

THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

MARH 6, 2016

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come.
— 2 Corinthians 5:17

A SUNDAY FOR REJOICING

Today's Gospel story of the prodigal son is a favorite of many. The father's initial grief over his young son's avarice is turned to relief at his return. The son's grief over his loss of fortune, family, and friends is turned to delirious joy at the sight of his father. We understand the eldest son's bewilderment over his father's generosity. For the older son, virtue seems not to be its own reward. For all his honorable toil and loyalty, there seems to be no celebration. The father is prodigal in his forgiveness and mercy. He expects the same generosity from his older son. He wants all to rejoice when the lost one is found. This is a Sunday for rejoicing. We are the prodigal children heading home. We are the elder siblings waiting with the eager Father. In Christ Jesus we are reconciled to the Father and one another. In his death and resurrection we have passed over. We are a new creation.

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TODAY'S READINGS

First Reading — God's people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land
(Joshua 5:9a, 10-12) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

Psalms — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34) or Psalm 23.

Second Reading — We are now ambassadors for Christ
(2 Corinthians 5:17-21) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

Gospel — We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life
(Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

OUR GIFTS RECORD

	Offertory	Development
Last Week's Collection	\$1,819.00	\$2,559.00
Number of Families contributing	93	73
Total Pledge for 2016	\$172,351.00	\$185,388.00
Pledged to Date (9 Weeks)	\$29,910.00	\$33,022.00
Received to Date	\$23,677.80	\$21,240.80
Envelopes Outstanding	\$6,232.20	\$11,781.20

LADIES OFFERTORY RECORD

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$160.00	\$1,821.00

Sixteen ladies made a contribution last week.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL WEEKLY REPORT

2016 Parish Goal	
Amount Received to Date	\$533.00
Amount Outstanding	

One person made a B.A.A. contribution last week.

HALL RENOVATION FUND WEEKLY REPORT

Amount given last week	Amount given to Date in 2016
\$480.00	\$2,370.00

Seven people made a Hall Fund contribution last week.

PARKING LOT totaled \$10.00.

POOR BOX \$32.00.

BLACK & INDIAN HOME MISSIONS totaled \$120.00.

22 **CHILDREN** contributed \$65.00.

The **ATTENDANCE** for last Saturday 4:00 P.M. Mass was 215, 7:00 P.M. Mass was 95, and Sunday 10:00 A.M. Mass was 165.

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Jesus was driving out a demon...the crowds were amazed, but some of the people said, "It is Beelzebul, the chief of demons, who gives him the power." Luke 11:14-15

A retired couple was neither well off nor financially strapped. Their hobby was raising chickens and vegetables. Whenever someone came to buy fresh eggs or vegetables, they always charged full market price. They didn't give a penny discount—even to friends and neighbors. This caused some people to accuse them of being greedy. Later it was discovered that the retired couple gave all income from their vegetable and eggs to two poor families living nearby.

How prone am I to pass judgment—especially negative judgment—on the actions of people? How might I improve in this area?

If you judge people, you have no time to love them.

—Mother Teresa

FLOWERS IN THE CHURCH ARE OFFERED BY:

1. the Wife and Family of Pete "Curly" Riley in loving memory of him on the 5th Anniversary of his death;
2. Michael Jude and Alaina in thanks for Mike Thomas O'Hara on his 6th Birthday;
3. Catherine Jabber and Family in loving memory of Tommy Jabber Riley on the 23rd Anniversary of his death and his Birthday, and Joseph Pio Riley on the 39th Anniversary of his death and 47th Birthday; Jack Speedball Carroll on the 9th Anniversary of his death;
4. and a Parish Family Member in thanks to St. Expedite.

SPECIAL COLLECTION The second collection this weekend will be for *Catholic Relief Service*. Please be generous.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS during Lent, will be held every Friday after 7:00 p.m. Mass. The Stations of the Cross will be led on Friday:

March 11: Youth Group & Young Girls Group
March 18: Society of Mary Immaculate
March 25: Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion

ST. EDWARD RECONCILIATION SERVICES

R.E. CLASSES:—This Thursday, March 10th at 4:00p.m. for Grades 3rd thru 8th. Please be at the church 5 minutes before.

PARISH: Wednesday, March 16th 6:30p.m.

FIRST COMMUNION CLASS: Wednesday, March 23rd 4:00p.m.

THANK YOU to two Parish Family members for their donations in thanks to St. Expedite, St. Joseph and the Infant of Atocha; a member for a \$100 donation in thanks to God the Father and St. Expedite; a member for \$100 donation in thanks to the Holy Face of Jesus and St. Expedite; a member for a \$50 donation in thanks to the Sacred Heart; and thanks to St. Expedite, St. Joseph and St. Theresa the Little Flower.

MORNING AND EVENING PRAYER Thanks to the Legion of Mary, we will have Morning and Evening Prayer in the Church during Lent.

MORNING PRAYER Mon. thru Friday 9:30 a.m.
EVENING PRAYER Monday & Friday 6:30 p.m.
 Tues., Wed., & Thurs. 4:30 p.m.

HOLY WEEK Fr. Cherian requests that no parties be scheduled during Holy Week beginning Monday, March 21st until after the Easter Vigil Mass, March 26th.

WHO SAYS WE DON'T EXERCISE

1. We **JUMP** to conclusions.
2. We **THROW** our weight around.
3. We **TWIST** the truth.
4. We **STRETCH** the lies.
5. We **BEND** the rules.
6. We **PUSH** our luck.
7. We **LIFT** our egos.
8. We **RUN** from tough situations.

We are absolutely *FIT*. But still we are *FAT*; because we *EAT* our words so often.

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday: In loving memory of Pete "Curly" Riley on the 5th Anniversary of his death.
Tuesday: For Matt Edward on his Birthday.
Wednesday: In thanks for Mike Thomas on his 6th Birthday.
Thursday: In honor of the Holy Souls and St. Joseph.
Friday: In loving memory of Brian Benedict Carroll on his 27th Birthday.

SAINTS AND SPECIAL OBSERVANCES

Monday: Ss. Perpetua and Felicity
Tuesday: St. John of God
Wednesday: St. Frances of Rome
Friday: Abstinence

THE RICHES OF HIS GRACE

**Abundant in mercy and bountiful love,
 God gave us what we did not deserve.
 The greatest gift in all the world,
 His Son, who came to serve.**

**The power of His grace upon sinners like us,
 Reveals what God can do.
 And what a difference it makes in a person's life
 To have their heart renewed.**

**Secured by Christ we now live life anew,
 Running the victor's race.
 And how thankful we are to God above
 For the riches of His grace.**

Sharon Fuqua

READERS

Sat. Mar. 5th, 4:00 P.M. Christina & Mary Martha
Sat. Mar. 5th, 7:00 P.M. Mary Melissa & Carolyn
Sun. Mar. 6th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie
Sat. Mar. 12th, 4:00 P.M. Mary Theresa & Bridget Ann
Sat. Mar. 12th, 7:00 P.M. Mary Melissa & Carolyn
Sun. Mar. 13th, 10:00 A.M. Jimmy Joseph & Rose Marie

READERS – WEEKDAYS

Monday Erin
Tuesday Julie Ann
Wednesday Christina
Thursday Natalie
Friday Mary Cat

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS – WEEKEND

Saturday 4:00 P.M. **March 5th**
 Front Bridget Ann
 Front Left Mary Regina
 Left Cup Catherine Ann
 Front Right Rose Melissa
 Right Cup Ann T.
 Sick Rita Weaver

Saturday 7:00 P.M. **March 5th**
 Front Sharon
 Cup Jay

Sunday 10:00 A.M.

March 6th **March 13th**
 Pete Man's Nora Pete Man's Nora
 Rose Marie Rose Marie

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS - WEEKDAY

Monday Mary Cat
Tuesday Pete Man's Nora
Wednesday Ann T.
Thursday Betty Jo
Friday Bridget Ann

SMART QUESTION? When a man returned home exhausted from work, and was slumped in an arm-chair, his little son ran up to him and asked, "Dad, what do you do in the office the whole day?"

The father was so tired that he was not interested in the child's question, so he said, "Nothing." The boy stood there puzzled for a moment, and then asked,

"But how do you know when you are finished doing it?"

~~~~~**PRAYER CORNER**~~~~~

**DRAW ME INTO YOUR FRIENDSHIP**

Lord Jesus, from the start You invite ordinary people to come where You live. When they come, You welcome them and call them to labor and rejoice with You. You are the most beautiful among all men, and I hardly believe You want me for Your friend. You are powerful, Lord. Draw me more and more into Your friendship and lead me along the way You took with friends. Amen.