

# THE **JOURNEY**

**LENT 2013**

CATHOLIC CAMPUS MINISTRY AT PENN STATE

# SEASON OF LENT

## WEEKLY SCHEDULE

### DAILY MASS

#### MONDAY-THURSDAY MASSES

**9.15A** • Holy Family Chapel PATERNO CATHOLIC CENTER

**5.05P** • Eisenhower Chapel PASQUERILLA

#### FRIDAY MASS & SERVICES

 Meditation Chapel PASQUERILLA

**9.15A** • Mass

**Following Mass until 5.15P** • Adoration

**5.15P** • Benediction / Prayer / Communion

### STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Fridays • **12.15P** Eisenhower Chapel PASQUERILLA

**6.15P** Holy Family Chapel PATERNO CATHOLIC CENTER

### LENTEN LUNCHESES

Wednesdays • **12.10P** (Service) Eisenhower Chapel

Followed by a Lenten Lunch Garden Room

### PENANCE SERVICE

March 18 • **7P** Worship Hall

### OPERATION RICE BOWL

Help support global food programs and alleviate poverty by contributing money during Lent. All funds collected go straight to Catholic Relief Services | [www.crs.org](http://www.crs.org)

## **Blow the trumpet in Zion!**

**Proclaim** a fast,  
call an assembly;

**Gather** the people,  
notify the congregation;

**Assemble** the elders,  
gather the children and the infants at the breast...

And say, “**Spare, O LORD, your people...**”

Then **THE LORD** was stirred to **concern** for his  
land and **took pity** on his people.

Once again the prophet Joel calls us, one and all, to our Lenten journey. Do you sense the urgency in his words?

As a child I never cared for this journey, to say the least. It, along with my mother’s watchful eye, deprived me of too much. I was unaware of the bounty of grace to be found along the way. Of course today I am older, very much older, and somewhat wiser. At least wise enough to know that this journey is a wonderful gift...a gift I urgently need! Thus, I look forward to it and I thank God for the invitation to travel these forty days. I hope you are looking forward to it too. May these reflections serve as food for our journey.

—**Fr. Matthew Laffey** OSB  
Director, Catholic Campus Ministry

All the reflections contained in this book were written by members of the Catholic Campus Community at Penn State—undergraduate and graduate students, alumni and community members who worship with us, people preparing for full initiation into the Catholic Church, faculty, university employees and ministry staff. They reflect the rich variety of Catholic spirituality, reminding us that we are diverse companions on the same journey.

The reflections correspond to the day's Gospel, cited at the top of each page. This collection is designed to be used hand-in-hand with the scripture reading, connecting the Lenten walk of our community with the Lenten walk of the entire Church. You can find each of the readings online at [USCCB.org](http://USCCB.org) (U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops).

We would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt thanks to all who gave their time and effort to produce this collection.

# REFLECTIONS

For me, Lent serves as a yearly opportunity to deepen my relationship with God, and in the process, redirect my life to better follow His call. To help us get started, Jesus offers a clear directive today that should be front and center in our thoughts everyday: more charity and compassion, more heartfelt prayer, and more self-denial and sacrifice. And be sure to do all these discreetly and selflessly. Everyone has room to improve how often these teachings are put to good use, and we especially need to be on the lookout for opportunities throughout our day. Standing in line for a few minutes? Put away your phone and pray for someone in need. Desire a snack? Skip the Creamery and put a few bucks in your Rice Bowl. See someone who is stressed? Offer help or a kind word. My prayer for you and me as we begin our Lenten Journey is to recognize – and act upon – opportunities in which to fulfill these teachings.

**Marty Klanchar**  
**Faculty** | Research Engineer (ARL)

RCIA

Today, Jesus issues us a challenge. Predicting his passion, Christ teaches that we, his modern-day followers, must be able to sacrifice ourselves in order to follow him. He uses the ultimate form of sacrifice as His example, losing one's own life for his sake. Of course, today we don't face the same persecution that early Christians did; I know that I'll never face an angry mob sending me to an arena to be martyred. However, is God calling me to sacrifice my own self-centered desires to help a stranger? To be more patient with the person I'm not fond of? To spend more time in prayer? Each day, God gives us the opportunity to sacrifice our will to his, to become the people we are made to be. This Lent, how will you take up your cross daily to follow God, and lose your life for his sake?

**Tom Riley**  
**Class of 2014** | Bioengineering

Mass Coordinator / Newman

I would have asked Jesus a somewhat different question: why do we fast at all? When I was a Protestant, I thought it was just another weird rule that made me glad I wasn't Catholic. It continues to be a struggle every Lent. Watch, though, how Jesus shifts the perspective in His response! Fasting is not religious asceticism for its own sake, but rather a sign. There is a time for feasting as a sign of celebration and a time for fasting as a sign of mourning. We are mourning not only the Crucifixion of Christ but also our own sins that, according to justice, should have put us on that cross. Even our abstinence from meat (flesh) is a sign of our rejection of the “works of the flesh”—sins, or acts of rebellion, against the Spirit. Something to think about while we're abstaining today!

**Randi Anderson** Bread of Life  
**Graduate** | Teaching English as a Second Language



Is this a flash of divine humor? Christ divides the world between the healthy and the sick, the righteous and the sinners. Only the sick need a physician. But we are all sinners, especially the Pharisees and scribes. “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, you hypocrites.” Christ says, I have come to heal only the sick – knowing that everyone is ailing. Whether the irony is intended or not, the message is profound: Christ has come to heal us. What is more, His prescription seems easy to swallow: “Follow me.” But to follow Christ perfectly, we must leave “everything behind.” Because we have many things, we might react like the rich man and walk away sad—and still sick. Christ offers us hope and a challenge. We are sinners, and though we shall never attain perfection, through repentance we can be saved. A great banquet awaits in His house.

**John Lopatka**  
**Faculty**

Lector  
| A. Robert Noll Distinguished Professor of Law

# 1 **First Sunday of Lent** 17 February

Luke 4: 1-13

All of us can relate to the tempting of Jesus by the devil. At times we find ourselves exhausted as if we've gone without food for forty days; and often, temptation follows. Here at Penn State, we students face many temptations from a culture that lives for the moment; one that seeks after "all the kingdoms of the world." When we're down, it's so easy to turn to all the distractions and pleasures the world has to offer to try to fill our hunger. How can we overcome these temptations when we feel weak and empty? How did Jesus? When the devil tempted Him, he responded with the wisdom of God, something that God gives to us through scripture and prayer. With wisdom, Jesus sees through the devil's traps and remembers that the love of the Father outlives and outshines anything this world could ever offer.

**Tucker Brown**  
**Class of 2014** | Premedicine

Mass Coordinator / Newman

St. Ignatius offers a simple way to pray, known as “the examen” in his book *The Spiritual Exercises*. This form of prayer asks you to reflect on the day’s events, no matter how seemingly insignificant, and to identify the times you felt God’s presence. Perhaps during a recent volunteering experience, you noticed the unique love and thankfulness of those you were serving. Or perhaps you were taking a walk and noticed the warmth of the sunshine on your face. St. Ignatius called us to find God in all things. Reflect on every detail in your day, again no matter how seemingly insignificant, and identify the ways in which you felt yourself growing closer to God and the ways in which you were moving farther apart.

**Michael Regula** Mass Coordinator / Eucharistic Minister  
**Class of 2013** | Chemical Engineering

Today's Gospel describes Jesus teaching us how to pray the Lord's Prayer. We all know the words to this prayer—almost too well. I say almost too well because often we may just recite the words without really thinking about their meaning. To me, the greatest message of the Lord's Prayer is forgiveness. It is interesting that we expect God to forgive us for our sins many times a day—however, how often are we forgiving? And when I say forgiving, I mean really forgiving. It is natural for us to want to inflict revenge (emotional or physical) on those who wrong us but holding on to this anger leads to hate and away from love. This Lenten season, practice forgiveness every day in all things great and small and you will be closer to God.

**Carolyn Mahan Engstrom**  
Faculty | Environmental Studies

Mass Coordinator

At first glance, this gospel passage appears somewhat disjointed. However, the underlying theme is crystal clear: Jesus is issuing a series of warnings to his audience on the consequences of a lack of belief. Verse 22 states that “anyone who is not with me is against me.” He later says that the Queen of the South (who sought advice from Solomon) and the people of Jonah would stand as witnesses against the unfaithful on Judgement Day. All is not doom and gloom however, for he also states that those who believe in the Word of God and keep it are truly blessed. This passage serves as a reminder as to why our faith is so important; as God’s people we must repent our sins, keep our minds clear and light a fire in our hearts against future temptations. It is by doing this that we become blessed.

**Gabriella Jardine** Lector / Newman  
**International Exchange Student** | Geology

“Ask and it will be given to you: seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you.” What comforting words Jesus speaks to his disciples! These reassurances should be uplifting to all. Jesus encourages us to pray in all matters, however small or trivial they may seem. Our prayers may not be answered in exactly the way that we have imagined, but with persistence they will have results. We must be able to persevere with our prayers and accept God’s will. For who knows better what is best for us than our Heavenly Father? In all things, pray—for God will “give good things to those who ask him.”

**Judi & J.R. Vratarich**  
**Community Members**

Mass Coordinators

Jesus approaches the disciples in a neighborhood of Galilee, asking “Who are men claiming the Son of Man to be?” Simon Peter responds to Jesus, stating that He is the Christ. The reading for today essentially asks “What is the meaning of life?” or “Who are we living for?” The answer is simple: we are living for God and for Christ. However, this answer is not always easy. We may live to gain fame or seek fortune. We may live only for ourselves. During Lent, challenge yourself to live for Christ by prayer, celebration of the Eucharist, giving to others, acting unselfishly, or simply trying to be the best disciple of Christ that you can be.

**Andrea M. Yevchak**  
**Graduate** | School of Nursing

Eucharistic Minister  
Mission Mexico

Before reading this passage, it made sense to love my neighbor and hate my enemy. But Jesus teaches that we should “love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you.” Then he calls on us to be children and imitators of God, whose grace falls on both the good and the bad. In simple terms, God is telling us here that it is easy to love those who love us back. Think about those you love most: your parents, your significant other, your siblings, each of whom have a significant amount of love for you too. These people are easy to love. The real challenge is loving those who may not love you back. God loves unconditionally, and in order for us to truly live in his image and likeness, we must struggle to love as he loves, wholeheartedly and without condition.

**Gregory Walsh** Mass Coordinator / Project Haiti / Newman  
**Class of 2014** | Aerospace Engineering



In the context of the Lenten season, the Transfiguration offers us a glimpse of what it means to work on our prayer lives. Certainly, Lent is about self-denial and repentance, but we are called in a special way during these forty days to be active in pursuing a deeper relationship with Christ. Peter, John and James went up a mountain to pray alone with Jesus. In our own lives, especially during Lent, we must set aside time to be with Christ, listening attentively to what He wishes to reveal to us. For the Apostles, it was His departure from His earthly ministry, and for us it could be anything. God reinforces that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah, and we must listen to him accordingly. This Lent, quiet your heart in prayer and sit with Jesus, He may have something He wishes to reveal to you.

**Mary Claire Doyle**  
**Class of 2015**

Newman / Project Haiti  
Economics / Human Development

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus taught his disciples the most important prayer for us Christians: the Lord's Prayer. This favorite prayer of mine shows us what we ought to do: treat others the way you wish to be treated. If you are good to others, you will be blessed with mercy. If you want to receive the forgiveness of sins, you must first forgive others that have sinned against you. Today's gospel continues that theme. At times, our human nature unconsciously makes us expect more in return than what we have given. As we reflect on today's reading, ask yourself if you have treated others in the same way that you expect them to treat you.

**Ruowang Li**  
**Graduate** | Bioinformatics

Mass Coordinator / Grad Group

Personally, this reading always held a special challenge. Too frequently, we “exalt ourselves” for our accomplishments—something with which I struggle. According to the dictionary, pride is “pleasure or satisfaction taken in something done by or belonging to oneself or believed to reflect credit upon oneself.” This last phrase is the problem. Often, we get the grade or pass the class and “credit ourselves.” It’s important to remember that there is nothing praiseworthy that we do which should not be credited to the Lord. Just as Christ humbled himself on the cross so the glory of God would resonate throughout the world, so should we strive to work not for our own glory, but so that we might bring Christ’s light to others. As we go about our daily lives this Lent, let us remember to give credit to the Lord in all that we do.

**Monica Corsetti**                      Mass Coordinator / Newman  
**Class of 2014** | Bioengineering

No sooner does Jesus finish predicting his own death on the cross and his resurrection than the mother of James and John rushes up to him and asks if he would “command that these two sons of mine sit, one at your right and the other at your left, in your kingdom.” I believe that she had great faith and really heard Jesus’ response. That is probably why he took her seriously and gave such an honest answer: “You do not know what you are asking. Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink? ‘We can,’ they say.” Jesus responds: “My cup you will indeed drink, but to sit at my right and at my left is not mine to give...” Still though, wouldn’t it be something if after we hear Jesus make such a statement to us in our hearts (“My cup you will indeed drink”) we could more excitedly unite our “cup,” our sufferings, to him on the cross so as to be with him, not right or left, but anywhere and forever in the Kingdom.

**Maria L. DiCola**  
**Staff** | Materials Research Institute

Mass Coordinator  
Bread of Life

Those who find solace and goodness in human beings alone will suffer due to their lack of faith. Good deeds will receive great recognition if they are offered up in honor of the Lord. It is appropriate to have close companions through life but it is unhealthy to forget how powerful the hand of God remains. Use your earthly relationships in order to pursue a closer relationship with God and to see how He has created us in the image and likeness of Himself.

**Anthony J. Purpura** Mission Mexico  
**Class of 2013** | Rehabilitation and Human Services

Reflecting on the parable, I ask myself a simple question: “What kind of tenant am I?” I, like the tenants, reject Jesus at times. We live in a culture today where it is easy to avoid the life to which Jesus calls us. This gospel tells me that every day is an opportunity to say “yes” to God’s will. But what about when I fail to say yes? In those moments, I commit the same error as the bad tenants. I reject he who should be the foundation of my whole life. This parable both warns and encourages me: the way to salvation is through Jesus, and I need not welcome him with trepidation. Jesus wants me to say yes to him, and his parable shows the path. I will be a good tenant. With Jesus as the cornerstone, I can help, in a small way, to build God’s kingdom.

**Kyle Masson**  
**Graduate** | Musicology

Music Ministry

The Parable of the Prodigal Son is one that each of us can relate to. At first, we connect with the older son who is filled with jealousy. We may think, “Why should the younger brother be welcomed back after leaving and foolishly wasting his father’s generosity?” Then, we see that we are more like the younger son more than we first realized. We have strayed away from God’s love, yet God continues to welcome us back with open arms. Lord, during this Lenten season, give us the strength to forgive as you forgive and help us desire for you all that you desire for us.

**Maggie Lamb** Mission Mexico  
**Class of 2015** | Communication and Science Disorders

## **3 Third Sunday of Lent** 3 March

Luke 13: 1–9

If today was your last day on earth, how would you spend it? It is fruitless to live in paranoia or worry – no one knows the minute nor the hour of the Lord’s coming – but that shouldn’t stop us from keeping the thought in the back of our minds. Stories of political-religious horror (murder of the Galileans in the Temple) and natural disaster (deaths caused by the Tower falling) may not seem connected at first, but both have one thing in common: they serve as a sign, a reminder, for all listeners. Sadly, it usually takes something large, something catastrophic, to break us out of the monotonous rhythm of day-to-day life. But when it does, Jesus advises us to change our stale ways, to take heed and start bearing fruit with all of our actions, or risk facing the same fate as the fruitless fig tree—cut down, with no more days to live.

**Shane McGregor**  
**Graduate** | Journalism / English

Lector



“Who does he think he is?” That would summarize the reaction of the people to Jesus when He confronts them with their lack of faith. Jesus upsets the people because he tells them the truth, no sugar-coating it! Although Jesus sometimes comes off sounding harsh, he is always speaking from His mind, a mind completely united with the Father, the God of love. So remember, even though our Father may be disappointed in us at times, we are always loved. We are His beloved children with whom He wishes to be pleased.

**Mike Piedimonte**  
**Class of 2015** | Chemical Engineering

Mass Coordinator

When others hurt us, it is often hard to look past their faults and accept them back into our lives, let alone our hearts. We get caught up in pain and anger and forget to realize that everyone is just as imperfect as us. Failing to forgive means holding onto sin. We allow it to take up space in our hearts and slowly take over our thoughts and feelings. This is not how God wishes for us to live our lives. Jesus tells us that just as our Father grants us mercy, we should grant mercy to others. This Lenten season, ask God to open your heart to those who have hurt you, and ask for the strength and compassion you need to forgive others and find peace. When your heart is open and filled with love, only then can God fully live in you.

**Ulyssa Martinez**  
**Graduate** | Art Education

Eucharistic Minister

“I have come not to abolish but to fulfill [the law].” Our Lord fulfilled the law in two senses. First, He taught and obeyed it. And how could He not? For the commandments of the law are not the whims of an arbitrary tyrant, but rather an expression of the very nature of God and of man, handed down through Moses out of love and concern for our ultimate happiness. Second, He brought it to completion. In the Old Covenant, transgressions against the law were atoned for by ritual sacrifices, but Christ sealed the New Covenant, and accomplished our redemption, in the sacrifice of Himself on Calvary—a sacrifice in which we become participants through the Mass. This Lent, remember how we have failed to follow and cherish God’s law, in order that we may approach Him, with humility, gratitude, and a firm purpose of amendment.

**Thomas Flanagan**  
**Graduate** | Physics

Lector / Grad Group

The idea of remaining in God's love perfectly captures the essence of unity. We spend our lives trying to differentiate ourselves from others, promoting individualism. Sometimes, we get so wrapped up in our effort to be unique that we forget about the one indubitable similarity that binds us all together: we are all children of God. And we often easily overlook seeing the face of God in others. Jesus said, "He who is not with me is against me." We often get so wrapped up in fighting against others that we lose sight of who we are standing for: Jesus Christ. Have new eyes this Lenten season. Look upon your neighbor with love, knowing that it is Jesus that is holding them on their best days and their worst, just as He is holding you.

**Brian Burnett**  
**Graduate** | Accounting

Bread of Life

In today's reading, Jesus gives the world the "greatest commandments." Jesus tells us that we must embrace these with all of our heart soul, mind and strength. By doing so, we move ever closer to the kingdom of God and the true essence of faith. Imagine if all the people of the world heeded these words; they are the simplest solution to the problems of man. We would have peace and love for all humankind. Follow these simple commands, and we can act as vehicles of God's word and spread His teachings to the world. If we love our God, and only our God, to the fullest extent of our faith, and love all of our neighbors unconditionally, the world would be cured of its evils through His holy love.

**Travis O'Neill**  
**Class of 2013** | International Politics

Mission Mexico

Two men came to the temple to pray. The Pharisee walked right in, stood where everyone would notice him, and pointed out to God how superior he was to all the other people. The tax collector stood at a distance. He looked at the floor, hoping nobody would notice him. He prayed that God might find him worthy, even though his neighbors despised him and he was a sinner.

God considers the merits of each of us with wisdom, compassion, and mercy that surpasses our understanding. Acting holy to look good or feel good about ourselves is not the way to justify ourselves before God. The tax collector felt awful about himself. He tried to consider his own worthiness the best he could by God's commandments, not by the values of the Pharisee or the other people praying with him in the temple. He asked God to judge him with mercy. And God justified him and exalted him.

**Marie T. Reilly**  
**Senior Associate Dean** | Dickinson School of Law

Lector

“He returned simply to survive.” Henri Nouwen used this statement to explain the actions of the prodigal son. In the parable, he was not especially sorry; he did not want to fully make amends with his father. He only returned because he was starving and had run out of money.

Yet, the father loves his son unconditionally. And our Heavenly Father loves us just the same. Even though we distance ourselves from God with sin, He is ever waiting to take us back with joy and celebration.

Lent is a time for fasting and repentance of sins. But, as we return to God, we do this to prepare for the Resurrection. So, as the father says, “Let us celebrate with a feast, because this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.”

**Nick Gorman**    Mass Coordinator / Eucharistic Minister  
**Graduate** | Mechanical Engineering

In C.S. Lewis's *The Silver Chair*, Aslan gives Jill and Eustace four signs to follow in order to find Prince Rilian. He warns them that the signs may not look at all as they expect them to appear. They will only perceive them if they know them by heart and do not pay attention to appearances.

How often does life not meet our expectations? How often do we only see clearly in hindsight? All disappointment in the world springs from unmet expectation. Christ knew this of the Jews as well, saying, "Unless you people see signs and wonders, you will not believe." He wasn't what the Jews were expecting. They were more concerned with appearances. Just as Jill and Eustace discovered, signs can only be perceived by those whose sight is not blinded by expectation.

Learn to look with your heart and not your mind. Your heart will never be deceived by appearances. Believe in Christ as you believe the sun has risen: not only because you see it, but because by it you see everything else.

**Phillip Mackenzie Torbert**  
**Staff** | Catholic Campus Ministry

Dir. of Music & Liturgy



In this Gospel reading, we find Jesus in Jerusalem approaching a large group of individuals by a pool named Bethesda. Tradition had it that when the waters were stirring, the first person into the water would be healed. Jesus walked up to a man who was crippled for thirty-eight years. Seeing the man's desire to be healed, Jesus simply said "take up your mat and walk." Immediately the man was healed. This is a picture of Christ and His Church. Bethesda, in Hebrew, means House of Mercy. As we sense our need for forgiveness and restoration, let us revisit our Baptism and realize in those waters of Mercy, the Holy Spirit is ever stirring.

**David Nice**  
**Community Member**

RCIA

During Lent, we give up something in order to honor Jesus and show our sacrificial love for the offering up of His own life. However, during Lent, God also calls us to look to Him for guidance in carrying out His will. Just like our earthly parents, we look to God for example on how to live our lives. We mimic what we see our parents doing from a young age, and we are called to do the same with our heavenly Father. We can only do what we see God doing, because we can accomplish nothing on our own without Him. He is perfect for a reason; to help us carry out lives that bring us peace while serving His purpose. Jesus' life was made to serve a purpose for us, and we can show God our purpose in honoring His son for all He did for us.

**Alicia Joseph**    Music Ministry / Project Haiti / Newman  
**Class of 2015** | Rehabilitation and Human Services

If this Scripture passage had a title, it could be: “How many different voices must I send to this community to attest that Jesus is the Son of God?”

Moses and Scripture testified to the Son of God. Yet when face-to-face with the Messiah, many in the Jewish community denied him. Some embraced John the Baptist and his message, but not Jesus. Others failed to recognize the Father in Jesus’ works and miracles. How could they be so blind? Was it because Jesus not fit the profile of what they thought the Messiah should look like?

For us, knowledge of Jesus as God’s Son comes through a loving connection with the Father. A heart committed to prayer, reflection and relationship with God reveals the truth. A humble and prayerful heart reveals many truths no matter what century. This Lent, spend some quiet time with God and listen to Him and his desires.

**Jeanne Klanchar**  
**Community Member**

Eucharistic Minister

Fear and doubt. Probably emotions that all of us have had in regards to our faith at times. Theology teaches us that Jesus experienced all the human emotions, yet did so without sin. The Jews doubted who Jesus was, and Jesus may have indeed feared what was before him. The Jews feared that Jesus might not be their long sought-after Messiah, and Jesus may have doubted that his followers would ever see Him as the Father's son. It is always comforting to me to think that Jesus spent so much time in prayer with the Father, seeking guidance about his fears and doubts. He knew that the Father who had sent him was true and would guide him. We should all follow his example by frequently seeking the Father's guidance in all aspects of our lives.

**Kathryn Wilt**  
**Community Member**

Eucharistic Minister / Lector

Don't judge a book by its cover. We have all heard this phrase time and time again, yet it offers excellent advice for the Lenten season. In this passage, we see that the Pharisees had developed opinions of Jesus based on very limited knowledge of who He truly was. How could they be certain that Jesus was not the Messiah simply because he came from Galilee? How then, can we judge the character of others without knowing anything about them? Sophocles once said that “judgments formed too quickly can be dangerous.” Truly, the judgment made by the Pharisees in rejecting Jesus was unwise—would you want to make the same mistake? Remember during this Lenten season that we are all brothers and sisters in Christ and should treat each other kindly and without judgment.

**Stephen Vlassis** Eucharistic Minister / Knights of Columbus  
**Class of 2013** | Biology / Nutritional Science

What we are contemplating today is the meeting between Jesus and the woman caught in adultery. The reason God gifted humanity with sexuality was to unite man and woman fully in the bond of love and, through that holy union, bring forth the gift of children. Certainly, indulging in sexual activity adulterously is outside God's purpose for this wonderful gift and it is cause for great disorder in human lives. Some may think it is fine because no one will know, but adulterers are deceiving themselves and the people who love them. In our faith, it is no trivial sin! It is morally and socially wrong. The woman caught in adultery reminds us that in our lives we sometimes become self-centered and seek out pleasures without regard for the effects our actions have on other people's lives. Jesus, in his everlasting goodness, forgives the woman caught in adultery: "I do not condemn you. Go and sin no more." No matter how sinful or callous we may have been, Jesus is there to forgive us and open for us the doors to a new life.

**Fr. Jae-Sik Yang**  
**Korean Community** | Catholic Campus Ministry

Priest

**Monday**  
18 March

John 8: 12-20

**5**

Lent is a time of preparation. Jesus fasted and prayed for 40 days to prepare for the sacrifice of love for which he was destined—dying on the cross for our sins. Despite this sacrifice he made for our freedom, humans are still slaves of their own sins. Now is the time to prepare our souls to receive the sacrifice of love that Jesus made for each and every one of us.

**Vittorina Solano**  
**Class of 2015** | Smeal College of Business

Listening.

It's a simple little act, but something not practiced enough. When Joseph saw that Mary was pregnant, his first thought was to divorce her. Instead of acting right away, Joseph contemplated and listened to God. Our own lives are so fast-paced and crowded that every day is filled with hundreds of choices. But in those choices, how often do we listen to God's voice? Listen to the guidance He gives us with every step we take. We might not be lucky enough to have angels come into our sleep and guide us in the right direction, but God's voice is still here to guide us, whispering every step of the way. We just have to be willing to hear it.

Stop.

Listen.



We're often told to think of those living by "their own" rules as the free ones, and of organized religion as an escape for the weak-minded and weak-hearted. But a glance at the newspaper screams the devastating effects of humans struggling to live by individual "truths," and those convenient, tired arguments ignore that freedom is fulfilled in loyalty. Faithfulness, particularly to God, requires contemplation and whole-heartedness, as any movement against the daily flood of distractions can remind us. Jesus challenges us in today's gospel: We either live in one Truth, freed as his beloved family, or we are slaves to sin. So let us continue in God's Word, trusting that Christ, being Truth itself, founded his Church without failure in the plan. And as the earth returns to life with the sun and rain of this new season, may we flourish freely and forever in God's Truth and Love.

**Frank Desiderio** Newman  
**Class of 2014** | Environmental Resource Management / English

Today we celebrate the feast of Saint Benedict, the founder of the Order of Benedictine monks and the Patriarch of Western Civilization. In chapter 49 of his Holy Rule, St. Benedict admonishes his monks to use these days of Lent “...to wash away...the negligences of other times...by devoting ourselves to prayer with tears, to reading, to compassion of heart and self-denial.” (RB49:3-4)

We begin this Lenten Season with the cross of ashes signed on our foreheads. The ashes are intended to penetrate our hearts and lead us to conversion of heart. The Church sets aside this time of Lent for us to renew our relationship with God by coming to terms with those aspects of our lives that separate us from God, namely, our divided hearts, our divided minds, and our divided loyalties. The Lenten call to conversion prompts us to ask ourselves what is it that consumes my time, my interest, my energy, my heart, my loyalties? Is it my love for God or am I consumed with my own neediness and self-centeredness? For reflection: How much of my time, my interest, my energy, my heart, my loyalties will God receive during these days of Lent?

**Rt. Rev. Douglas Nowicki** OSB  
**Archabbot** | St. Vincent Archabbey

“Do not believe me unless I do the works of my Father,” (John 10:37) spoke to me greatly. This is true for Jesus, and as a follower it is also true for me. Unless I am doing the works of the Father then my words are not believable. Jesus’ actions authenticated his claim to be God’s Son. Do my actions also my claim to be a child of God? For a long time I was a wayward sheep and got caught up in finding my identity through my peers (of whom many were unbelievers), and it corrupted my character. Deciding to finish my sacraments at Penn State with the RCIA program was the perfect opportunity to show God how thankful I am for the endless love and forgiveness he has for us.

**Samantha Corza** RCIA  
**Class of 2015** | English and Global International Studies

In today's reading from John, we encounter the response to Jesus' healing of Lazarus. While many of the Jews began to believe in Him, the Sanhedrin began their plot to kill Jesus. For his own safety, Jesus had to flee. How often in our own lives do we, by our actions, engage in this same behavior: chasing Jesus away in our lives. Our relationship with Christ is hurt when we sin and go against God's word. However, with the grace and mercy of God, we are always accepted back into His arms if we are truly sorry and seek to repair the relationship. Next week, as we begin the holiest week of the year for our faith, preparing for the death and resurrection of our Lord, remember the sacrifices He made for us. He died for humanity. He died for you. Strip away what remains in your heart holding you back from Christ and find rest in His love and mercy.

**Courtney Yealy**  
**Class of 2013**

Lector / Newman  
Veterinary and Biomedical Science

## **Palm (Passion) Sunday**

24 March

Luke 22: 14 – 23: 56



The Passion narrative of the Gospel of Luke should challenge us, even upset us, just as it challenged and confused those who witnessed these events in person. From the triumphal cries of “Hosanna” to the insulting shouts of “crucify him,” this week we call “Holy” is the most sacred record of events that has transformed the world since the beginning of creation. The events of this week is more than a retelling of a story we have listened to in past years. It is an invitation to a call to a new Life offered in the breaking of the Bread and the redemption of the Cross. The words of Christ offered at the Last Supper, his words spoken to the women on the path to Calvary, His words as He hung on the Cross, all speak of His desire to share the gift of eternal life, the love of the Father and the gift of the Holy Spirit. Allow this week – Holy Week – to be a time of reflection, of prayer in the Person of Christ.

**Fr. David Griffin** OSB  
**Staff** | Catholic Campus Ministry

Campus Minister

In this Gospel passage, Mary humbly anoints Jesus' feet with the precious ointment. Judas asks Jesus, "Why was this oil not sold for three hundred days' wages and given to the poor?" He does this not because he actually cares about the poor, but because he is greedy. Since he keeps all of the disciple's money, he can steal from it and wants some of it for himself. Jesus' answer is to tell Judas not to unfairly criticize Mary for giving Him such an expensive and precious gift that was given to him so lovingly. When we allow greed into our life, we too are clouding our judgment and making it more difficult to see past the gain of material possessions. The only thing we truly need is God. Only He can clear our vision and allow us to see the love and humility in the actions of others.

This Gospel reading discusses betrayal, helping to illustrate just how easy it is to ignore Jesus and take him for granted. Given the situations in life, it is easy to just say, I don't need God here, I can do it on my own. But this is betrayal: leaving Jesus and moving on. How willing are we to lay our entire lives before Jesus? Or is it more often that we say, "I'm in charge of my life here, and maybe Jesus is there on the side." How much are we really willing to listen to God and how willing are we to follow what he says without betrayal or sin? In the second part of the Gospel reading, when Jesus talks to Peter, it is clear that saying you will do something and actually doing it are two totally different things. Peter says he will follow Jesus anywhere, but does he? Even if we say we won't betray Jesus, do we? Do our actions match our words?

**Michelle Ahrens** Newman  
**Class of 2013** | Information Sciences and Technology

Judas Iscariot's betrayal of Jesus is a perfect example of the greatness of the Lord, the greatness of forgiving. Judas, having handed over Jesus into the hands of the enemy for 30 pieces of silver, would sure be excluded from the Lord's eternal reign. Judas acted in a greedy, ambitious way, out of love for money; he was envious and above all, traitorous. He did not want God's forgiveness, but the Lord was ready to forgive him. The Lord forgives us in the remission of our sins, our offenses, and our debts. He forgave Peter who denied Him three times, Mary Magdalene, and the thief on the Cross. However, God also respects the liberty of his own creation. He hears and listens to those who seek his forgiveness and turn to Him. From my own personal experience, I know that to forgive your fellow man is to be in peace with God, to be in peace with yourself, and the true way to happiness.

**Myrta Mathews** Hispanic Community  
**Faculty** | Department of Spanish, Italian & Portuguese



Jesus, the Lord and Master, leads by example in the humble action of washing the feet of the apostles. He performed the lowliest of tasks to highlight that service to others is love and that this love should be shared with others. In everything we do, we show our love for Him. By reaching out to those less fortunate, we show our love of God. Every nickel, dime and quarter placed in a rice bowl, every time you took a minute to listen to the needs of others, every donation to the food bank are all examples of our service to God and our love for Him. We renew ourselves through the feast of the Eucharist. Take time to reflect on the love of God and how we can be a better servant to Him through our actions.

**Deborah Bezilla**  
**Community Member**

Campus Ministry Coordinator  
Mission Mexico

As a member of the Music Ministry, I have to help read the Passion every year. As powerful as this reading is to hear, to actually say the words aloud, “Crucify Him, Crucify Him!” takes the reading to another level. We all like to think that we would have acted differently and stood up for Jesus that day, but more likely than not, we would have acted like the rest of the disciples and gone into hiding. What a wonderful opportunity for us to think about how even at our greatest moments of weakness, Jesus is there to be our greatest source of strength.

**Kurt Engstrom**  
**Community Member**

Music Ministry

As a catechumen, I am making this decision in my life to become Catholic and to have God be a part of my everyday life. In this reading, Jesus has risen from the dead and I feel the same way—I have been reborn in this journey. At the time when Jesus is resurrected, it becomes a monumental time in the faith of God and His power. I feel that this is a significant time in my life to make this important life decision to become one with the Catholic church. Through my journey so far, I feel blessed with the experiences that I have had and to have met the people that I have met. I look forward to continuing this path of spirituality and faith for the rest of my life.

*Tiffany will be baptized tonight at the Easter Vigil Mass. Please pray for her and all our Catechumens and Candidates this evening.*

**Tiffany Collins**  
**Class of 2014** | Elementary Education

RCIA

## **E** **Easter Sunday** 31 March / The Resurrection of the Lord

John 20: 1-9

Ever hear of woman's intuition? Many are convinced that such a feeling or sense is certain and absolutely trustworthy, especially in the face of difficult times. Two women, Mary Magdalene and another Mary, were the first to encounter the risen Christ. They were afraid when they approached the empty tomb because of his tragic death on the cross. But Jesus greeted them with a sign of peace. He reassured them not to be afraid. He sent them to spread the good news that he is alive, and they did!

There was no intuition going on. It was the mystery of faith in action. The message of Easter is certain and absolutely trustworthy. It is the message of joy and peace and reconciliation that we need in our difficult times. The person of Easter, Jesus the risen Christ, is real and certain and absolutely trustworthy. He is the source of joy and peace and reconciliation that we need at all times. The risen Christ may be found in prayer, the sacraments, and the word of God. Go and find him there. Spread the good news!

**Most Rev. Mark L. Bartchak**  
**Bishop** | Diocese of Altoona-Johnstown



*Congratulations*  
TO OUR  
**NEOPHYTES**  
who entered our Church at  
the Easter Vigil Liturgy

KEEP THEM IN YOUR PRAYERS

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# HOLY WEEK

**HOLY THURSDAY** 7P

**GOOD FRIDAY** 2.30P

**EASTER VIGIL (SATURDAY)** 8P

**EASTER SUNDAY** 9.30 & 11.30A

**WORSHIP HALL • PASQUERILLA CENTER**

**PENANCE SERVICE** MARCH 18 • 7P

**WORSHIP HALL • PASQUERILLA CENTER**

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