

# March 11, 2018

# Fourth Sunday of Lent

## MASS INTENTIONS

### Saturday, March 10

5:00 p.m. Altar Rosary Society

### Sunday, March 11

8:00 a.m. Parishioners of Saint Theodore Church

10:30 a.m. +Rocco and Harriet Zarillo  
By The Gallo Family

### Monday, March 12

8:45 a.m. +Corrado and Jennie Tridente  
By Sam and Marietta Tridente

### Tuesday, March 13

8:45 a.m. +Nicolina Miceli  
By Maryjane Petteruti

### Wednesday, March 14

8:45 a.m.

### Thursday, March 15 NO MASS

### Friday, March 16

8:45 a.m.

### Saturday, March 17

5:00 p.m. +Charles Kelton  
By Brian and Lexi McKevitt and Son

### Sunday, March 18

8:00 a.m. +Rose Kane  
By Susan Reynolds

10:30 a.m. In Honor of the Madonna of Health  
By Angela Gross

**ATTENTION:** Father Damian advises, that during this Flu Season, parishioners just nod their heads instead of shaking hands during the peace giving at Mass.



The fourth Sunday of Lent is sometimes called *Laetare* Sunday. *Laetare* is a Latin word that means “rejoice.”

Traditionally, Sundays are named after the first word of the liturgy’s opening antiphon. On this Sunday, the antiphon is taken from the book of the prophet Isaiah (Isaiah 66:10-11). Even as we observe our Lenten sacrifices, we rejoice in anticipation of the joy that will be ours at Easter. Today’s Gospel reading is taken from John’s Gospel. It consists of two parts. The first part is

the final sentence of Jesus’ reply to Nicodemus, the Pharisee who approached Jesus at night.

Nicodemus acknowledged Jesus as someone who had come from God and seemed to want to be a follower of Jesus. Jesus greeted Nicodemus with the observation that one must be born from above to see the Kingdom of God. The dialogue between Jesus and Nicodemus that followed was about the meaning of this phrase. Nicodemus misunderstood Jesus at every point, but there was no animosity in the questions he posed to Jesus.

In the part of the conversation with Nicodemus in today’s Gospel, Jesus referred to an incident reported in the Old Testament. When the Israelites grumbled against the Lord during their sojourn in the desert, God sent venomous serpents to punish them for their complaints. The Israelites repented and asked Moses to pray for them. The Lord heard Moses’ prayer and instructed him to make a bronze serpent and mount it on a pole. All who had been bitten by a serpent and then looked upon the bronze serpent were cured. By recalling this story, Jesus alludes to the salvation that would be accomplished through his death and Resurrection.

The second part of today’s Gospel is a theological reflection on Jesus’ words to Nicodemus. The Gospel of John is known for this kind of reflection offered within the narrative. The words of the Evangelist are in continuity with the words of the prologue to John’s Gospel. In these reflections, John elaborates on a number of themes that are found in his Gospel: light and darkness, belief and unbelief, good and evil, salvation and condemnation.

In John’s reflection, we find an observation about human sinfulness. Jesus is the light that has come into the world, but people preferred the darkness. We wish to keep our sins hidden, even from God. Jesus has come into the world to reveal our sins so that they may be forgiven. This is the Good News; it is the reason for our rejoicing in this season of Lent and throughout our lives.



**Saint Theodore Church Fundraisers**

- **Panera (March 15):** Between 4 pm and 8 pm. When you dine at Panera's in Hackettstown, and present your server with a our flyer, our church will receive 20% of your purchase. Flyers will be inserted in our bulletin; also, you can download one from our website: [www.sttheodorenj.com](http://www.sttheodorenj.com): *Calendar of Events: Special Events.*
- **Vacation Raffle (April 8):** Offering a choice of one destination from five distinct packages from which to choose. Options include: air or driving travel, with or without children accompanying you. Price per ticket: \$20. Parishioners will be receiving tickets in the mail. Additional tickets will be sold by the Altar Rosary Society before and after all the weekend Masses or Monday through Thursday, 9 am to 1 pm in the Parish Office.
- **50/50 Raffle: (May 27):** Parishioners will be receiving in the mail soon a book of tickets for our annual 50/50 Raffle. As in the past, the books are \$100-\$10 per ticket. These chances will be sold before and after the weekend Masses in the Parish Center.



**REQUESTS  
— FOR —  
PRAYER**

Stephen, Bridget M., Savannah Paine, Bobby Gross, Keira Hedges, Peter, Zachary, Logan Peter Saksa, Anna Saksa, Lauren Lane, Jay Mildrum, Philip Kinney, Peter S., Mary Supple, Mary Rupell, Susan Reynolds, Robert Dicheck, Christian, Tara, Zoe, Teagan, Eric Harding, Kathy & Bob Y., Irma Marquart, Dolores Staiano, Gerard Schnaars, Glenda L., The Rasimowicz Family, Michael Dante

**Bishop's Annual Appeal 2018**

To date, the Bishop's Annual Appeal has received from parishioners: \$2,590 Pledges; \$2,245 in Payments from 22 parishioners. This represents 37 % of our goal of \$7,000.

**Our Weekly Offering**

**Sunday collection needed to meet**

**weekly expenses: \$3,637.**

March 4: \$2,199.25

February deficit: \$4,582

**Bible Study** Every Tuesday @ 6:30 pm:  
**Stations of the Cross** Fridays during Lent: 7pm

**March Calendar**

**March 12, 6:15 pm:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade at Church

**March 14, 6:30 pm:** Trustees & Pastoral Council Meeting

**March 15: 4p to 8p** Panera Fund Raiser

**March 17 & 18, 5pm; 8 & 10:30 am:** Lenten Retreat begins

**March 18, 10:30 am:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade First Confession

**March 19, 20, 21, 7 pm:** Lenten Retreat

**March 21, 7:30 pm:** Easter Confessions

**March 24, 10 am:** Easter Egg stuffing

**March 24, 10 am:** Grounds Cleaning

**March 24 & 25:** Altar Rosary Bake Sale

**March 28, 6pm to 9 pm:** 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Retreat

**Holy Week Services**



**Penance Service**, March 29: 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; 9 p.m. to 10 p.m.

**Holy Thursday**, March 29: Confessions, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.; 9

p.m. to 10 p.m.

Mass of the Lord's Supper 7 p.m.; Visit to the Repository until 10 p.m.

**Good Friday**, March 30: Confessions 4p.m. to 5 p.m.; 6:30 p.m. to 7 p.m., **7 p.m.: Liturgy of the Passion, Holy Communion**, Stations of the Cross, Day 1 of Divine Mercy Novena

**Holy Saturday**, March 31: Confessions 12 noon to 1 p.m.; Day 2 of Novena, Easter blessing of Food; 8 p.m.: Easter Vigil Mass

**Easter Sunday**, April 1, 7:30 a.m.: Day 3 of Novena, Procession and Mass; 10:30 a.m. Mass followed by Easter Egg Hunt

**Diving Mercy Chaplet Day 9:** April 2, 8 a.m.

**What Is It?**

**Sanctuary Lamp:** a candle that burns either near the tabernacle or hangs from the ceiling of the church. The lit candle signifies that the tabernacle contains the Blessed Sacrament.