own eye? You hypocrite! Remove the wooden beam from your eye first; then you will see clearly to remove the splinter in your brother's eye." (Luke 6:39-42).***

### **Prayer:**

***Grant us, O Lord, we pray, that the course of our world may be directed by Your peaceful rule and that Your Church may rejoice, untroubled in her devotion. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.***

***Amen.***

## Sunday, Feb 27, 2022

EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### Lord, that we may see

People of goodwill generally assume they're not complicit in racism or racist practices. That's because we describe racism as attitudes, words, and acts intended to harm or subordinate people whose origins are different from ours. However, racism involves omissions as well as actions: in what we fail to do or say to make equality tangible for everyone. Racism can also be institutionalized in laws, education, hiring practices, economic opportunities, zoning regulations, and voting restrictions. Racism operates best under the surface. As Pope Francis reminds us: Let none of us imagine that the conversion of hearts isn't meant for us.

TODAY'S READINGS: Sirach 27:4-7; 1 Corinthians 15:54-58; Luke 6:39-45 (84). *"Why do you notice the splinter in your brother's eye, but do not perceive the wooden beam in your own?"*

## Monday, Feb 28, 2022

### Build it up

Ever wonder what the kingdom of God will be like? Well, look around, because you're already living in it. Not seeing all the love, peace, and justice you were promised? The kingdom of God began with Christ's death and Resurrection and will be brought into perfection by Christ at the end of time. Until then, it's our job as Christians to build the Kingdom up. Pray, discern what God is calling you to do, and act to make this world more harmonious and respectful of the dignity of others. And then of course, wait with hope.

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 1:3-9; Mark 10:17-27 (347). *"For men it is impossible, but not for God. All things are possible for God."*

## Tuesday, Mar 01, 2022

### Your Rx for Lent

While many Christians focus on feasting today—ahead of tomorrow's fasting—it's also a good time to survey a smorgasbord of penitential spiritual practices, perfect for the upcoming Lenten season. Saint John Chrysostom identifies five in one of his homilies: "I have shown you five paths of repentance: acknowledgement of your own sins, forgiveness of our neighbor's sins against us, prayer, almsgiving, and humility." Sounding more like a doctor than one of the doctors of the church, he concludes: "Now that we have learned how to heal our wounds, let us apply the cures." How will you fill your prescription?

TODAY'S READINGS: 1 Peter 1:10-16; Mark 10:28-31 (348). *"Do not act in compliance with the desires of your former ignorance."*

## Wednesday, Mar 02, 2022

ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF FAST AND ABSTINENCE

### Add another step to your Lenten journey

Ash Wednesday is full of rituals and traditions of fasting, prayer, and almsgiving. But it includes an extra step. As Pope Francis puts it, it is a time "to find concrete ways to overcome our indifference." So in addition to your regular Lenten practices, try to care more deeply about the suffering and disaffected in your community. Volunteer at your parish, a local charity, or for a social cause. Or simply go for a walk and reflect on how Jesus is present in those you encounter along the way.

TODAY'S READINGS: Joel 2:12-18; 2 Corinthians 5:20—6:2; Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18 (219). *"And your Father who sees in secret will repay you."*

## Thursday, Mar 03, 2022

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; MEMORIAL OF KATHARINE DREXEL, RELIGIOUS FOUNDER

### Exceed expectations

Katharine Drexel was a wealthy heiress in late 19th-century Philadelphia. She rocked that world one day: "Miss Drexel Enters a Catholic Convent—Gives Up Seven Million," the *Philadelphia Public Ledger* announced when she decided not to simply become a nun but to found her own religious order. Head of the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament, she used her family fortune to found the nation's only Catholic university for African Americans (Xavier University in New Orleans), schools for Native Americans, and more. Are you, too, being called by God to do something unexpected?

TODAY'S READINGS: Deuteronomy 30:15-20; Luke 9:22-25 (220). *"What profit is there for one to gain the whole world yet lose or forfeit himself?"*

## Friday, Mar 04, 2022

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY; DAY OF ABSTINENCE

### A cleansing fast

A couple years ago, two young white women decided that they needed to more closely align their spiritual practices of Lent with their commitment to being anti-racist. They chose, as they wrote in *Sojourners* magazine, to try fasting from media that lacked a diversity of voices and to spend Lent engaged with books, films, and podcasts written or directed by women of color. Their goal was to take a step toward repentance, which is one of the hallmarks of Lent. To repent is to turn away from sin, including the sin of racism. What Lenten practice of prayer, fasting, or almsgiving might you contribute toward being more intercultural and helping end racism?

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:1-9a; Matthew 9:14-15 (221). *"This, rather, is the fasting that I wish."*

## Saturday, Mar 05, 2022

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

### Tax forgiveness

Tax collectors in Jesus' time were particularly despised. The Roman occupiers auctioned off the right to collect taxes to the highest bidders, who then aggressively collected taxes from their neighbors in order to turn a profit on their "investment." When Jesus calls Levi the tax collector to follow him and attends a celebration with Levi's tax-collecting cohorts, the shock among the Jewish leaders is evident. But Levi became Matthew, the evangelist, and wrote a vivid account of the Good News. Jesus sees beyond the worst in us and brings out the best. Follow his lead.

TODAY'S READINGS: Isaiah 58:9b-14; Luke 5:27-32 (222). *"Jesus saw a tax collector named Levi sitting at the customs post. He said to him, 'Follow me.'"*

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



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