

LAETARE SUNDAY

Our meditation of the word of God today is about a well-known gospel, the gospel of the prodigal son. But this gospel can also be called the gospel of the prodigal Father. It can also be called the parable of the two siblings. In that case, we can refer to the Book of Genesis, where the history of salvation is marked by a tragic fact: Cain, who out of jealousy, murders his brother Abel. However, for the meditation of today's gospel, let's focus more on the father, I mean the Father. God is Father, that means Love. He is the Father of the prodigal sons. First, He dismantles His property. Second, He offers the greatest banquet of His life. He becomes literally mad of joy and "cannot" control Himself in giving. He is a God-who-does-everything so that something good happens in us. Ultimately, He enters into dancing. For the younger son as for the older, the Father has the same attitude. He organizes a feast, a party, regardless of the circumstances of both sons. Both sons are cruel, inhumane, selfish, and self-centered. The Father is their total opposite. What a Father! Parents give birth to children, but they don't give birth to their hearts. That means no matter how good parents are, children don't always resemble them.

**LENTEN THEME & DAILY PRAYER
FOR THIS YEAR**

"Lord, If You Remember Our Sins, Who Will Be Saved". (from Ps 103).

This is our communal daily prayer, and also the end of every homily. It's a prayer of forgiveness not based on our merit, but solely on God's grace and His plan for our salvation.

DEANERY PENANCE SERVICES FOR LENT

Our Lady of Abingtons-Mon. 4/7 at 6pm

Our Lady of Snows/St. Gregory-Wed. 4/9 at 6pm

St. John Vianney—Thurs. 4/10 at 6pm

Nativity BVM—Mon. 4/14 at 6pm

LENTEN SERIES

"Falling in love with the book of Revelation"

Every Friday of Lent, after the Stations Of The Cross (6 pm), we will gather in the church's hall (6:30 pm), for Soup And Scriptures. This year, the famous book of Revelation will lead us to Easter on our journey to repent.

Friday April 4: St Patrick

Friday April 11: SML

SOUPS FOR FRIDAY APRIL 4 AT SP

SP parishioners, we need 5 soups for Soup & Scripture. If you can bring hot soup in a crock pot this Friday, please call the office at OLA (570-563-6122) to let us know.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday

At St. Patrick Church

6pm

Good Friday

At St. Mary of the Lake Church

1pm

Holy Saturday

At Our Lady of the Abingtons Church

8pm

LENT AND LENTEN REGULATIONS

ASH WEDNESDAY & GOOD FRIDAY: These are days of Fast and Abstinence from meat (or one full meal between the age of 18 and 59 inclusive).

DAYS OF ABSTINENCE: All Fridays of Lent(age 14)

WEEKDAYS OF LENT: There is no obligation to fast.

However, voluntary works or acts of charity and self-denial are highly recommended.

SPIRITUAL ADVICE FOR LENT

Some people cannot fast (food intake) So, are you looking for a different way of fasting? Please consider this:

Fasting from hurtful words: Entertain instead words of blessings.

Fasting from gossip and unnecessary criticism: Cultivate kindness in our soul.

Fasting from bitterness: Learn to know who or what hurts you.

Fasting from selfishness: Sacrifice your OWN need once in a while.

Fasting from dissatisfaction: Stop comparing yourself to others (you are unique).

Fasting from anxiety and worry: Trust that God knows the number of your hairs.

Please this Lent, ask God to help you know your heart.

SML EASTER CANDY SALE

SML parishioners will be selling their handmade Easter Candy at OLA on April 5 and at SP on April 6. There are order forms available at all our churches. The final day for placing order will be April 6. Any questions call Dorothy at 570-378-2530 or Loretta at 570-378-2256.

SML RAFFLE

FOR THE CAPUCHIN SISTERS FOOD FUND

Tickets will be on sale after Mass at St. Mary's on March 23, 30, and April 6. Chances are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. The drawing will take place after Mass on April 6. Any questions call Pat at 570-575-6266.

MAY THEY REST IN PEACE

There were 2 funerals at OLA this past week. David Gruss, son of Eleanor Gruss and Vito Shimkus. Please pray for the repose of their souls & the consolation of their loved ones.

LITURGICAL MINISTERS / LECTORS SCHEDULE

April 5 & 6

Eucharistic Ministers

4 pm (OLA) Nikki Weisenfluh
9:00am (SML) Sean Pieretti
11 am (SP) Sue Stutzman

Musicians

4 pm (OLA) Maria Fay
9:00am (SML) Danny Williams
11 am (SP) Maria Fay

Lectors

4 pm (OLA) Becky Mozeleski
9:00am (SML) Nick Migliori
11 am (SP) Mary Ann Mulfino

Altar Servers

11am (SP) Maci Harvatine
Shadow – Nolan Matulevich

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

April 1 – Town Hall Mtg at SML Hall at 6pm
April 3 – Prayer Shawl Ministry at SML, 5:30pm
April 3 – First Communion Retreat at SP, 4:30pm
April 4 – Stations, Soup & Scripture at SP, 6pm
April 5 – Exposition & Benediction at OLA at 2:45pm
April 7 – Lenten Penance Service at OLA, 6pm
April 7 – Disciples of Mary Mtg at SML, 6:45pm

SP/OLA FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

We are making an effort to get more kids to experience the story that the stations of the cross unfolds for us. We would like SP/OLA and their families to make every effort to attend and potentially participate in at least 1 of the stations of the cross events. It is a wonderful family faith formation Lenten activity everyone in your family can enjoy! **ALL** students from grade 3 thru confirmation are expected to attend the Penance Service at OLA, 6pm in preparation for Easter. **Palm Sunday:** SP/OLA students and families please plan to attend mass. We will have the kids process with palms at the beginning of mass then return to sit with their families. **Donations Needed:** SP/OLA Family Faith Formation is seeking donations to help fill our Easter Eggs for our annual Easter Egg hunt on April 13. Treats can be left in any of our churches or the parish office. Thank you!

April 3 – First Communion Retreat at SP, 4:30pm

April 6 - Class

April 7 – Mandatory Penance Service at OLA, 6pm

SML FAMILY FAITH FORMATION NEWS

Please prayerfully consider giving something up or adding something as a family. Stations of the Cross is a great opportunity!

April 3 – First Communion Retreat at SP, 4:30pm

April 6 – Class

April 7 - Mandatory Penance Service at OLA, 6pm

MASS INTENTIONS

Tuesday (April 1) Lenten Weekday

8:00 am (OLA) Vito Shimkus

By Liz Dempsey

Wednesday (April 2) St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

8:00 am (SP) Ben Adams

By Chris & Stephanie Adams

Thursday (April 3) Lenten Weekday

8:00 am (SML) Ellen Wengen

By Pat Wall

Saturday (April 5) The Vigil of The Fifth Sunday of Lent

4:00 pm (OLA) Healing & Blessings for Frank Chuff

By Rita & Tony Sandy

Sunday (March 30) The Fifth Sunday of Lent

9:00 am (SML) John Zdaniewicz

By Disciples of Mary

11:00 am (SP) Deceased Members of the Mulfino & Dalton Families

By Mary Ann Mulfino

The Sanctuary Candle at SP

Burning this week for Patricia Abbiate

by John & Pat Marrazzo

WEEKLY OFFERINGS (COLLECTIONS FOR 2 WEEKS)

SP Weekly \$ 3,282.00 Loose \$ 246.00

OLA Weekly \$ 2,970.00 Loose \$ 162.00

SML Weekly \$ 3,108.00 Loose \$ 376.00

May the Lord reward your generosity.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS # 6611

EASTER FLOWER SALE

Our Knights of Columbus is conducting its annual Easter Flower sale this weekend and the weekend of April 5 and 6. There are beautiful lilies, tulips, mums and hyacinths for sale for \$12 each or 3 for \$35. Order yours today or next weekend and they'll be available for pickup after Mass on the weekend of April 12 & 13 at all churches.

NICHOLSON'S 150TH YEAR CELEBRATION VINTAGE FASHION SHOW

The Vintage Fashion Show will take place at St. Patrick's Hall on April 27 at 1pm. If you have any vintage clothes or would like to be a model, please call Jane Decker at 570-942-6078.

IMPORTANT MEETING AT SML

The newly formed Finance Councils of the 3 Parishes met this past week and an important meeting is scheduled for this coming Tuesday April 1st at 6 pm at SML hall for all SML Parishioners about the renovation of the hall. Please come and give your suggestions for this project that will start very soon. We intend to finish the renovation before the beginning of the next school year.

SAINTS LIFE WITH THE EUCHARIST

Saint Ita, on one occasion, prayed that she might receive the Holy Eucharist from a worthy priest. She was then transported miraculously by an angel to a certain location in which a holy priest gave her the Sacred Host.