

Lent

February 22, 2015 ♦ First Sunday of Lent

Today's Readings

Gn 9:8–15

1 Pt 3:18–22

Mk 1:12–15

The opportunity to change is the gift Christ gave us in his passion and resurrection. It's a sign of God's "wondrous love."

When our youngest daughter was three, we traveled to Hawaii to see her grandparents. It wasn't her first trip, but it was the first she would remember.

One day her grandfather took us to the pineapple fields. We got out of the car and started into the field. Suddenly, she stopped to stare at the sky. She was looking at the largest and most vibrant rainbow I had ever seen, its end planted firmly in the very field in which we stood.

"What is *that*?" she asked in a hushed voice. "It's a rainbow," I said. She'd seen pictures of them, and we had drawn them with crayons, but nothing prepared her for the grandeur of this one, which arced up and away into the clouds. Everything else paled in comparison.

I can understand why the writer of the Noah story looks at the rainbow as a sign of both God's gracious covenant and peace. The sheer beauty of the reality reflects the glory of the Lord of Creation.

But today, on this first Sunday of Lent, our real attention goes to the beauty of the new covenant unfolding with the preaching of Jesus. The call to repent is the call to change our lives in response to the love of God, whose kingdom is one of peace and joy.

The opportunity to change is the gift Christ gave us in his passion and resurrection. It's a sign of God's "wondrous love."

When we understand that with all our hearts, we too will stare with awe and ask, "What is *that*?"

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FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT - FEBRUARY 22, 2015

★ ★ MASS INTENTIONS ★ ★

SAT 5:15 PM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 SUN 7:30 AM JOHN BRADLEY
 9:00 AM SAL MONASTERO
 11:00 AM BILL PENDER
 MON **NO MASS**
 TUE 7:00 PM JOSEPHINE BOGUS
 WED 7:30 AM JOSEPH A. RAPPOSELLI & NICHOLAS ZAMPELLI

THU 7:00 PM JOHN BUTLER
 FRI 7:30 AM ANDREW J. LAKATOSH
 SAT 5:15 PM GEORGE & GREG WHITE
 SUN 7:30 AM LIVING & DECEASED PARISHIONERS
 9:00 AM JENNIE CROSBY
 11:00 AM MARTHA CAPRON

*The Sanctuary Lamp Burns In Memory of Paul Powaski – 8th Anniversary and
 In Honor of Nancy & Jim Guilliams – 55th Wedding Anniversary*

NEXT WEEK AT A GLANCE

SCRIP: Dowling 5:15pm Costanzo 7:30am Kasperowicz 9:00am Carvalho 11:00am Hafer

| <u>DAY</u> | <u>MASS</u> | <u>LECTOR</u> | <u>COMMENTATOR</u> | <u>ALTAR SERVERS</u> |
|------------|-------------|------------------|--------------------|--|
| SAT | 5:15pm | Shirley Wheeler | Mike Austrevich | Brent DeMarco, Ryan Ferrante, Aiden Reber |
| SUN | 7:30am | Adelina Kieffer | Dan Sweeney | John & Nick Dinnocenti, Tim Stewart |
| | 9:00am | Isabelita Santos | Pam Amos | Ally, Jacob and Diego Santos |
| | 11:00am | Jim Keaveney | Steve Lukes | Adam Brezina, Leonard Cline, Nick Donnelly |

Second collection next week is for Church Building and Parish Maintenance

OPERATION RICE BOWL is a nationwide Lenten Faith-in-Action program for families and faith communities administered by Catholic Relief Services. Rice Bowl encourages participants to live in solidarity with the poor through prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Donations to Operation Rice Bowl support programs around the world.

Some examples include:

- † Agricultural projects to help farmers improve harvests
 - † Water and sanitation projects to bring clean water to communities
 - † Mother and child health and nutrition projects
- 75% of all Rice Bowl donations are utilized by Catholic Relief Services internationally. 25% is used locally to alleviate poverty and hunger. What you give up for Lent can make a difference! What you give up for Lent changes lives! Please consider a sacrificial offering you and your family could make for Lent. Donations for Operationd Rice Bowl can be placed in the container in the rear of the church near the baptismal font.

Remember in your prayers the sick of our parish: Joe Cuccaro, Cecelia Potts, Marco Fiato, Bryan Fiato, John Kakas, William Kuehler, Maryanne Prentice, Tracy Seasholtz, Aaron Gulla, John Iezzi, Delores Woy, Alice Arantowicz, Andrew Martin, Alice Smyk, Barbara Pease, Yolanda Marino, Robert Mariani, Marie Snyder, Irene Wade, Patricia Winkel, Ann Kretzman, Ann Schlott, Maryanna Niemczyk, Linda D'Alessandro, Mary Pender, Jo Ann Hofer, Paul Milshaw, Roger Villano, Sharon Kirkpatrick, Kathy Patrick, William Strock, Sr., Helen McDonald, Lana Wentzel, Steve Mammarella, Joseph & Susan McCorristin and Tom Hafer

Please welcome our new parishioners: Mrs. Beth Ann Mack, Mr. & Mrs. Dennis Whitely, Mrs. Phyllis Gaudi and Mr. Samuel Melchiorre

Please pray for the recently departed: Marcialito Marcial, Minnie O'Grattis, Louise Beck and Kathleen Embriani

THIS WEEK AT ICC:

| | | |
|------------|--------------|---|
| Sun | 02/22 | Women's Society SOUP SALE |
| Mon | 02/23 | 7:30pm RCIA |
| Fri | 02/27 | 1:45pm Stations of the Cross 7pm Stations of the Cross |
| Sat | 02/28 | 4-5pm Confessions |

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Please be advised that there will be no daily Mass Monday, February 23, 2015. Thank you for your kind understanding in this regard.

DON'T FORGET – The Women's Society will be offering a wide variety of homemade soups for sale before and after all this weekend's Masses. Pick up a quart or two for dinner. Who can resist a bowl of hot and hearty soup on a cold day?

CANDY SALE ORDERS due March 8th. Order forms can be found in the narthex, the parish office and online at www.icbvm.org attached to February 22nd Bulletin under the *Parish News* tab.

ICC CYO Spring Sports Registrations - Our CYO program will host several sport activities for grades 6 through 8 this spring. **Baseball** will be available for boys. **The following Sports will be available, based on interest as well as obtaining a Coach**- Please let us know if you have the passion for coaching these sports. **Softball**- (girls)...Need a Coach! **Track and Field** (boys and girls)...Need a Coach! In order to run a program of this magnitude, we need the help of many coaches and volunteers. Our program simply could not run without you! We applaud you and thank you for your extraordinary help! Visit www.iccyo.com to register your child. Please note: If you have already registered your child in the fall for Softball, Track or Baseball- No further action is required.

ICC CYO is pleased to announce that every Saturday in March (7, 14, 21, 28), 8:30-10:00am, we will be running a **1st and 2nd grade Developmental Basketball Program**. Please spread the word!! Many thanks to Dave Voelker and Frank Brennan for running this program.

The Annual Lenten Food Drive for the benefit of the Food Pantry at St. Joseph's Parish, The Kennedy House and Catholic Charities of Reading will begin Ash Wednesday. Non-perishable food items and cash can be placed in the large basket and cash canister in the narthex of the Church. The food drive runs through Palm Sunday. Contact Jim at 610-385-3666.

FOLLOW IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS AS HE CARRIED THE CROSS FOR OUR SALVATION. STATIONS OF THE CROSS WILL BE HELD THIS WEEK ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 27TH AT 1:45PM WITH THE CHILDREN OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION ACADEMY AND AT 7:00PM

Reading March for Life - April 26, 2015 - Rally 2pm - March 3pm - Berks Catholic High School - Donations of baby items needed for Crisis Pregnancy Centers. Collection boxes in Berks Catholic Auditorium.

Building a Culture of Vocations

A study commissioned by the Knights of Columbus revealed that 75% of Catholic young people who had seriously considered religious life felt they were never encouraged to pursue that goal. Do you know someone who would make a good priest? Why not tell him so? Your encouragement may be all he needs.

World Meeting of Families/Papal Visit to Philadelphia

The World Meeting of Families was conceived by Saint Pope John Paul II in 1992 to look at strengthening the sacred bonds of the family across the globe. The first World Meeting of Families took place in 1994, the International Year of the Family.

Every three years since 1994, families from all over the world are invited by the Holy Father to attend this global gathering. At the conference, families share their thoughts, dialogue and prayers, working together to grow as individuals and family units. Families can participate in discussion groups on the family's role in the church and society, led by many distinguished speakers.

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia will host the 2015 World Meeting of Families Monday, September 21st through Friday, September 25th. Many of the congress activities will take place at the Pennsylvania Convention Center. To learn more about the 2015 World Meeting of Families in Philadelphia visit the official website www.worldmeeting2015.org.

Pope Francis will be travelling to Philadelphia to participate in the World Meeting of Families. The details of the Papal Visit have not yet been confirmed. The Holy Father is excited to be in Philadelphia from Saturday, September 26th through Sunday, September 27th for the Festival of Families and the Papal Mass. Both of these events will take place on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway in the heart of Philadelphia and will be open to the public. World Meeting officials have repeatedly said that there will be no tickets for papal events.

Additional information will be made available as details are confirmed. Stay in the know by registering for electronic updates at www.worldmeeting2015.org.

A Recommendation to Enhance Your Lenten Journey of Conversion and Renewal

Prayerfully read the Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John which tell the story of Jesus' death on the cross.

The National 40 Days for Life Campaign and Prayer Vigil through March 29th. A daily prayer vigil will be held in front of Reading Planned Parenthood, 4th and Franklin Sts, Reading, 7am-4pm, Mondays through Saturdays. Be a 30 minute witness for life. In those 30 minutes, you'll be seen by the occupants of 600-900 cars. Pray to end abortion. For info call 610-375-3395.



February 22, 2015

dear Padre

Monday
FEBRUARY 23
Lenten
Weekday
Lv 19:1-2, 11-18
Mt 25:31-46

Tuesday
FEBRUARY 24
Lenten
Weekday
Is 55:10-11
Mt 6:7-15

Wednesday
FEBRUARY 25
Lenten
Weekday
Jon 3:1-10
Lk 11:29-32

Thursday
FEBRUARY 26
Lenten
Weekday
Est C:12, 14-16,
23-25
Mt 7:7-12

Friday
FEBRUARY 27
Lenten
Weekday
Ez 18:21-28
Mt 5:20-26

Saturday
FEBRUARY 28
Lenten Weekday
Dt 26:16-19
Mt 5:43-48

Sunday
MARCH 1
Second Sunday
of Lent
Gn 22:1-2, 9a,
10-13, 15-18
Rom 8:31b-34
Mk 9:2-10

Who decided that fish isn't meat?

Q Who decided that fish doesn't constitute meat for Catholics? I really hate fish, and it bugs me when my friends eat lobster for dinner on Fridays in the name of "sacrifice."



Latin is the official language of the Catholic Church. Canon law as written in Latin says we must abstain from *carne* ("meat"), a word that refers to warm-blooded animals that walk on the ground. By that definition, fish is allowed.

You make an excellent point about the lobster dinners and the nature of sacrifice. In its document "Questions and Answers about Lent and Lenten Practices," the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops says, "While fish, lobster and other shellfish are not considered meat and can be consumed on days of abstinence, indulging in the lavish buffet at your favorite seafood place sort of misses the point. Abstaining from meat and other indulgences during Lent is a penitential practice. On the Fridays of Lent, we remember the sacrifice of Christ on Good Friday and unite ourselves with that sacrifice through abstinence and prayer."

As we enter Lent, we must remember that our acts of penance should be more than thinking about just giving something up—like meat. Our fasting needs to lead us to a closer relationship with God instead of merely being a time of sacrifice.

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**FREE
GIFT**



Liguori wants to give your family a free e-book!

When you introduce very young children to the saints, you give them real heroes as role models. Liguori wants to help. For a limited time, we're offering you a free illustrated children's e-book, *John Bosco: Champion for Youth* (869099). Simply visit Liguori.org and use special offer code 15559 when you check out. This free offer ends March 31, 2015. Thank you for letting Liguori walk with you on your spiritual journey.

Easter Candy Sale



Ready just in time for filling your Easter Baskets, the Women's Society will be making up home-made, hand dipped, chocolate Peanut Butter Eggs wrapped in yummy milk chocolate and delectable Coconut Cream Eggs covered in deep dark chocolate. We will offer 1/2 lb

boxes and 1 lb boxes. You may order a whole box of Peanut Butter or Coconut, but if you can't decide which to get, order a mixed box of 1/2 and 1/2. Whatever your pleasure, order today. We promise you won't be disappointed.

Drop your order along with payment into the collection basket by Sunday, March 8th. Orders may be picked up in the narthex after weekend Masses on March 28th and March 29th. You may also drop off or mail your order to the Administration Building, 905 Chestnut Street, Douglassville, 19518. There won't be many extras, so **please pay and pre-order by Sunday March 8th** to make sure you get your favorites. Please make your checks payable to Women's Society.

Please note that assortment weights are approximate and contain nut products.

1/2 pound boxes \$ 5.00

1 pound boxes \$ 10.00

| | <u>Peanut Butter</u> | <u>Coconut</u> | <u>Mixed</u> |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1/2 lb. Assortment \$5 each | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 1 lb. Assortment \$ 10 each | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| Name _____ | Phone Number _____ | | |
| Number of Assortments ordered _____ | Amount enclosed _____ | | |