

Good News

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mary Katharine Deeley

One of the deep meanings of this Gospel reading is signaled in verse 2: "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them." Last Sunday, Jesus challenged the people to realize they were no better than those they condemned. The Pharisees and scribes had trouble with that lesson. They felt morally superior and more entitled to God's favor than those whose lives they questioned. Jesus turned that attitude on its head, showing time and again that God seeks out the sinner and the lost, particularly those who recognize that they are sinners and lost. As long as the Pharisees and scribes did not see themselves that way, Jesus could not help them.

Dictionary.com Unabridged says prodigal means "wastefully or recklessly extravagant," so someone who is prodigal is lavish, a spendthrift. According to the Pharisees, Jesus was prodigal, for they considered his welcome of sinners as wildly wasteful, frittering away time and resources on people they thought were unworthy. But Jesus simply was showing them, and all of us, what God's love is like. God is extravagant in his love for saints and sinners alike. To some it might seem pointless or unjust to love and care for sinners and enemies, but God finds no one unworthy or unlovable— even those who reject him and oppress others.

Lent is a time to accept our sinfulness, our lost condition, and return home to the Father. Like the father of the prodigal son, God waits for that warm embrace, willing to give us everything. Hurry now.

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Masses

Sun.	7:30	+Dick Lanigan
	9:00	Parish
	10:30	+Tim Corrigan
	12:00	+Raymond Champ Duncan
	6:00	+Jeanne Fisher
Mon.	6:15	Special Intention for Kay McVean
	8:15	Special Intention for Andrea & Randall Terry
	12:00	+Katherine Joyce & + Bob Moore
Tues.	6:15	Special Intention for Sally Thomason & Vicki Brown
	8:15	Special Intention for Johnny Sherlock
	12:00	+Emmett O'Ryan
Wed.	6:15	+Charles L. Duff
	8:15	Special Intention for Sally Thomason
	12:00	Special Intention for David Slatinsky
Thurs.	6:15	+Edward Smith
	8:15	+Jenny Bienes & Special Intention for Mike and Mary Chantel
	12:00	+Ed Crenshaw
Fri.	6:15	+Dan Thompson
	8:15	+Maria Meyers
	12:00	Special Intention for Tonya Dumas & Tom & Karen Mustachia
Sat.	6:15	+Wendell Seelig
	8:15	+Jack Riley
	4:30	+Dorothy Pratt

Prayers are requested for the sick: Jean Donati+Lewis Proctor+Gloria Andereck+Kathleen Bryant+Cliff Davis+Jean Garbarini+Alani Stocks+Sally Thomason+Teresa Bounds+Jeannia Lucchesi+David H. Klyce

Prayers are requested for the repose of the souls of Margaret Hostettler+Fr. Philip Breen+Sidney Ryan+Patricia Dardano.

Information

Sacrament of Baptism—Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays following noon Mass. Parents are asked to attend an instructional class prior to the baptism. Please call the parish office to schedule a baptism.

Adults interested in the Catholic Faith—to learn more about the Catholic Faith, please contact Deacon Jeff Drzycimski at 682-6606, ext. 1953 for information about our R.C.I.A. (Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults) program.

Sacrament of Marriage—Please contact one of the priests for an appointment at least 6 months in advance of the proposed wedding date. Diocesan policy requires that certain guidelines be met.

Funerals—please call the parish office to make funeral arrangements; our staff will be happy to assist you.

Ministry to the Sick—When a family member is ill, home-bound, or hospitalized, please call the parish office to request prayers and to arrange a pastoral visit. The priests and our lay Ministers to the Sick make regular visits to the sick and home-bound.

Counseling Services—St. Louis Parish participates in the Parish Family Counseling Program of the Diocese of Memphis. Professional available; fees are based on one's ability to pay. Contact Anne McInnis at 722-4711.

Nursery—a nursery is provided in the Clunan Center each weekend at 4:30 pm, 9:00 am, 10:30 am, and noon Masses on Sunday.

March 6th, 2016—Fourth Sunday of Lent



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY

Pope Francis has called for a special Jubilee Year of Mercy. St. Louis Parish will offer the Divine Mercy Chaplet in the Church at 2:30pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and following the 8:15am Mass on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Contact Susan Smith at

Sbsmith408@aol.com or Libby Parks at libbykarks@gmail.com.

BISHOP'S ANNUAL APPEAL

Next weekend is Commitment Weekend for the 2016 Bishop's Annual Appeal. Please bring the personalized commitment card you received in the mail to Mass with you as we join together to support Catholic Church.



PERPETUAL ADORATION

Visit www.tinyurl.com/SLCCAdoration to sign up to volunteer for one hour per week or as a substitute.

Many slots have only one adorer and there is a great need to have at least two adorers per shift.

Contact Jan O'Donnell with questions by email at jan.odonnell@stlouis.cdom.org or call 255-1954.

DOORS OF MERCY:

EXPLORING GOD'S COVENANT WITH YOU

Join us! For only the fourth time in Church history, the Pope has declared an Extraordinary Jubilee Year. And the focus? Mercy. Learn to give and receive forgiveness, to forgive others, to forgive yourself. This is not a bible study, there is no written homework, just eight simple sessions that will help you to experience God's hope, healing and loving mercy. We will use the Ekklesia Thursday format with \$5 dinners. Upcoming sessions are at 6pm on **Thursday, March 17th**, **Thursday, April 14th** and **Thursday, April 21st**. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/StLouisEkklesia> or call the church office at 682-6606.

LENT SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Here is a chance, as a family, to do a positive simple service for Lent. St. Louis has over 300 homebound and/or active older parishioners. They are a very important part of the parish. Each Easter we deliver a flower to them from the church. Msgr. McArthur is asking for families to volunteer to deliver just one—yes, just one flower to these families. God will bless your service and generosity. Flowers, recipient's name and address may be picked up in the church office beginning **Tuesday, March 15th**.

LENTEN SCHEDULE

Confessions will be heard on **Tuesday, March 8th** from 11am-12pm and on **Wednesday, March 9th** from 5-6pm in addition to our regular confession schedule of Saturdays 3:30-4:30 and 20 minutes before each Sunday Mass.

Stations of the Cross will be held on Fridays at 5:30pm.

LENTEN REGULATIONS

The Lenten regulations regarding fast and abstinence are as follows: Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. All Fridays in Lent are days of abstinence only. Church law binds as follows:

- A. The Law of Abstinence (not eating meat) obliges those who have completed their 14th year.
- B. The Law of Fast (only one full meal each day, nothing between meals) obliges those who have completed their 18th year until the beginning of their 60th year.

EASTER ALTAR FLOWERS

At Easter Masses, lovely lillies decorate the altars. If you would like to make a donation in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special, please use the envelope in your packet. Your donation will be recognized in the bulletin Easter weekend. Deadline for donations to be recognized in the bulletin is **Monday, March 14th**.



SEDER MEAL

The annual Seder Meal will be held **Wednesday March 23rd** in the Clunan Center at 6:30pm. The lamb will be provided. Please bring a dish to share to the catering kitchen. Reservations by calling the church office will be appreciated so we will have enough for everyone. Call Linda Clark at 569-1355.

GUILD MEETING

It's time again for food, fellowship, prayer and thanksgiving! The Altar Guild will meet **Monday, March 14th** at 6:30pm in the home of Nancy and Tony Lanigan, 203 Fleur de Lis Cove. Our very own Teri Trotter will talk about the Pink Wig Foundation. All ladies are invited and welcome. Hope to see you there!

THANK YOU

Eagle Scout Patrick Koch would like to thank the parish for their donations of books. Due to your generosity and support, he collected over 800 books for Catholic Charities.



YOUTH GROUP MEETINGS

Senior High Youth Group will meet on **Sunday, March 6th** from 7-9pm. Junior High will meet from 4:30-5:45 pm on **Sunday, March 13th**. Both groups meet in the St. John Paul II Youth Ministry Center. For the calendar and other information, visit www.stlouisyouth.org. You may also visit the Facebook page at St. Louis Catholic Church Youth Ministry and follow the Youth Group on Twitter at St_Louis_Youth and on Instagram at st.louis_youth_ministry.

CHURCH TOUR

Join Deacon Jeff for a special "behind-the-scenes" tour of the Church! All children (and any adults who are interested) are encouraged to take a close-up look at what happens at Mass: discover the "secrets" of the Sacristy, explore the Sanctuary, ring the bells, smell the incense and even speak from the ambo. Along the way, Deacon Jeff will explain the deep, spiritual meaning behind many of the symbols, images, furnishings and sacred decor of the Church. All children of the parish (PRE, St Louis School, St Agnes Academy, St Dominic School, and Public Schools) are invited to attend, as well as ANY interested adults! The tour will take about 90 minutes and will begin immediately following the 12pm Mass on **Sunday, March 6th**. There is no cost and no need to sign up...just be here after Mass!

LENTEN FISH FRIES

The St. Louis Men's Club will hold a Lenten fish fry on **Friday, March 11th** at 5:30pm in the Cafeteria. Fried catfish, hushpuppies, French fries, cole slaw, desserts and cold beverages will be served. Cheese pizza will be available for children. Adult catfish plate is \$10, child's catfish plate is \$5 and cheese pizza is \$4.



BEREAVEMENT MINISTRY

If you have lost someone dear, please join us for eight week sessions on grief and loss. Deacon Jack and Linda Conrad will be conducting the class beginning at 5:30pm in the Clunan Center on **Monday, March 21st**. If you have questions, call 383-0093.



40 DAYS FOR LIFE

The Spring campaign for 40 Days for Life will continue thru **Sunday, March 20th**. This is an international prayer, fasting and peaceful prayer vigil in front of Planned Parenthood. Won't you be a part of this vibrant mission? To sign up call 730-6279 or www.40daysforlife.com or call Libby Parks at 355-8546. We will be praying from 6am til 6pm daily.

ROSARY BRIGADE INTENTION

Pray that we may respond generously to the Bishop's Annual Appeal as good stewards of God's many gifts.

NEXT WEEKEND'S READINGS

Fifth Sunday of Lent
First Reading Ezekiel 37:12-14
Psalm Psalm 130
Second Reading Romans 8:8-11
Gospel John 11:1-45

PRAYERS FOR THE ARMED FORCES

Please keep the men and women serving in Iraq, and other conflict areas around the world, in your prayers as well as their families. Pray especially for Jonathan Paul Morales, Robert Bender, Desiree Bender, Brad Israel, Capt. Charlie Kennedy, Philip Principi and Bryan Haneghan.

OFFERTORY REPORT

Week of February 28, 2016

Total collection	\$41,534
Envelopes	32,472
Electronic	7,529
Loose	1,533
Budget requirements	40,385
Total registered families	1,711
Donated by envelopes	427 families
Donated electronically	91 families
Non-participants	1,193 families
30% of families participated . . . 70% did not	

MOTHER'S DAY OUT

Mother's Day Out is now signing up students for the fall of 2016. Classes are Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday from 9:30-2:30pm. Students may attend 1 or 2 days a week. Tuition for 1 day per week is \$90 and 2 days per week is \$180 per month. There is a \$50 registration fee. Contact Margaret Canale at 255-1963.

ROOM IN THE INN

St. Louis Parish is participating in the Room in the Inn with Colonial Cumberland Presbyterian Church. We need drivers and shepherds to spend the night. Sign up at <http://tinyurl.com/SLCRITI>. For information call Pam Scarbrough at 763-0295 or Ann Drennan at 674-2117.

SAVE THE DATE!

11th Annual Cardinal 5K
Sponsored by Paragon Bank
Benefiting St. Louis Catholic School
and Madonna Learning Center
Saturday, April 2nd 5K at 9am
Kids' 1-Miler at 10am
www.facebook.com/StLouisSchoolCardinal5k