

Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 30, 2025

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

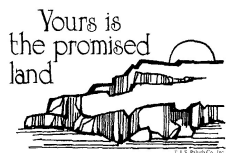
Week of March 31st – April 4th

- Monday: 8:00 Maria & Wellington Loh+
- Tuesday: 8:00 Alisa Merkle+
- Wednesday: 8:00 Intentions: Suzanne Walls
- Thursday: 8:00 Intentions: Michael & Mickey Van Deusen
- Friday: 8:00 Verna Marie Van Deusen+



Please remember the sick in our Parish, especially Marian Flandick, James Breen, Janet Laurent, Mike Abell, Michael Carter, Anil Siu, Peggy Delson-Rini, Frank Rini and Cecilia Uyeda.

Recent Collections	March 23, 2025
Plate	\$7,318.00
Catholic Relief Services	\$2,971.00



Today's Readings

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

Psalm -- 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).

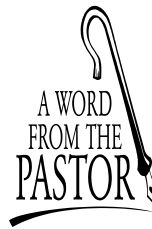
Gospel -- This man welcomes sinners and eats with them (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32).

RICE BOWL



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.



Silent Retreat at San Damiano Retreat House in Danville!

Spend the weekend in silence or near silence as you set aside work and outside stimulation to listen how God is speaking to you beneath all the noise of your everyday life. Give yourself the gift of time to reconnect with God and receive the graces God wants to give.

There are two options: Thursday evening, April 10th, or Friday evening, April 11th, to Sunday, April 13th. Each day will include several brief contemplative prayer services, prayer prompts, scripture suggestions, Mass and individual spiritual direction sessions. For more information, contact Ann at: ann@paulandann.org or register at: sandamiano.org.



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Lenten Observances!

Lent in a very special way points out that we are pilgrims. For seven weeks, we walk with Christ in response to his invitation, "Let us go up to Jerusalem." The penances, the fasting and all the other aspects of Lent are the hardships of the journey. Don't forget, all Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat and meat products. This law obliges everyone who is fourteen (14) years of age and older. Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence (one full meal, two lesser meals, no meat, no eating between meals). The law on fasting obliges all persons who are between the ages of eighteen (18) and fifty-nine (59).

Canticle of the Sun!

*Most high, all-powerful sweet Lord,
yours is the praise, the glory, and the honor
and every blessing.*

*Be praised y Lord,
for all your creatures,
and first for brother sun,
who makes the day bright and luminous.*

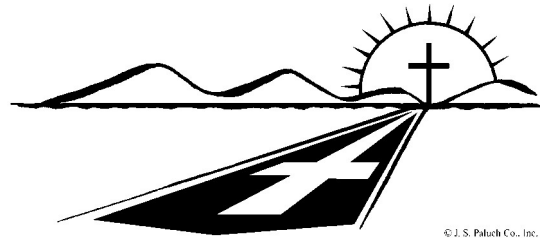
*And he is beautiful and radiant
with great splendor,
he is the image of you, Most High.*

*Be praised, my Lord,
for sister moon and the stars,
in the sky you have made them brilliant
and precious and beautiful.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for brother wind
and for the air both cloudy and serene
and every kind of weather,
through which you give nourishment
to your creatures.*

*Be praised, my Lord, for sister water,
who is very useful and humble
and precious and chaste.*

**St Francis of Assisi
(1182-1226)**



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Readings For The Week March 31st -- April 5th

- Monday:** First Reading Isaiah 65:17-21;
Psalm 30;
Gospel John 4:43-54
- Tuesday:** First Reading Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12;
Psalm 46;
Gospel John 5:1-16
- Wednesday:** First Reading Isaiah 49:8-15;
Psalm 145;
Gospel John 5:17-30
- Thursday:** First Reading Exodus 32:7-14;
Psalm 106;
Gospel John 5:31-47
- Friday:** First Reading Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22;
Psalm 34;
Gospel John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
- Saturday:** First Reading Jeremiah 11:18-20;
Psalm 7;
Gospel John 7:40-53

Treasures From Our Tradition!

Today, "Laetare Sunday," breaks the somberness of Lent for a little rejoicing and the readings all summon us to an awareness of reconciliation. One of the best-loved stories of our tradition is today's Gospel story of the runaway son and the prodigal father. Prodigal, of course, is an adjective meaning "spendthrift or extravagant to a degree bordering on recklessness;" and, although the boy maxes out the credit cards, it is really the father who is prodigal with forgiveness.

Part of the excitement of this Laetare Sunday is rooted in the ancient catechumenate. Long ago, midway through Lent, the "elect" were focusing more and more on the gift of reconciliation accomplished for them by Christ and about to be realized in the Easter sacraments they were preparing to celebrate. In some places, the elect were even bedecked with roses on this day. A person bedecked with roses sticks out in a crowd; a person formed by the Eucharist and committed to living a life of reconciliation does, too. That's you!



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