

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

When Jesus heard that they had thrown him out, he found him and said, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"
- Jn 9:35

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Sunday: 7:30 am, 9:00 am, 10:30 am,
12 noon & 6:15 pm

Saturday: 9:00 am & 5:00 pm (Anticipated)

Weekday: 7:00 am & 9:00 am

Reconciliation

Saturday 12:30 pm

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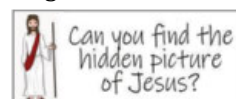
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Dear friends,

On this fourth Sunday of Lent, we are just past the halfway point and Easter is quickly approaching. Although I look forward to this special season each year, I also seem to struggle once we get underway. The distractions and temptations of our world can be very strong and trying to detach from these worldly things is always a challenge. To remain strong, we cannot do this alone. We must rely on God and re-commit ourselves to Him over and over again each day. Lent is a time that can seem like we're walking along a dark path just before dawn and we begin to feel the joyful anticipation of the sun slowly rising over the hill. When we finally arrive at the Easter Vigil Mass and the candles light up the darkness inside the church, the reality of the Resurrection sinks in and our spirits are lifted!

Last week, we looked at the beautiful story of The Samaritan Woman at the Well from chapter 4 in John's Gospel. I highly encourage you to open your Bible and spend some time with this passage because there are so many layers there. In my homily, I highlighted what happened between the before and after - between the woman walking up the mountain to the well all alone with her sins and struggles and sufferings and then running back down the mountain with joy and zeal to share the Good News with everyone. Two things happened at the well: an encounter and a conversion. Here, I'd like to focus on **encounter**.

The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC 1373) tells us of the different ways we can encounter Jesus for ourselves: *"in his word, in his Church's prayer, 'where two or three are gathered in my name,' in the poor, the sick, and the imprisoned, in the sacraments of which he is the author, in the sacrifice of the Mass, and in the person of the minister. But he is present . . . most especially in the Eucharistic species."* God is pursuing each one of us, seeking a relationship. We have so many options to encounter Him, but are we open to it? The woman at the well could have easily ignored Jesus, but she chose to engage Him and she was healed, forever changed.

Since the beginning of his pontificate ten years ago, Pope Francis has consistently promoted a *Culture of Encounter*. Once we encounter Christ, we are called to bring Him out to others just as the woman at the well did. In his encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti*, the pope wrote about the need for kindness in our encounters with others: *"Kindness frees us from the cruelty that at times infects human relationships, from the anxiety that prevents us from thinking of others, from the frantic flurry of activity that forgets that others also have a right to be happy. Often nowadays we find neither the time nor the energy to stop and be kind to others, to say 'excuse me', 'pardon me', 'thank you'. Yet every now and then, miraculously, a kind person appears and is willing to set everything else aside in order to show interest, to give the gift of a smile, to speak a word of encouragement, to listen amid general indifference. If we make a daily effort to do exactly this, we can create a healthy social atmosphere in which misunderstandings can be overcome and conflict forestalled."*

During our own Kindness Campaign here at St. Elizabeth's, let us keep these words fresh in our minds and in hearts every day. We never know how a small act of kindness will affect the people we encounter.

God bless,

Deacon John

NEWS AND EVENTS

Please note: The seniors will not be meeting on Monday, March 20.



Altar Servers Needed: Serving God as an altar server is a wonderful way for a child to grow in faith as well as in responsibility, friendship, and other virtues." If your child is interested in serving at Mass, please contact Father Francis at frfrancis@saintelizabeths.org or speak with him after Mass.

Easter Flowers: As we journey through this Lenten season, our thoughts are often of our loved ones who have gone before us. Using your Easter Flower envelope to donate to the beautiful Easter plants and flowers on our altar is a wonderful way to remember them. A memorial list with the names of your loved ones will be printed in the bulletin after Easter. Flower envelopes are in your March packet or may be obtained in Church.

Second Collection: This weekend there will be a second collection for Catholic Relief for the Black and Indian Mission. Collection boxes are located in the narthex. Thank you for your generosity.

The Collection for the week ending March 12
Offertory \$19,078 | Online \$11,335 | Total \$30,413

MASS INTENTIONS

Saturday, March 18

9:00 am Luciana Porto
5:00 pm Marianne Franchavilla

Sunday, March 19

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:00 am Margaret Pressimone
10:30 am St. Elizabeth's Staff (living)
12 noon Arthur Zahauer
6:15 pm Roman and Ester Gent

Monday, March 20

7:00 am Noreen McCauley
9:00 am Joseph Begnoche

Tuesday, March 21

7:00 am Toots Zaretski
9:00 am Edward Connelly Jr.

Wednesday, March 22

7:00 am Colleen Mary McKenna
30th Anniversary
9:00 am Salvatore Gennaro

Thursday, March 23

7:00 am Anne H. Humak
9:00 am Dr Michael J Novack

Friday, March 24

7:00 am Joseph Rigoli
9:00 am Margaret Torack

Saturday, March 25

9:00 am Thanksgiving to St. Anthony
5:00 pm Perry Chevestick
Gina Knau
Denise Lynn Zimmermann
Joseph Barbera
Dorothy Marcotulio
Marcia Warner
Marie Vahlsing
James B Keaveney
Desmond Tuohey
Jeffrey Tassani

Sunday, March 26

7:30 am People of the Parish
9:00 am Julian and Helena Motyka
10:30 am Emma and George Violick
12 noon Bill Daddio
6:15 pm Theresa Guglielmo

NEWS AND EVENTS

Stations of the Cross: Join us in Church on Friday mornings at 8:40 AM and Friday evenings at 7:00 PM during Lent.

2023 Anniversary Masses: The Office of Family Life Ministries of the Archdiocese of Newark is once again recognizing those couples celebrating five, twenty-five, and fifty years of Christian marriage. 2023 Anniversary Masses will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica of the Sacred Heart in Newark on April 16th at 3:00 pm for 50 years and May 7, at 3:00 pm for 5 & 25 years. To register, please email Joanne at jciaravino@saintelizabeths.org.



St. Elizabeth School will host its 2023 Great Gatsby Gala on Saturday, April 22nd at Macaluso's. Proceeds from the gala support the operating budget to keep tuition affordable, fund initiatives such as math, science and other technological advances, and provide professional development opportunities. Please consider purchasing a 50/50 ticket. The committee would greatly appreciate your support! Tickets will be sold after all Masses on March 18/19th and March 25/26th. Thank you so much for your continued generosity!

R.C.I.A. Program for next year begins in May; sign up now—Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults: RCIA is designed to welcome adults into our Catholic faith. Preparation is a year-long ongoing process culminating at the Easter Vigil Mass. The goal is to receive the Sacraments of Baptism (for non-Christians), Confirmation, and Holy Eucharist. IS RCIA FOR YOU or SOMEONE YOU KNOW? Do you know someone or are you someone who is interested in becoming Catholic? Are you Catholic but have not yet received all of the Sacraments of Initiation (Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist)? The RCIA is a process of prayer, reflection, and learning that allows for the continual discernment of God's will in our lives. Candidates include: Non-baptized adults who wish to enter the Catholic Church, baptized adult Christians of another denomination (i.e. Lutheran, Anglican, Presbyterian) who wish to continue their Christian faith in the Catholic Church, adult baptized Catholics who have not completed the Sacraments of Initiation (Holy Communion and/or Confirmation) and wish to do so. Now is a great time to get information and find out more! For more details contact Father Jae at FrJae@saintelizabeths.org.

First Communion Outfits Needed: The First Communion Day of our child is a very special occasion, a day to be celebrated and always remembered! Please help to make another child's First Communion Day one that will be cherished by donating any Communion dresses, suits, shirts, ties, head pieces or shoes. Please bring all articles, clean, on hangers, and covered in plastic to St. John the Baptist Church, Hillsdale, on Saturday, March 25th from 10AM – 2PM, or call Kathy B. at 201-666-4185. Monetary donations will also be accepted. This collection will be held ONE DAY ONLY. If you or anyone that you know may need an outfit, please contact Kathy B. Thank you!

"To everything there is a season and a time for every purpose under heaven."

Healing prayers for: Chris Barbaro, Kevin Danlasky

Recently deceased: Michael Ridkes, Isidoro Ferro, Theresa Lanza, Vincent Varisano and Antoinette Sblendorio

Memorials for the week of March 19

Altar Bread and Wine: In Loving memory of Paul O'Sullivan, 1st Ann. donated by the Houston family

Candles on the Altar: In Loving memory of Lauren Mendez donated by SES Class of 2027

Flowers for the St. Elizabeth Shrine: In memory of Rose Marie Minichetti donated by the Cusumano family



St. E's Knights of Columbus
Lenten Fish Fry & Pasta Dinner
Friday, March 24, in the gym

Take out 5-5:30 pm pickup
 1st seating arrive 6-6:30 pm
 2nd seating arrive 7-7:30 pm

Advance Ticket Sales Only
\$20 Adults/\$15 Kids

Tickets are available for purchase
at www.kofc13678.org




BUNDLE OF HOPE
Easter Food Drive
MARCH 25-26

Food bags and shopping lists will be handed out on the weekend of March 11-12. Please return your filled bag on March 25-26. A basket will be available in the narthex for monetary donations to assist in purchasing Easter Hams.




Tuesday
April 4


7:00 PM
in Church

Lenten
PENANCE
SERVICE

"Don't be afraid to go to the Sacrament of Confession, where you will meet Jesus who forgives you."
 ~Pope Francis

APRIL 7 7:00 PM CHURCH LIVESTREAM

Tenebrae Service
Good Friday



EASTER EGG HUNT
 Ages 1-12

Sunday, April 9

After the 10:30 AM Mass at the backfield
 Bring your Easter baskets

Questions | contact Martha Wood | 917-647-9567 | Martha1031@aol.com




- Chrim Mass – April 3**
8:00 PM The Cathedral Basilica Newark
- Lenten Penance Service – April 4**
7:00 PM in Church
- Paschal Triduum**
Holy Thursday – April 6
 Morning Prayer 9:00 AM
 Mass of the Lord's Supper 7:30 PM
- Good Friday – April 7**
 Morning Prayer 9:00 AM
 Way of the Cross Service 12:00 PM
 Passion of the Lord 3:00 PM
 Ecumenical Tenebrae 7:00 PM
- Holy Saturday – April 8**
 Morning Prayer 9:00 AM
 Blessing of Food Baskets 9:30 AM • Easter Vigil 8:15 PM
- Easter Sunday Mass – April 9**
 7:30 AM • 9:00 AM • 10:30 AM • 12:00 PM
 11:30 AM Easter Egg Hunt



ARCHDIOCESAN
LENTEN REGULATIONS 2023

1. The days of both Fast & Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted and (2) smaller meals which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.

Those between the ages of 18-59 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.

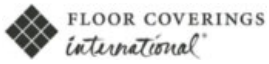
2. The obligation to observe the laws of Fast & Abstinence "substantially" or as whole is a serious obligation.

3. 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.

4. The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the First Sunday of Lent, February 26, 2023 to the Solemnity of the Holy Trinity, June 4, 2023.

*Canon 920. §1 All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.





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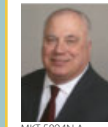
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