

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 17, 2024



## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**First:** Jeremiah 31:31-34

**Second:** Hebrews 5:7-9

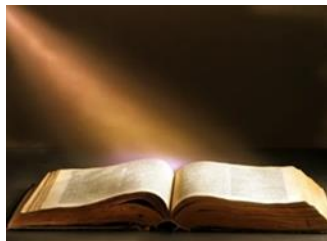
**Gospel:** John 12:20-33

**FOCUS:** *Choose the path of surrender in service to the Lord.*

We want to serve the Lord, but we also want to enjoy our lives and ensure that our children and grandchildren have a good life. In today's Gospel, Jesus challenges us to choose the Lord first, and the Father will honor whoever serves him. Choosing the path of surrender in service to him glorifies God and allows us to produce much fruit, including care for our own families.

## LITURGY OF THE WORD:

Jeremiah prophesies the Lord will one day establish a new covenant with his people whereby he will write his law "upon their hearts." The author of Hebrews says that Jesus' prayers and supplications were heard because of his reverence. In the Gospel, Jesus tells his disciples that the time for him to fulfill his purpose is upon him.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**5 p.m.:** Charlie Quinn, Dolores Townley and Anna Regino

**10 a.m.:** Frances Hernandez, Joe Britto and Clare Costello

## LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

Saturday – 97

Sunday – 132



## SECOND IN THE SERIES TO START

Following Christ is the second part of the ChristLife evangelization process. It is designed to help people who have completed the Discovering Christ course to grow in friendship and union with God; however, participation in the prior course is not a requirement. Following Christ examines how to live as Catholic disciples of Jesus Christ in today's world, based on basic disciplines and truths that have been practiced by Christians from the time of the early Church. Each weekly session includes four components: Prayer, video teaching, group discussion and practical applications.

Following Christ starts at 5 p.m. **Sunday April 7.** It encompasses seven weekly sessions at St. Paul's and a day retreat in Pilgrim Hall at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. If a session is missed, that week's video can be provided. The weekly topics, as well as focus of the retreat, are as follows:

1. Introduction and Daily Personal Prayer
2. Hearing God in Scripture
3. The Power of the Sacraments
4. Forgiving One Another
5. The Spirit-Empowered Life
6. We Are At War Retreat
  - o The World
  - o The Flesh
  - o The Devil
7. The Heart of a Disciple
8. Going On with the Lord

For more information or to register, contact the church office at 845-361-3107; Mark Carson at 845-551-2530 or [carsonmark224@gmail.com](mailto:carsonmark224@gmail.com); or Kate Carson at 914-850-5107; [ktgcarson@gmail.com](mailto:ktgcarson@gmail.com)

## LENTEN SCHEDULE

### **Stations of the Cross with Adoration**

7 p.m. Friday, March 22

### **Reconciliation Monday - March 25**

Confessions 2-4 and 6-8 p.m.

at Our Lady of Mount Carmel only

### **Holy Thursday**

Mass at 7 p.m., followed by Adoration

### **Good Friday Service**

3 p.m.

### **Blessing of Easter Food**

Noon on Holy Saturday, March 30

### **Easter Vigil**

8 p.m. Mass, Saturday, March 30

### **Easter Sunday**

10 a.m. Mass, March 31

## IN THE LOOP

✓ The deadline to remember deceased loved ones with a contribution toward Easter flowers is this **Monday, March 18**. There are envelopes in the church vestibules, and the usual donation is \$10 per name. If you donate via WeShare, be sure to provide the office with the names to be included in the booklet.

✓ **The Encountering Jesus Women's Retreat**, sponsored by Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Columbiettes, begins at 9 a.m. next Saturday, **March 23**, in OLMC's Parish Center, with optional adoration from 8-8:45 a.m. in the church. The cost is \$15, includes lunch and should be prepaid. For more information, call 845-343-4121.

✓ **St. Joseph's Day for Vocations** for young men in eighth through 12<sup>th</sup> grades runs from 8:30 a.m.- 2 p.m. next Saturday, **March 23**, at St. Joseph's Seminary in Yonkers. The day includes workshops, meeting the priests and seminarians and Mass with Cardinal Dolan. For more information or to register, visit [nypriest.com](http://nypriest.com).

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT: STEWARDSHIP

**"I will be their God and they shall be my people."  
- Jeremiah 31:33**

What does it mean to be God's people? It means we recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to God.

We aren't "owners" of anything, we are merely "stewards" of the gifts God has given us. It means we are willing to use our gifts and our lives to care for our family, our neighbors and for people we don't know, just as God cares for each of us.

## CARDINAL'S 2024 APPEAL

We are more than three-quarters of the way there! Our parish goal is **\$50,600**, of which **\$ 38,785** has been received/pledged as of March 12 from **86** families, and it reflects Commitment Weekend. If you have not done so already, please prayerfully consider your gift, which helps countless people and can be made online at [www.cardinalsappeal.org](http://www.cardinalsappeal.org). Thank you.



**the**  
**CARDINAL'S**  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL  
*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout  
the Archdiocese of New York*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

**March 3-10: \$ 8,091.65**

Envelopes: \$ 2,642.60 – Online: \$ 5,449.05

**THANK YOU!**



## THEY ROSE TO THE OCCASION!

Bread is a rich symbol of our faith and a staple at our **First Eucharist Retreats**.

Bread symbolizes life. Bread symbolizes feasting together. And most importantly, Jesus broke bread at the Last Supper and said: "This is my body."

As he has done over the years, Mr. Rick (Dzurilla) opened the retreat last Saturday with a lesson in bread-making. The 10 children gathered around as he told them how Jesus will lift up their lives just as the yeast lifts up the bread.

He added the wet ingredients to the flour, mixed it a bit and had them touch the sticky dough. A few said, "Yuck," but they all agreed it was nice and warm. "I told them that is how they will feel after receiving the Body of Christ, and not just on their First Communion, but when they come to church every Sunday."

"The retreat offers many teaching moments," said Peg Hoblin, the new director of religious education, who was impressed by how enthusiastic and happy the children were.

Then it was their turn to make individual loaves. Not only did they love the feeling of the dough between their hands, but they were eager to assist one another.

While the dough was rising, the children were engaged by Tony Bellizzi, guest inspirational speaker and youth minister, who, like the yeast and flour, has become a retreat mainstay. Reactions were priceless upon seeing their loaves again, which had now risen during that presentation. "Wow! Look at my bread."

There was also time to make what have been described as quite creative banners, which will hang from the pews on May 11, the day they make their First Holy Communion.

After baking, the communal loaf was sliced and shared. The kids were impressed - and anxious to enjoy their bread with their families that evening.

And on Monday morning, small flour handprints on a door jamb were a joyful retreat reminder!



