

FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT
APRIL 7, 2019



SATURDAY, APRIL 6, 2019

5:30 P.M. Vincent "Jim" Spina
Michael Lynch
Marion Criscuolo
Intentions of Frank Polglaze

SUNDAY, APRIL 7, 2019

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Ada & Irving Rumsey
10:00 A.M. Dorothy Smyth
Joseph Trentacosta
12:00 P.M. Rose Gerace
Enrique Burgaleta
Loel Fortogaleza

MONDAY, APRIL 8, 2019

8:00 A.M. Flora Assidio
John Bisaccio
In Thanksgiving – Ricardo Tindoc
Mary Means

TUESDAY, APRIL 9, 2019

8:00 A.M. Anthony Demarest
Joseph Muzzillo

THURSDAY, APRIL 11, 2019

8:00 A.M. Richard Assidio

FRIDAY, APRIL 12, 2019

8:00 A.M. Intentions of Lynn Skorubski
Theresa Calamari
7:30 P.M. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

5:30 P.M. Vincent "Jim" Spina
Joan Bellantoni
Rose & Charles DiMiceli

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

7:30 A.M. Parishioners
Joseph Gazella, Sr.
Anna Post
Edward Rumsey
10:00 A.M. Diana Schmelza
Intentions of Ann Cervino
12:00 P.M. Kathy Weckler
Genevieve Puso
George Kuredjian

**Pray daily for our servicemen and women
serving their country.**

PLEASE REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:

Mary Carton Jacob Hicks Barry Bach Estella Soto
Ava Rae Nebbia Matthew Polifonte William Pannone
Gary Ragusa Alex Haines Evelyn Means

George Link Michael Soojian Valentina
Manuele Susan Nichols-Boggio Kevin Kerrigan
Ryder Sasso

Mike Tidaback Robert Moreno Larry Ferry
Dorothea King Jerome Foray Sister Annette
Manuel Esguerra Frank Michaelson Norberto Marin
Cenelia Soto Robert Nebbia Christopher Berry
Sharon Acquaire Noah Lorencovitz Jessica Skorubski
Florence Grim Anton Grim George Macagnone
Alex Coronel Alice Roslund Kathleen Kiley

DECEASED: Deceased Parishioners

WEEKLY OFFERING

Sunday, March 31, 2019 – \$4,554.00

Thank you for your continued support.

WEEKLY REFLECTION

Dear Friends in Christ,

Neither Do I Condemn You

This is the story of Jesus and the woman taken in adultery. It's the story of an unexpected encounter between the Savior and a sinful woman. Someone has remarked that just as we have the parable of the prodigal son, here we have the story of the prodigal daughter.

Professor W. Hall Harris III said of this account, "The scribes and Pharisees must have thought they had Jesus in the classic 'double bind' situation—they could get him no matter what he did or said. If he upheld the Law and commanded that the woman be stoned, they could bring accusation before Pilate (since the death penalty was not permitted to the Jewish authorities), and this could be combined with the popular acclamations of him as King. If, on the other hand, he overturned the Law, he would be discredited with the people."

Jesus confronts the sin of the Scribes and Pharisees and the sin of the woman, not with condemnation but with gentleness. He treated her sin with total honesty. He imparted grace and hope. He forgave her sin and sent her out to start a brand-new life.

"You have committed adultery. But there is more to your life than your sin. You can be much more than you have been. You can turn from this sin once and for all. You can have a new life."

It is ironic that Jesus was the only one qualified to stone her and he didn't do it. The Law required two witnesses for death, and after all, it wasn't Jesus who brought an accusation against her in the first place. Since the "witnesses" had disappeared, the charges are dismissed. The woman is now free to

go. Jesus is the Lord of the second chance! He pardoned this woman caught in the act, and then he set her free to live a brand-new life. It's easy to see why some people in the early church questioned this story. We're uneasy about this kind of grace until we get in trouble. Then we cry out, "Have mercy, Jesus! Have mercy on me."

Jesus is the Friend of Sinners. He is the friend, and we are the sinners! If you feel the heavy weight of sin, run to the cross where Jesus died for you. Come to Christ and he will not turn you away. The Savior speaks the same words today he spoke so long ago: "Neither do I condemn you. Go and sin no more."



BARBER SHOP

God, DOES exist!

A man went to a barbershop to have his hair cut and his beard trimmed. As the barber began to work, they began to have a good conversation. They talked about so many things and various subjects. When they eventually touched on the subject of God, the barber said: "I don't believe that God exists."

"Why do you say that?" asked the customer. "Well, you just have to go out in the street to realize that God doesn't exist. Tell me, if God exists, would there be so many sick people? Would there be abandoned children? If God existed, there would be neither suffering nor pain. I can't imagine a loving God who would allow all of these things." The customer thought for a moment, but didn't respond because he didn't want to start an argument. Just after he left the barbershop, he saw a man in the street with long, stringy, dirty hair and an untrimmed beard. He looked dirty and unkempt. The customer turned back and entered the barber shop again and he said to the barber: "You know what? Barbers do not exist." "How can you say that?" asked the surprised barber. "I am here, and I am a barber. And I just worked on you!" No!" the customer exclaimed. "Barbers don't exist because if they did, there would be no people with dirty long hair and untrimmed beards, like that man outside." Ah, but barbers DO exist! That's what happens when people do not come to me." "Exactly!" affirmed the customer. "That's the point! God, too, DOES exist! That's what happens when people do not go to Him and don't look to Him for help. That's why there's so much pain and suffering in the world."

LEARNING A LESSON THE HARD WAY

Sometimes people have to learn their lessons the hard way, but once they are learned, it is a form of wisdom they won't forget. Every day we see parents trying to protect their children from even the most minor disappointments or failures, but a good mother or father will sometimes allow a child to learn a lesson the hard way. How often do you hear a parent saying to a child, "Good job" and find yourself thinking, "Why is he telling that to the kid? It wasn't really good at all". Parents like to build up their children's confidence, but is it fair to send a child into the real world thinking he or she excels at something only find out that others aren't the least bit impressed? It might be kinder to let the child learn a lesson even if it's a little bit painful. That's exactly what the father who loved his Prodigal Son did.

God gave us free will. He respects us and allows us to choose our own path in life, even when it is the wrong thing to do. God does not try to control us the way that most parents do with their children. We can make fatal choices, choices that harm us, but God does not protect us from this. He allows us to exercise our free will. The Prodigal Son's father did not want to force his son to stay with him or force him to love him. He wanted the boy to come to his own conclusion. God doesn't force us to remain with Him either, or force us to love Him. We can't make other people love us and we can't make them forgive us. That is beyond our control; but we can choose to love them anyway, and to forgive them anyway. It is good to know we can return to God whenever we like. He is always ready to forgive and love his children. You can't ask for a better Father than that.

The words of the saints remind us how children of God should behave:

"If you are suffering from a bad man's injustice, forgive him, lest there be two bad men." — St. Augustine

✠ Jesus ✠ Jesus ✠ Jesus ✠ Jesus ✠ Jesus ✠ Jesus

"Come Back to Me"

Joel 2:12-13

It's not too late—God's personal Message! — "Return to me with your whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning".

"Return to me and really mean it! Come fasting and weeping, sorry for your sins!" Change your life, not just

your clothes. Come back to God, your God.” – Joel 2:12-13

Lent is a special time in the lives of God’s people. It is our time to refocus and reconnect with God. Sometimes we realize as another Lent approaches that we have wandered from the direction God has for us.

It is so very easy to do. Our lists, commitments and plans begin redirecting our steps. We have priorities. Family, and friends, hobbies and to do lists begin to become the gods of our own making and before we know it we realize that we have left the comfort of the Most High God for the maddening race of the world in which we live.

God has called for our return, but we put our fingers in our ears and do not hear the life-giving message God sends. When we are at a crossroads, God tells us it is not too late. Come back and really mean it. Come with a repentant heart ready to change your direction and life.

PARISH HAPPENINGS

APRIL

April 28th Divine Mercy – 2PM in the Church

CHILDREN’S EASTER CHOIR

Rejoice and sing! All children of the parish between the ages of 6 and 14 are invited to sing in the children’s choir at the 10:00am mass on Easter morning. Practices will run for 4 Sunday’s beginning Sunday, March 31, from 9:15 to 9:45am downstairs by the piano in the church hall. If you’re interested in joining, contact Dania at Dania_Music@yahoo.com or just come to practice!

THE PROMISE OF SOFTER DAYS

Oh, April enters in with
the promise of softer days,
quite welcome after Winter’s
frigid weeks so cold and gray.
Now the sleepy earth is kissed
with April’s gentle showers,
in preparation for the
birth of lovely May flowers.
Gone now are the icy winds,
and April’s warm breezes blow,
as Nature gets ready for
God’s beautiful garden show.

Steven Michael Schumacher

FROM ST. FRANCIS LADIES’ GUILD

Our parish is truly blessed to have so many willing workers and involved parishioners. A huge "thank you" is in order for all who contributed to the success of our Parish Communion Breakfast: Fr. Michael Davitti, our

inspiring speaker; the Ladies' Guild members who decorated, set up, served, and cleaned up; Il Palazzo for their generous amount of good food; Dale Ostrander and his crew who did their usual fine work setting up all equipment; and parishioners, their families and friends who attended. Fr. Michael commented after seeing our Chapel, Church, and statues, that he felt "holiness" here. Much of this can be credited to Fr. Greg for his ongoing leadership in developing our spirituality and creating an inviting worship space.

Martha Bisaccio & Sandy Polglaze

BANNS OF ORDINATION

The seminarian, Joemin Kharlo Chong Parinas, (Jayke), is to be ordained to the Sacred Order of Deacon on May 3, 2019.

Christ’s faithful are obliged to reveal impediments to sacred orders, if they know any, to the Ordinary or to the pastor before ordination according to the norms of cc.1043 and 1051, 2 of the Code of Cannon Law. If you know of any reason why this man should not be ordained a Deacon in the Catholic Church, please contact Fr. Greg at 973-835-0480 or email at frgregg@optonline.net.

LAKELAND NURSING HOME SCHEDULE SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

Pat Demarest & Barbara Garruto

LECTORS

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

5:30 P.M. Dom Cortellessa & Annick Vasquez

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

7:30 A.M. Pat Demarest & Jason Valente
10:00 A.M. Debbie Griffin & Sue Kummer
12 NOON Linda O’Connell & Hatima Omolon

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

5:30 P.M. Karen Cisco & Lynn Magnini

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

7:30 A.M. Gina Martellacci & Sandy Weigand
10:00 A.M. Judy Moran & Al Kunz
12 NOON Matt Kampff & Ronnie Caropreso

ALTAR SERVERS

SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2019

5:30 P.M. Peter Sutula & Kevin Bruenjes

SUNDAY, APRIL 14, 2019

7:30 A.M. Elizabeth Reid
Hayden Whitaker - Currie
10:00 A.M. Scott & Steven Bracken
12 NOON Jon-Karlo & Joseph Villacis

THINGS TO DO FOR A BETTER LENT

Attend daily Mass when possible – 8 AM in the chapel (except Wed.)

Prayer and Fasting

Use the Black Lenten Booklet

Attend Eucharistic Adoration

Attend Stations of the Cross – every Friday night at 7:30 PM

Receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation

Do works of Mercy

Participate in the Rice Bowl program

EASTER – 2019

All Mondays of Lent

Individual Reconciliation in all Diocesan parishes

7:00 – 8:30 PM

Saturdays 4:30 – 5 PM at St. Francis

(No confession on Holy Saturday)

All Tuesdays of Lent

Adoration 7 – 8 PM

In the chapel

Come and spend an hour with God

Holy Week

Holy Thursday

7:30 PM – Mass of the Lord's Supper

Procession and Adoration after Mass until Midnight

Good Friday

9 AM – Morning Prayer

3 PM - Divine Mercy Chaplet

3:30 PM - Liturgy of the Passion and Death of Our Lord

7:30 PM – Stations of the Cross

Holy Saturday

9 AM – Morning Prayer

11 AM – Blessing of Food

8 PM Easter Vigil

Easter

Masses at 7:30 AM – 10 AM – 12 Noon