If the evangelist John were to turn in today’s Gospel passage as homework in a writing class, he most likely would not receive a very good grade. We never find out if the Greeks who requested to see Jesus ever did get to see him. And when Philip and Andrew take the request to Jesus, John tells us he “answers” them—even though there is no question—with a discourse that seems unrelated to the original request. The original request was not even that complicated. The Greeks didn’t even want to speak with him, never mind debate the meaning of Passover with him; they merely wanted to see him. Luckily for John and for us, the purpose of a Gospel is not to get a good grade in a writing course, but to help us understand more deeply who Jesus is, and how the saving grace of God works through him. So, in this way, Jesus’ response actually helps us “see” him better.

Today’s Readings: Jer 31:31–34; Ps 51:3–4, 12–15; Heb 5:7–9; Jn 12:20–33
Alternate Readings: Ez 37:12–14; Ps 130:1–8; Rom 8:8–11; Jn 11:1–45

[3–7, 17, 20–27, 33b–45]

Scientists from different disciplines are coming to greater agreement that a basic motivating principle behind the universe is that of self-gift. This happens on the smallest level, from grains of wheat dying, to rain clouds “sacrificing” their moisture to the earth, to the sun consuming itself for our existence, to the collapsing and dying stars and entire galaxies that keep energy alive in the universe. What Jesus’ discourse today tells us is that self-gift is the very essence of what it means to be created in God’s image and to be a faithful disciple of Jesus. Not only are we called to be self-giving, but we are called to give of ourselves in love. This is what helps us transcend all the other self-giving that goes on to sustain creation. It is that self-giving in love that will motivate the events of Jesus’ life that we will commemorate in the coming weeks. As we enter into the holiest of weeks, we should continue to strive truly to “see” Jesus.

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REFLECTIONS

THE NEW COVENANT

When the prophet Jeremiah coined the term “new covenant” he was actually doing something quite radical. For the Jewish people, there was only one covenant, the one made between the Lord God and Israel through Moses at Mount Sinai. For Jeremiah to suggest that God would somehow supersede the covenant with a new one would have sounded audacious to Jewish ears. But in this way he is a predecessor of Jesus who, in the Gospel of John, is continually portrayed as superseding the past, establishing the reign of God in a new way. And in today’s Gospel passage, Jesus the “new covenant” speaks the language of his “new commandment” of love when he tells of the dying grain of wheat, and of our own need to die to self in order to be raised with Christ. As Lent ends and we prepare to enter into Holy Week, the dying grain of wheat serves as an excellent symbol of the kind of dying and self-sacrifice to which disciples are called, a symbol of that new covenant written deep within our hearts.

* * * * * * *

LA NUEVA ALIANZA

Cuando el profeta Jeremías creó el término “uneva alianza” hacia algo muy radical. Para el pueblo judío, sólo había una alianza, la que el Señor Dios había hecho con Israel por medio de Moisés en el Monte Sinaí. Cuando Jeremías dice que de alguna manera Dios va a reemplazar la antigua alianza con una nueva, seguro que sus oyentes pensaban que era algo muy atrevido. De ese modo Jeremías es un predecesor de Jesús, quien, en el Evangelio de Juan se presenta siempre como alguien que reemplaza el pasado, estableciendo el Reino de Dios de una manera nueva. Y en el pasaje del Evangelio de hoy, Jesús, “la nueva alianza” habla con el lenguaje del “nuevo mandamiento” de amor cuando menciona el grano de trigo que muere y nuestra propia muerte al egoísmo para poder resucitar con Cristo. Al finalizar la Cuaresma y al prepararnos a entrar en la Semana Santa, el grano de trigo que muere es un símbolo excelente del tipo de muerte y autosacrificio al que los discípulos están llamados, un símbolo de esa nueva alianza escrita en lo más profundo de nuestro corazón.

* * * * * * *

LENTEN SEASON

AREA LENTEN PENTENTIAL SERVICES

ALL HELD AT 7:00 PM

Sacred Heart, Rockne, Monday, March 23
St. Mary’s, Lockhart, Thursday, March 26
St. John’s, San Marcos, Friday, March 27

* * * * * * *

From Ashes to Easter, Lenten Boxes

God so loved the world that he gave his only son. We can help make things new with small and joyful sacrifices and generosity now. Put something in your Lent container each day. This will help special diocesan Mission Projects. Return your Lent box on Easter. Moreover, please pray for the Missions.

* * * * * * *

Abstinence

ALL Catholics (14 yrs of age and older) must observe Abstinence from meat on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday and all the Fridays of Lent.

* * * * * * *

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

EVERY FRIDAY OF LENT

7:00 PM - ENGLISH
DAILY MASS: 8:00 AM

* * * * * * *

KC Fish Fry

Every Friday of Lent
11:00 am - 2:00 pm
St. John’s Parish Hall

Plate consists of:
Fish, Fries, Coleslaw & Hushpuppies
Served with Tea - $8.00 Donation
Desserts Available

* * * * * * *

KC’s “40 Cans for Lent” Food Drive

KC’s will be collecting canned food for the Luling Food Bank there will be a blue barrel outside the church at each Mass, during the week it will be placed in Parish Hall. Brother Knights are asked to bring a canned food to each meeting.
**ST. JOHN’S BULLETIN BOARD**

Guadalupana Meeting ......................... Sunday, March 22
Guadalupana Society meets every 4th Sunday of the month at 9 am in the Parish Hall.

Sunday Breakfast ................................. Sundays
Sunday Breakfast is served in the Parish Hall after both the 8 am and 10 am Mass. This Sunday, March 22 Volunteers for Christ are hosting Sunday Breakfast. Next Sunday, March 29 St. John’s Youth Ministry will host Sunday Breakfast.

Práctica del coro (español) ......................... Jueves
Práctica del coro (español), cada Jueves a las 6 de la tarde en la casa de la parroquia, 400 S. Pecan

Altar Care (Altar Society) ......................... Fridays
Altar Care this Friday, March 27 Madelene Glover. Next Friday, April 3 Gloria Quinn & Janie Gonzales.

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS #8190 ST. JOHN’S COUNCIL**

**Officer’s Meeting**
Tuesday, April 7 at 7:00 pm
St. John’s Parish Hall
All Officers are required to attend!

**BURNING OF SANCTUARY LIGHT**
**MARCH 2015**

**FOR FAMILY**
Offered by: Tino & Delfina Rodriguez

**WEEKLY OFFERINGS REPORT**
**Weekend of March 14 & 15**

**Collections**
1st Collection ........................................ $3,635.37
Children’s Collection ................................ $33.00
Easter Flowers ........................................... $10.00

**Total** ................................................. $3,678.37

**Needed Weekly** ..................................... $4,198.45

**Diocesan Collection**
Catholic Relief Services ............................. $595.00

**Other Collections**
Candles .................................................. $83.00

**With God All Things are Possible!**

**ST. JOHN’S BIBLE STUDY**

“A QUICK JOURNEY THROUGH THE BIBLE”

A reminder...we begin studying the Bible on Saturday, April 11, at 2 pm in our Parish Hall. It promises to be easy and fun. Each session will last no more that 1 1/2 hours. And, it’s free! Just come as you are, but with your pencil or pen, and if you want to, bring your own snack to enjoy during the optional fellowship period following each session. May this initiative of our Parish be successful and personally rewarding to each of us, in Jesus the Christ we pray.

**HOLY WEEK MINISTER’S SCHEDULE**
**APRIL 2 - 5, 2015**

**Lectors**
2nd, Holy Thurs. 7 pm  Judi Guthrie
3rd, Good Fri. 7 pm  Robert Natal
4th, Holy Sat. 8 pm  Bob Hochstein
5th, Easter Sun. 8 am  Bertha Rodriguez
5th, Easter Sun. 10 am  Juan Rios

**Eucharistic Ministers**
Gloria Lopez
Delfina Rodriguez
Jay Crowell
Patsy Anderson
Willie Lopez
Connie Lopez

**Altar Servers**
2nd, Holy Thurs. 7 pm  Lauren Vick & Valerie Bermudez
3rd, Good Fri. 7 pm  Viviana Gonzalez & Juliana Rodriguez
4th, Holy Sat. 8 pm  Kailyn Knox, Christopher Hochstein
5th, Easter Sun. 8 am  Amy Angel & Leonardo Reyna
5th, Easter Sun. 10 am  Celina Hernandez & Anthony Flores

**Hospitality Ministers**
2nd, Holy Thurs. 7 pm  Alkon & Marilyn Williams
3rd, Good Fri. 7 pm  Gabriel Ayala & Louisa Ayala
4th, Holy Sat. 8 pm  Lawrence & Tomasa Ayala
5th, Easter Sun. 8 am  Norma Cardenas & Nazario Reyna
5th, Easter Sun. 10 am  Sofiero & Rebecca Ramirez

**GET A SUBSTITUTE IF YOU CAN NOT BE PRESENT!!!**
**FOR YOUR INFORMATION**

**Baptisms:**
One class is required for parents and sponsors! The next English Baptismal Class will be Sunday, April 19 at 11:30 am in the Parish Hall.

**Bautizos:**
Se requiere que los Papás y Padrinos asistan a una Clase de Bautismo. El próximo clase de Bautismo es 12 de abril de 2015 a 11:30 am en el Salón.

**Marriage**
A six-months to one-year notice is required, please call the Church office to meet with the Pastor.

**Bodas**
De 6-meses a un año de antemano. Llama a la Oficina.

**Quinceañera Celebration**
A six months to one-year notice is required, for a Quinceañera the family must be registered in the parish and the 14 year old must be already enrolled and attending CRÉ Classes to be eligible to celebrate in the church. Please call the Church Office to meet with the Pastor.

**Celebrando Tus XV Años**
Registrate con 6-meses de antemano y haz una cita con el Sacerdote.

**Ministry to the Sick**
When a parishioner is hospitalized, in nursing home or homebound please contact the Church at (830) 875-5354, so that arrangements can be made for them to receive the sacraments.

**Ministerio de los enfermos**
Comunícate con la Oficina a 830-875-5354.

**Healing Service (Anointing of the Sick)**
On the 2nd Saturday of the Month immediately following the 5:30 pm Mass.

**Sacrament of Reconciliation (Confession) English & Spanish**
Saturdays from 4:45 pm - 5:15 pm and Wednesdays after 8 am Daily Mass.

**St. John’s Website**
Please visit our website: www.stjohnluling.com

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### March 28 & 29

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th><strong>Lectors</strong></th>
<th><strong>Eucharistic Ministers</strong></th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Sat. 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Michelle Levesque</td>
<td>Martin Medina</td>
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<td>George Bujnoch</td>
<td>Jay Crowell</td>
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<td>Sun. 8:00 am</td>
<td>Elisa Gonzales</td>
<td>Hortencia Villanueva</td>
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<td>Lucy Chapman</td>
<td>Clementine Ryan</td>
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<td>Sun. 10:00 am</td>
<td>Joe Camacho</td>
<td>Cruz Nuñez</td>
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<td>Lorrie Von Dolan</td>
<td>Debbie Nuñez</td>
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<tr>
<td>Altar Server</td>
<td>Sat. 5:30 pm</td>
<td>Carson McNabb</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sun. 8:00 am</td>
<td>Vicente Rodriguez</td>
<td>Esmeralda Flores</td>
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<td>Sun. 10:00 am</td>
<td>Jason Flores</td>
<td>Alma Santos</td>
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<td>Hospitality Ministers</td>
<td>Lane Zumwalt</td>
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<td>Julian Sepulveda</td>
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<td>Sun. 8:00 am</td>
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<td>Jorge Ochoa</td>
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<td>Sun. 10:00 am</td>
<td>Michael Ramirez</td>
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<td>Amanda Ramirez</td>
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</tbody>
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**GET A SUBSTITUTE IF YOU CAN NOT BE PRESENT!!!**
St. John the Evangelist

Saturday, March 21
Readings: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53
Mass: 5:30 pm  Maxine Bienek† (Bienek Family)

Sunday, March 22 “5th Sunday of Lent” (Youth Mass)
Readings: Jer 31:31-34; Ps 51:3-4, 12-15; Heb 5:7-9; Jn 12:20-33
Mass: 8:00 am  Maria Coronado† (Sixto & Yolanda Estrada)
10:00 am  For the Parish

Monday, March 23 “St. Turibius of Mogrovejo”
No Mass

Tuesday, March 24
Readings: Nm 21:4-9; Ps 102:2-3, 16-21; Jn 8:21-30
Mass: 6:30 pm  Special Intention (Jane Goertz)

Wednesday, March 25 “The Annunciation of the Lord”
Readings: Is 7:10-14; 8:10; Ps 40:7-11; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
Mass: 8:00 am  Maxine Bienek† (Family Bienek)

Thursday, March 26 (Adoration Begins)
Readings: Gn 17:3-9; Ps 105:4-9; Jn 8:51-59
Mass: 8:00 am  Carmen Weilvacher† (Family)

Friday, March 27 (Adoration Concludes) (Abstinence)
Readings: Jer 20:10-13; Ps 18:2-7; Jn 10:31-42
Mass: 8:00 am  Minnie Rodriguez† (Family)
7:00 pm  Stations of the Cross

Saturday, March 28
Readings: Ez 37:21-28; Jer 31:10, 11-13; Jn 11-13; Jn 11:45-56
Mass: 5:30 pm  Maxine Bienek† (Family)

Sunday, March 29 “Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord”
Readings: Mk 11:1-10 or Jn 12:12-16 (procession); Is 50:4-7; Ps 22:8-9, 17-20, 23-24; Phil 2:6-11; Mk 14:1—15:47 [15:1-39]
Mass: 8:00 am  Para la Parroquia
10:00 am  Aurelio Perez† (Family)

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Why is it a man wakes up after sleeping under an advertised blanket on an advertised mattress and pulls off advertised pajamas bathes in an advertised shower shaves with an advertised razor brushes his teeth with advertised toothpaste washes with advertised soap puts on advertised clothes drinks a cup of advertised coffee drives to work in an advertised car and then . . . refuses to advertise believing it doesn’t pay. Later if business is poor he advertises it for sale.

Why is it?