

April 6, 2025: 5th Sunday of Lent

Background on the Gospel Reading

Today's Gospel begins by reporting that Jesus is again teaching the crowds in the vicinity of the Temple. The scribes and the Pharisees approach Jesus, bringing a woman who has been caught in the act of adultery. They put to Jesus the question of what ought to be done in this case.

The Pharisees state clearly that according to the Law of Moses, those caught in the act of adultery were to be stoned to death. Under Roman occupation, however, the Jewish people did not have the authority to execute people; this is cited in John's passion narrative. To answer the Pharisees' question, Jesus must propose an action that will be either contrary to the Law of Moses or contrary to Roman law. The purpose of the question appears to be similar to the question about paying taxes found in Mark 12:13-17. Either answer, yes or no, will support the Pharisees' case against Jesus.

Jesus avoids the trap, however, by offering an answer that was not anticipated by those who posed the question. Jesus, after writing on the ground with his finger, addresses those who stand before him and suggests that the one without sin cast the first stone. Jesus then returns to his writing. This Scripture reading, by the way, is the only evidence we have of Jesus writing. Yet there are no specific details about what he wrote.

We can easily imagine the scene as the Pharisees and the elders disperse, one by one. Jesus has eluded the trap they had prepared. We might also give credit to the elders and the Pharisees who do not, in the end, claim to be sinless and worthy of passing judgment. These Pharisees are not as self-righteous as the portrait found in the parable of the pharisee and the tax collector (See Luke 18:9-14).

Left alone with the woman, Jesus asks where the accusers have gone. With no one remaining to condemn the woman, Jesus (the one who truly is without sin) sends the woman on her way, refusing to pass judgment on her and exhorting her to avoid future sin.

Jesus' response to those who accuse the woman is more than a caution to us about making judgment of others. It is a profound lesson in divine mercy and forgiveness. As sinners, we are all unworthy to judge the sins of others and we would stand convicted by God for our transgressions. Yet Jesus, the one without sin and thus our judge, offers us who are sinners his mercy and forgiveness. Redeemed by Jesus' compassion, we are sent to sin no more and to live in God's love and peace.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS GRAND IN THE HAND – 2ND DRAW:

The 2ND Grand in the Hand tickets cost \$10. The draw date is May 6, 2025. To purchase tickets, call Dave @709-640-2819, Garry @709-660-6316 or Brian @ 709-630-0611.

April 6th, 2025
5th Sunday of Lent

Sacred Heart Parish
A Stewardship Parish in Union with Christ



Parish Information

Pastor: **Fr. Lee Lainey**

Office Administrator: **Roseann Janes**

Office Hours: **Monday to Friday 9:00 am - 1:00 pm**

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Password "Church"
Note: include your envelope #

Diocesan website: rcchurch.com

Weekend Masses: Saturday 4:30 pm, Sunday 11 am.

Weekday Mass: Tuesday to Friday 10a.m.
Daily mass is cancelled & Office Closed any day schools are closed due to bad weather.

<u>Lohnes Complex*</u>	First Friday of each month - 2 pm *Note: No mass at the church on this day.
<u>Bible Study:</u>	To be determined at a later date.
<u>Holy Hour of Adoration:</u>	Postponed until further notice.
<u>Reconciliation:</u>	By request.
<u>Marriages:</u>	Six months' notice required. A year's notice is recommended.
<u>Baptisms:</u>	Please call the Parish Office to schedule preparation session.
<u>Family Connections:</u>	At www.rcchurch.com you will find a link to family connections.
<u>St. Vincent de Paul:</u>	To assist those in need. Call 709-638-9010.

RECEIVED WITH THANKS Mar. 29 - 30	
Regular Sunday	1447.00
Loose Offering	88.40
Building Fund	60.00
Lenten Folders	140.00
Mass Stipends	20.00
Votive Candles	50.00
In Memory & Easter Flowers	35.00
St. Vincent de Paul	38.00
Living with Christ	27.85

MASS INTENTIONS Apr. 8 - 13	
Apr. 8	NO MASS – Father at Seminar
Apr. 9	No Morning Mass Chrism Mass 7pm – Holy Redeemer
Apr. 10	The Late Pierre & Margaret Antle
Apr. 11	The Late Amelia Rolls Special Intention: Joseph Power
Apr. 12	The Late Arthur Parsons
Apr. 13	The Late Jackie Griffin

LITURGICAL MINISTERS	
April 12 – Palm Saturday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Linda Tarbett	Don Gallant
Passion: (N) Jerome Dicks (S) Tony Griffin	
April 13 – Palm Sunday	
Reader	Eucharistic Minister
Basil English	Brian Sparkes
Passion: (N) Veronica Stone (S) Mike Leonard	
Communion to the Sick – Tony Griffin	

STATIONS OF THE CROSS: Is every Friday after morning mass, including Good Friday.

IN MEMORY of Mary E. Sooley:
From Elizabeth Clarke & Peggy Byrne

CHOIR PRACTICE: Practice for Palm Sunday and Easter Week will be held on Sunday April 6th at 1:30pm in the church.

SACRED HEART LADIES GROUP MEETING:
The next meeting will be on Tuesday, April 8th at 6:30 in the church community room. New Members are always welcome.

GIFT CARD TREE:
As you know we are still collecting **gift cards/certificates or cash donations** towards the Gift Card Tree. The funds raised is to be used for our new oil tank system which is about \$8000. Any amount you can donate is greatly appreciated, we have \$1,800 collected and will be accepting donations until the middle of April. The draw date is Father’s Day June 15th, 2025. Call the office if you would like to volunteer to sell tickets at the stores.

SACRED HEART LADIES GROUP BINGO:
The Sacred Heart Ladies Group would like to thank the following for their donation to the March Bingo: Brenda Griffin, Tony Griffin, Marie Mitchell, Brian Park, Jim Park, Mary Ann Park, Annette Rowsell, Mary Jo Perrett, Derm Traverse, Jackie Neville, Lynette Taylor, Linda Tarbett, Patsy Payne, Shirley McGrath, Edmund McGraw, Joan Penney Clara Joyce, Margaret McCarthy, Maxine Staples, Mona Specker, Glenda Neilson, Brenda Lewis, Eileen Moore, Bob Musseau, Sherry Musseau, Gen Quigley, Linda Randell, Kathleen MacDonald, Kim Preston, Von Hickey, Helen McCarthy, John Hayes, Joe Hayes, Ann McHugh, Joyce Nilsson, Margie Pennell, Veronica Stone, Lisa Myles Rita Woodman, and Karen Roche. We took in \$877.50 for Bingo and Ann McHugh was the winner for the March Draw.

REHERSALS FOR HOLY WEEK:
Thursday April 17th at 10a.m.
Friday April 18th at 10.a.m.
Saturday April 19th at 10a.m.

READERS FOR HOLY WEEK:
Holy Thursday – April 17th, 2025
Reader: Lynette Taylor
Good Friday – April 18th, 2025
Reader: Joan Penney
The Passion: Jacqueline Neville
Sherri Lynn Brake

Holy Saturday – April 19th, 2025
1st Reading: Art Hall
3rd Reading: Mike Leonard
5th Reading: Victor Murphy
7th Reading: Calvin Gillis
Epistle: Eileen Moore

MASS SCHEDULE – Holy Week
Holy Thursday – April 17th, 2025
– **Mass of the Lord’s Last Supper**
4:30 p.m. – Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish
7:00 p.m. – Sacred Heart Parish

Good Friday – April 18th, 2025
– **Celebration of the Lord’s Passion**
10:30 a.m. – Stations of the Cross
– Sacred Heart Parish
3:00 p.m. – Sacred Heart Parish
5:00 p.m. – Our Lady Star of the Sea

Holy Saturday – April 19th, 2025
– **Easter Vigil – The Lord’s Resurrection**
9:00 p.m. – Sacred Heart Parish

Easter Sunday – April 20th, 2025
– **The Lord’s Resurrection**
9:30 a.m. – Our Lady Star of the Sea Parish
11:00 a.m. – Sacred Heart Parish

SHARE LENT CAMPAIGN:
This weekend during Lent, please give generously. Help create hope for and fulfil the dreams of the communities we support in the Global South by giving to your Share Lent parish collection or online at devp.org/give. Thank you for your solidarity!

GOOD FRIDAY COLLECTION:
This collection is traditionally taken for the Church’s ministry in the Holy Land. Considering all the disruptions, and the consequent plight of the Christian community and Holy Sites, and the ongoing hostilities, the Pope is making a special appeal for you to be generous in your response. This collection will help alleviate some of the hardship caused by lack of pilgrims and tourists to the area. Thank you for your compassion and generosity.

Reflection: *Mercy*

The quality of mercy is not strain’d;
it droppeth as the gentle rain from heaven
upon the place beneath.
It is twice blest:
it blesseth him that gives and him that takes.
‘Tis mightiest in the mighty;
it becomes the throned monarch
better than his crown.
It is enshrined in the hearts of kings.
It is an attribute of God himself.
And earthly power doth then show likest God’s
when mercy seasons justice.
Therefore, though justice be thy plea,
consider this – that in the course of justice
none of us should see salvation.
We do pray for mercy,
and the same prayer doth teach us all
to render the deeds of mercy.

(William Shakespeare)
Flor McCarthy, New Sunday and Holy Day Liturgies – Year B,
Dominican Publications, Dublin (Ireland), 1999, p.99