

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People

The Second Sunday of Lent

Following the Sign of Peace, we come to the Fraction Rite or the Breaking of the Bread. In scripture we witness this "breaking of the bread" on two different occasions and we experience it as multi-faceted. It is not only the breaking of a piece of bread but it is the breaking – the giving – of Christ's body and, therefore, the breaking open of our lives for others. There are significant and important words associated with the action of God nourishing us that come from the aforementioned incidents in scripture - the Multiplication of the Loaves and the Last Super. The important – and parallel – words in each encounter are: take, bless, break, and give.

In Matthew's Gospel we hear these words clearly at the Feeding of the five thousand in chapter 14. "Taking the five loaves and the two fish, and looking up to heaven, he (Jesus) said the blessing, broke the loaves, and gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave them to the crowds." In that same Gospel in chapter 26 we hear "While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, 'Take and eat; this is my body.'"

In our celebration the presider, in the name of the Assembly, takes the bread, takes the lives of the people and offers them to God as a return for all that God has given to us. God provides what we offer back to God which tells us that God provides all. This is the blessing, the dedicating these elements to the work of God, the making these elements holy, the setting them aside for a special purpose which is nourishing a hungry world. The bread (the body) is then broken so that it can be shared but as it is broken, it creates a new reality, the unity of all who partake in what is shared. This is the true, the greatest sign of the unity of God's people within our celebration.

The bread, the Body of Christ, our lives are then given, offered, shared for all to partake. This part of the Eucharistic action is an invitation from God to come and share in the God-life, the divine life, the life of grace. Our expected and anticipated response then is one of accepting what is given. This is not a taking as if what is given were something to which we were entitled. It is a reaching out so that what is offered may be placed in our longing hands.

The prayer-dialogue during this Fraction Rite takes two forms. During the actual breaking we sing the Lamb of God Litany. A litany is "a series of sung or spoken liturgical prayers or requests for the blessings of God, including invocations from a priest or minister and responses from a congregation" (*Encarta World English Dictionary*). In this litany we profess the belief that Jesus is the one who takes away the sins of the world and we

ask for mercy and peace. The second form of prayer begins with an invitation of the presider to behold what has happened. Bread has become the Lamb of God. We respond with the acknowledgement that we are not worthy of the gift but we believe that God gives it to us in our unworthiness, our sin.

Happy Saint Patrick's Day. Happy Day dedicated to the patron of the Diocese of Erie. We continue next week.

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 17

Monday: Dn. 9:4b-10/Ps. 79:8,9,11 & 13/Lk. 6:36-38
 Tuesday: 2 Sm. 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16/Ps. 89:2-3,4-5,27 & 29/
 Rom. 4:13, 16-18,22/Mt. 1:16, 18-21, 24a or Lk. 2:41-51a
 Wednesday: Jer. 18:18-20/Ps. 31:5-6, 14,15-16/Mt. 20:17-28
 Thursday: Jer. 17:5-10/Ps. 1:1-2,3,4 & 6/Lk. 16:19-31
 Friday: Gn. 37:3-4,12-13a,17b-28a/Ps. 105:16-17,18-19,20-21/
 Mt. 21:33-43,45-46
 Saturday: Mi. 7:14-15,18-20/Ps. 103:1-2,3-4,9-10,11-12/
 Lk. 15:1-3,11-32
 Sunday: Ex. 17:3-7/Ps. 95:1-2,6-7,8-9/Rom. 5:1-2,5-8/Jn. 4:5-42

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

Sun., March 31 - 3:00 PM - St. Francis Xavier
 Mon., April 1 - 7:00 PM - Our Lady of the Lake
 Sun., April 7 - 3:00 PM - St. Anthony of Padua
 Mon., April 8 - 7:00 PM - All Saints Parish
 Thurs., April 11 - 7:00 PM - St. Lawrence

LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE

Wed. March 20, 12:00 noon - First Baptist Church
 Wed. March 27, 12:00 Noon - C.S. Presbyterian Church
 Wed. April 3, 12:00 noon - C.S. United Methodist Church
 Wed. April 10, 12:00 noon -
 Christian Missionary Alliance Church
 Wed. April 17, 12:00 noon - St. Paul's Lutheran Church

LENTEN DINNERS

St. Brigid, Meadville—3/22, 29/ 4/5, 12 - 4:30 - 6:30 pm
 Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro—3/22, 29/ 4/5, 12 -
 5:00 - 7:00 pm
 All Saints, Waterford—3/22, 29/ 4/5, 12—4:30 - 7:00 pm

24 HOURS FOR THE LORD

The Diocese of Erie will celebrate 24 Hours for the Lord March 22-23 at St. Peter Cathedral, Erie. The event is an initiative of our Holy Father with an emphasis on adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and the sacrament of reconciliation. St. Peter Cathedral will be open for the whole 24 hours, with adoration and confession available during that time. Confessions will begin on March 22 at 5:45 pm and continue until March 23 at 3:30 pm. For questions, please contact Sr. Kathleen Dietz, FSO, at 814 824-1135 or at kdietz@ErieRCD.org.

1:38 WOMEN'S CONFERENCE

This year the 1:38 Women's Conference will be held at Our Lady of Peace Parish, 2401 W. 38th St., Erie, PA on Saturday, March 30, 2019. Check-in begins at 8 am and the program runs from 9 am - 3:30 pm. The day concludes with Mass celebrated by Bishop Persico. Registration deadline is March 22, 2019. Registration materials can be picked up in the gathering space.

WORSHIP

Monday, March 18
8:00 am + John Auer

Tuesday, March 19
8:00 am + A Special Intention

Wednesday, March 20
7:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Living & Deceased Parishioners

Thursday, March 21
8:00 am + Episcopo & DiMatteo Families

Friday, March 22
8:00 am + Dec. Members of Rembielak & Wronko Families
(Joan Rembielak & Bob & Pnyllis Wronko)

Saturday, March 23
4:30 pm + Harold W. Schmidt (Parishioners of St. Anthony)

Sunday, March 24
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Good Health & Healing for Hannah Palmer
(Grandparents Bruce & Judy Palmer)

9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY
Living & Deceased Parishioners

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday—Wednesday—Friday
7:00 am - Communion Service

Tuesday, March 19
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena
6:00 pm - Benediction & Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 20
12:00 Noon - Lenten Luncheon at First Baptist Church

Saturday, March 23
3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions

Sunday, March 24
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE'S
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY'S
After Mass - Religious Education Classes

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY'S
SATURDAY, MARCH 23 - 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Rob Bullman/Judy Kingston/Jim Samson
Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich
Altar Servers: Robert Moats/William Moats

SUNDAY, MARCH 24 - 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Theresa Douglas/
Christine Krzyziak/Harriet McLaren
Lector: Vicki Eckstein
Altar Servers: Sophia Mott/Sydney Zilhaber

ST. BERNADETTE'S
SUNDAY, MARCH 24 - 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: C. Greco/J. Acker
Lector: B. Smith
Ushers: D. Nowak
Altar Servers: B. Greco

STEWARDSHIP

<u>3/10/19</u>		
Offertory	\$831.00	CSA: Pledged - \$4,100
Votives	28.00	Paid - \$2,320
C.C.D.	33.00	
Rent	<u>825.00</u>	
TOTAL	\$1,717.00	

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Jesus "went up the mountain to pray" and he was "changed." Prayer has the power to change us. This Lent set aside a few minutes each day to pray for members of your family. Pray before each meal and if you are married, spend five minutes in prayer together.

RUMMAGE SALE

St. Anthony's Annual Rummage Sale will be held Friday, March 29 - 9am - 3pm and Saturday, March 30 - 9am - 1pm. Kitchen will be open with free coffee!

EASTER ROLLS

Orders are being take for Nut, Apricot, Poppysed and Raspberry rolls. Sign-up sheets are located at both entrances to the church. Rolls can be picked up the weekend of April 13 - 14.

CASH GIVEAWAY AND GAME NIGHT

The Events Committee expresses their sincere appreciation and gratitude to parishioners and all volunteers who made Cash Giveaway and Game Night held on January 26, 2019 a big success. Our profit was \$5,284.78

SPRINGS ROD & GUN CLUB

Springs Rod & Gun Club will be hosting a first aid/CPR/AED training class on Tuesday, March 19 from 6:30 - 9:30 pm. The course will be held at the club grounds on SR 99 north of Cambridge Springs. Cost is \$30/person and pre-registration is required. Please contact Bob Grinarml by phoning 814 398-8368 or via email bgrinarml@live.com

REMINDER: Has your family picked up the CRS Rice Bowl located at the entrances to the Church?

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony's will be Monday, March 18 Early Bird BINGO starts at 6:00 pm and the regular BINGO starts at 6:30 pm. Doors and kitchen open at 5:00 pm. Chicken 'n Biscuit Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE'S

Tues., March 19 - 6:00 pm - Benediction and Stations of the Cross
Wed., March 20 - 12:00 Noon - Lenten luncheon at St. Bernadette's
Mon., March 25 - 3:15 pm - Religious Education Classes

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$961.00
Maintenance	391.00
Rent	250.00
Donation	25.00
Candles	<u>21.00</u>
TOTAL	\$1,648.00

Catholic Services Appeal
Pledged: \$12,321 Paid: \$6,086

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
