



December 24, 2024 -
December 28, 2025

March 23, 2025
Third Sunday of Lent

[Year C Readings](#)

[Scrutiny Year A Readings](#)

Building Faith@HOME

Jubilee Year - Companions on the Journey

The parable of the fig tree in the Gospel reading for the 3rd Sunday of Lent Year C highlights God's patience. Jesus tells us that God gives us time to change and grow in faith. However, we must respond to this opportunity. The fig tree in the parable had not produced fruit for three years. The owner wanted to cut it down, but the gardener asked for more time. This shows that God is patient with us, giving us time to repent and improve. The gardener's request for more time is a reminder that we are given chances to change. God does not give up on us easily. He waits for us to bear fruit in our lives. Bearing fruit means living out our faith through good actions. It is not enough to simply believe; we must also act on our beliefs. This includes helping others, being kind, and living according to God's will. Reflecting on this parable reminds us of God's patience and our responsibility.

This Sunday begins the Scrutinies for those coming into the Catholic Faith. Above you will find that there are two sets of readings, one for the Year C, and one for this week's Scrutiny Reading. The Scrutiny Readings are always read from Year A Lectionary in parishes where there are *catechumens preparing to be initiated into the Catholic Church*. Pray for those preparing to be initiated into the Catholic Church. Each week, the gospel focuses on ways the catechumen reflects on their faith journey:

First Scrutiny: Women at the Well - thirsting for the living water.

Second Scrutiny: Healing the Blind Man - opening our eyes and hearts to God's revelation.

Third Scrutiny: Raising of Lazarus - new life in Christ. **Pray for the catechumens throughout the diocese.**

Family Table Talk

- How do you see God's patience in your own life?
- What does it mean to you that God gives us time to change and grow in faith?
- In what areas of your life do you feel you need to make changes or improvements? How can you take steps toward that change?

Third Sunday of Lent
The Burning Bush and the Figless Tree



bit.ly/Catholic-Kids-Media-Lent3C



Week Three - Suggestions- or write your own!
Check the box if you met your Lenten Challenge this week.

- PRAY** - Use this simple prayer each day this week as we live out the Gospel message:

Dear God, thank you for your patience as we grow in faith. Help us use this time to change and bear fruit. Guide us through Lent to live our faith in action. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

- FAST** - Fast from complaining. Be patient, kind and and show gratitude to all those around you.
- GIVE** - Give kindness and encouragement – Write a note of encouragement to someone who might be struggling, echoing God's mercy and faithfulness.

Scripture Memory Quote: Bless the LORD, O my soul; and all my being, bless his holy name.



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bit.ly/Build-Faith-At-Home-Email



More Faith Builders!

Snack of the Day

Enjoy some fig newtons today!
Reflect on today's Gospel as Jesus tells the parable of the fig tree.



Fig Newtons or just Newtons?

Did you know the you're making a mistake if you're still referring to them as Fig Newtons. More than a decade ago — in 2012 — Nabisco rebranded the cookies. They're now simply called Newtons.



Retrieved from:

[.foodie.com/1687737/hidden-story-behind-fig-newtons/](http://foodie.com/1687737/hidden-story-behind-fig-newtons/)

Make your own "Burning Bush"



Cut handprints from colored sheets or color with crayons. Add to a tree trunk and then add green leaves. Add "Ex 3:1-15" and a summary statement such as the one shown here (God spoke to Moses through a burning bush).

Make a tabernacle craft

Cut two pieces of construction paper in the shape of a tabernacle. On one, add images of the Eucharist. On the other sheet, cut a "door" that can open and close. Place this on top of the other sheet.



LOOK for this



One of the primary and most distinctive fixtures of any Catholic church is the tabernacle, a cabinet or box, often made of precious materials, placed prominently within the church. The word "tabernacle" means "dwelling place." As Catholics, we refer to this sacred space as the tabernacle, which contains the "holy of holies," where Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist. In today's First Reading, Moses encountered God on holy ground, where God revealed Himself with the words, "I AM WHO I AM." This moment signifies God's presence with His people as they journeyed through the wilderness. Similarly, during Lent, we embark on our own spiritual journey, reflecting on our relationship with God and preparing our hearts to encounter Him more deeply in the Eucharist. Just as God's presence guided the Israelites, He continues to be present through, with and in Jesus.

Watch for when the priest or deacon opens the tabernacle. This is a moment of great reverence as previously consecrated hosts are brought out for communion. The priest or deacon brings the consecrated host, the true Presence of Christ, to the altar, in preparation for the community to share in receiving Christ. After communion, the remaining hosts are placed again in the tabernacle.

The tabernacle is the "holy of holies" which is why we show great reverence for this holy dwelling place of Jesus. We genuflect as we come before the tabernacle.

Pilgrims of Hope - Holy Ground Under Your Feet!



Take a walk as a family and notice the beauty of creation around you—the towering trees, the gentle breeze, the birdsong in the air. In Exodus 3, Moses stood before the burning bush and realized he was on *holy ground*, a place where God revealed Himself. Holy ground is not just in grand moments but in the simple wonders of creation that remind us of God's presence. As we journey through life, we are *Pilgrims of Hope*, walking toward God's promises with trust and joy. Let this time in nature be a reminder that God is with us, guiding our steps and filling our hearts with hope. Where do you see signs of His presence today?