

4th Sunday of Lent

MARCH 27, 2022



THIS WEEKEND'S READINGS

First: Joshua 5:9a, 10-12
Second: 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
Gospel: Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

FOCUS: We have been reconciled to the Father through the Son.

We can rejoice in today's theme of God's forgiveness and mercy. He led the Israelites to the Promised Land; he has reconciled us to himself through Christ; and he is always ready to forgive, awaiting us with open arms to come and rest in his love.

LITURGY OF THE WORD: In the first reading, the Israelites celebrate Passover in Gilgal, feasting on the produce of the land. Saint Paul writes: Whoever is in Christ is a new creation, for God has reconciled us to himself through Christ. In the Gospel, Jesus addresses a parable to the Pharisees and scribes. The parable is of a father and his two sons, the younger of whom squanders his inheritance but returns home to be welcomed by his father.



MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday: Victoria Mercado, Eileen Exiner and Michael Slaughter
Sunday: Romaine Melnick, Stanley Lewis and Scott Hilgenfeldt

TREASURER'S REPORT

March 20-27: Totaled \$ 5,178.93
Envelopes: \$ 2,305.00 – Online: \$ 2,873.93
THANK YOU!

WHAT IS HOLY WEEK ...

...and what should Christians do to properly recognize and participate in it?

Good Friday: The Celebration of the Lord's Passion is a somber liturgy with three major parts: The proclamation of the Passion, the Veneration of the Cross and the reception of Holy Communion. In addition, there is an extended set of General Intercessions with 10 petitions for some of the most important concerns for the Church and the world.

Symbols: The symbol of Good Friday is the crucifix, a cross with a corpus or body of the crucified Jesus. Other artistic forms of the cross are also commonly used. For the symbols of the Passion, see "Passion Sunday" in the March 13 bulletin.

Action Items: It is worthwhile to set aside some silent time, particularly between the hours of noon and 3 p.m. Be sure that at least one crucifix is prominently displayed in the home, because veneration of the cross is not just for Good Friday, but for every day. It is an ideal day to offer Jesus a prayer of thanks for all he suffered on our behalf, and to renew our pledge to avoid the sins that we have committed that put him on the cross. Our Celebration of the Lord's Passion is scheduled for 3 p.m. on Good Friday



CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to Charles and Victoria Brush upon the recent death of his mother, Dorothy Brush. Please keep them in your prayers.

—●●●—
*"During Lent,
let us find concrete ways
to overcome our indifference."*

-Pope Francis

CARDINAL'S APPEAL UPDATE

From supporting needy parishes and religious education to mission and charitable works, your generosity makes a difference. As of last Friday, March 18, \$ 30,655.80 toward our goal of \$45,500 has been received/pledged by 79 families. This does NOT include Commitment Weekend. Thank you.



the
CARDINAL'S
ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP APPEAL

Sharing God's Gifts

A CALL TO JUSTICE

“On Holy Ground”

By **Christina Leaño**

More than two years ago, I was in a church in New York City preparing to join the global climate strikes.

There was a man passing out green buttons that said, “You’re on holy ground. Act like it.” The button

was a reminder of God’s words to Moses near the burning bush. It was also a reminder that “The universe ... shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God” as Pope Francis says in *Laudato Si’*. (*Laudato Si’* 86)

What would it mean to act as if we are on holy ground? We might imitate Moses in front of the burning bush. We can take off our “shoes” by becoming humble, acknowledging our humanness before God, and being open to receive.

Then we can lean in and listen.

Often when we see something burning, whether figuratively or physically, our instinct is to go the other direction. Yet God asked Moses (and us) to do the opposite: To come closer.

And then we are to act, as God called forth Moses to lead the Israelites to liberation. We are called to respond concretely to “the cry of the earth and the cry of the poor.” (*Laudato Si’* 49)

I reflect on this notion of holy ground after hearing the appeal from Ukrainian Archbishop Sviatoslav Shevchuk to end the war against his country. He declared that this war was not just a humanitarian catastrophe. “It is an irreversible attack on God’s creation that for decades, for centuries, will be impossible to correct.”

You’re on holy ground. Act like it. Stop this war. For the suffering of the people. For the suffering of the earth.

This Lent, may we lean in to listen to the cries of this holy ground and be courageous enough to act. Even if we, like Moses, feel ill-equipped, may we trust in the “I am” who is sending us.

Christina Leaño is associate director of the Laudato Si’ Movement, with a mission to inspire and mobilize the Catholic community to care for our common home and achieve climate and ecological justice.

AID TO UKRAINE

As of last weekend, **\$3,565** has been collected for Ukraine. As requested by the Archdiocese of New York and “to allow the Church in the United States to be a strong partner in the rebuilding and restoring of the Church in Ukraine and to give critical humanitarian aid now,” your contributions will be forwarded, in one check, to the Archdiocese this week.

Your generosity illustrates what makes St. Paul’s so special.

IN THE LOOP



Like to work with yarn – and perhaps spin a yarn or two in the process? Our **knit-and-crochet group** will resume monthly meetings at 6:30 p.m. next Friday, April 1. Bring a work in progress or materials to start something new. Help will be available. Contact Rebecca Suchy at rebsuchy@frontiernet.net for info.



Do you know someone who is carrying the grief of a past abortion? A “Day of Prayer and Healing,” sponsored by the Sisters of Life, offers the opportunity to experience the love and mercy of God and to respond to his invitation to begin the journey of healing. Upcoming dates in the New York City area are April 30 and May 21. For more information - or to just talk to a sister - call (866) 575-0075, visit www.sistersoflife.org or email hopeandhealing@sistersoflife.org

HOLY WEEK AND EASTER SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday: Vigil Mass at 5 p.m. Saturday, April 9, and Sunday Masses at 9 and 11 a.m. April 10. Children will process in with palms.

Reconciliation Monday: Confessions will be heard from 2-4 p.m. and 6-9 p.m. April 11 at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church in Middletown, NOT here.

Holy Thursday: Service will begin at 7 p.m. April 14 and will include foot washing.



There is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board outside of Deacon John Hall for those who wish their feet to be washed. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows in Deacon John Hall and continues until 11 p.m.

Good Friday: The Commemoration of the Lord’s Passion will begin at 3 p.m. April 15 and include Veneration of the Cross. Note that 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 16, in Deacon John Hall.

Easter Vigil: The Vigil Mass will begin at 8 p.m.

Easter Sunday: There will be only **ONE** Mass on Easter Sunday – at 10 a.m.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

SHEAR ILLUSIONS
Family Hair Salon
Open Tues.-Sat. **845-744-6435**
99 Depot St., Pine Bush
Barbara
Annie Ercolani - Parishioner
& Catechist Teacher

