

# FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 19, 2023



## THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

**First:** Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a

**Second:** Ephesians 5:8-14

**Gospel:** John 9:1-41

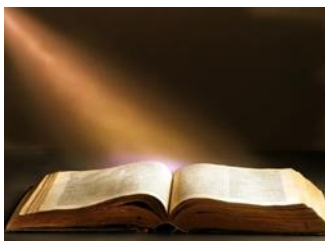
**FOCUS:** *Live as children of light, for light produces every kind of goodness.*

Sometimes doing God's will can seem strange, foolish or even wrong to others. Jesse assumed his youngest son couldn't be the next king, so David was left to care for the sheep when Samuel came. The Pharisees thought Jesus sinned by healing on the sabbath. Are we preoccupied with what others will think, or are we focused on doing God's will?

## LITURGY OF THE WORD:

God sends Samuel to anoint the new king of Israel. Samuel surprises everyone by calling for and anointing David, the youngest of Jesse's sons.

The Lord's Spirit rushed upon David. Saint Paul tells the Ephesians to live as children of light and expose darkness. In the Gospel, Jesus heals a blind man on the sabbath, breaking the sabbath rules.



## MASS INTENTIONS

**5 p.m.:** Charles Watson, Eileen Exiner and Wilma O'Rourke

**10 a.m.:** Frances Hernandez, Joe Britto and Charles F. Quinn

## LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m.: 93  
10 a.m.: 142

## A RECAP OF LAST WEEKEND

### First Eucharist Retreat on Saturday



At the three-hour **First Eucharist Retreat**, 10 youngsters got a hands-on lesson in breadmaking from Mr. Rick (Dzurilla) – who said the kids really loved it – especially making the sticky mess while combining the ingredients! They had to patiently wait as the bread rose enough to knead again, with the most-asked question of catechist Erinn Sansalone, her assistant Megan Maragliano and Jessica Carpino, the program's coordinator: "Can we eat our bread now?"

They also made the banners that will hang from their pews and learned a song to perform for their families on the day they make their First Holy Communion.

The children were engaged, too, by Tony Bellizzi, guest inspirational speaker and youth minister, who taught them his famous mantra: "God is good, all the time! All the time, God is good!"

And they left with warm bread in their hands, enriched by its symbolism – and finally ready to eat!

### **AFF Presentation on Sunday**

Fourteen people attended the Sunday-after-Mass presentation on **Spiritual Direction** and the **Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius** sponsored by the Adult Faith Formation Committee.

Spiritual Direction has long been available to lay people in the Church. It entails an individual meeting monthly with a trained Spiritual Director who listens and sheds light on the presence of God in the individual's life. The desire is to build a deeper and more intimate relationship with God under the guidance of the Holy Spirit.

The Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius have been around for nearly 500 years, but only since Vatican II have they been adapted so that lay people could participate without going away on a 30-day retreat. The Exercises involve meeting weekly with a trained director, praying through meditation and Scripture for an hour a day for 32 weeks. The focus initially is on God's unconditional love for us.

Several attendees were already familiar with Spiritual Direction and had seen or were currently seeing a Spiritual Director. Another parishioner had recently completed the Exercises and shared how she experienced the grace of feeling God's closeness. Thoughtful questions and enlightening discussion were also part of the hour presentation.

Call the office for further information about referrals if you sense God calling you to either of these offerings.

## HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

**Palm Sunday:** Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 1, and at 10 a.m. on Sunday, April 2. Children will process in with palms.

**Reconciliation Monday:** Confessions will be heard from 2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. April 3 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middletown, NOT here.

**Holy Thursday:** Service will begin at 7 p.m. April 6 and will include foot washing. There will be signup sheets on the bulletin board.

Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows in the hall and continues until 11 p.m.

**Good Friday:** The Commemoration of the Lord's Passion will begin at 3 p.m.

April 7 and include Veneration of the Cross. There will be no Stations of the Cross nor evening service.

**Blessing of Easter Food:** In the tradition of many Eastern European nations, Deacon Carl will bless baskets of Easter food at noon on Holy Saturday, April 8, in Deacon John Hall.

**Easter Vigil:** The Vigil Mass will begin at 8 p.m. on Saturday, April 8.

**Easter Sunday:** Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m.



March 31, 2023

## PRAYER SERVICE FOR HEALING, HOPE & PEACE

Hosted by the youth of St. Paul's Church.

OPEN TO ALL

There is a place just  
for you.



Scripture, song and prayer.

St. Paul's R.C. Church  
2800 Route 17k,  
Bullville, NY  
Friday, March 31, 2023  
7pm - 8pm

For more information, email:  
saintpaulsym@gmail.com

*"O Lord, make this Lenten season  
different from the other ones.  
Let me find you again.  
Amen."*

*- Henri Nouwen  
- Dutch priest and writer*

## TREASURER'S REPORT

March 5-12: Totaled \$ 7,705.09

Envelopes: \$ 3,242.00 – Online: \$ 4,463.09  
THANK YOU!

## CARDINAL'S APPEAL UPDATE

From supporting needy parishes and religious education to mission and charitable works, your generosity makes a difference. As of last Thursday, March 16, \$ 31,725 toward our goal of \$45,500 has been received/pledged by 79 families. This includes Commitment Weekend. Thank you.



the  
**CARDINAL'S**  
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

*Sharing God's Gifts Throughout  
the Archdiocese of New York*

## PRAYER SERVICE PRACTICE

All third- through 12<sup>th</sup>-graders are invited to participate as lectors, singers and ushers in the **Youth Ministry's Prayer Service for Healing, Hope and Peace** at 7 p.m. March 31.

Rehearsals will take place in the church after Mass on Sunday, March 19, and again on March 26.

## WOMEN'S RETREAT AT OLMC

The Columbiettes of Our Lady of Mount Carmel parish are sponsoring a Women's Retreat to which women of St. Paul's are invited. Sr. Terry Rickard will present "**A Woman's Encounter with Jesus: Healing and Freedom**" from 9 a.m.-noon on **April 1**. The cost is \$10, and there are registration forms to take on the bulletin boards in the church vestibules.

## SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

**PINE BUSH ACCOUNTING**  
112 B Main St., Pine Bush NY 12566  
**845-744-5150**  
Income Taxes • Accounting  
Bookkeeping • Payroll & More  
[www.pinebushaccounting.com](http://www.pinebushaccounting.com)

