



SAINT PETER

ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Eucharistic Parish

Merchantville, NJ 08109



Served By

Rev. Timothy E. Byerley, Ph.D., Pastor
Rev. Francis D. Kim, Parochial Vicar
Rev. John D. Wasilewski, Parochial Vicar
Deacon Michael F. Scott
Mr. Joseph Saffioti, School Principal
Kathy O'Callaghan, Assistant Principal
Stephanie Vostenak, Coordinator of Religious Education
Bobbie Bradley, Senior Ministry Director
Sr. Philomena Leahy, F.D.N.S.C., Ministry to the Sick & Homebound

A Program for Catholic Living

MASS SCHEDULE	Saturday Evening	5:00pm
	Sunday	7:30, 9:00, 10:30am & 7:00pm
	Weekdays	6:45 & 9:00am
	Saturdays	9:00am
	Holy Days	watch the bulletin for schedules

Miraculous Medal Novena: Monday, 7:30pm - Rosary 7:05pm (except first Monday of the month which is a Mass of Reconciliation at 7:00pm)

Recitation of the Rosary: Monday through Saturday after 9:00am Mass

24 Hours Daily: Chapel of Perpetual Adoration of the Most Blessed Sacrament. Sign up for a holy hour. Call 856-665-4833 or 856-662-4338 or 856-304-2261

Information

Rectory: 43 West Maple Ave.
856-663-1373 Fax 856-488-0647
Rel. Educ.: 43 W. Maple Ave., 856-663-4490
Website: www.saintpetermerchantville.com
Senior Apostolate: 856-662-7577
School: 51 W. Maple Ave., 856-665-5879
Website: www.stpeterschool.org
Advancement Director: 856-665-5879

Education

ST. PETER SCHOOL

To register your children, please call the principal at 856-665-5879.
Religious Education: 856-663-4490
Public School CCD Classes
Kindergarten through 8th grade.
Tues. 5:30pm St. Peter School (all grades)

MARCH 31, 2019 - THE FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

Sacraments

SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM - Baptisms are celebrated every Sunday at 12:15pm. Parents are expected to attend a Pre-Jordan Baptism class. Please call the Rectory to register for a class so that we have adequate materials. Godparents and children are welcome to attend.

SACRAMENT OF MARRIAGE - In order to accommodate our own Parishioners, only Parishioners of St. Peter (Bride or Groom) will be able to be married in St. Peter Church. Couples planning to marry at St. Peter are expected to contact the priest to arrange a date and time first. Second, they must attend the Pre-Cana Conferences as mandated by the Bishop. The period of preparation for marriage is a minimum of six months to ensure completion of all arrangements before the wedding date. For Pre-Cana reservations call 663-1373. Only Parish Musicians are permitted for Wedding Masses. **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

SACRAMENT OF THE SICK - The priests may be called at any time day or night for the Sacrament of the Sick. Furthermore, the priests will be happy to visit the Sick with Holy Communion upon request.

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION - (Confessions) Saturday from 4:00-4:55pm and 7:30-8:00 pm or contact one of the priests.

FUNERALS - The proper form of Church burial for a baptized Catholic is the Mass of Christian Burial, not a service at a funeral home. Viewings in the Church are not permitted. Funeral Masses are scheduled at 10:00am. No eulogies in church, and only Parish Musicians are permitted for Funeral Masses, **NO EXCEPTIONS.**

New Parishioners - ALL ARE WELCOME - Please register with the parish... so we know who you are, so if you ever need a letter, etc., you're on record, so you can be on our mailing list, and most importantly, so we can serve YOU!





A Report on the Convocation



The Catholic leaders of South Jersey descended upon Atlantic City like a minor hurricane. There, in the “citadel of casinos”, we prayed, sang, reflected, listened, dialogued and grew in our appreciation

for the need to be missionary disciples compelled to bring Jesus to a hurting world.

Although the speeches and workshops were given by renowned Catholics, the interpersonal and collective dynamics were the most impressive qualities of the Convocation. To see so many committed Catholic leaders who desire to bring the Gospel to their parishes and beyond was very inspiring. A kind of momentum developed as the days passed. One can only see in it the grace of the Holy Spirit.

While the event had many positive aspects, I must say that I was particularly proud of our own parish delegates. Our discussions at each meal were profound and stimulating. I am very edified by their deep personal faith, their love for and fidelity to Christ’s Church, and their dedication to St. Peter’s. I really look forward to working with them on behalf of the parish in the months to come.

There was another special moment for us too. Throughout the convocation, several individuals from parishes around the diocese were selected to give their personal testimony of faith. Among them were our own parishioners, Mike and Kathy O’Callaghan. As they mounted the podium and told their story of faith, we all beamed with pride. They spoke of how they overcame great challenges of health and family life through prayer and the grace of God. Once again the caliber of parishioners we have here at St. Peter’s was on display for the entire diocese to see.

There was only one bad thing to report. On the last night of the Convocation, I tried to double last week’s collection at the roulette table at Harrah’s. Unfortunately, the luck of the Irish was not with me and I lost it all. So sorry! Now you will have to double your Sunday offering this weekend.

In any case, the delegates of St. Peter’s and I have returned with renewed zeal to bring a new spirit of evangelization home to our parish. I will keep you informed of our efforts as we develop our plans. Please pray that a new Pentecost will burst forth here in Merchantville and throughout South Jersey. May Our Blessed Mother be the catalyst of this revival.

*Our Lady, Star of the New Evangelization,
pray for us!*

Fr. Tim Byerley, Pastor



First row: Rosemari Dominiano, Mary Sohler, Charlotte Wiley, Gary Wiley, Fr. Tim, Julia Wakelee, Adrienne Bendu, Stellamaris Joseph
Second row: Anthony Schiavo, Stephanie Vostenak, Thomas Abate

Our Parish Delegates for the Convocation

Listed below are the names of your fellow parishioners who accepted the invitation and attended this ground-breaking endeavor in our diocese:

Thomas Abate
Adrienne Bendu
Rosemari Dominiano
Stellamaris Joseph
Anthony Schiavo
Mary Sohler
Stephanie Vostenak
Julia Wakelee
Charlotte Wiley
Gary Wiley

Miraculous Medal Novena

Monday Evenings

April 8 & April 15

Rosary at 7:05 PM

Novena Prayers at 7:30 PM



Confession Schedule

Saturdays

4:00 PM – 5:00 PM

7:30 PM – 8:00 PM



Holy Week Confessions

PLEASE NOTE EXTRA TIMES:

Saturday, April 13

3:30 PM – 5:00 PM

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Tuesday, April 16

9:45 AM – 10:30 AM

PLEASE NOTE:

NO EVENING CONFESSIONS

On Tuesday, April 16

Priests will be attending the Chrism Mass with
Bishop Sullivan

Wednesday, April 17

7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Holy Thursday, April 18

After Mass of the Lord's Supper

Holy Saturday, April 20

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM



Stations of the Cross

& Benediction

7:00 PM ~ Fridays of Lent

April 5 & April 12

Good Friday, April 19

Stations of the Cross and Veneration of the Crucifix

7:00 PM in Church

PLEASE NOTE:

We will not be having Living Stations of the Cross.

Perpetual Adoration

Our Adoration Chapel is open **24** hours a day. This offers you another opportunity during Lent to make a Holy Hour, if not daily, at least once a week.

Lenten Mass Schedule

6:45 AM Monday through Friday

9:00 AM Monday through Saturday



Mass for Peace & Reconciliation

in our Country & in the World

April 1 at 7:00 PM

Lenten Regulations

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted. Catholics from the age of 18 to the age of 60 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of Abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence “substantially” or as a whole is a serious obligation.

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of Penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as Penance. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, March 10, 2019 to the Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 16, 2019.

Adoration Chapel



*Consider spending an hour with our
Eucharistic King.*

He is waiting for you!

All hours are available most especially:

Sundays ~ Noon – 1:00 PM

Sundays ~ 5:00 PM – 6:00 PM

Tuesdays ~ 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Wednesdays ~ 10:00 PM – 11:00 PM

Fridays ~ 2:00 AM – 3:00 AM

Fridays ~ 3:00 AM – 4:00 AM

Fridays ~ 4:00 AM – 5:00 AM

Call Flora @ 665-4833 or Stacey @ 856-304-2261
or

Ben @ 662-4338 to schedule your hour.

Intercessory Rosary Group

Meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of each month

@ 3:00 PM in the Convent Chapel. *All are welcome!*



READINGS FOR THE WEEK



Sunday, March 31

Fourth Sunday of Lent

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

Monday, April 1

First: Isaiah 65:17-21
 Gospel: John 4:43-54

Tuesday, April 2

St. Francis of Paola, Hermit

First: Ezekiel 47:1-9, 12
 Gospel: John 5:1-16

Wednesday, April 3

First: Isaiah 49:8-15
 Gospel: John 5:17-30

Thursday, April 4

St. Isidore, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

First: Exodus 32:7-14
 Gospel: John 5:31-47

Friday, April 5

St. Vincent Ferrer, Priest

First: Wisdom 2:1a, 12-22
 Gospel: John 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday, April 6

First: Jeremiah 11:18-20
 Gospel: John 7:40-53

Sunday, April 7

Fifth Sunday of Lent

First: Isaiah 43:16-21
 Second: Philippians 3:8-14
 Gospel: John 8:1-11

FIRST MONDAY MASS OF RECONCILIATION

 **TOMORROW** 

April 1, 2019

6:30 pm – Rosary
 7:00 pm – Mass
 8:00 pm – Healing Prayer for Families and Individuals



Come and pray together for
 peace and reconciliation
 in our country, in our world, in our families.

Upcoming Baptismal Classes

Monday, April 29 & Monday, May 20

Class begins at 8:00 PM in the Senior Center.

You may schedule the Baptismal date at the class.

Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to register for a class so that we have adequate materials. Godparents are welcome, if able to attend. Both parents are encouraged to attend the class and children are welcome.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ALL GODPARENTS

- ✓ They are Baptized Catholic having received the Sacrament of Confirmation.
- ✓ They are 16 years of age or older.
- ✓ If single, they are living a chaste life, that is, not “living together” with someone.
- ✓ If married, the marriage is recognized by the Catholic Church.
- ✓ They attend Holy Mass every weekend and Holy Days of Obligation.

Parish Sick List

Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to add a loved one to the list. *You are kindly asked to inform the person that their name will appear in the Bulletin.*

Please pray for:



Fr. Ronan Murphy, Mildred Battista,
 Theresa Brown, Charlene Fitzmaurice Callahan,
 Maddox Carmona, Vincent Catania,
 Leo Cybulski, Ray Dick, Barbara DeFranco,
 Kathleen Ealer, Rose Marie Finnegan,
 Louis Grosso, Matthew Harrington,
 Maddie Harris, Donna Hartman-Maglio, Tim Hesser,
 Bridget Hopkins, Bill Hoover, Hailey Hunt, Joseph Jefferson,
 Lori Kauffmann, Henry Kwasniewski, Irving Lamb, Jr.,
 Joseph Lesniak, Rogelio Lopez, Pat Lyons, Joseph Manghan,
 Jim Maryanski, Scott McDowell, Mary Moran,
 Matthew Moran, Mary Narleski, Marilyn Ott, Frank Pedano,
 John Petrowsky, Bob Piekarski, Richard Saunders,
 James Shue, Raymond Smurlo, Theresa Smurlo,
 Mark Stevens, Traci Tambussi, Joe Teti, Alan Young.

May God heal them in mind, body and spirit!

Thank you for your prayers for our sick and shut-ins.

**PLEASE call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373
 when your loved one has recovered!**

 **40 DAYS FOR LIFE**

Began Ash Wednesday

continues through Palm Sunday

Join the peaceful, prayerful vigils outside the
 Cherry Hill Women's Center

502 N. Kings Hwy in Cherry Hill ~ 7 am to 7 pm

Please go to www.40daysforlife.com/cherryhill and sign up for an hour per week to pray for an end to abortion. Join a fellow St. Peter parishioner on Friday afternoons at 3 pm who will be praying her vigil at that time. Questions? Contact dorothyflegel@aol.com, or call 856-854-4520.



Mass Intentions

**Mass Celebrant Code: TB = Fr. Tim Byerley – JW = Fr. John Wasilewski – MS = Deacon Mike Scott*

Intentions:	Requested by:	*Mass Celebrant
Monday, April 1		
6:45 AM James & Anne Flynn	Estate	JW
9:00 AM Charles Cooney	Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Teel	JW
7:00 PM Peace & Reconciliation in the Country and in the World		TB
Tuesday, April 2		
6:45 AM Doris Rigg	Family	TB
9:00 AM Joe Catani	His Children	JW
Wednesday, April 3		
6:45 AM Stephen J. Tiver, Jr. & Family	Estate	JW
9:00 AM Louis Iozzi	Howie Family	FK
Thursday, April 4		
6:45 AM McMenamin & Mooney Families	Estate	TB
9:00 AM Intentions of Julia & Anastasia	DeRose Family	JW
Friday, April 5		
6:45 AM Protection and Defense of Newborns	A Parishioner	JW
9:00 AM Anthony Pizzotti	Dorofee Grandchildren	TB
Saturday, April 6		
9:00 AM Purgatorial Society		FK
5:00 PM George Figueroa	Dorofee Family	TB
Sunday, April 7		
7:30 AM Marie Berg	Carroll Family	FK/MS
9:00 AM Kathleen Pedrick	John & Karen Dunn	JW/MS
10:30 AM Parishioners of St. Peter Parish		TB
Francis, Rita & Bonnie Walker	Family	TB
Intentions of Fr. Ronan Murphy	Elizabeth Ranken	TB
Paul Andrew Stanton	Howson Family	TB
Deceased Pastors of St. Peter Parish		TB
7:00 PM Eleanor O'Brien	Estate	JW

Sanctuary Lamp in the Church

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the
Holy Souls in Purgatory
the week of March 31 – April 6
requested by A Parishioner.

Sanctuary Lamp in the Convent Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn in Memory of
Anthony Capaldo
the week of March 31 – April 6
requested by Vera Capaldo.

Sanctuary Lamp in the Chapel

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the
Holy Souls in Purgatory
the week of March 31 – April 6
requested by A Parishioner.

Father's **Q**uick **Q**uote: "Although we may be
able to do but little, the enemy nevertheless stands
most in awe of those whom he knows can fast."
~ *St. Francis deSales*

As you know, these weeks we have been appealing on behalf of Catholic Strong. Now the Diocese wants us to switch gears to the House of Charity – Bishop’s Annual Appeal. The House of Charity pledge cards are in the pews. If you are inspired to support the House of Charity this year please fill out a pledge card, which can be found in the pews this weekend.

Thank you for building up God's Kingdom in our Parish!



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April 3 – Team C



The Center will re-open
TOMORROW
Monday, April 1, 2019

Upcoming Youth Group Event



Call the rectory @ 856-663-1373 for more information.

Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass



(A light reception will follow in the parish hall.)
Registration forms are available at the Rectory.
Registration deadline is **May 6, 2019**. For more
information, please the Rectory @ 856-663-1373.

**IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM
Father Robert Hughes
Vicar General of the Diocese of Camden**

Re: Email Communications from Parish Staff
Please know that your parish priests and parish staff members will never contact you via email or ask that you provide them with gift cards or assist them financially in a crisis situation. If you receive an email which is seemingly being sent by a priest or staff member requesting financial assistance of any kind, please report it to the parish office immediately @ 856-663-1373.

Fr. Tim, Fr. John, Fr. Francis and their staff use the following email
saintpeter43@gmail.com
for official email correspondence.

REPORT SEXUAL ABUSE

An independent, toll-free number has been established by the Diocese of Camden to help callers report cases of sexual abuse by priests, deacons, religious, employees and/or volunteers. Calls are handled by a licensed clinical social worker. In accord with state law, cases of child sexual abuse are reported to the N.J. Division of Child Protection and Permanency and law enforcement.

For information or to inquire about counseling and support services, call
1-800-964-6588

Denuncie el Abuso Sexual

Un número telefónico gratuito e independiente ha sido establecido por la Diócesis de Camden para ayudar a las personas a denunciar casos de abusos sexuales por sacerdotes, diáconos, religiosos, empleados y/o voluntarios. Las llamadas son manejadas por un trabajador social clínico licenciado. De acuerdo a la ley del estado, los abusos de menores son reportados a la División de Protección de la Infancia y la Permanencia y a la policía.

Para más información o para obtener servicios de consejería y apoyo, llame al:
1-800-964-6588

TỔ CÁO LẠM DỤNG TÌNH DỤC

Địa Phận Camden có đặt để biệt lập một điện thoại miễn phí để cho những ai bị các linh mục, thầy phó tế, sơ, nhân viên hay tình nguyện trong giáo xứ lạm dụng tình dục trẻ em. Sẽ có nhân viên có bằng cấp làm việc xã hội và đáng tin cậy để nhận phôn và lắng nghe. Luật tiểu bang buộc phải báo cáo những trường hợp dưới vị thành niên bị lạm dụng tình dục tới cơ quan bảo vệ trẻ em. Muốn biết thêm chi tiết về hướng dẫn hay giúp đỡ xin gọi số điện thoại: **1 (800) 964-6588**

성폭행 신고 접수

사제, 부제, 수도자, 종업원, 혹은 자원 봉사자들에 의한 성폭행 사례 신고자들을 지원하기 위하여 무료 상담 전화가 캄든 교구에 설치되었습니다. 통화내용은 전문 상담 치료사에 의해서 신중히 처리됩니다. 뉴저지 법률에 의거, 어린이 성폭행 사례들은 뉴저지 아동 보호 및 관리부, 그리고 법률 집행부서로 보고 됩니다.

상담과 지원 서비스에 대한 기타 자세한 정보나 문의 전화는,

1-800-964-6588



Rediscover the Love in Your Marriage!

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their Marriages through Retrouvaille (Retro-VIE). If you know of anyone who could benefit from this program please pass it on. Couples learn to build communication skills and rediscover intimacy. Retrouvaille provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. **The next program in our area begins on the weekend of April 26 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Another weekend will be held in August.** For more information, or to register for one of our weekends, visit our website at:

www.HelpOurMarriage.org

or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

**Rachel's Vineyard Retreats
for Healing After Abortion**

Rachel's Vineyard is an extraordinary opportunity for any person who struggles with emotional and spiritual pain of past abortion(s). The weekend is a unique and effective process designed specifically to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God and will help your soul find a voice, and transform the pain of the past into hope. Rachel's Vineyard is a "therapy for the soul" which combines a unique and creative process for psychological and spiritual healing. The Rachel's Vineyard Retreat has been approved as a resource for post abortion healing by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. Check the website for upcoming retreats at the:

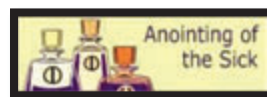
**National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
Doylestown, PA**

Please call Evelyn at (215) 317-5752 or at

www.rachelsvineyard.org for more information.

All requests are strictly confidential.

Important Reminders:



Please call the Rectory @ 856-663-1373 to request a Priest. **PLEASE** do not wait until the moment of death or an emergency to request this Sacrament of Healing and Health!

Arrangements can be made for those homebound Parishioners who would like to receive Holy Communion. Our Extraordinary Ministers are happy to serve your needs. Please call the Rectory to make arrangements.



Bishop Sullivan invites the faithful of the Diocese to join him and his priests for the Chrism Mass

April 16, 2019
4:00 PM
St. Agnes Church ~ Blackwood
(Our Lady of Hope Parish)

The Chrism Mass is a celebration of the priesthood and the occasion at which the Bishop consecrates the sacred oils used in the sacramental life of the Church. Your presence and prayerful support will be greatly appreciated.

Service Schedule

Extraordinary Ministers for April 6 - 7

5:00 PM	B. Boulger, K. Burns, B. Kwiatkowski
7:30 AM	C. Aghaji, J. Foster, T. Presenza, M. Ralbusky
9:00 AM	T. Fisher, K. Fisher, M. O'Callaghan, K. O'Callaghan
10:30 AM	K. Bailey, D. Binder, M. Deluhery, A. Lipenta, M. Pascale
7:00 PM	M. DiPiero, S. Joseph, C. McCoy, A. Naidas

Lectors for April 6 - 7

5:00 PM	A. Schiavo & D. Zwick
7:30 AM	C. Engine & A. Marinelli
9:00 AM	R. Curley & T. Curley
10:30 AM	P. Bilinsky, G. Wiley
7:00 PM	O. Rivera

Altar Servers for April 6 - 7

5:00 PM	Christopher Basso, Raymond Basso, Cole McLaughlin, Christian Stefanski, Julian Stefanski
7:30 AM	Devon Hamilton, Augustine Miller, Charlie Miller, Vincenzo Spinola
9:00 AM	Brian Dungee, Michael Esimio, Kristofer Froelich, Peter Gray, Aidan Riley
10:30 AM	John Paul Dunphy, Oliver Goldwasser, Anthony Marinelli, Giovanni Marinelli
7:00 PM	Brynn Deiwert, Andrew Rogers, Rachel Rogers, Bridget Twomey

Altar Servers for the Week of April 8

Monday – Tuesday – Wednesday

9:00 AM	Shane Wood-Embry & Devon Hamilton
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Monday Night Miraculous Medal Novena – 7:00 PM

Augustine Miller & Charlie Miller

Thursday – Friday – Saturday

9:00 AM	Brynn Deiwert, Jordyn Rendfrey & Cassidy Sweeney
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Pilgrimage to the
HOLY LAND
 with Fr. Timothy Byerley and Brenda Quinn
 from the Collegium Center for Faith and Culture
11 Days
June 19-29, 2019

Register by October 5, 2018 and receive a \$100 discount!

WHAT'S THE COST?
 Land and Air
\$4095.00
 Land Only
\$2995.00
 Single Supplement
\$795.00
Deposit due March 8, 2019
 Final payment due April 19, 2019
 Register by October 5, 2018 and receive a \$100 discount

Highlights of Trip

Canan, Mt. Tabor, Nazareth

Sea of Galilee, Mt. of Beatitudes, Capernaum and Tabgha, Basilica of the Annunciation for the Candlelight Procession

Peter's Primacy, Samaria, Jacob's Well, Jerusalem

Bethlehem, Shepherds' Field, Sharing the Bread Dinner

Jericho, Dead Sea, Baptismal Site of Jesus

Mt. of Olives, Mt. Zion

Via Dolorosa, Old City, Wailing Wall, Bethany

Eln Karem

For more information, please contact:
Select International Tours
 800-842-4842 kristine@select-intl.com
Selectinternationaltours.com
 or stop by the Rectory for the full brochure!

8th Annual iRace4Vocations

***** TODAY *****

March 31, 2019!

Washington Lake Park

626 Hurffville Crosskeys Rd, Sewell, NJ 08080

iRace4Vocations is an annual event that welcomes people of all ages to run in our 5K or walk in our 1 Mile courses both praying for and promoting vocations to the priesthood and religious life. It begins with Mass celebrated by Bishop Sullivan and ends with food and family entertainment. This 'faithraiser' encourages each participant to come with prayer pledges for vocations to our diocese.

Readings for the Fourth Sunday of Lent

March 31, 2019

Reading I – Joshua 5:9a, 10-12

The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I have removed the reproach of Egypt from you.”

While the Israelites were encamped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, they celebrated the Passover on the evening of the fourteenth of the month. On the day after the Passover, they ate of the produce of the land in the form of unleavened cakes and parched grain. On that same day after the Passover, on which they ate of the produce of the land, the manna ceased. No longer was there manna for the Israelites, who that year ate of the yield of the land of Canaan.

Responsorial Psalm – Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7

***R.* Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

I will bless the LORD at all times; his praise shall be ever in my mouth. Let my soul glory in the LORD; the lowly will hear me and be glad.

***R.* Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Glorify the LORD with me, let us together extol his name. I sought the LORD, and he answered me and delivered me from all my fears.

***R.* Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Look to him that you may be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame. When the poor one called out, the LORD heard, and from all his distress he saved him.

***R.* Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.**

Reading II – 2 Corinthians 5:17-21

Brothers and sisters:

Whoever is in Christ is a new creation: the old things have passed away; behold, new things have come. And all this is from God, who has reconciled us to himself through Christ and given us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting their trespasses against them and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation. So we are ambassadors for Christ, as if God were appealing through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. For our sake he made him to be sin who did not know sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in him.

Gospel – Luke 15:1-3, 11-32

Tax collectors and sinners were all drawing near to listen to Jesus, but the Pharisees and scribes began to complain, saying, “This man welcomes sinners and eats with them.” So to them Jesus addressed this parable: “A man had two sons, and the younger son said to his father, ‘Father give me the share of your estate that should come to me.’ So the father divided the property between them. After a few days, the younger son collected all his belongings and set off to a distant country where he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation. When he had freely spent everything, a severe famine struck that country, and he found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out to one of the local citizens who sent him to his farm to tend the swine. And he longed to eat his fill of the pods on which the swine fed, but nobody gave him any. Coming to his senses he thought, ‘How many of my father’s hired workers have more than enough food to eat, but here am I, dying from hunger. I shall get up and go to my father and I shall say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you. I no longer deserve to be called your son; treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers.”’ So he got up and went back to his father.

While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him. His son said to him, ‘Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.’ But his father ordered his servants, ‘Quickly bring the finest robe and put it on him; put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. Take the fattened calf and slaughter it. Then let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again; he was lost, and has been found.’ Then the celebration began.

Now the older son had been out in the field and, on his way back, as he neared the house, he heard the sound of music and dancing. He called one of the servants and asked what this might mean. The servant said to him, ‘Your brother has returned and your father has slaughtered the fattened calf because he has him back safe and sound.’ He became angry, and when he refused to enter the house, his father came out and pleaded with him. He said to his father in reply, ‘Look, all these years I served you and not once did I disobey your orders; yet you never gave me even a young goat to feast on with my friends. But when your son returns who swallowed up your property with prostitutes, for him you slaughter the fattened calf.’ He said to him, ‘My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found.’”



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