

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

On this Fourth Sunday of Lent, the Gospel of the father and the two sons better known as the Parable of the “Prodigal Son” is proclaimed. This passage of Saint Luke constitutes one of the peaks of spirituality and literature of all time. Indeed, what would our culture, art and more generally our civilization be without this revelation of a God the Father so full of mercy? It never fails to move us and every time we hear or read it, it can suggest to us ever new meanings. Above all, this Gospel text has the power of speaking to us of God, of enabling us to know his Face and, better still, His Heart. After Jesus has told us of the merciful Father, things are no longer as they were before. We now know God; He is our Father who out of love created us to be free and endowed us with a conscience, who suffers when we get lost and rejoices when we return. For this reason, our relationship with him is built up through events, just as it happens for every child with his parents: at first he depends on them, then he asserts his autonomy; and, in the end if he develops well he reaches a mature relationship based on gratitude and authentic love.

In these stages we can also identify moments along man’s journey in his relationship with God. There can be a phase that resembles childhood: religion prompted by need, by dependence. As man grows up and becomes emancipated, he wants to liberate himself from this submission and become free and adult, able to organize himself and make his own decisions, even thinking he can do without God. Precisely this stage is delicate and can lead to atheism, yet even this frequently conceals the need to discover God’s true Face. Fortunately for us, God never fails in his faithfulness and even if we distance ourselves and get lost he continues to follow us with his love, forgiving our errors and speaking to our conscience from within in order to call us back to him. In this parable the sons behave in opposite ways: the younger son leaves home and sinks ever lower whereas the elder son stays at home, but he too has an immature relationship with the Father. In fact, when his brother comes back, the elder brother does not rejoice like the Father; on the contrary he becomes angry and refuses to enter the house. The two sons represent two immature ways of relating to God: rebellion and childish obedience. Both these forms are surmounted through the experience of mercy. Only by experiencing forgiveness, by recognizing one is loved with a freely given love a love greater than our wretchedness but also than our own merit do we at last enter into a truly filial and free relationship with God.

Dear friends, let us meditate on this parable. Let us compare ourselves to the two sons and, especially, contemplate the Heart of the Father. Let us throw ourselves into his arms and be regenerated by His merciful love. May the Virgin Mary, Mater Misericordiae, help us to do this.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb

 ***Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday during Lent beginning at 7pm.***

The All You Can Eat Breakfast is today Sunday! Bring a friend.

Fr. Newcomb will hold a class on the Presence Mystery of the Eucharist . Classes will be held on:
1st April Session 3: Bread of the Journey
8th April Session 4: Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist.
 6:30pm in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room

Liturgical Ministers for April 6/7, 2019.

| MASS | LECTOR | MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION | ALTAR SERVERS |
|---------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 4:00PM | D. LEGATO | H. ECKES, J. FLYNN | J. LEGATO, J. MARCONE |
| 8:30AM | M. LATINI | W. CARMODY, T. CALVARIO, S. RIORDAN | T. LAMOREAUX, M. REINHARDT |
| 11:30AM | H. MARINARO | B. DENNINGTON, N. SMITH | S. BHIKARRY, M. FEDRIZZI, A. EPPS |



SMART will be selling *Lenten Soups* this weekend March 30th/31st. \$8/Qt. to help fund Camp Veritas. Also, *Palm Crosses* will be available for \$10 the weekend of April 6/7.
The children appreciate your support.

Little Lambs is now accepting registrations for the 2019-20 school year. Children must turn three years old by December 1, 2019 for the Pre-K 3 class, and four by December 1, 2019 for the Pre-K 4 class. Classes meet 2, 3, or 5 days a week. There are full and half day programs available. Call Eileen Carmody 845-858-4208 for more information.

The Parish of the Immaculate Conception, St. Mary's Church in Port Jervis is seeking a director for its early childhood education center. The center, which serves the tri-state area, includes an early childhood program for 3yr olds and a pre-k program for 4 and 5yr olds. Applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, a firm commitment to the Catholic faith, and an ability to work collaboratively both with the center staff and that of the parish. Salary and benefits commensurate with education and experience. Please send resume and three professional references by e-mail (St-Marys-Rectory@hvc.rr.com), by fax (845-858-8375), or by regular mail (PO Box 712, Port Jervis, NY 12771).

St. Mary's Little Lambs is selling raffles for 3 baskets. \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased at the parish office. Winners will be announced at their pageant on Fri., April 12th at 10am. Everyone is welcome!

St. Mary's Little Lambs will be having their annual St. Jude's Trike-a-thon on Thursday, April 11th from 1pm-2pm in the school parking lot. Donations accepted. Checks should be made out to St. Jude's by April 11th.

Catholic Daughters Court Madonna #114 is hosting a **Ladies Tea Party on Saturday, April 6th** from noon until 3pm. Ladies \$15 under 12 \$7. *Floral Wreath Headband or Springtime Hat Contest! Enchanted Table raffle & 50/50.*
Advance RSVP's by March 31st. No walk-ins.

To date our parish has received 57 pledges totaling \$9,345. Our goal is \$35,500. Any amount is welcome. Please give it your prayerful consideration.



The collection for March 23/24 was \$5,240. Thank you for your continued generosity.

ANNOUNCED MASSES

Monday, April 1
9:00am William Simons, by Aggie Devore

Tuesday, April 2 (Francis of Paola, Hermit)
9:00am Joe Wheeling, by Sheila Connely Volker

Wednesday, April 3
9:00am William Simons, Anthony and Debbie DiToto

Thursday, April 4 (Isidore, bishop and doctor of the Church)
9:00am William Simons, by Deacon Rich and Joanne Marino

Friday, April 5 (Vincent Ferrer, priest)
11:30am Mary Napolitano, by Amelia Quinn
7:00pm Stations

Saturday, April 6
4:00pm Agatha Haering, by Hannelore Kucher

Sunday, April 7
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am Frances Lovelace, by Cheryl Lovelace
1:00pm Latin Mass

Please Pray For the Sick: Angela Portella, Ramonita Irizarry, Debi Cotugno, Theresa Fuller, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Helen Andreano, Robert Witherow, J.D. Lipa, Nancy Crumley, Valentina Hall, Ryan O'Connor, Dorothy Lynch, Allen Lynch, Sarah Madison, Mary Ohl, Andrea Fedoruk, Donald Wolff, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Susan Upton, Chris Marion, III, Walter Szpakowicz, Genevieve Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Carmella Balsamello, Wayne DeMarco, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Francis Cruz, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Cinerar, Dennis Horner, Jackie Mundy, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Donetta S. Burley, and James Lincoln.

The Mount Carmel Society of Port Jervis NY will be having a sausage and pepper / Meatball sandwich sit down or take-out Saturday April 13th 2019. The location will be at The Mount Carmel Hall 21 First Street Port Jervis NY . The time will be from 4PM to 7PM.

Save the Date! March for Life Monday, June 3rd to Albany, NY . Free Transportation. For more info., call Oneida 796-0228, Jane 292-4647, or Linda 292-0709.

Save the Date! Fruit of the Vine– Wine Appreciation 101. Friday, June 21st 6pm until 9pm. Tickets are available at the parish office \$25.

If you'd like to write to Fr. O'Hare, mail will get to him if addressed to: Deacon Stephen DeMartino
1011 First Avenue New York, NY 10022