

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

*God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world,
but that the world might be saved through him.*

MARCH 22, 2009

—John 3:17

COMMUNAL RESPONSIBILITY

The people of God forgot the covenant and flouted God's laws. They did not listen to the prophets among them, who spoke for God in warning them. Prophets are sent from God to remind us why we are here. But they are often, even in our own time, mocked, disregarded, and mistreated, rather than thanked and listened to.

The book of Chronicles tells the results of these sins: the destruction of the Temple and all of Jerusalem, murder, mayhem, and finally exile to a foreign land. Why are these stories in the Bible? Just to inform us of what happened to our ancient forebears? What good would that be unless there were a message and a warning for us as well? Are we people who follow the teachings of God, who obey the words of Christ in the second covenant in his blood? Or do we continue to wreak works of darkness and violence? We are reminded by these readings that we will be judged as a people, not just as individuals.

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REMINDER FOR LITURGY COMMITTEE

Please plan to attend our next meeting on Monday, March 30th at 7:00 p.m. in the Rectory. We will be making final plans for Holy Week and the Easter Season.

HELP SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL

Our parish St. Vincent de Paul ministry is in great need of new people who can take part in this ministry which reaches out to many poor families in our community. Meetings are easy to attend; taking place on the first and third Sunday of each month (next meeting is April 5th) after the 10:30 a.m. Mass. You will find out how **you** can help make difficult times turn into manageable times for families in need.

REFLECT ON GOD'S WORD DURING LENT

The readings for next Sunday, the *Fifth Sunday of Lent* are listed below along with questions for your quiet reflection throughout this week.

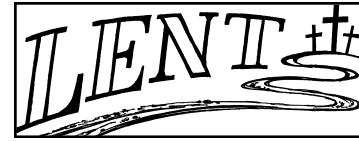
FIRST READING: Jeremiah 31:31-34 or *Ezekiel 37: 12-14*

SECOND READING: Hebrews 5:7-9
or *Romans 8:8-11*

GOSPEL: John 12:20-33 or *John 11:1-45*

Ministry in the church calls for time to care and work for others even at great cost of sacrifice. How will I enter this sacrifice even more readily?

Lazarus had a "second chance at life" Do I realize that everyday is an opportunity for a new beginning in drawing closer to Jesus in prayer and service?



COMMUNAL PENANCE SERVICE

Wednesday, March 25, 7:00 p.m.

The season of Lent is a time of preparation leading to a solemn celebration of the Sacred Triduum. This preparation should include the Sacrament of Penance, for those who wish. Most properly, this matter of reconciliation should be taken care of before Holy Week begins. In compliance with this recommendation, we urge you to receive the Sacrament of Penance during Lent. We will have our Lenten Penance Liturgy this coming Wednesday, March 25th at 7:00 p.m. After prayer and reflection on the scriptures, there will be an opportunity for individual confession. Please try to attend.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

We invite you to pray the Stations of the Cross in Church at 5:30p.m on all Monday evenings during Lent. Everyone is encouraged to participate in order to reflect on the meaning of Christ's passion, death and resurrection in our lives.

SOUP SUPPERS

After the Stations (approximately 6:00p.m.) we will gather in the parish hall for a Soup Supper. We ask that you bring your own bowl, cup and flatware in order to help keep our environment healthy. A free will offering will be taken each week.

PRAY THE ROSARY

Join other parishioners in the church on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. to pray the Rosary.

PLEASE DONATE CALLA LILIES AND EASTER LILIES

As in the past, we will need generous donations of calla lilies and leaves brought to the Rectory office by April 6th in order to decorate our altar for Holy Thursday. We are also in need of Easter lilies. Please bring them to the Rectory by April 8th. Thank you for your help.

INTERESTED IN THE CATHOLIC FAITH?

We offer year-round sessions to explore the Catholic faith. For more information, call Sr. Sharon at 439.0931 x 5.