

Lent

March 22, 2015 ♦ Fifth Sunday of Lent (B)

I've lived in the Midwest most of my life. In the last few years, I've found myself appreciating why some of my "senior" friends enjoy spending time in warmer climates during the winter months. As I've gotten older, the range of temperatures that feel comfortable to me has grown increasingly narrow—and while I'm not yet ready to pull up stakes, the thought of it crosses my mind more frequently.

But, as the Graeme Miles folk song "Dark December" reminds us, we shouldn't dislike winter. Jesus—the light in our darkness—is born in the winter.

In a four-season climate like that of the Midwest, we're particularly attuned to dark and light, death and life. We sense the days growing shorter and longer; we see leaves fall and plants sleep, only to reawaken when the weather turns warm. We know what lamps to light so we can see in those dark times and what clothes to wear until the warming sun brings the world to life once more.

The prophets knew God was stirring in the world, and they knew God's promise of light and salvation. For Jeremiah, light and life came in the promise of a new covenant—a new relationship with the Lord.

The Greeks of John's gospel sensed that Jesus was the key to the light they longed for, and so they wanted to "see" him. John also says that to truly live, we must be like grain and die to ourselves.

Light into darkness, death into life—maybe the experience of winter helps us understand that just a little more.

MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
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Today's Readings

Jer 31:31–34

Heb 5:7–9

Jn 12:20–33



Liguori

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FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 22, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	JOAN M. LEFOSSE	THU	7:00 PM	JEANANNE & RON WERT
SUN	7:30 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	FRI	7:30 AM	JULIAN JAMES KIPER
	9:00 AM	GLORIA GILL	SAT	5:15 PM	JOSIE & GUS FREDRIKSEN
	11:00 AM	ANTONIO BARLETTA	SUN	7:30 AM	ANTHONY VOLPICCINI
MON		<u>No MASS</u>		9:00 AM	MARIE KOZAK
TUE	7:00 PM	MARION CONNELL		11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
WED	7:30 AM	ELIZABETH & STANLEY PIONTEK			

Please call the office to reserve the Sanctuary Lamp.

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Lukes 5:15pm McNamara 7:30am Schwendt 9:00am Grieco 11:00am DeFalco

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Mary Schwendt	Jennifer Stuart	Carson Endy, Mickey and Will Gray
SUN	7:30am	Dan Sweeney	Adelina Kieffer	Alex, Jason and Mark Carvalho
	9:00am	Barrie Pease	Val Romasanta	Beth and Gracie Cote, Isabella Pizzo
	11:00am	Rhonda Ouimet	John Peterson	Anna and Matthew Lambert, Colby Mullins

Second collection next week is for Religious Ministries

Our annual Lenten Penance Service will be held on Monday of Holy Week, March 30th at 7pm. At that time, several priests will be available for the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Plan to attend and encounter our Merciful Savior Jesus Christ.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe Cuccaro, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Mary Pender, Jo Ann Hofer, Roger Villano, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Kathy Patrick, Steve Mammarella, Stella Powaski, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Robert Thomas, Joe Lintz and Tom Hafer

Please congratulate the newly baptized: Danielle Marie Drozd and her family

A Recommendation to Enhance Your Lenten Journey of Conversion and Renewal

Make a sacrificial offering of your time, talents and treasure to benefit the poor and those in need.

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Mon 03/22 7:30pm RCIA
Fri 03/27 9am Women's Society Candy Making
1pm Living Stations of the Cross
7pm Stations of the Cross
Sat 03/28 9am Women's Society Candy Making
4-5pm Confessions

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, March 22, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

The Women's Society will meet in the social hall of the church on March 27th at 9am to finish dipping, boxing, and sorting the Easter Candy orders. You do not need to have experience and your helping hands would certainly be appreciated. If you are interested helping out, you will be most welcome. A light lunch will be served on Friday. If we are not able to finish on Friday, we will meet again 9am Saturday morning to finish up. Thanks in advance for your help. We are looking forward to seeing you there.

Easter Candy orders will be ready for pick up before and after all Masses on March 28th/29th. We will also be selling any extra candy that we may have at that time.

YOUTH GROUP is hosting the **Birdsboro Community Table - March 24th, 5-8pm**. The Community Table is a meal that we share with approximately 130 patrons of the Birdsboro Food Pantry. We are asking the 7 - 12 grade students belonging to ICC to help with this event either by providing food and/or serving. We are in need of **HOT** casseroles in disposable foil (lasagna size) pans, drinks, or dessert. If you would like to join us in this worthy cause, please contact Liz at 610-404-4425.

RESORTS AC TRIP - March 25th - LEAVE the Church at 9:30am - 6 hours in AC - Package Deal: Pay \$31 get \$25 Back - Call Carol J. if interested @ 610-775-4447

The **Annual Lenten Food Drive** for the benefit of the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House and Catholic Charities of Reading has begun. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. The food drive runs through Palm Sunday. Contact Jim at 610-385-3666.

2015 Masquerade Adult Social Fundraiser **April 25th, 6pm**

\$35 per person includes hors d'oeuvres served by Boscov's Ala Carte Catering, soda, beer, wine tasting and dessert. Activities include Live and Silent Auctions, Raffle Auctions, Wine Pull, 50-50 and more! RSVP by April 14. Cocktail Attire...Masks Optional. Proceeds benefit Immaculate Conception Academy's Technology and Art Departments.

Tickets can be purchased online by

visiting www.icaknights.org under the Home and School Organization Tab or send check made payable to 'ICA HSO' to the Academy 903 Chestnut St, Douglassville 19518.

EASTER EGG HUNT: Join us for our egg hunt for our parish children under 12 on April 4th at 11am. We are collecting bags of individually wrapped candy to fill the eggs. Donation box will be in the narthex.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 29th, 7:30am, 9am and 11am
Blessing of Palms at all Masses
Solemn Blessing of Palms and Procession at 11am
Living Stations of the Cross at 4pm

Penance Service

Monday, March 30th, 7pm
Several Priests will be available for confessions

Holy Thursday

Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper, 7pm
Family Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
After evening Mass until 10pm
(Come, "Watch One Hour" with Jesus)

Good Friday

Commemoration of the Lord's Passion, 3pm
Confessions following until 5:30pm
Day of Fast and Abstinence

Holy Saturday

Blessing of Food at Noon
Confessions from 12:30pm to 2pm
The Easter Vigil Mass at 8pm
Reception of RCIA Candidates

Easter Sunday

Masses at 7:30am, 9am and 11am
Blessing of the Children's Easter Baskets at 9am, 11am

LIVING STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Friday, March 27th 1pm and Palm Sunday, March 29th 4pm
Children from Immaculate Conception Academy will present the Living Stations of the Cross. Everyone is cordially invited to participate in the beautiful reenactment of the events of Calvary. Please come pray with us, celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.

Building a Culture of Vocations

The Loving Environment of a family draws forth an individual's greatest talents and gifts. We've come to realize that creating an atmosphere in which children can hear the Lord's call is one of the most significant responsibilities resting on our shoulders as parents. Our own lives must reflect the presence of God, His Word and the love He offers His People.

STAND WITH US FOR LIFE! Mark your calendars for the 5th Annual March for Life in Reading on April 26, 2015. The March will start with live music and a rally beginning at 2pm at Berks Catholic High School Auditorium. At 3pm we will walk from Berks Catholic to Holy Rosary Church at 3rd & Franklin Sts. where buses will transport us back to BC. Baby items are also being requested and will be distributed to the Crisis Pregnancy Centers throughout the area. We are asking you to be part of this total community effort in support of the Sanctity of Life! For additional information you may contact Helen MacMinn at 610-582-1075.

La Salle Academy will host the 8th Annual Egg & Art Show on March 28/29, 11am - 4pm. Come and enjoy homemade Polish foods, arts & crafts, raffles, children's activities, pysanky classes and more. Visit Learn more at EggandArtShow.com



March 22, 2015

Dear Padre

Monday

MARCH 23

Lenten Weekday

Dn 13:1-9, 15-17,

19-30, 33-62 or

13:41c-62

Jn 8:1-11

Tuesday

MARCH 24

Lenten Weekday

Nm 21:4-9

Jn 8:21-30

Wednesday

MARCH 25

Annunciation

of the Lord

Is 7:10-14; 8:10

Heb 10:4-10

Lk 1:26-38

Thursday

MARCH 26

Lenten Weekday

Gn 17:3-9

Jn 8:51-59

Friday

MARCH 27

Lenten Weekday

Jer 20:10-13

Jn 10:31-42

Saturday

MARCH 28

Lenten Weekday

Ez 37:21-28

Jn 11:45-56

Sunday

MARCH 29

Palm Sunday

of the Passion

of the Lord

Mk 11:1-10 or

Jn 12:12-16

Is 50:4-7

Phil 2:6-11

Mt 14:1-15:47

or 15:1-39

Does our earthly suffering lessen our time in purgatory?



I've had three miscarriages and have chronic pain from a serious auto accident. Does God look at this as a form of penance for my sins? Will I have less time in purgatory because I suffered so on earth?

God is love. Jesus revealed this to us in John's Gospel. We enjoy a relationship with God as his children, and good parents don't enjoy seeing their children suffer. Therefore, God doesn't intentionally inflict pain and suffering upon his children or delight in our suffering.

Our illnesses, afflictions, and injuries are simply a sign of our own human weakness, limitations, and imperfections—physical as well as spiritual. They're not a sign of God's desire to teach us a lesson for the mistakes we've made or even for the sins we've committed.

God; and everyone knows God.
8 He who does
God is love.
9 In this the love us, that God has s
world that we m

As for the time we'll spend in purgatory, we need to remember that, although our sins are forgiven by our Lord's life, death, and resurrection, sin has an effect on our souls that must be purified before we enter heaven. This last purification, or purging, is the purpose of purgatory.

How much time this final purification takes is up to our Lord, whose love and mercy know no bounds.

FR. SCOTT KATZENBERGER, CSSR
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Catholic Update helps you keep up with news and issues that are important to Catholics. To introduce you to this wonderful newsletter, we'd like to send you several free issues on topics such as sharing the faith with your family, forgiving yourself and others, and reasons to go to Mass. To claim your free, no-obligation package, visit Liguori.org/Catholic-Update and click on "Free Catholic Update Offer" before April 30, 2015. God bless you!