

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 31, 2019

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.

-- 2 Corinthians 5:17



Daily Mass

Week of April 1st – 6th

Monday: 8:00 Maria & Wellington Loh+
 Tuesday: 8:00 Alica Merkle+
 Wednesday: 8:00 Jack Mulgrew+
 Thursday: 8:00 Special Intentions
 Friday: 8:00 Verna Marie Van Deusen+
 Saturday: 8:00 Betty Klem+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Michael Echaniz, Tina Chaix, Samantha Winterer, Carol Cullinane, Michael Kluziski, Sebastian Romeo, Louise Ahern, Owen Burns, Bernice De Vries, Paul Cummings, Patricia Dombrink, Laura Pierce, Marvin Johnson, Cora Rose, Tom Reid, Henry Souza, Alexis Walker, Michael Bozman and Dori McGee-Lundy.

Pray also for the faithful departed, especially Barbara Soletti, wife of Larry Soletti; Walter Crinnion, son of Virginia Crinnion. Our condolences to their families.

Weekly Collection	March 24, 2019
Plate	\$8,672.67

Today's Readings

First Reading -- The Israelites ate of the yield of the land of Canaan (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12).

Psalms -- Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34).

Second Reading -- Whoever is in Christ is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:17-21).

Gospel -- This man welcomes sinners and eats with them (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32).

Operation Rice Bowl!

Ash Wednesday marked the beginning of our Parish's involvement in **Operation Rice Bowl**, sponsored by Catholic Relief Services and the Diocese of Oakland. All families are asked to take home a cardboard Rice Bowl, available at the entrances to the Church and at the Parish Office. At the end of Lent, families will be asked to bring the filled bowls back to our Parish Office. Proceeds will be sent to CRS. Thank you for your involvement!



My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I want to share with you a few thoughts that I have about one of my favorite parables, the story of the prodigal son.

First of all, the prodigal son's supposed change of heart was not so much an act of repentance as it was a strategy for survival. He wanted to satisfy his hunger and that was the motivating factor for his return home, not a desire to reconcile with his father.

Upon closer reading of the parable, I find myself more sympathetic toward the elder son. In the past, I viewed him as merely judgmental and self-righteous. My opinion of him has changed because the reading clearly states that, as he was returning home, he heard the music and dancing. No one thought to tell him that his father had decided to have a celebration in honor of his brother's return home. I feel that he had a reason to feel hurt and resentful! Isn't it possible that it was hurt and resentment that led to his anger toward his father and his rejection of his brother?

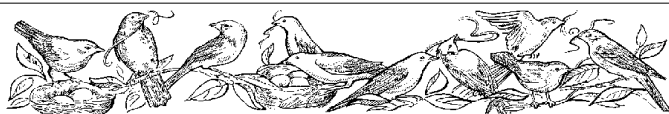
That is significant because it means that we can be victims of a wrong and our response to that mistreatment can lead us to sin. The message of the parable is this: whether we sin on our own volition or in reaction to others, we are all in need of forgiveness.

Love, Fr. Leo



The Heart of Conversion!

Today's scriptures bring us to the heart of the meaning of the Christian journey of conversion. Saint Paul sums it up beautifully: "Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away." (2 Corinthians 5:17) The Gospel passage, the parable of the prodigal son, shows us just what this new creation is like. It is all about reconciliation. Just as God removes the yoke of slavery from the shoulders of the Israelites (see today's first reading), so, too, does the father in the Gospel remove the yoke of guilt and shame from the shoulders of his wayward son. That son first needed to turn away from his sin and seek out and ask forgiveness of his father. That is precisely what we have been doing during this season of repentance. We can only begin to imagine the kind of reconciliation feast that awaits us when we are embraced by our forgiving God.



Annmarie Mota and Allison Quantz have decided to call Corpus Christi Church their spiritual home. Both women have been a part of the RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) process this year and are preparing for their sacraments at the Easter Vigil.

They, like many of us, have questions how faith relates to daily life. How do we live out our faith at work when we work in a secular job? How are we called to care for the earth because of our faith? How do we reconcile it when we disagree with what the Church teaches about a particular issue?

Do you have similar questions? Are you looking for others to discuss them with? Are you searching for a spirituality that is life-giving rather than constrictive or irrelevant? If so, you are welcome to join the Corpus Christi group which is exploring such things from a faith perspective. Please contact RCIA Director, Ann Naffziger, at: 521-8011 or email her at: ann@gospelliving.org for more information.

Middle School Youth Group!

Join us next Sunday, April 7th, from 4:00 to 5:30 p.m. in the Gibson Center for another Middle School Youth Group. This month's topic will be Passover. What does the holy day mean to our Jewish brothers and sisters, and what does it mean to Catholics? Prepare for an experience that will use your five senses, including taste! All 6th, 7th and 8th graders are welcome. Bring a friend!

Summer Academic Enrichment Programs!

This summer, spend time learning at beautiful Peralta Park in Berkeley at Saint Mary's High School summer Academic Enrichment programs and sports camps for youngsters in grades 6 through 9. The dates are Monday, June 17th, through Friday, July 12th. Week-long sports camps led by Saint Mary's coaching staff will emphasize team building, while students learn skills in: Basketball, Volleyball, Baseball, Flag Football, and Strength & Conditioning. The Middle School Academics Enrichment programs in Math and English are tailored to students in grades 6, 7 and 8. All information, grade level-specific program details and online registration can be found at: www.smsummer.org. Saint Mary's is a Lasallian Catholic High School founded in San Francisco in 1863 and located in Berkeley since 1927. Visit: www.saintmaryschs.org for more information.

Upcoming Retreat!

Join presenters Jim Briggs and Tom Bachhuber for a *LifeShift Retreat on Work and the Christian Journey* at San Damiano. This is an opportunity to reflect on life and faith while considering new career, work and/or retirement possibilities. Participants will clarify life/work goals and address the fears of transition. Ignatian ideas on discernment and spirituality are integrated throughout the weekend. The Retreat is Friday to Sunday, April 5th to 7th. For more information, call (925) 837-9141 or go to: www.sandamiano.org and click on Retreats Calendar.

Men's Club Annual Fish Fry!

The Men's Club Annual Fish Fry is returning on Friday, April 5th, at 6:00 p.m. in the School Auditorium. The main dinner will be served and the bar will open after the Stations of the Cross. There will be food ready for those who need to eat early. Baja-style fish tacos in addition to the classic Fish and Tots will be served. The cost is \$10.00 per person with children under 5 free. Beer and wine will be available for purchase. They will stream the Warriors game and Women's NCAA Final Four. Please come and enjoy this great community event!

An Evening at the Oakland Zoo!

Please join us in celebrating Katie Murphy and her distinguished forty-seven year career in Catholic education on Saturday, June 8th, from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the California Trail at the Oakland Zoo. Tickets are \$100.00 per person, with partial proceeds funding a School scholarship in Katie's name. Purchase your tickets early as they are expected to sell out. Tickets will be available, starting on Monday, April 1st. Visit: www.auctria.com/auction/happytrailsKatie for more information.

Oakland Elizabeth House Annual Luncheon!

Join in the festivities at the Annual Luncheon to benefit Oakland Elizabeth House on Thursday, May 2nd, at the Claremont Country Club, 5295 Broadway Terrace in Oakland. Tickets are \$95.00 per person before April 15th and \$115.00 after that. Reception and Wine Pull, Raffle Ticket Sales and Basket of Hope will be from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. Luncheon will be from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m., featuring keynote speaker Nancy O'Malley, Alameda County District Attorney, followed by a Live Auction and Fund-A-Hope. With your support, this fundraiser will provide a significant portion of Oakland Elizabeth House's operating costs. "Hope Lives" because of your generosity. Tickets will sell out, so get your tickets as soon as possible at: www.oakehouse.org/events.

Transforming Lives Tour!

Catholic Charities of the East Bay helps people in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties who are struggling with poverty and other complex issues. To learn more about this work and how you can get involved, please join a Transforming Lives Tour. You'll learn about: preventing homelessness; helping young people stay in school, despite pervasive community violence; crisis counseling and family support for victims of crime; and immigration legal services and refugee resettlement. Visit: <http://www.cceb.org/get-involved/transforming-lives-tour> to register. For more information, contact Stephan Pippen at 768-3133 or go to: spippen@cceb.org.

Flowering!

The flower does not bear the root, but the root the flower.... The rose is merely the evidence of the vitality of the root.

-- Woodrow Wilson