

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 St 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.

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

Fr. Newcomb is leading a class during Lent.

Forgiven: The Transforming Power of Confession

28 March Session 3: The Rite Explained

4 April Session 4: Biblical Foundations: Sin Mercy and the Sacrament of Confession

25 April Session 5: Answering Common Questions about Confession

SMART will be selling Palm Crosses the weekend of April 2nd/3rd and if any are left, the weekend of April 9th/10th. \$12/each.

RECONCILIATION MONDAY IS
APRIL 11TH FROM 2PM-4PM & 6PM-9PM.

Holy Week and Easter Schedule:

Monday, April 11th: Confessions 2pm-4pm & 6pm-9pm

Thursday, April 14th: Tenebrae 10am
7pm Mass of the Lord's Supper
11pm Night prayer (Chapel)

Friday, April 15th: Tenebrae 10am
12 noon viewing of The Passion
(Most Sacred Heart Hall)
3pm Service of the Passion
7pm Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 16th: Tenebrae 10am
12 Noon Blessing of the Food
12:15 decorating the Church
8pm Easter Vigil

Sunday, April 17th: 8:30am Mass
11:30am Mass

**ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST THIS SUNDAY
FROM 8AM UNTIL 11AM
BRING A FRIEND!**

The 2nd collection this weekend is for the Catholic Relief Services. Please give it your prayerful consideration.

St. Mary's Food Pantry will be Friday, April 1st from 10am until noon. We are in need of donations of personal hygiene products like toothpaste, soap, deodorants, laundry detergent, and feminine hygiene products.

St. Joseph's Table would appreciate additional volunteers. Please see Deacon Rich or call 845-856-8212 ext. 113 for details. The next dinner will be served on Friday, April 8th from 5pm until 7pm. Everyone is welcome.

The Junior Catholic Daughters will be attending the March All You Can Eat Breakfast on Sunday, March 27. The girls will be selling Cards for A Cause; high quality, beautifully embellished greeting cards that come in a super cute box. The boxes are sold for \$30 for 30 cards. There are different themes of card boxes: All Occasion, Thanks & Blanks, and Kids Birthday Box. The Holiday Card Collection Box contains 50 cards for various holidays. The girls are fundraising in order to continue with their Box of Joy project, Adopt a Family for Christmas and in order to give out 5 scholarships to Camp Veritas.

Camp Veritas 2022: Camp Veritas is a one-week play-and-pray sleep away summer camp for teens going into 7th to 12th grades. It will be held at five locations in 2022; June 27-July 2 at Clongowes Wood College in Ireland; July 24- 30 in Emmitsburg, MD; July 31-5 in Lake Placid, FL; August 8-13 at Lake Champion in Glen Spey, NY (10th-12th grade) and August 14-20 at Camp Lakota in Wurtsboro, NY (7th-9th grade). Enrollment is open. Early bird rates (before 4/1/21) are \$400 and \$450 after that (\$450/500 for Lake Champion). More details can be found at www.campveritas.com. Email: admin2@campveritas.com.

We will soon begin Spring clean up at St. Mary's Cemetery. Kindly remove any personal effects, including Christmas wreaths, etc. If anyone would like a copy of the rules of the cemetery, please call the parish office.

Save the Date! Tri-State Pregnancy Center is having a Spring Open House event. Music, face painting, Cotton Candy, Food, and more.
Where: 105Wheatfield Drive, Milford, Pa.
When: April 24, 2022

Announced Masses

Monday,	March 28
9:00am	Elizabeth and Andrew Beirne, by Sheila Connelly Volker LouAnn Dibble, by Peter DeMarco
Tuesday,	March 29
9:00am	Bob Klotz, by Pat & Wayne Long
Wednesday,	March 30
9:00am	Raymond Nicolette, by Paul and Diane Hartmann
Thursday,	March 31
9:00am	Roseann Bizardi, by Marie Bianco
Friday,	April 1
11:30am	Tony Capra, by the Capra family
Saturday,	April 2
12:00pm	Intentions Debra Lewis, by Paul Brislin
4:00pm	Jean Leap, by Patrick Leap
Sunday,	April 3
8:30am	The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am	Peter Lawrow, by Mary Rimlinger
1:00pm	Charlotte Kiernan, by Paul Brislin

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK: Catherine Simons, Robert Witherow, Allen Lynch, Jackie Mundy, Ken Mundy, Gloria Hicks, Stephanie Gaide, Stephen Angiulo, Eppie Harford, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, James Lincoln, Raquel Maldonado, Aedan Roach, James Roach, Robyn Radzikowski, John F. Flynn, Jr., Brittany Vleck, Jack Brooks, Donald Wolff, Rosemary Marcolina, Nenita Costescu, Craig Caliciotti, Jean Lombardi, Jose Brito, Jr. , Jose Yamil Tavarez, Mary Longwell, Christine Chmura, Anthony Cavaliere, Michelle Phillips, Walter Szpakowicz, Maria Vyskocil, Marianne Van Auken, Eleanor Canfield, Neil R. Stasilli, III, William Conklin, Mary Gonzalez, Francis Cruz, Henry Holley, Jr., Patricia M., Susan U, Lorraine Brown, Debi Cotugno, Larry Cotugno, and Russell Von Sauers.

Please add/remove from the prayer list:

Kindly return before March 30th

Respect Life Corner: Life Fact: Just 22 days after conception, an unborn child's heart beats with its own blood, which is often a different type than the mother's.

The collection for March 19th/20th was \$6,150.
Thank you for your continued generosity.