

THE  
PRODIGAL  
SON

LUKE 15:11-32



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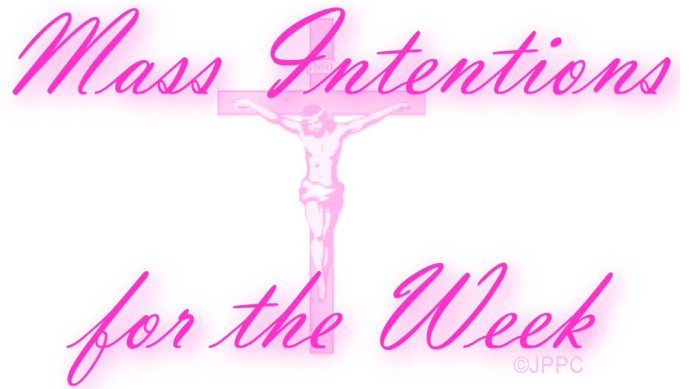
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**THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT  
 MARCH 31, 2019**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 30**

*The Mass of Anticipation for the 4th Sunday of Lent*  
 4:00PM Frank Wildenhain—Birthday Remembrance

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**

*The Fourth Sunday of Lent*  
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church  
 9:00 AM Catherine & Michael Caparco—Memorial  
 10:30AM Lillian E. Healey—32nd Anniversary  
 5:00PM Pieter de Vryer—Birthday Remembrance

**MONDAY, APRIL 1**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM Emily & Frederick Miller—Memorial  
 12:05PM Bobby Anderson—Memorial

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2**

*Lenten Weekday; St. Francis of Paola, Hermit*  
 7:30AM Sue Carcieri—Memorial  
 12:05PM Sarah DeCicco—Memorial

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 7:30AM R. G. & Mariakutty Peter—Memorial  
 12:05PM Francis J. Maguire—Birthday Remembrance

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4**

*Lenten Weekday: St. Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church*  
 7:30AM Joan O'Donnell—Memorial  
 12:05PM Bernard & Maria Falchini—Memorial

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

*Lenten Weekday: St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest*  
 7:30AM Bernard St. Jean—Memorial  
 12:05PM Special Intention

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

*Lenten Weekday*  
 8:30AM Special intention  
*The Mass of Anticipation for Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
 4:00PM Bernard A. Harwood—Month's Mind

**SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

*The Fifth Sunday of Lent*  
 7:30 AM The Parishioners of Our Lady of Mercy Church  
 9:00 AM Frank & Eva Montaquila—Memorial  
 10:30AM Dr. Augustine Capotosto  
 & Dec'd of Capotosto & Gelardi Families—Mem.  
 5:00PM Frank Ruzich—Birthday Remembrance



Dear Parishioners:

Last Saturday saw a steady flow of people coming for All-Day Confessions. What a great witness to God's mercy and forgiveness as so many came forward for the Sacrament. I wish to thank my sixteen brother priests who helped with the All-Day Confessions. Also, we offer our gratitude to the many volunteers who greeted people and helped the day run so smoothly.

All-Day Confessions was followed by our Lenten Mission with Fr. Nathan Ricci. His preaching on God's mercy provided much good food for thought, prayer, and reflection for us. Judging from the great turn out all week, I think his message was well received. I thank him for taking time out of his very busy schedule to be with us and preach the Mission.

On Friday night we gathered for a simple Lenten Supper of soup and bread. The free will offerings went to support the good works of Catholic Relief Services Operation Rice Bowl. CRS is at the forefront of responding to the recent natural disasters and droughts in Africa and I know they are in desperate need of our support. I am grateful to all who helped make this event possible and for all who turned out for the supper.

Following the supper, we gathered for the Stations of the Cross. Walking the way of the Cross is a wonderful Lenten devotion. Since Lent is a penitential season of preparation for Easter, the Stations of the Cross, which follow the path of Christ from Pontius Pilate's praetorium to Christ's tomb have

been a popular devotion in the history of the Church.

It is an ancient devotion, but by the end of the 17th century the erection of stations in churches became more popular. In 1686, Pope Innocent XI, realizing that few people could travel to the Holy Land, granted the right to erect stations in all parish churches. The fourteen stations are in every Catholic Church the world over.

Also known as "way of the cross" or "*via crucis*" this private devotion consists of 14 stations, taken both from Scripture and tradition. Through the stations, we are able to spiritually journey to the *via dolorosa* ("way of sorrows" or "way of suffering") in Jerusalem without actually going there. It allows us as pilgrims to meditate through reflection and prayer.

Pope Francis encourages us to take up the devotion of the Stations during Lent. He suggests: "*The Cross of Christ contains all the love of God; there we find his immeasurable mercy. This is a love in which we can place all our trust, in which we can believe. Let us entrust ourselves to Jesus, let us give ourselves over to him, because he never disappoints anyone! Only in Christ crucified and risen can we find salvation and redemption.*"

If you have not yet made the Stations of the Cross on a Friday in Lent, please consider doing so before the season ends. This Friday would be a good opportunity as our OLM Middle School students will offer us the Living Stations of the Cross. This very prayerful and powerful performance is a great opportunity for all of us to spend

some time with Christ on the way to Calvary.

The students have been rehearsing for weeks and the Living Stations is always so well done. On Friday the students will perform the Living Stations at 1:00PM for the entire school community, and any parishioner who would like to attend. Also, they will perform them again at 7:00PM on Friday night. So please come join us in prayerful devotion at the Living Stations of the Cross. It is a wonderful way to take up prayer this Lent.

Our forty days of Lent seem to be going quickly. How is your Lent going? Are you keeping the fast, the prayer and the almsgiving? There is no better way to prepare for the glory and joy of Easter than having a good Lent. So take up the Cross of Lent, pray, fast and give alms!

The schedule for Holy Week is in the bulletin. It falls during the School Spring Break this year. If you are traveling for the April Vacation, please go to [masstimes.org](http://masstimes.org) to find where you can attend Holy Week Services and Easter Sunday Mass.

This is the last week for the Saturday evening Mass at 4:00PM. Beginning next Saturday it moves forward to 5:00PM and Confessions are to begin at 4:00pm now. Please make note of this change and let your family, friends and neighbors know! Remember Fridays are for fish and Stations of the Cross! Be well. Do good. God Bless.

*Father Healey*



**What is General Absolution?**

To receive forgiveness, for sins committed, a person receives the sacrament of penance. According to canon 960: "individual and integral confession and absolution constitute the sole ordinary means by which one who is conscious of grave sin is reconciled with God and with the Church." Let's break this definition apart. Confession must be individual, that is, one penitent confesses his sins to one priest. It must be integral, that is, every mortal sin of which the penitent is aware must be confessed. This is the ordinary means by which a person reconciles himself or herself to God and to the Church.

There may be a situation in which there are many penitents, but few priests and little time. The Church wants to ensure that everyone has a chance to go to Confession, since it is essential for one's salvation. What do we do if there will not be enough priests or enough time for everyone to go to Confession? General Absolution involves the granting of absolution to a group of penitents without the priest having heard each person's individual confession of sins.

There are only two situations when General Absolution may be used. First when there is the danger of death, and there is insufficient time for the priest(s) to hear the confessions of everyone present. For example, if you are on a plane that is going to crash, the priest may grant General Absolution. Second, General Absolution may be used when there is "grave necessity." The conditions for "grave necessity" are: a large number of penitents, an insufficient number of available priests, a lack of time, and the faithful would be deprived of the grace of the sacrament for a lengthy period of time.

Only the bishop can determine if there is "grave necessity" and not the local priest or pastor. Notice that lack of time or lack of priests are necessary but not sufficient conditions to use General Absolution. A third condition must be present: either danger of death, or deprivation of the grace of the sacrament for a lengthy period of time. If there are simply a lot of penitents, not enough priests, and not enough time, then this does not justify General Absolution. Long lines at Christmas and Easter do not justify its use. A good use case may be in a country with religious persecution and the only priest for miles has been told he has to leave the country in twenty four hours, leaving behind hundreds of Catholics who will not have access to the Sacrament for an indeterminate amount of time.

Should a person receive General Absolution they are still required in due time to confess those sins which they could not confess at that moment to a priest. In other words, they need to make an individual and integral Confession as soon as possible.

These requirements for General Absolution ensure two things. First, that given extreme circumstances the faithful can receive the graces they need for salvation. Second, that the Sacrament is not abused, and therefore a person lives an authentic spiritual life. An authentic spiritual life means sincere sorrow for one's sins that manifests itself by going to Christ. The priest is in the person of Christ and so to go to him, means a person goes to Christ.

*Weekly Collection* 

**March 24, 2019**

Weekly.....	\$10,718.00
EFT.....	\$2,208.00
	<b>Total=\$12,926.00</b>
Outreach.....	\$300.00
Lenten Mission.....	\$3,460.00

If you have been away on vacation or visiting another parish, we kindly ask you to please make up your missed budget envelopes. We depend solely upon your weekly support to meet our weekly parish expenses.

**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**

**Please remember Our Lady of Mercy Church in your will or estate.**

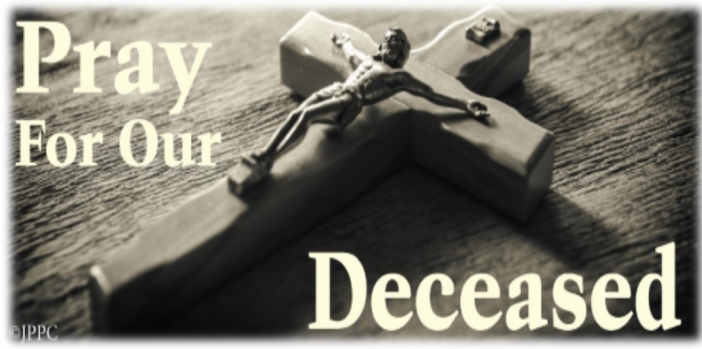
**Second Collections**

**Next Week: Building & Grounds**



**Our Lady of Mercy**  
**2019 Parish**  
**Goal=\$200,000**  
**Pledged to Date=\$71,905**  
**Number of Donors=183**  
**Average Gift=\$393**

**Thank You for Your Generous Support!**  
**Make your Pledge Today!**



We offer our prayers and condolences to the families of **Marie Arsenault** and **Winifred Vickery** whose Masses of Christian Burial were celebrated here last week.



**Upcoming Events:**

- **Friday, April 5:** Living Stations of the Cross at 1pm & 7pm
- **Monday, April 8:** School Confessions at 1pm

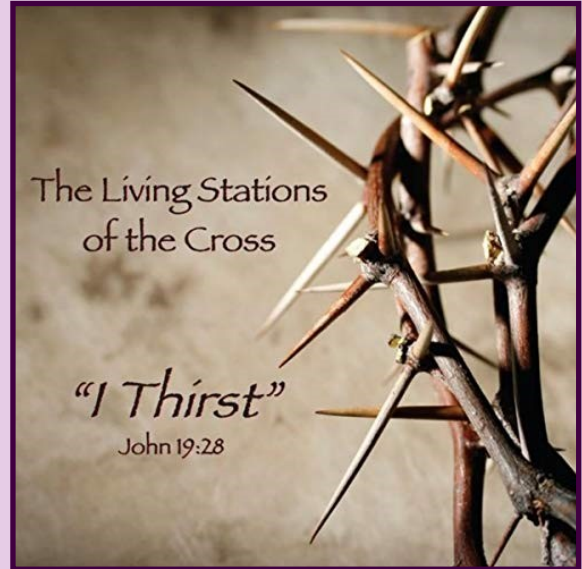
*Discover the OLM Difference!*  
[www.olmschool.org](http://www.olmschool.org)



•RE Classes on Sunday, March 31st meet as regularly scheduled. Confessions for Grades 6-8 on Sunday, March 31st.



- **OLM Food Pantry** is always in great need of non-perishable food items. Please leave items in the Food Box in the vestibule.
- **OLM Bereavement Group** meets **Thursday, April 4th at 4:00PM in Mercy House.** All those experiencing grief or loss is welcome to join us for prayer, discussion and support.
- **For more information** about OLM Outreach, please contact OLM Outreach Director, Doug Green at 884-4410 or by email at [outreach@olmparish.org](mailto:outreach@olmparish.org)



**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**  
**1:00pm and 7:00PM**

Join us for this Annual Presentation of  
the Living Stations of the Cross  
by the OLM Middle School Students.

**OLM Junior Legion of Mary**

**Clothing Drive**



After Weekend Masses  
March 30 & 31, 2019

The OLM Junior Legion of Mary asks parishioners to donate (new) children's sock, underwear and pajamas. Donations will be donated to Loaves and Fishes of RI and distributed directly to families in need. Junior Legionnaires will be at the front vestibule collecting donations after each weekend Mass on March 30th and 31st. We thank you for your support of this charitable work.

## 4th Sunday of Lent



**T**he traditional name for the Fourth Sunday of Lent is Laetare Sunday. This title comes from *Laetare Jerusalem*, “Rejoice, Jerusalem,” the first words of today’s entrance antiphon (brief scriptural text that is usually replaced with a gathering song).

As we have reached the midpoint of Lent, we anticipate the joy of Easter with several options for softening our worship environment: rose-colored vestments, extra music, some floral enhancement.

These are not requirements, however, and many parishes choose to stick with purple vesture and a spare atmosphere.

**LAETARE  
SUNDAY**

*This bulletin insert was written by Marion Eagen, a liturgist and musician in the diocese of Scranton, Pa. © 2002 Resource Publications, Inc., 160 E. Virginia St. #290, San Jose, CA 95112, (408) 286-8505. All rights reserved.*



### Holy Thursday, April 18, 2019

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00AM  
Mass of the Lord’s Supper at 7:00PM  
*Adoration at Altar of Repose until Midnight*

### Good Friday, April 19, 2019

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00AM  
Stations of the Cross at 3:00PM  
Liturgy of the Lord’s Passion &  
Veneration of the Cross at 7:00PM

### Holy Saturday, April 20, 2019

Solemn Morning Prayer at 8:00AM  
Easter Vigil at 8:00PM

### Easter Sunday, April 21, 2019

Masses at 7:30AM, 9:00AM & 10:30AM  
*No 5:00PM on Easter Sunday*



### Saturday Mass Time Change

Saturday Evening  
Mass of Anticipation  
moves forward to  
**5:00PM on Saturday,**  
**April 6, 2019 and**  
**Confessions to start at 4:00PM.**  
Please note the change of time. This  
remains in effect until November.