
FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARCH 30, 2025



First Reading – Joshua 5:9A, 10-12.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 34

Second Reading – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Gospel – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

The Fourth Sunday of Lent Year C offers lessons about God's mercy and love:

God's Mercy: In the Gospel, the father welcomes back his lost son. This shows God's endless mercy for those who repent.

Reconciliation with God: Paul tells us that through Christ, God reconciles the world to himself. We are called to be reconciled with God and others.

New Creation in Christ: Paul teaches that anyone in Christ is a new creation. The old is gone and the new is here, showing God's power to renew.

Joy of Forgiveness: The parable of the Prodigal Son highlights the joy of forgiveness. Both the father and the son experience joy when forgiveness is given and received.

Celebration of Renewal: The Israelites celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land. This marks a new beginning and God's fulfillment of his promises.

Generosity of the Father: The father in the Gospel generously forgives his son. This reminds us of God's generous and unconditional love.

This weekend we are encouraged to seek God's mercy and embrace new life in Christ, and to celebrate God's forgiveness and share it with others.

MASS INTENTIONS

5 p.m. Deacon John, José Antonio Tamarez
and Brenda Cipriani

10 a.m.: Jessica Lancellotti, Stephanie Barth,
Nancy & Peter Savastano
and Sabina Pidgeon-Shapiro

CONDOLENCES

We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Diane Bain, who died earlier in the week. Please keep them in your prayers.



DURING LENT ...

- ❖ Consider joining your fellow parishioners after Mass on Sunday to **reflect and share your thoughts about the Gospel reading**. Please note that you can still attend even if you did not sign up beforehand, and you do not have to attend every Sunday.
- ❖ **The Stations of the Cross** is a simple, yet powerful, way to prayerfully walk alongside Jesus. You will have that opportunity at 7 p.m. in the main church the Fridays of Lent, through April 11.
- ❖ The deadline to remember deceased loved ones with a contribution toward Easter flowers is **Monday April 7**. There are envelopes in the church vestibules, and the usual donation is \$10 per name. If you donate via WeShare, provide the office with the names to be included in the booklet.
- ❖ Reconciliation Monday is April 14. Confessions will be heard at Our Lady of Mount Carmel, not at St. Paul's.
- ❖ Holy Week signup sheets are on the bulletin board between the church and hall for Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, Altar Servers, Ushers, Greeters and participants in the Holy Thursday foot washing.
- ❖ In the Eastern European tradition, Deacon Carl will bless baskets of Easter food at noon on Holy Saturday, April 19.
- ❖ Volunteers are needed to help decorate the church for Easter. Meet at 11 a.m. on April 19 in the hall.

THE BREAD OF LIFE AND THE LIGHT OF THE WORLD: TWO RETREATS IN ONE DAY

The First Eucharist and Confirmation retreats were held simultaneously at St. Paul's in a day woven with symbolism and opportunities to grow in faith.

Last Saturday began for the Confirmandi in the main church as they prayed the Rosary with their catechist, Rebecca Suchy. In the hall, Mr. Rick (Dzurilla) opened the First Eucharist retreat with a hands-on lesson in bread-making for the kids, accented with smiles from their catechists, Jessica Carpino and Debbie Hilgenfeldt.

At the Last Supper, Jesus broke bread, a symbol of feasting together, and said, "This is my body." And together, we are one body in Christ.

Thus, "Together We Are One" became the theme of the midday activity that brought the two sacramental groups together as church community. Small groups with members from each retreat were sprinkled throughout several

classrooms so that along with conversation and laughter, they could decorate their crosses now found on the bulletin board in the hall, pictured here.

Separately, our youth minister, Chris Worthington, gave a witness talk about his journey back to God for the older group. They were also introduced to Chris Duffley via video, a young man who was born weighing just over a pound, blind and addicted to the drugs his mother was taking. He shouldn't have survived, but he thrived. By opening his musical gifts from God, he was able to soar. Everyone has gifts; what are yours, they were asked?



While their individual loaves baked, Tony Bellizzi, an inspirational speaker, addressed the younger children. At one point, he had them blow through a straw into a bowl of water. Bubbles appeared. Although invisible, soap had to be in the water – just like Jesus is invisible but present.

The unmistakably amazing smell of homemade bread lingers – and greeted the parents as they returned. Some even asked for the recipe. And those who will be making their First Holy Communion brought home their symbolic bread to share with their families.

Meanwhile in the church, the Confirmandi turned on the flashlights they were given, a symbol of the light of Christ that will be shining in them as they go into the world after Confirmation.

Peg Hoblin, the director of religious education who also addressed the older group, hoped that the combined retreats would offer teaching moments. Sounds like she got her wish!

TREASURER'S REPORT

Regular Sunday Collection

March 17-23 \$ **6,542.69**

Envelopes: \$ 2,086.00 – Online: \$ 4,456.69

LAST WEEK'S MASS ATTENDANCE

5 p.m. – 81

10 a.m. – 187

CARDINAL'S 2025 APPEAL

There are so many reasons why the Appeal is important. Your support helps countless people and sustains ministries throughout our parishes.

Our parish goal is **\$50,600**, the same as in 2024, of which **\$28,560** has been received/pledged from **66** families as of March 25. This does not include all donations made on Commitment Weekend. Please prayerfully consider your gift, which you can also make online at www.cardinalsappeal.org. Thank you.

