

## Scandalized by Mercy

*The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)*

*(Note: When the Scrutinies are used at Mass, the reflection for Year A may be used in place of this one. Also, when the readings from Year A are used for this Sunday, the following Gospel and reflection may be used on Monday.)*

Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. But early in the morning he arrived again in the temple area, and all the people started coming to him, and he sat down and taught them. Then the scribes and the Pharisees brought a woman who had been caught in adultery and made her stand in the middle. John 8:1-3

What a painful and humiliating experience this must have been for this woman! Fortunately, the Savior of the World was there to care for her and to help her navigate this situation through His abundant mercy. Though she was a sinner, God's mercy offered a remedy for her sin and its consequences.

Interestingly, this story is not included in some of the most ancient manuscripts of the Gospel of John. Saint Augustine believed that it was excluded by some of the early copyists of this Gospel because they were moral rigorists and were scandalized by the depths of Jesus' mercy. They feared that if this incredible act of mercy was conveyed to others, it would lead to a relaxation of moral rules.

The scribes and Pharisees who brought this woman to Jesus also appeared to be scandalized by Jesus' mercy. Thus, the depths of mercy offered to this woman was one of many occasions in which Jesus was merciful to a point that was hard for the people to comprehend.

How about you? How far are you willing to go when it comes to mercy? It is easy for us to resort to condemnation when we see the sins of others. We might feel justified in condemning them and even obliged to do so out of a desire to condemn sin itself. But Jesus' action shows that the sin must not be equated with the sinner. Sin must be condemned and was condemned by our Lord when He said to this woman, "Go, and from now on do not sin any more." Though He condemned her sin, he did not condemn *her*. "Neither do I condemn you."

The mercy of God is incomprehensible. For example, recall that Jesus cried out from the Cross, "Father, forgive them, they know not what they do." Imagine the surprise that the first hearers of those words would have had. How could this man ask that God forgive the people who were murdering Him? Perhaps the only person who truly understood this prayer of mercy from the Cross was Jesus' own mother as she stood there gazing at Him with love.

An important lesson for us to learn from Jesus' depth of mercy is that, at first, it will most likely scandalize us also. Mercy to this extent is supernatural. It challenges our natural reason and calls us to a new way of thinking and relating to others. The only way to overcome the "scandal" we might feel in the face of God's mercy is to live it ourselves. Doing so will require that we put on new eyes to see sin, mercy and forgiveness through the eyes of God. If doing so shakes you to the core of your being, that might be a good sign. Are you allowing the apparent scandal of God's abundant mercy to transform you so that it is no longer a shock or scandal to you, but is experienced as good and holy and from the Heart of our God?

## Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

April 6, 2025

### Fifth Sunday of Lent



#### Holy Mass and Sacraments Schedule

**Sunday Mass:** 10:30 am  
12:30 pm English Mass

**Reconciliation:** Sundays at 12:00 am

#### **Baptism and Holy Matrimony:**

The family should be registered and active members at Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish for a least three months prior to Baptism or Holy Matrimony. Couples are engaged to marry need to contact Fr. Ishida at least four months prior to the wedding date for marriage preparation.

#### **Anointing of the Sick:**

Please contact Father Ishida.

#### **Parish Office:**

Please email or leave voice message.

#### Parish Staff:

Parish Office: 509-723-1459

Parish email:

[stannemedicallake@gmail.com](mailto:stannemedicallake@gmail.com)

Parish website: [www.westplainscatholicparishes.org](http://www.westplainscatholicparishes.org)

Father Michael Ishida, Pastor

Father Peter Miller

Evie Noder, Parish Bookkeeper

Michele Flynn, Office Admin

Sacramental Emergencies – 509-998-7093

#### Pastoral Council

Father Ishida, Pat Whipple, Janet Whipple,,

Mario Cruz, Danielle Treis, Father Miller

#### Finance Council

Father Ishida, Eric Hanson

Physical Address: 200 W. Alder, Sprague, WA 99032

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 125, Medical Lake, WA 99022

#### **FORMED.org—“The Catholic NetFlicks**

Step 1. **Sign up as a Parishioner (it's FREE)**: search for **St. Anne Medical Lake**

Step 2. Then enter your name and create a password.

welcome

to our parish

## Scandalized by Mercy

*The Fifth Sunday of Lent (Year C)  
... continued from back ...*

Reflect, today, upon how deeply you understand God's mercy. Do you rejoice when mercy is offered to another? Or do you find yourself condemning? Our Lord said, "Let the one among you who is without sin be the first to throw a stone at her." None of us are without sin; therefore, none of us has the right to cast a stone at another. Allow the apparent scandal of God's mercy to challenge you so that you come to not only understand God's infinite mercy but also to act as an instrument of that mercy to everyone.

*Most merciful Lord, You came to call the sinner to repentance and salvation. You offer mercy and forgiveness in superabundance. When faced with the sins of others, help me to imitate Your love for them and to show mercy and compassion to the greatest degree. I love You, Lord. Help me to love You and others with Your Heart of merciful love. Jesus, I trust*

### Registration Opens May 1, 2025

**Totus Tuus** from **June 22–27, 2025!** This weeklong Catholic summer program, in collaboration with **St. Augustine & Our Lady of Fatima Parishes**, gives children & youth an engaging, faith-filled experience through prayer, learning, and fun-filled activities.

#### Totus Tuus Details:

**Grades 1–6:** Monday–Friday, 9:00 am – 2:30 pm  
**Grades 7–12:** Sunday–Thursday, 5:30 pm – 8:00 pm  
*(dinner provided)*

Visit the [Totus Tuus page](#) on the **Cathedral website** for more information and ways to volunteer.

**Totus Tuus is a beautiful opportunity for the youth of our parish communities to grow in faith, build friendships, and experience the joy of an intimate relationship with Jesus.**

## Daily Mass Time Changes

### Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent

Sung Mass @ 10:15 AM

7:00 AM Mass—Cancelled on those days only.

### HOLY WEEK Schedule:

Holy Thursday, April 17 @ 3:00 pm

Good Friday, April 18 @ 3:00 pm

## Schola & Sacred Music Opportunities Children's Stations of the Cross

*Children's Station of the Cross*

April 11 at 5:15 PM.

Children in grades K-8 are invited to sing in Choir for this special Station. They will sing "At the Cross Her Stations Keeping" and possibly another piece.

Rehearsals: Thursday April 3 & 10 from 5:30 -6:30 PM in O'Conner Hall. No auditions is required. The group will be led by Victoria Solenberger.

### Fifth Sunday of Lent

*Lectionary #36C or 34A - Liturgical color: violet*

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Isaiah 43:16–21

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 126:1–2, 2–3, 4–5, 6

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Philippians 3:8–14

Gospel: John 8:1–11

... or, for Year A, ...

1<sup>st</sup> Reading: Ezechiel 37:12–14

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 130:1–2, 3–4, 5–6, 7–8

2<sup>nd</sup> Reading: Romans 8:8–11

Gospel: John 11:1–45 or 11:3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45

No Gloria

Third Scrutiny of the Elect



**Welcome to Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish** To all visitors who are joining us for worship today. May your time with us be grace-filled and may the Lord Jesus bless you and your loved ones today and every day.

## Mary, Queen of Heaven Parish

### Weekend Mass Schedule:

Sundays @ 10:30 am - confession @ 10:00 am  
12:30 pm - English Mass



### Beeswax Candles for sale!

Interested in handmade beeswax candles?

Contact Savannah Roach at  
RoachSavannah98@gmail.com  
or call 509-671-5656

Facebook—under homemade goods.

<https://tinyurl.com/yafbutsz>

Parishioner of Mary, Queen of Heaven



**Please note:** Mass Intensions take approximately 2 weeks to get processed and on the calendar. Please note this when giving your stipends for Intensions.

### MASS INTENTIONS, MARCH & APRIL

30	Sunday	Pro Populo
31	Monday	
01	Tuesday	Jim Patterson
02	Wednesday	
03	Thursday	Jim Patterson
04	Friday	
05	Saturday	Celine Brown
06	Sunday	Pro Populo

**Mary, Queen of Heaven ... Pray for us!**  
**St. Anne ... Pray for us!**

## Daily Mass -Time Changes

### Wednesdays and Fridays during Lent

Sung Mass @ 10:15 AM

7:00 AM Mass—Cancelled on those days only.

## Seven Sisters Apostolate

**That our prayers  
may find the heart  
of every priest and  
bishop.**



*A call to strengthen the Church by ensuring that a Holy Hour is prayed each day of the week for the sole intention of a specific priest or bishop—a "holy wasting" (cf. Mt. 26:10) or lavishing of prayer for his deeper conformity to Christ.*

**Please contact Linda Pearson if you are interested in joining her at 509-879-0753 or email [sookiesue@msn.com](mailto:sookiesue@msn.com)**

**Seven Sisters Apostolate** meet after 9:00 am Mass at **St. Anne Parish, Medical Lake**. For all those interested—**Please join us in the Church.**