



**HOLY MASS**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF  
LENT (YEAR C)**

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# **READINGS**

**1st Reading: Ex. 3:1-8a, 13-15**

**Resp. Psalm. 103:1-8, 11**

**2nd Reading: 1 Corr. 10:1-6, 10-12**

**Gosp. Accl.: Mtt 4:17**

**Gospel: Luke 13:1-9**





# **HOMILY TOPIC**

**THE CLOCK OF  
GRACE IS  
TICKING: REPENT**

# INTRODUCTION

**Last Sunday, Jesus took us  
to the transfiguration  
mountain to open our eyes  
a bit to the glory we miss  
when we live in sin. Today  
is a call to repentance and  
the life of grace.**



# INTRODUCTION

**The readings of today speak volumes about God's grace and mercies upon a repentant heart. They even make it impossible for us to ignore talking about this grace and its implications for us in lent.**

# INTRODUCTION

**At times, we are tempted to view repentance as something unimportant. On the contrary, it is an essential step to salvation. It is a way through which God mediates his grace to us.**

**Repentance is, feeling sorry for the sin we commit and a firm resolve not to commit it again deliberately. Sincere repentance provokes God's compassion, mercy, and love.**



# 1<sup>ST</sup> READING

Ex. 3:1-8a, 13-15

**The First reading places the basis of God's grace in God's deep compassion, love and mercy, and talks about the grace of pity, mercy and deliverance for the people of Israel.**



# 1ST READING

## Ex. 3:1-8a, 13-15

**Moses sees a fearful yet interesting sight of a burning bush but not consumed. Such depicts the nature of our God. That our God is never tired of us, never abandoning us, never withdraws his favour from us. Such sight however tells another story, that God continues to attract our attention and invites us. God invites us to a renewed covenant each day.**



# 2<sup>ND</sup> READING

## 1 Cor. 10:1-6, 10-12

**The second reading reminds us of the consequences of deliberately abusing God's grace. It traces the death of the Israelites to their inability to please God. Hence, Paul concluded by reminding us that "All these happened as a warning, and was written down to be a lesson for us who are living at the end of the age."**



# **GOSPEL READING**

## **Luke 13:1-9**

**In the gospel, Jesus was straightforward in his words when he said: “Unless you repent, you will perish.” One might say that this is too harsh to come from Christ. The truth is that this does not diminish his compassion and mercy. Instead, it shows that he cares for us and sees what we cannot see. He simply warns us of the negative consequences of living a sinful life.**



# **GOSPEL READING**

## **Luke 13:1-9**

**Also, the Gospel talks further about this abuse of Grace, highlights the Grace of second chance and the threat of uncertain final chance! The Gospel consists of two different stories that are joined by a common theme of the need to repent without delay**

# **‘WHAT DO I DO WITH TICKING CLOCK OF GRACE?’**

**The answer to this question is in form of admonition from God made on us for our repentance and divine forgiveness from God. The season of lent could also be seen as the season of grace. Let us see what God wants us to do with this ticking clock**



**1.**

# **REPENT**

**The call of Christ today is for repentance. It is an urgent call that requires an urgent response.**

**"Come now, let us reason together, says the Lord: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool".**

**(Is. 1:18)**

## **2. TURN ASIDE**

**We need to turn aside like Moses and tarry a while so we can take instructions from God in this Holy Season.**



### **3. UTILISE YOUR SECOND CHANCE**

**Make the most of the day!  
Redeem your time!! It is never too late until you are Late. We need to realize we have had more than three years and we do not know how much is left. Do not take God' grace for granted**

# CONCLUSION

**Dear friends, God is calling us to remove our sandals in this season of Lent. The sandals of sinfulness should be pulled off, so we can see him and hear him speak to us.**



# THE JUBILEE PRAYER

**Father in heaven, may the *faith* you have given us in your son, Jesus Christ, our brother, and the flame of *charity* enkindled in our hearts by the Holy Spirit, reawaken in us the blessed *hope* for the coming of your Kingdom. May your grace transform us into tireless cultivators of the seeds of the Gospel.**

# THE JUBILEE PRAYER

**May those seeds transform from within both humanity and the whole cosmos in the sure expectation of a new heaven and a new earth, when, with the powers of Evil vanquished, your glory will shine eternally. May the grace of the Jubilee reawaken in us, *Pilgrims of Hope*, a yearning for the treasures of heaven. May that same grace spread the joy and peace of our Redeemer through out the earth. To you our God, eternally blessed, be glory  
a n d   p r a i s e   f o r   e v e r .**

**Amen.**





# **OUR WEBSITE**

**[www.immaculateconception  
catholicchurch.com.ng](http://www.immaculateconceptioncatholicchurch.com.ng)**

# **PRAYER FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR PARISH**

**Heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of creation. From age to age you raise people for yourself. We thank you for the growth and achievements that we have attained so far as a family of Immaculate Conception Catholic parish. United in Jesus Christ, you form us as a parish with the mission of nurturing disciples through faith and human development, hospitality, prayer, and service. Groom us until we become equipped disciples empowered to serve.**

**We pray for our pastoral team, the parish priest, the pastoral council, and all leaders of organizations and societies. In their decisions and choices, grant them the wisdom to always understand your divine plan for us as a people. May they always be guided by the Holy Spirit as you build us up for your glory.**



# **PRAYER FOR THE SPIRITUAL AND PHYSICAL GROWTH OF OUR PARISH**

**Lord Jesus, we commit our present and future projects to you. We beg you, to provide the resources we need to build a befitting place of worship for you. Please bless us and give us a generous heart moved by faith and trust.**

**Dearest Mary immaculate, please intercede for us before your son Jesus Christ, that our journey as a Christian people might win us eternity. Amen**

**Mary immaculate, mediatrix of all graces**

**pray for us**

# ASSIGNMENTS

## BIBLE STUDY FOR LENT

- **Week 1 Study Mark 14:1–25.**
- **Week 2 Study Mark 14:26–50.**
- **Week 3 Study Mark 14:51–72.**
- **Week 4 Study Mark 15:1–21.**
- **Week 5 Study Mark 15:22–47.**
- **Week 6 Study Mark 16:1–20.**