



# March 31, 2019

## Fourth Sunday of Lent

### UPCOMING DATES

Wed Apr 3, St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting 1 PM  
 Sun Apr 14, Palm Sunday  
 Wed Apr 17, Finance Committee Meeting 4 PM  
 Sun Apr 21, Easter Sunday  
 Tues Apr 23, St. Colman Guild Meeting 4 PM

### MASS INTENTIONS

**Sat 4 pm:** All parishioners  
**Sat 5 pm:** All parishioners  
**Sun 9 am:** All parishioners  
**Sun 11 am:** All parishioners

### PRAY FOR OUR BROTHERS & SISTERS

**Who are ill or in pain:** Gabe & Renee Snodgrass, Thomas Gregory, Paul Aguilera, Nini Johnston, Don Creech, Nilda Falero, Don Schaffert, Lawrence Peterson, Claudette West, Alan Barich, Ed Copeland, Andrew Cebalo, Nina Cantacessi, Posie, William Donnellan, Ernest Souder, Robert Cebalo, Kathleen Sheridan, Sister Gabrielle, Virginia Loosli, David Cross, Helen Johnson, Billy Henthorn, Steve Arcia, Jim & Mary Crowther, Lorelie Fulwider, Fr. Andrew Metcalf, JoAnn Coules, Dinah Smith, Lorna Marie Hastings, Laverne Jones, Joanne & Bill Rodgers, John Breig, Linda Schmidt, Michell Jackson, Jim Ward, Nini Sanchez, Jacqueline Donovan, Art McNulty, Terry Devlin, Mary Hall Smith, Stan Moorman, Maggie Nelson, Stella Dunne, Nina Cantacessi, John Hoffman, Mary Tamargo, Don La Plante, Sarah & David, Ed Fulwider, Vicki Gonzalez, Jesus Chavez Torres

**Who have been called to Eternal Life:** Cecilia Heinz, Lawrence Peterson, Evelyn Shuster, John Seymour, George Ayoob, Charlie Marbach, Joe Mercieca, Elaine Benson, Suzi Schaffert, Janet Guidotti, Keith Poulsen, Doris Porras, Helen Leseberg, Bette Campbell, Margaret Maher, Carole Williams, Fr. Philip Ryan, Joseph Kobler, Janine Bekker Carrig, Matthew Gonzalez, Billy Ferree, Tom King, Tom Kelly, Axel Avera, Victor Theander, John Sanchez, Don Covello

### READINGS

Jos 5: 9a. 10-12  
 Ps 34: 2-3. 4-5. 6-7  
 2 Cor 5: 17-21  
 Lk 15: 1-3.11-32

### LITURGICAL MUSIC CORNER

by our Music Director, Rebecca Brown

### **March 31<sup>st</sup> Fourth Sunday of Lent**

*"You must rejoice, my son, for your brother was dead and has come to life; he was lost and is found."*  
 (Communion antiphon)

Processional Hymn: Return to God SS

*The Gloria is omitted during Lent.*

Psalm 34: Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

*Gospel Acclamation: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ, King of endless glory!*

*"I will get up and go to my Father and shall say to him; Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you."*

Preparation of the Gifts: Be Thou My Vision BB # 396

Communion Song: Fly Like a Bird BB # 463

Recessional Song: Save Your People BB # 130

The song, "Fly Like a Bird" reminds me of the prodigal son in today's gospel. Sometimes we don't always make the best choices, but as the father welcomed the prodigal son in today's Gospel, we pray that God will welcome my brother, who recently passed away, and all our loved ones, into His kingdom.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

Stay current on Youth & Young Adult ministry events in the diocese: [www.sryouth.org](http://www.sryouth.org) & [www.catholicya.org](http://www.catholicya.org)

### PASTOR'S DESK

*A priest who was blessed with a bit of musical talent, tells the story of his visit one day to a nursing home. He played his guitar and sang for the residents, and after his mini-concert, he greeted each of the residents personally. A very elderly woman named Martha took his hand and invited him to return in exactly two weeks. "Why then?" the pastor asked. "It will be my one-hundredth birthday," she replied. The clergyman was impressed. "What has contributed to your very long life?" he asked. "Well," she said, "I had a wonderful husband, but he is gone now, and I once had beautiful children, but they too are gone now. That was a wonderful life I had then. And this is what I have now." And she opened her arms and gestured as if giving a great big welcoming hug to all her companions in the room. "Now," says the priest, "whenever the future looks bleak and lonely, I remember Martha and I open my arms wide, and I welcome what I have now, with a tender embrace."*

Whether it's in a shelter for the homeless or a nursing home, a place of worship or a family gathering—wherever it may be—open your arms wide and welcome what you have now with a great big hug. Not alienation but reconciliation is what is required of you now:

Be always the first to forgive.  
 Do not wait for the other to forgive,  
 For, by forgiving,  
 You become the master of fate,  
 The fashioner of life,  
 The doer of miracles.  
 To forgive is the highest,  
 Most beautiful form of love.  
 In return, you will receive  
 Untold peace and happiness.

God's mercy is never withdrawn. It is yours to acknowledge and accept, whether you are riding high or you are down on your luck. In either case, you need it.

Again, let us read from Luke's Gospel: "While he was still a long way off, his father saw him ... He ran to the boy, clasped him in his arms, and kissed him tenderly" (Lk. 15:20). And that's our lesson for today—a Lesson that 100-year-old Martha clearly understood. If, like the older brother in the Parable of the Prodigal Son, you should call the wisdom of our Father's mercy into question, may I suggest that you stop and take time to remember Martha.

PEACE AND BLESSINGS!  
 Fr. Luis

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

by Anne Osdiek, St. Louis University

### **First Reading: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12**

1. How does God take care of you in your daily life? Was God as present to the Israelites in their daily lives in the Promised Land as in the desert? Is this true for you, metaphorically speaking?

2. This reading and the Gospel are about coming home. How does that idea relate to Lent? What is your spiritual home?

### **Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32**

1. Jesus responded with the parable of the Prodigal Son when the Pharisees accused him of eating with sinners. How was Jesus "prodigal"? What was Jesus telling us about God's forgiveness? In the story did the son have to ask for forgiveness or did he just start on the road back home? Do you forgive easily? Is it easy or difficult for you to ask for forgiveness? What are your feelings about the older brother's behavior in this parable?

2. How would Pope Francis' interpretation of the Prodigal Son below help someone who thought he/she had too many sins to be forgiven?

The God of mercy; he does not tire of forgiving. We are the ones who tire in asking for forgiveness, but he does not tire.

*The Gospel of Luke tells us that the father saw the son from afar because he was waiting for him. The father went onto the terrace every day to see if his son would return. He waited. And when he saw him, he went out in haste and 'threw himself on his neck'. The son had prepared some words to say but the father did not let him speak; his embrace covered his mouth.*

*This is the heart of our Father, the God that waits for us. Always.*

*Pope Francis: God Never Tires of Forgiving Us March 28, 2014*

### PARISH DONATIONS

Period reflected: March 23 – March 24

St. Elizabeth 1 <sup>st</sup> collection	\$775.00
St. Elizabeth 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection	\$212.00
St. Catherine 1 <sup>st</sup> collection	\$99.00
St. Catherine 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection	\$181.00
St. Colman 1 <sup>st</sup> collection	\$135.00
St. Colman 2 <sup>nd</sup> collection	\$37.00

*Thank you for your generosity!* \$1,439.00

### *Is the Lord's work one of your heirs?*

To be placed on our Sunday Bulletin email list, send your request to: [ChurchElizabeth@comcast.net](mailto:ChurchElizabeth@comcast.net)

The deadline for Bulletin submissions is Wednesday at 5pm. Submit them (proofread and spell-checked) via email or the following meetings at St. Hubert's Hall:

**St. Elizabeth Guild Meeting (1st Wednesday at 1 pm)**  
**Finance Committee Meeting (3rd Wednesday at 4 pm)**  
**St. Colman Guild Meeting (4th Tuesday at 12 pm)**