



5th Sunday
OF LENT

The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands,
and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them,
“Untie him and let him go.” —Jn 11:44

OUR LADY OF PEACE CHURCH
March 21, 2021

FROM THE DESK OF FATHER STAN

My dear friends,

I will write my Covenant on your heart

During these Sundays of Lent this year, our first readings each week have focused on the notion of covenant, the most basic idea of which is, “I will be your God and you will be my people”—the establishment of a relationship with certain responsibilities. We have learned that God entered into covenants with Noah, Abraham and Moses, each with different emphases and different promises.

This week we learn that God has something new in mind. Our first reading, Jeremiah 31:31-34, comes from the reluctant prophet, the one commissioned to speak by God who had to endure negativity, abuse, and even threats as a result. Here Jeremiah, once again, faithfully delivers God’s message. “The days are coming, says the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel [in the northern area] and the house of Judah [in the south, around Jerusalem]. It will not be like the covenant I made with their fathers the day I took them by the hand to lead them forth from the land of Egypt [this was at the time of Moses]; for they broke my covenant, and I had to show myself their master, says the Lord. But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the Lord. I will place my law within them and write it upon their hearts; I will be their God, and they shall be my people [notice the basic covenant formula]. No longer will they have need to teach their friends and relatives how to know the Lord. All, from the least to greatest, shall know me, says the Lord, and I will forgive their evildoing and remember their sin no more.”

The Church teaches that each of us has a conscience, an interior sanctuary where we are alone with our God. It is there that we can learn God’s will for us. Most of us have experienced the sense that something is inappropriate if it violates this inner sense of God’s will. And most of us have experienced the regret that usually comes when we go against the wise voice of our conscience. Of course, determining the proper course of action can be extremely difficult—an agonizing process. That is why we should be honest and open, willing to listen to the wisdom of those with more experience, and the wisdom of the collective experience of the Church itself. In that way a conscience can be well-formed and truly open to God who wants us to be happy and fulfilled, which we will be if we turn to the one who knows us better than we know ourselves, and seeks to inform our innermost being, where he writes his covenant law upon our hearts.

Our Responsorial Psalm, Psalm 51, follows up on the theme of our first reading. “Have mercy on me, O God, in your goodness; in the greatness of your compassion wipe out my offense. Thoroughly wash me from my guilt and of my sin cleanse me. A clean heart create for me, O God, and a steadfast spirit renew within me....Give me back the joy of your salvation, and a willing spirit sustain in me.”

Our Gospel reading, John 12:20-33, presents part of Jesus’ beautiful reflection during the time preceding his impending crucifixion. He declares, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. Amen, amen, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat; but if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it for life eternal. Whoever serves me must follow me, and where I am, there also will my servant be. The Father will honor whoever serves me.” This is the new covenant ratified by the love of Jesus on the cross. Jesus had taught that there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends. This ultimate gift, this total gift of self, is the new life to which each of us is called. Jesus’ love now speaks to us, heart to heart: the way to freedom, life and joy is to follow Jesus, which means humbly serving others in love, rather than lording it over them and demanding that they meet our needs. This is the covenant written upon our hearts by the one who is the Way, the Truth and the Life. In the depths of our hearts we must decide, each day, whether we will follow this Way or choose another. Our God beckons, but leaves us free to decide.

MISSED MASS AND DIDN'T GET THE BULLETIN OR HEAR THE HOMILY?

Go to our website www.ourladyofpeacetf.org



STATIONS OF THE CROSS with Deacon Joe will be offered on the Saturdays of Lent at 3:00P. All are invited to spend this time of prayerful reflection to deepen their relationship with God and to experience the spirit of the season.



Saturday, March 20—Stations of the Cross 3:00P

4:00P *Coogan & Broughan families*
by Sharon Broughan

Sunday, March 21

8:00A *The Prunier family*
by Lillian Prunier

10:00A *Living members of the Mariani family*
by their family

Saturday, March 27—Stations of the Cross 3:00P

4:00P *Russell James*
by Theresa

Sunday, March 28

8:00A *Millie, Walter & Ronnie Traceski*
by the Creek family

10:00A *Kristen Kaczenski*
by her family

DAILY MASS

Monday, March 22

8:00A *Helen Gochinski*
by Maureen Forrestall

Tuesday, March 23

8:00A *James Broughan*
by Sharon

Wednesday, March 24

8:00A *Lenten & Easter blessings for Annette Krejmas*
by a friend

Thursday, March 25

8:00A *Carolyn Prunier*
by Paul

Friday, March 26

8:00A *Holy Communion Service*

Our Lady's Window

March 30 *Lynette Latham*
by Nancy & Tami



DONATIONS FOR COMMUNITY MEALS

In memory of *Catherine Berry* by Steven & Margaret Burns and Ron & Connie Sicard; and in memory of *Frances Cassidy* by Ron & Connie Sicard.

IDEAS TO LIVE LENT 2021

and foods to donate to the *Community Meals Project*

- March 24 Pray for essential workers
- March 25 Grocery shop for someone not able to
- March 26 Tell your family that you love them
- March 27 Call someone you have not spoken with in a long time

Add to this week's shopping list:

Cereal



Knights of Columbus Golf Tournament Council #133 are looking for golfers, sponsors and raffle donations for their 8th annual charity golf tournament to be held on Friday, May 21 at Crumpin-Fox in Bernardston. This year's format has been adjusted to address the Covid-19 requirements that disallow using shotgun starts for tournaments. Instead, golfers will sign up for tee times starting at 8 a.m. or 1 p.m.

The event will be an 18 hole, 4-person scramble with tee advantages for senior golfers. The entry fee of \$125 includes greens fees, use of practice range, carts, a \$40 gift card and prizes for the winners. For a tee time, contact Bob Wanczyk at (413) 774-2465 or Paul Doran at (413) 774-2801

Raffle tickets will be sold and winners will receive one of a number of incredible prizes. There will be a "Hole-in-One" contest sponsored by Dillon Chevrolet for a chance to win a new car.

This year, Council #133 recognizes "Franklin County Community Meals" as our tournament partner.

Call Lou Grader at (413) 774.2848, Dan Arsenault at (413) 774.5258, Bob Wanczyk at (413) 774.2465, Paul Doran at (413) 774.2801 or Joe Ruscio at (413) 768.9876.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

March 14, 2021

Regular collection/mail \$2,80300
On-line \$789.00

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