

## PASTOR'S LETTER

Dear Parishioners,

## The Work of the People

*The First Sunday of Lent*

Since this is the First Sunday of Lent, I would normally write about the Lenten Season and our place in it. However, I don't want to interrupt my treatment of the liturgy once again. After I complete this series on the liturgy, I will write about the Lenten Season.

After the Assembly prays the Lord's Prayer, the Presider speaks the words of scripture with which Jesus wished farewell to his closest followers. He knew that he must leave the earth and go back to his Abba. He also knew that there would be some confusion and anxiety among his followers in this transitions period. He wishes his followers to trust in God and in the presence of the Spirit whom he promises to send. Therefore, Jesus wishes his disciples his peace.

Peace in the Middle East, even today, is much more than simply wishing someone a life free from struggle. In fact, this peace, this *shalom*, might be wishing someone a transformative struggle. That is one of the reasons Jesus said that he did not give his followers peace as the world gives peace. He wished them to be transformed but to experience God's presence in the transformation.

This peace, this *shalom* (and in Arabic *salaam*), means "may you be well" or more appropriately, may you live in wellbeing, may you be complete, may nothing be broken or missing. This, much more than a wish for physical or psychological wellbeing, is a wish for spiritual wellbeing. It has to do with one being in right relationship with God and God's people. So, Jesus was speaking about much more than being free from conflict.

After the brief introduction, the Presider then invites the Assembly to offer a sign of peace to one another. As we respond to that invitation, it is Christ's peace we offer to one another and not just some common, everyday greeting. If we were to be formal about this liturgical act, we would say to one another, "May the peace of Christ be with you." It is important to note that this is a liturgical action and so therefore is something formal and ritualistic.

We can't wish this peace to everyone, so it is a good thing not to try to do that. As a symbolic gesture, we wish this peace to those closest to us. It is usually accompanied by a handshake but, if we know the person well, a kiss or embrace is appropriate. It is how Christ would probably want to greet us. The recent custom of waving to others, however, is not fitting. We can acknowledge the presence of those at a distance from us before or after Mass as we enter into or leave our place of worship.

This sign of peace is, above all, to remind us that we have been gifted with the possibility of living in the Peace of Christ. One of the reasons it has been placed

right before we process to the table for communion (although there is discussion about changing the place at which we exchange this sign) is to remind us of the command in scripture: "If you bring your gift to the altar and there realize that you have something against a brother or sister, leave your gift and first be reconciled." To live in the Peace of Christ means to be at peace with one another.

### 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 LUNCH SCHEDULE

Wed. March 13, 12:00 noon - St. Anthony of Padua  
 Wed. March 20, 12:00 noon - First Baptist 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

### CATHOLIC SERVICES APPEAL

Our sincere thanks to those who have made pledges for the 2019 CSA. If you have not yet made a gift, please consider a pledge and return the completed pledge envelope in the weekly collection basket or mail.

With these pledges we can move forward together with truth, with hope, with Christ.

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF MARCH 10

Monday: Lv. 19:1-2, 11-18/Ps. 19:8, 9, 10, 15/Mt.25:31-46  
 Tuesday: Is. 55:10-11/Ps. 34:4-5, 6-7, 16-17, 18-19/Mt. 6:7-15  
 Wednesday: Jon. 3:1-10/Ps. 51:3-4, 12-13, 18-19/Lk. 11:29-32  
 Thursday: Est. C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Ps. 138:1-2ab, 2cde-3, 7c-8/Mt. 7:7-12  
 Friday: Ez. 18:21-28/Ps. 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-7a, 7bc-8/Mt. 5:20-26  
 Saturday: Dt. 26:16-19/Ps. 119:1-2, 4-5, 7-8/Mt. 5:43-48  
 Sunday: Gn. 15:5-12, 17-18/Ps. 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14/Phil. 3:17; 4:1 or 3:20; 4:1/Lk. 9:28b-36

### A FAMILY PERSPECTIVE

Jesus "was led by the Spirit in the wilderness." What is the wilderness in your life to which the Holy Spirit is leading you this Lent? Perhaps there are uncharted areas in your marriage or family relationships. Spend this Lent in your "wilderness" with God work. Where is the Spirit leading you this Lent?

### 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!

**WORSHIP**

Monday, March 11  
 8:00 am + Sylvia Carney (Gerard & Martha Adamczyk)  
 Tuesday, March 12  
 8:00 am + Leona Auer  
 Wednesday, March 13  
 8:00 am + NO MASS  
 Thursday, March 14  
 8:00 am+ For a Special Intention  
 Friday, March 15  
 8:00 am + Anna Turbett (M/M Nelson Allen, Jr.)  
 Saturday, March 16  
 4:30 pm + AT ST. ANTHONY  
 Weidner Family (Dick & Ginger Kester)  
 8:00 am + AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 Living & Deceased Parishioners  
 9:30 am + AT ST. ANTHONY  
 Ruth Rocca

**PARISH EVENTS CALENDAR**

Monday - Wednesday - Friday  
 7:00 am - Communion Service  
 Tuesday, March 12  
 After Mass - St. Anthony's Novena  
 6:00 pm - Benediction & Stations of the Cross  
 Wednesday, March 13  
 12:00 pm - Ministerium Lenten Service & Luncheon  
 at St. Anthony  
 Saturday, March 16  
 3:45 - 4:15 pm - Confessions  
 Sunday, March 17  
 Before Mass - Confessions AT ST. BERNADETTE  
 After Mass - Confessions AT ST. ANTHONY

**EUCCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

**ST. ANTHONY'S**  
**SATURDAY, MARCH 16 - 4:30 PM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Judy Hermann/Tom Hobson/Judy Kingston  
 Lector: Shawn Pflieger  
 Altar Servers: Sydney Zilhaber

**SUNDAY, MARCH 17 - 9:30 AM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: Ginger Beck/Larry Douglas/  
 Theresa Douglas/Don Marteeny  
 Lector: Julie Hobson  
 Altar Servers: Paige Tucker/Veronica Walker

**ST. BERNADETTE'S**  
**SUNDAY, MARCH 17 - 8:00 AM**  
 Eucharistic Ministers: D. Nowak/A. Braymer  
 Lector: M. Braymer  
 Ushers: S. Styborski  
 Altar Servers: A/M/R Braymer

**STEWARDSHIP**

<u>3/3/19</u>		
Offertory	\$520.00	2019 CSA: Pledged - \$2,250
Votives	11.00	Paid - \$1,470
C.C.D.	35.00	
Easter Flowers	30.00	
Ash Wednesday	<u>30.00</u>	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$626.00</b>	

**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.

**LENTEN DINNERS**

St. Brigid, Meadville—3/15, 22, 29/ 4/5, 12 - 4:30 - 6:30 pm  
 Our Lady of the Lake, Edinboro—3/15, 22, 29/ 4/5, 12 -  
 5:00 - 7:00 pm  
 All Saints, Waterford—3/15, 22, 29/ 4/5, 12—4:30 - 7:00 pm

**WOMEN'S RETREAT**  
**LENTEN DAY OF RECOLLECTION**

Sunday, March 24, 2019  
 Mass - 11:00 am  
 Program - 12:30 - 3:00 pm  
 Judy Hehr, Spiritual Motivator and Inspirational Speaker  
 Dinner - 3:00 pm  
 St. Eulalia, 6 E. Maple St., Coudersport, PA 16915  
 Cost - \$20.00  
 For more information or to purchase tickets  
 Call 814 274-8646

**SURVIVING DIVORCE MINISTRY**

A program for men and women seeking peace, power and passion after your divorce. The program runs April 3 - May 22, 2019 from 6:30 - 8:00 pm at St. Mark Catholic Center, 429 E. Grandview Blvd., Erie. A \$15 fee for book/journal and other materials. Registration in advance appreciated but not necessary. For more information call the Family life Office at 814 824-1265

**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. Dinner will be available at a cost of \$5.00.

**UPCOMING EVENTS AT ST. BERNADETTE**

Wed. March 13 - 12:00 Noon - Lenten Lunch at Saegertown United Methodist Church  
 Tues, March 19 - 6:00 pm - Benediction and Stations of the Cross

*You will be saved - Romans 1:9*

**STEWARDSHIP**

Offertory	\$1,242.00
Maintenance	428.00
Candles	24.00
CSA	<u>90.00</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$1,784.00</b>

Catholic Services Appeal—2019  
 Pledged: \$10,045 Paid: \$4,855

**CHURCH NAME:** ST. ANTONY OF PADUA

**CHURCH NO.:**

**SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS:**

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