

Our Saviour Parish of the PNCC

2300 Princeton Pike; Lawrenceville, NJ 08648

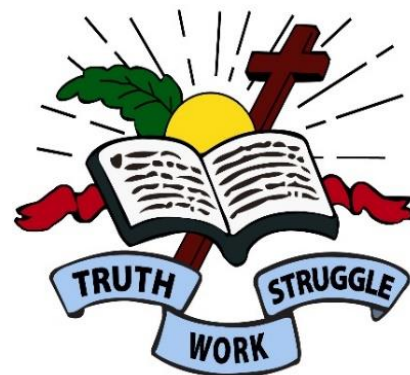
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March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Lent

A Sabbath Thought

There is a thin line between the wastrel and the prodigal. Wastrels *take* everything for themselves. Prodigals *give* everything to others. Today, we hear the story of the wastrel son and the prodigal father.

About Today's Bible Readings

JOSHUA 5:9, 10-12

The chosen people experience God's loving providence in the land with which the Lord has endowed them.

Responsorial Psalm:

34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

R. Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

2 CORINTHIANS 5:17-21

God has made us instruments of reconciliation. In a ministry of prodigality, we must bring together *in love* those who are lonely or rejected.

LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32

In a dramatic story of losing and finding, Jesus portrays the situation of us wastrels on the way home to a prodigal God.

ENTRANCE RITE (Psalms 78:21a, 23-24)

V. The Lord commanded the skies above; the doors of heaven He opened;

R. God rained manna upon them for food; bread from heaven He gave them.

V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Tract (Recited in place of the Alleluia during Lent)

V. He therefore let you be afflicted with hunger, and then fed you with manna, a food unknown to you and your fathers, in order to show you that not by bread alone does man live, but by every word that comes forth from the mouth of the Lord.

R. Therefore, keep the commandments of the Lord, Your God, by walking in His ways and fearing Him.

THE GOSPEL (LUKE 15:1-3, 11-32)

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." So to them Jesus addressed this parable: "A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, 'Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.' So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, 'How many of my father's hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, "Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."' So he got up and went back to his father. While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.' Then the celebration began. Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, 'Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.' He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, 'Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.' He said to him, 'My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.'"

This is the Gospel of the Lord!

Worship Services

TODAY March 31st

Fourth Sunday of Lent

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

Stations of the Cross following Mass.

SUNDAY April 7th

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Passion Sunday

9:00 AM – HOLY MASS

Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament following Mass.

Stations of the Cross following Mass.

Passion Sunday

Next Sunday is Passion Sunday. You will notice that the already solemn season of Lent now takes on an even darker tone. The candlesticks, crucifixes and other items in the church will be covered with purple clothes and the doxology is omitted and replaced with "Lord for us your wounds were suffered. O, Christ Jesus have mercy on us." We are one step closer to Christ's ultimate sacrifice.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

During the season of Lent we will be praying the Stations of the Cross after Mass each and every Sunday starting today and leading up to Holy Week. I hope that everyone will plan on staying after Mass to join together in prayer and reflection and that you urge your families, friends and neighbors to attend as well.

FOOD DRIVE

Once again we will be gathering donations of non-perishable food items for distribution to those members of our community who find themselves less blessed than ourselves. This is an excellent way to fulfil our Lenten obligation of almsgiving. Please leave your items in the Narthex. Remember that Christ said, "Whatever you do for the least one of my brothers, you do it for Me."

Parish Committee Meeting

The regular April monthly meeting of the Parish Committee will be held after the 9:00 AM Mass on Sunday, April 14th. I hope that all committee members will plan to attend.

PALM SUNDAY BAKE SALE AND HAM RAFFLE

Our Annual Ham Raffle and Bake Sale will take place Sunday, April 14th after the Mass. Please plan to bake, buy or take a chance on the ham.

Used Book Drive

Thanks to everyone who has donated or bought used books. This venture has been a great success. We need more new book donations. If you have purchased a book, read it and are returning it, please let Peggy or Michele know this so that we can separate them from the newer titles.

INTENTIONS:

My Brothers and Sisters: Our prayers are needed: For the increase in men called to the priesthood and diaconate of the Polish National Catholic Church; For the health and growth of our Parish; For all of the sick and homebound members of our Parish; For the health of Howard Friedman, Michael and Bernice Muha, Stanley Sostak, Janet Caruso, Michael and Patricia Havrilla, Gerry Brunson, Frank and Shellie Fisher, Anthony Tonzini, Gregg Smith, Clint Koch, Duane Schulte, Ruth Pivovarnick, Bill and Bernice Biroscak, Stefan Revesz, Stephanie Besterici, David Potts, Andrew Chernesky, Joan Piechota, John Smith, Ernie Hoffman, John and Jane Aldershoff, Father Senior Gregory Mludzick, Peggy Harris, Ina Reese, Bob Stutz, Father Senior Ed and Ann Ratajack, Tom Goff, Roger Seliga, Milton Keiles, Claire Armstrong, David Gavenda, Dorothy Zytczak and Michelle Freer.

Our Father...

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Today's Hymns

Please, join with the choir to make a beautiful noise unto the Lord!

Singing off key is better than silence!

The Hymns listed below can be found in the Blue Hymnal Book.

Opening Hymn

#1 – Hymn Of Faith

Hymn to the Holy Spirit

#144 – Come, Thou Creator

Offertory Hymn

#26 – Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Communion Hymn

#113 – When I Survey The Wond'rous Cross

Recessional Hymn

#151 – O Ever Holy Sacrament