

Lent

Fourth Sunday of Lent ♦ March 6, 2016

Jos 5:9a, 10–12 ♦ 2 Cor 5:17–21 ♦ Lk 15:1–3, 11–32

One of the deep meanings of this Gospel reading is signaled in verse 2: “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” Last Sunday, Jesus challenged the people to realize they were no better than those they condemned. The Pharisees and scribes had trouble with that lesson. They felt morally superior and more entitled to God’s favor than those whose lives they questioned. Jesus turned that attitude on its head, showing time and again that God seeks out the sinner and the lost, particularly those who recognize that they are sinners and lost. As long as the Pharisees and scribes did not see themselves that way, Jesus could not help them.

Dictionary.com Unabridged says *prodigal* means “wastefully or recklessly extravagant,” so someone who is prodigal is lavish, a spendthrift. According to the Pharisees, Jesus was prodigal, for they considered his welcome of sinners as wildly wasteful, frittering away time and resources on people they thought were unworthy. But Jesus simply was showing them, and all of us, what God’s love is like. God is extravagant in his love for saints and sinners alike. To some it might seem pointless or unjust to love and care for sinners and enemies, but God finds no one unworthy or unlovable—even those who reject him and oppress others.

Lent is a time to accept our sinfulness, our lost condition, and return home to the Father. Like the father of the prodigal son, God waits for that warm embrace, willing to give us everything. Hurry now.

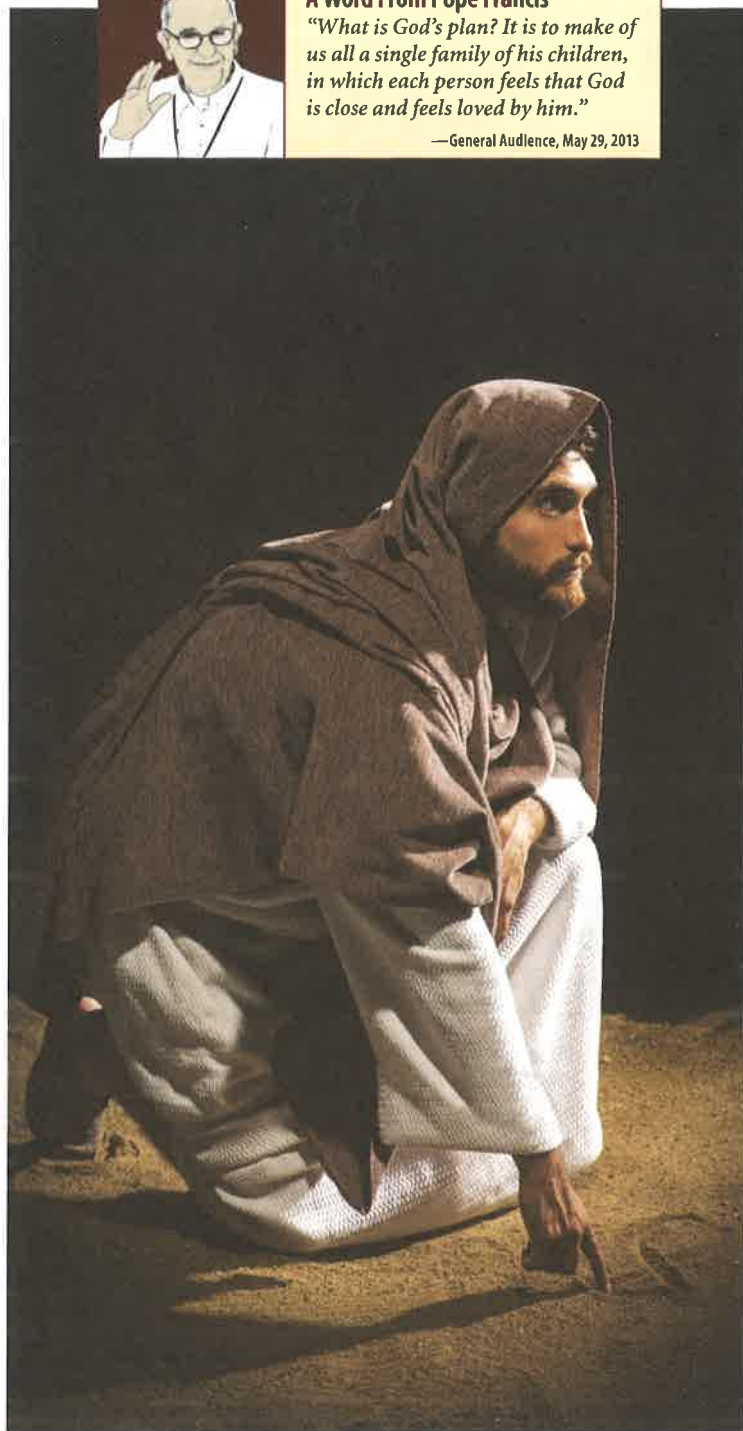
MARY KATHARINE DEELEY
sundaybulletin@liguori.org



A Word From Pope Francis

“What is God’s plan? It is to make of us all a single family of his children, in which each person feels that God is close and feels loved by him.”

—General Audience, May 29, 2013



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

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 Rev. Leo S. Stajkowski.....In Residence
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 Parish Religious Education/CCD610 582-3880
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 Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator:
 Wendy S. Krisak, M.A. NC, LPC
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 Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator:
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 Diocese of Allentown.....www.allentowndiocese.org

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT – MARCH 6, 2016

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT	5:15 PM	JEROME SETLOCK	THU	7:00 PM	JEANANNE & RON WERT
SUN	7:30 AM	WARREN IMES	FRI	7:30 AM	GEORGE L. SMITH FAMILY
	9:00 AM	THE ANTHONY LUBAS FAMILY		9:00 AM	ICA MASS – SEVERINE PROCK
	11:00 AM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS	SAT	5:15 PM	LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
MON	7:30 AM	BERNIE RISSMILLER	SUN	7:30 AM	JOHN BRADLEY
TUE	7:00 PM	BRUCE KETTERER		9:00 AM	GUS FREDRIKSEN
WED	7:30 AM	ROBERT MULDOWNEY		11:00 AM	ANTHONY PUGLIESE – 2 ND ANNIVERSARY

The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Warren Imes

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Gulla 5:15pm McNamara 7:30am Collura 9:00am McCauley 11:00am DeFalco

<u>DAY</u>	<u>MASS</u>	<u>LECTOR</u>	<u>COMMENTATOR</u>	<u>ALTAR SERVERS</u>
SAT	5:15pm	Jennifer Stuart	Mike Austrevich	Ryan Ferrante, Andela and Ethan Kraycik
SUN	7:30am	Dennis Piontek	Pam Amos	Anna and Matthew Lambert, Samantha Reitnour
	9:00am	Jo Hohl	Brian Hannon	Joey Cizmarik, Sean and Stephen Hannon
	11:00am	John Peterson	Mary Ann Cotter	Taylor Moyer, Diego and Hannah Santos

Second collection next week is the Monthly Collection

Lenten Penance Service

will be held on Monday of Holy Week, March 21st 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: Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John & Margaret Kakas, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Alice Smyk, Yolanda Marino, Marjorie & Walter Hansen, Marie Snyder, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Kathy Patrick, Doris Slater, Joseph & Susan McCorristin, Mary & Phil Morici, Margaret Maccarone, Father Joseph Campion, Dan Casciano, Paisley Stout, Jake Maccarone, Linda Rathman, William Janda, Curt Miller, Frances Bambrick, James Smith, Mike Kovach, William Reardon, Maryanne Emory, Madge Butto, Rose Malcolm, Dylan Spriggs, Rose Osorio, Henry Wade, Jr., Nicole Susanne MaGee, Joan Cronin, Christina Hyde, Rita Conrad, Vicki Barletta, Ryan Curley, Brendan Carr, Paul Geiger and Helen McDonald

Pray for the recently deceased: Rev. Michael J. Briggman and Rev. Msgr. James J. Mulligan

HOSPITAL VISITATIONS: Monsignor McCann, Deacon Hiryak, Deacon Bardi and Deacon Giordano visit our parishioners who are hospitalized, in nursing homes or homebound regularly. If you or a member of your family is hospitalized, please call the parish office at 610-582-2411.

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

Sun	03/06	SOCIAL SUNDAY
Mon	03/07	7:30pm RCIA
Thurs	03/10	4pm Youth Choir 7:30pm ICC Book Club
Fri	03/11	1:45pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Stations of the Cross 7pm SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP
Sat	03/12	4-5pm Confession

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Women's Society Easter Candy **ORDERS DUE TODAY**

Homemade Peanut Butter and Coconut Eggs

Order forms are in the narthex

\$5 for ½ pound or \$10 for 1 pound

Thanks for your orders. As always, 100% of the proceeds of our sale are given to the church.

Community Table Meal – March 8th

The Women's Society will be sponsoring the meal for the Community Table at the Birdsboro Senior Center. This is a wonderful opportunity for community outreach during the season of Lent. Food should be brought in hot and ready to go in foil steam table pans. Drop off at the Senior Center 4:30-5pm. We need meat, vegetable, casserole, dessert and drinks. We will serve approximately 150 grateful hungry people. If you are able, plan on staying to help serve and clean up. Please call Geri at 610-286-5538 to let her know you will donate a dish or drinks and for more information about how you can help.

The Women's Society will gather in the social hall of the church at 6:30pm on March 16th for our "Agape" service. All women of the parish are invited to join in this special evening as we share bread and wine together celebrating the limitless love of God, and our love for each other.

YOUTH GROUP NEWS The Senior High School Youth

Group will meet on March 11th, 7-9pm. All teenagers in our parish in grades 9 through 12 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun, food and prayer. You are welcome to bring a friend!

Prime Time Club – The members of our Prime Time Club are invited to participate in the Living Stations of the Cross presented by the children of Immaculate Conception Academy on Friday, March 18th at 1:00pm. Following the Living Stations of the Cross the members of the Prime Time Club will gather in the social hall for light refreshments. (This event replaces the Prime Time meeting originally scheduled for March 17th.)

RESORTS AC TRIP – March 14th - LEAVE the Church promptly at 9:30am - 6 hours in AC Package Deal: Pay \$31 get \$25 Back. Call Carol J. at 610-775-4447

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AS HE CARRIED THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION. STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK ON FRIDAY, MARCH 11TH AT 1:45PM WITH THE CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY AND AT 7:00PM

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday

Saturday, March 19th, 5:15pm
Sunday, March 20th, 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 21st, 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 18th, 1pm and Palm Sunday, March 20th, 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 to celebrate with us, and witness this beautiful Lenten Prayer lovingly offered to you by Immaculate Conception Academy students.

Annual Lenten Food Drive is an opportunity to assist in feeding the poor at the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House, and Catholic Charities. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the basket and cash canister in the narthex. The food drive ends Palm Sunday. Call Deacon Jim at 610-385-3666.

A Lenten Endeavor: Operation Rice Bowl – Operation Rice Bowl offerings help those who live with hunger and poverty both at home and abroad. The Rice Bowl is located in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

EASTER EGG HUNT - Join us for an egg hunt for our parish children ages 12 and younger on March 26th at 11am in the social hall. We are collecting bags of small individually wrapped candy and cash. A donation box will be in the narthex of the church. Thanks for your support!

Diocese of Allentown Youth Rally – Teens in grades 8 through 12 are welcome! Join us April 9th, 1-8pm at Berks Catholic High School for a celebration of faith and fun with hundreds of teens from parishes all over the Diocese. Rally highlights include: passionate and energetic keynote speaker, Mike Patin; workshop leader, Allen Austin; worship band, Sean Patrick Malloy Band; and Eucharistic Adoration with Bishop Barres. Registration is \$15 a person which includes dinner and a t-shirt. www.allentowndiocese.org/unity

March 6, 2016

dear Padre



Clarifying Pope Francis' announcement on abortion

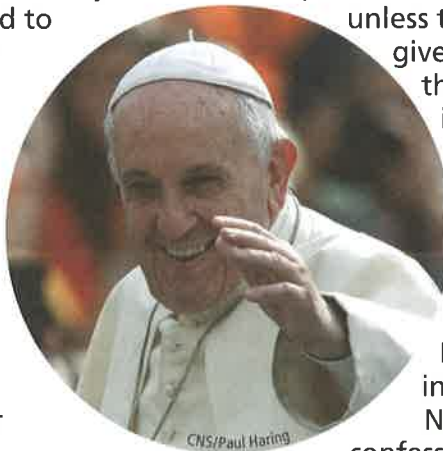


I heard Pope Francis allows priests to forgive the sin of abortion. Aren't priests able to forgive any sin?

In September 2015, the media announced that for the Year of Mercy Pope Francis is giving priests the ability to forgive the sin of abortion. However, this is not accurate. Priests are able to forgive *any* sin; what the Holy Father is granting to priests is the faculty to remit the penalty attached to the *ecclesiastical crime* of abortion. Let me explain.

Procuring, performing, or facilitating an abortion is always a grave sin. In the Catholic Church, these acts may also constitute a crime in canon law (1398). The sin is distinct from the crime, and those who commit the *crime* might also incur excommunication.

To incur the penalty, the person who commits the sin must: be Catholic and at least eighteen years old; be aware of the Church's penalty for abortion; and intend in full freedom to end a human life.



CNS/Paul Haring

If any one of these elements is not present, the person did not incur excommunication. Yet if the priest discovers that the penalty is incurred, he is obliged to contact the local ordinary (usually the diocesan bishop) for permission to remit the penalty—

unless the bishop has already given permission, which is the case in many dioceses in the United States. *For the Year of Mercy, Pope Francis is giving all priests the faculty to remove the penalty without contacting the bishop.*

In other words, the Holy Father has extended mercy in the realm of Church law.

No one need believe that confessed sins are unforgiven. Pope

Francis' announcement is an encouragement for all, especially people who have committed grave sin, to confess their sins and receive the unfailing mercy of God.

REV. PHILIP J. BENÉ
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Monday

MARCH 7

Lenten Weekday

Is 65:17–21

Jn 4:43–54

Tuesday

MARCH 8

Lenten Weekday

Ez 47:1–9, 12

Jn 5:1–16

Wednesday

MARCH 9

Lenten Weekday

Is 49:8–15

Jn 5:17–30

Thursday

MARCH 10

Lenten Weekday

Ex 32:7–14

Jn 5:31–47

Friday

MARCH 11

Lenten Weekday

Wis 2:1a, 12–22

Jn 7:1–2, 10, 25–30

Saturday

MARCH 12

Lenten Weekday

Jer 11:18–20

Jn 7:40–53

Sunday

MARCH 13

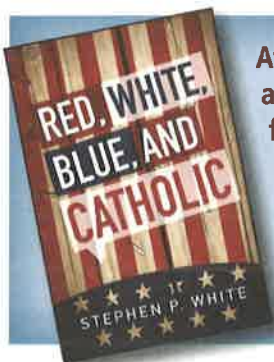
Fifth Sunday

of Lent

Is 43:16–21

Phil 3:8–14

Jn 8:1–11



At the heart of good citizenship is love. Love for the people to which we are bound by birth and by choice. This is not a blind love, which ignores failings, but a love that wills and strives for the best for ourselves and our country. In this light, it becomes easier to see why the best thing we can do as Americans is to become the best and most faithful Catholics.

—From *Red, White, Blue, and Catholic* by Stephen P. White

To see sample pages from this book, call us at 800-325-9521, or visit Liguori.org and type the title or 826450 in the search bar.

Liguori.org



Easter Candy Sale



Ready just in time for filling your Easter Baskets, the Women's Society will be making up home-made, hand dipped, chocolate Peanut Butter Eggs wrapped in yummy milk chocolate and delectable Coconut Cream Eggs covered in deep dark chocolate. We will offer 1/2 lb boxes

and 1 lb boxes. You may order a whole box of Peanut Butter or Coconut, but if you can't decide which to get, order a mixed box of 1/2 and 1/2. Whatever your pleasure, order today. Ordering early will help us with planning and ingredient purchases.

Drop your order along with payment into the collection basket. You may drop your order off at the Church or School Offices. Orders may also be mailed to the Church Office Building, 905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, 19518. Orders may be picked up in the narthex after weekend Masses on March 19 and 20. There won't be many extras, so **please pay and pre-order by Sunday March 6th** to make sure you get your favorites. Checks should be made payable to ICC Women's Society.

Please note that assortment weights are approximate and may contain nut products.

1/2 pound boxes \$ 5.00

1 pound boxes \$ 10.00

	<u>Peanut Butter</u>	<u>Coconut</u>	<u>Mixed</u>
1/2 lb. Boxes \$5 each	_____	_____	_____
1 lb. Boxes \$10 each	_____	_____	_____

Name _____

Phone Number _____

Number of Assortments ordered _____

Amount enclosed _____