



4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



"His son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and against you; I no longer deserve to be called your son.' But his father ordered his servants, 'Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.'"
- Lk 15:21-22a, 23b-24a

Excerpts from the Lectionary for Mass ©2001, 1998, 1970 CCD.

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MASS:

Wednesday 9:00 a.m.

Sunday 9:00 a.m.

Parish Pastoral Council:

Chris Bonacci; Shawna Bonacci; Andrea Neff; Eddie Odom; Amy Pollice; Joe Vivacqua; Tony Winterburn

***Carmen Roebke– Compliance Officer
330-792-3829 Ext. 8***

***Dominic Colucy– Victim Assistance
Coordinator***

330-744-8451 Ext. 293

dcolucy@youngstowndiocese.org

The Tennis Bracelet Caper

I was browsing at the counter of a jewelry store recently, waiting to pick up several rosaries that were being repaired before being sent to the missions. I noticed a sign behind a display for something I had never heard of or seen before: tennis bracelets.

The bracelets themselves were quite attractive, though I don't play tennis, never have, and don't know anyone who does that I could send a tennis bracelet to had they alerted me that they wanted one. In fact, up until that moment I had spent some three quarters of a century completely unaware that any such object as a "tennis bracelet" existed. Who knew? I had a sneaking suspicion that this might have been, shall we say, a "created need" rather than a genuine demand or desire on the part of jewelry customers, but as I say, the items were quite colorful and attractive.

In any case, it was the sign next to the bracelets that caught my attention. Something about the wording jarred me into awareness. Of course, I understand that the sign was an advertising slogan, not something meant to be a deep philosophical or theological insight into life. But still...I looked at the words on the card by the bracelets — "A tennis bracelet expresses endless love" — and thought to myself, "no."

Of course it is true that someone receiving one of these colorful bracelets might be deeply moved and quite grateful to have been given such a gift by someone who cares for them. Indeed, this strikes me as a gift that someone "in love" might give in a romantic moment to someone who not only loves the game of tennis but has a quite strong attraction to the giver of the gift, whether that person has any tennis skills or not. But the point here is that "endless love" cannot be purchased; it is a gift freely given and must be expressed by selfless loving actions.

Such as? Caring for an elderly parent or a sick spouse. Forgiving or reconciling with a friend who has hurt me; spending time to show compassion to someone experiencing deep grief or depression; tutoring a grandchild in math or some other obscure and difficult subject. The list is endless, and in the real world, highly sacrificial. Endless love is clearly priceless, way beyond the price of a tennis bracelet.

— Lou Jacquet

Office hours are Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Call Jackie Niznik at 330-792-3875 with questions.

Altar/Rosary Asks Your Help

Are you handy at making a basket to raffle? Can you supply a Gift card? Would you help the Altar and Rosary society put together a basket raffle table for our upcoming Bingo and Card Party on April 27?

We are few in number and ask for your assistance in making this a success. Can we count on you? You can donate to any member, leave at the rectory during business hours (8:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday through Thursday), or bring on Sunday to Room 102. Thank you!

Altar/Rosary MEETS TODAY (March 30) in Room 102 after the 9 a.m. Mass to plan the event. Questions? Call Sharon Pasquale, president, at 330-207-7836.

— Deb Zalovcik

FISH DINNER UPDATE



"St. Brendan's popular Lenten Fish Fry Dinners continue to attract many West Siders, as some 600 pounds of fish were prepared and served by parish volunteers on March 21.

"Our dinners will continue to be served for two more Fridays, April 4 and April 11. To place an order, call 330-799-3683. You can also call on Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

—"Your Fish Leaders,

Patty Infante and John Coudriet"

Sunday, March 30

9:00 a.m. Barb Perry by Koewacich Family

Wednesday, April 2

9:00 a.m. In Memory of Kisan, Wolinski, and Zalovcik Families by Deborah Zalovcik

Sunday, April 6

9:00 a.m. Christine Rieger Lohner
by Lou and Geri Jacquet

Please Pray For Our Sick

Frank Roman, Mary Pavlak, Beverly Detate, Frank Lightner, Michelle Smith, Ken Mains, David Deihl, Barbara Bonninsegna, Mary Beth Celio, Fr. Richard Brobst, Charles Slivkoff, Harold and Debra Brown, Rita Thomas

An Afternoon At the Races



A pre-St. Patrick's Day "Afternoon at the Races" for adults 21 and over was held Sunday March 16 at St. Christine Parish Center. The day, sponsored by Our Lady of Sorrows Holy Name Society, featured 12 exciting races and a kitchen serving Father John Jerek's specialties. Members of St. Brendan present for the gathering included, from left, Fred Merlo, Jackie Niznik, Patty Infante, Barb Dunlap, Sharon Pasquale, Carol Martin, Fran Mihalik and Dot Kos. Standing behind them are John Coudriet, Jim Jerek (president of the Holy Name Society at St. Matthias) and Tony Winterburn. Photo by Deborah Zalovcik

Sunday's Scriptures: A Return to the Father

Today's readings for the 4th Sunday of Lent are from Joshua 5: 9-12; 2 Corinthians 5: 17-21; Gospel of Luke 15: 1-3, 11-32

The gospel scene tells us that tax collectors and sinners drew near to Jesus to listen to Him. They sense they need something from this preacher/miracle worker, and Jesus gives them a parable that they can understand.

"A man had two sons. The younger said to his father, 'Father, give me the share of your estate that should come to me.'" To a Jew of Jesus' time, this request shows an intense disrespect to one's father. He wants to separate himself from his family and live a different lifestyle than that of his father.

But his father, instead of punishing him, divided up his property between his two sons. The young man took all his belongings and set out for a distant country, where "he squandered his inheritance on a life of dissipation."

At this time, a famine struck that country, and the young man found himself hungry and in dire need. His situation was so desperate that he took a job tending swine, the worst possible job for a son of Israel. This job gives him time to reflect on the shameful and degrading life he has fallen into.

"Coming to his senses, he remembers his life with

his father, and decides to return home. He realized that he had separated himself completely from his father, and knew he was no longer considered a son. On his return he planned to take the place of a servant."

Back home, his loving father has never given up hope for a return of his young son. At this point in the parable, the ending of the story takes an unexpected turn from the normal ending. "While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him, and was filled with compassion. He ran to his son, embraced him and kissed him." The father in our story does not act in the normal Jewish fashion of that day. He does not reject his son. He does not issue a discipline. Instead, he reconciles with his son and, through a series of Jewish gestures, reinstates him as a beloved son.

We can be sure that the sinners and tax collectors listening to Jesus, because of their rejection of Jewish Law, find themselves ostracized, but begin to experience a hope for their future. We hope that they felt the need to return to their Father (God) and changes their lives. Where do we stand in relationship to our Father this Lent? Do we need to humble ourselves to make a return to Him?

— Geri Jacquet

Good Friday Collection

Pope Francis has asked our parish to support the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, which helps Christians in the Holy Land. Your support helps the Church to minister in parishes, provide Catholic schools, offer religious education, and undertake social and charitable works.

It is vital that we support Christians living in the Holy Land, in order to maintain a Christian presence in the very land made holy by the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus.

When you contribute to the Pontifical Good Friday Collection, you become an instrument of peace, and join with Catholics around the world in solidarity with the Church in the Holy Land. The envelope for the collection is in your parish packet. Please be generous!

Upcoming Lenten Events

Sunday, March 30

2:30 p.m. Stations of the Cross/Benediction at St. Matthias Church, followed by Sacrament of Confession with several priests available

Wednesday, April 2

9 a.m. Mass, St. Brendan Church

6 p.m. Part Three Adult Lenten Series at St. Christine Church

Friday, April 4

7 p.m. Stations of the Cross/Benediction, St. Christine Church

Prayer to St. Isidore

"Graciously hear the prayers, O Lord, which we make in commemoration of St. Isidore, that your Church may be aided by his intercession, just as she has been instructed by his heavenly teaching. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever."

Feast Day: March 4; died 636

Your Sacrificial Offering

Amount needed monthly to meet expenses

For March 2025 **\$29,440.00**

Week of March 23, 2025

Sunday Collection	\$3,090.00
Increased Operating Exp.	\$40.00
Rentals	\$1,050.00
Maint. Support	\$1,110.00
Total	\$5,290.00

4 week total \$21,842 .00 toward the goal of \$29,440.00

\$7,598.00 short

WE COUNT MEMBERS BECAUSE MEMBERS COUNT

Mass 9 a.m.

3/23– 100



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MISSION STATEMENT

*We are called to be
disciples, faithful to Jesus
and empowered by the Spirit.
We are committed to building the kingdom of
God by living the Gospel,
celebrating the sacraments
and loving our neighbor as ourselves.*

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Father John Jerek

Parochial Vicar

Father Stephen Zeigler

Deacons

Ron Layko

Mark Kiraly

Parish Office Manager

Jackie Niznik

Ext.10

Email: office@stbrendanyo.org

Music Director

Geri Jacquet

Assistant Music Director

Allyson Reed

MASS Sunday 9:00am

Wednesday 9:00am



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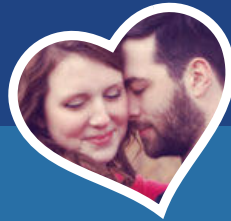
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