**DAILY MASS READINGS**

**Monday, March 8** — 2 Kgs 5:1-15b / 1Kron 4:24 – 30

**Tuesday, March 9** — Dtn 25, 34-43 / Mt 18:21-35

**Wednesday, March 10** — Dt 4:1-5/ Mt 5:17-19

**Thursday, March 11** — Jr 7:23-28 / Lk 11:14-23

**Friday, March 12** — Ho: 14:2-10 / Mk 12:28-34

**Saturday, March 13** — Ho: 6:1-6 / Lk 18:9-14

**Sunday, March 14** — 1Sm 16:1b,6 -7,10 -13a / Eph 5:8-14 / Jn 4:1-41

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**PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY:**

**Anointed with the Spirit**

Once in a while, God gives us a sign of hope. The cloudy skies yield to the sun of spring. A new friendship develops. An infant brings new joy to a family. Although the season of Lent has urged us to think about sin, it does so against a background of hope. We do not hear the story of sin without hearing also the story of salvation.

When Samuel visited Jesse to anoint a king from among his sons, Israel received a sign of hope. God chose not the eldest son of lofty stature, but the youngest son who was busy tending sheep. Samuel anointed him with a horn of oil and God’s spirit rushed upon the young man. We learn his name only at the end of today’s reading: David.

David, overlooked by those who should have seen with God’s eyes, became a symbol of Jesus. The legendary kingship of David foreshadowed the blessed kingship of Jesus. Jesus is the one we call “Christ,” a title that means “anointed”.

On your journey through Lent, you have entered a period of renewal. Are you beginning to see God at work within you this season? Can you see the spirit of God in others where you have not noticed it before?

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**March 2021**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Day</th>
<th>Reading</th>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday</td>
<td><strong>Lenten Weekday / St John of God</strong></td>
<td>12 noon to 5 pm</td>
<td>Adoration: 5 pm to 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td><strong>Lenten Weekday / St. Frances of Rome</strong></td>
<td>12 noon to 5 pm</td>
<td>Adoration: 5 pm to 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wednesday</td>
<td><strong>Lenten Weekday</strong></td>
<td>12 noon to 5 pm</td>
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<td>Saturday</td>
<td><strong>Lenten Weekday</strong></td>
<td>12 noon to 5 pm</td>
<td>Adoration: 5 pm to 6 pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday</td>
<td><strong>Fourth Sunday of Lent / Second Scrutiny</strong></td>
<td>12 noon to 5 pm</td>
<td>Adoration: 5 pm to 6 pm</td>
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**PREPARING FOR NEXT SUNDAY:**

**Sleep Walk**

Sleep is beautiful when it comes at the right time, but embarrassing otherwise. Some people sleep through class. They sleep at meetings. They sleep during concerts. They mean well, but they miss out on important moments of life.

Other people sleep through life in other ways. They are unaware of political issues, uninterested for the needs of the poor, ignorant of manners, aloof from people seeking their attention. Some people sleep through life, through relationships and through faith.

Around the world, many people are unaware of Christ. It is as if they are asleep. They live in a darkness outside the light of the good news. They may have some inner sense of goodness, given as a gift from God. But they may not yet have heard the gospel, or had the opportunity to live it in faith.

Through baptism, we have been awakened from our sleep. Christ is our light. The Letter to the Ephesians says, “Brothers and sisters: You were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord.” Baptism has changed our status. We no longer belong to the night. We shine with the light of day.

But this has consequences: “Live as children of light.” Having moved from darkness to light, we now have responsibilities. Let us shake off the sleep that threatens to keep us from being faithful to Christ. Throughout this Lent, let us rise from sleep and live in light.

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Third Sunday, Lent - March 7, 2021

WHAT’S HAPPENING AT FCC:

FACEBOOK UPDATES: Please continue to refer to our parish Facebook page for important information concerning: schedule for liturgical celebrations, mass intentions, direct transfer donations, and our religious education program. It is your best source for up-to-date information.

BIBLE STUDY: Starting next Friday and continuing throughout Lent, Lessie will be leading a Bible study focusing on some of the more well-known women from the Old Testament; Eve, Sarah, Rachel, the Mothers of Moses, the Queen of Sheba, Jezebel and Hannah. This study will be done via Zoom at 9am on Friday mornings. If you would like to join this Bible study, please email Lessie at fccpastoral@gmail.com to get the link for the materials and the meeting.

LENTEN PACKET: The Lenten kit is now posted on the FCC website. It contains a careful selection of resources for prayers, bible readings and quiet reflections to aid you to enter into Lent and have a fruitful spiritual journey throughout.

CARITAS JAPAN: During the season of Lent, the Chapel Center will organize collections for Caritas Japan. Please ask at the office for the Caritas Japan Money Collection Box. These have to be returned by Easter.

LOOKING TO HELP: As many of you know our Homeless Outreach program has been put on hold since the outbreak of Co-vid 19. During this time our ministry leaders have been reconsidering how we can expand our services to help those communities with great needs in Tokyo.

One segment of the poor that seems to be overlooked is single-parent families or working mothers. Often these parents work later hours and have their children enrolled in after-school programs. Many of these programs offer an afternoon or evening meal to these children while they wait for their parents to come and collect them. Currently we are doing some research on if we can help with meal preparation for these types of programs, but we are also looking for other ideas for how we might help other communities in need.

If you would like to be involved in renewing our outreach program and helping us find new ways to alleviate poverty in Tokyo, please email Lessie at fccpastoral@gmail.com.
Thank you.

2021 OFFERING ENVELOPES: Please collect from the reception your pack of mass offering envelopes for the coming year 2021.

AVAILABILITY OF PRIESTS: With the situation around the outbreak of the COVID – 19 and the measures taken by Tokyo diocese not have masses, the priests at the Chapel Center are sorry about constraints faced by our parishioners. We would like our parishioners to know that while these measures are taken to protect our elderly and young parishioners, Priests are available to any parishioner who would need a priest for confessions or spiritual direction.

MASS INTENTIONS: If you are offering a mass intention for a loved-one. Please be sure to email Lessie at fccpastoral@gmail.com to insure that your intention is logged into our calendar. Even if you give your intention envelope to the receptionist, be sure to notify Lessie.
All intentions should be paid for before the date of the mass intention to avoid double.

MEAL PRAYERS
Before: Father, the temptation of your son in the desert taught us that we cannot live by bread alone, but by every word the comes out from the mouth of God. As we share the bread of this meal, make us aware that your Son alone is the Bread of Life. We ask this through Christ our Lord — Amen.

After: Father, through your Son, you call us to turn away from sin and repent. May the simple meals of this penitential season remind us that you alone provide for our every need. We praise and thank you for your goodness and faithfulness through Christ our Lord — Amen.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We thank our parishioners for their donations to help us with the functioning of our church. We continue to carry out our work with your support.

January 2021
Sunday Collections and Donations:

¥ 1,306,846
- Holy Childhood: ¥ 12,000
- Wednesday Masses: ¥ 41,156

Second Chance

You always have another chance. This is the good news of Lent and Easter. God knows our shortcomings. God knows our past. God knows our present. God knows where the future is headed—if we do not change.

Too often in life, people do not give us another chance. If you say or do something inappropriate to a person you’re dating, it may end the relationship right there. If you treat a customer disrespectfully, you may never see that person again. If you offend a perfect stranger while driving your car, you never have a chance to make it up. Too often you don’t get another chance.

And, sadly, death sometimes gets in the way. You had harsh words with a close friend or family member. You never made up. Now, the person you once loved is gone. You don’t have another chance—in this life.

But with God, you always have another chance. If you have sinned, God can forgive. If you sin again—and again—God will still forgive. We know this because God sent Christ into a world absorbed in sin.

The Letter to the Ephesians says, “God, who is rich in mercy, because of the great love he had for us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, brought us to life with Christ.”

This Lent, confess your sins and rejoice in Christ, who gives you another chance.
We're in need of donations - any amount helps!

OUR CHURCH NEEDS YOUR HELP.
Since the suspension of all Masses, parishes, church organisations and charities which depend on collections during Mass are facing unprecedented challenges.

ACT NOW!
Scan the QR-code, or visit: http://franciscanchapelcentertokyo.org/how-to-donate-funds/
Physical donations are also possible at the parish office.