

PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

The Work of the People

The Fourth Sunday of Lent

As we approach the table in our Communion Procession, we engage in a short dialogue with the minister during the reception of communion. The minister holds up the host and announces to us "The Body of Christ." We respond "Amen." What is the meaning of these phrases and this dialogue?

First of all, I want to look at our response. When we say "Amen", we give our assent to what has gone before. At the end of a prayer, we affirm the content of the prayer. We make it our prayer. The response is also used to express strong agreement. In the worship services of some other Christian denominations the people in the assembly, when moved by the Spirit, shout "Amen" to express this agreement. It may be especially when they agree with or are moved by the words of the preacher that they enthusiastically shout "Amen." In our worship as Roman Catholics, we are somewhat more reserved and "Amen" may have become just a formality that ends a prayer but, nonetheless, it is there to express agreement with what has been prayed. It can mean: "So be it" or "It is true" or "I believe it."

Now, to what do we give this affirmation as we process forward and receive the Bread of Life? The minister holds up the host and says to us "The Body of Christ." In doing this, there really are three things that are being said and to which we give our "Amen." The first is "This is the Body of Christ." The minister proclaims that Christ is present to and for us to nourish us and give us food for the journey of this next week and the rest of our lives. The minister says that this may look and taste like bread (or wine) but these simple gifts we have brought forward have become, "through the power of the Spirit" the body (and blood) of Christ. To this we express our agreement and respond "Amen."

The second thing the minister is proclaiming in saying "The Body of Christ" is "You are the Body of Christ." I think somewhere in these articles and certainly in my homilies I have told you that (as indicated in the Sacred Constitution of the Liturgy) Christ is truly present in four ways in the celebration of the Eucharist. Christ is present in the Word broken open and proclaimed at the Ambo; Christ is present in the bread and wine that become the Body and Blood of Christ; Christ is present in the person of the presider and Christ is present in the Assembly. You are the Body of Christ, as Paul tells us several times in his letters. We, corporately and individually, make up the Body of Christ, the Church here on earth. We believe that as St. Theresa of Avila said: "Christ has no body now but yours, no hands, no feet on earth but yours. Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world. Christ has no body now on earth but yours." To this we respond: "So be it."

The third truth the minister proclaims when saying "The Body of Christ" is a challenge and a command: "Become the Body of Christ." This means we are to take Christ to the world as we move about in the world. We are to be Christ for the suffering and the lonely, for the forgotten and the disenfranchised, for the poor and the lost. We are to bring love and forgiveness and compassion to all we meet. We are to raise up those who have been beaten down. This is a real challenge and to this challenge we respond with our strong agreement, our "Amen."

READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 31

Monday: Is. 65:17-21/Ps. 30:2 & 4, 5-6, 11-12a & 13b/
Jn. 4:43-54

Tuesday: Ez. 47:1-9, 12/Ps. 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9/Jn. 5:1-16

Wednesday: Is. 49:8-15/Ps. 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18/
Jn. 5:17-30

Thursday: Ex. 32:7-14/Ps. 106:19-20, 21-22, 23/Jn. 5:31-47

Friday: Wis. 2:1a, 12-22/Ps. 34:17-18, 19-20, 21 & 23/
Jn. 7:1-2, 10, 25-30

Saturday: Jer. 11:18-20/Ps. 7:2-3, 9bc-10, 11-12/Jn. 7:40-53

Sunday: Scrutiny: Ez. 37:12-14/Ps. 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8/
Rom. 8:8-11/Jn. 11:1-45

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES

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

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.

PASSION OF JESUS

A riveting, dramatic explanation presented by Fr. Larry Richards, Pastor, St. Joseph Church-Bread of Life Community, will be held on Wednesday, April 17 at 7:00 pm at St. Joseph Church Bread of Life Community. Confessions to follow at 8:30 pm. Free and open to all. Call 814 452-2982 for more information.

Thank you to all who have pledged for 2019 CSA. If you have not yet made your 2019 CSA Pledge, please take the time to complete your envelope and return in the collection basket so we are sure to meet our goal.

LENTEN LUNCH SCHEDULE

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

*Do not try to excuse your faults; try to correct them.
St. Don Bosco*

WORSHIP

Monday, April 1
8:00 am + John Auer

Tuesday, April 2
8:00 am + A Special Intention

Wednesday, April 3
8:00 am + NO MASS

Thursday, April 4
8:00 am + Peggy Weidner (Dick & Ginger Kester)

Friday, April 5 - FIRST FRIDAY
8:00 am + James Webster (Parishioners of St. Anthony of Padua)

Saturday, April 6
4:30 pm + Jerry Peters (Maureen Peters & Family)

Sunday, April 7
8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE
Thomas Brunot (Parishioners of St. Bernadette)

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

PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR

Monday - Wednesday - Friday at St. Bernadette
7:00 am - Communion Service

Monday, April 1
5:00 pm - Doors open for BINGO

Tuesday, April 2
After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena
6:00 pm - Stations of the Cross

Saturday, April 6
3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions

Sunday, April 7
Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE
After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY
After Mass - Religious Education Class with items for St. James Homeless Shelter & SEDER PRAYER SERVICE IN PARISH CENTER

3:00 pm - Lenten Penance Service at St. Anthony

EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS

ST. ANTHONY'S
SATURDAY, APRIL 6 - 4:30 PM

Eucharistic Ministers: Tom Hobson/Judy Kingston/Jim Samson
Lector: Kathleen Lipkovich
Altar Servers: Peyton Crays/Robert Moats

SUNDAY, APRIL 7 - 9:30 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Christine Krzysiak/
Harriet McLaren/Barb Milligan

Lector: Veronica Walker
Altar Servers: Sophia Mott/Andrea Walker

ST. BERNADETTE'S
SUNDAY, APRIL 7 - 8:00 AM

Eucharistic Ministers: S. Sada/J. Weagraff/K. Weagraff
Lector: J. Drda
Ushers: S. Sada, Sr.
Altar Servers: I. Levis

STEWARDSHIP

3/24/19	
Offertory	\$380.00
Votives	<u>6.00</u>
TOTAL	\$386.00

CSA 2019
Pledged: \$5,675
Paid: \$3,545

DOWNLOAD OUR NEW PARISH APP

Our new St. Anthony of Padua app is now available to download for iPhone and Android smart phones. Stay connected with our parish throughout the week with instant notifications, an easy-to-access event calendar, and the ability to quickly reply to or share messages via Facebook or Twitter. Also enjoy a bunch of additional features like prayers, daily readings, helpful reminders to silence your phone before Mass or Confession, and much more.

Help foster a stronger parish life at St. Anthony of Padua and better engage the New Evangelization.

Download our app today at myparishapp.com or search your phone's app store for my parish.

LENTEN DINNERS

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

A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

We may feel like the Prodigal Son but the gospel wants us to focus on the father who was forgiving and understanding. We all make mistakes and need forgiveness. Who in your family needs your forgiveness and acceptance this Lent?

SETON CATHOLIC SCHOOL

Seton Catholic School, preschool—8th grade, where students thrive on being challenged academically, learn to be respectful, responsible and self disciplined. Scholarships available. Call today 814 336-2320 for a tour or to register. All faiths welcome.

LENTEN ACTIVITY

Review your family's morning routine. What habits can you build to start the day with God? Maybe a quick blessing as your family leaves? A Scripture verse to read over breakfast? Think about it.

BINGO - The next scheduled BINGO at St. Anthony will be Monday, April 1. 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. A Salisbury Steak Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE

Wed. Apr. 1 - 3:15 pm - Religious Education Classes
Tues. Apr. 2 - 6:00 pm - Benediction and Stations of the Cross
Wed. Apr. 3 - 12:00 pm - Lenten Lunch at Saegertown United Methodist Church

STEWARDSHIP

Offertory	\$1,700.00
Maintenance	449.00
Candles	19.00
Altar Flowers	10.00
Rice Bowl	<u>50.00</u>
TOTAL	\$2,228.00

Catholic Services Appeal 2019
Pledged: \$18,171 Paid: \$8,826

CHURCH NAME: ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

CHURCH NO.:

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:
