



March 6, 2016 | Fourth Sunday of Lent

This son of mine was dead, and has

COME TO LIFE AGAIN;

*he was lost, and has been found.*

~ Luke 15:24

***St. Luke Parish***

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beginning of our journey back to God. Liturgically this happens in the Sacrament of Penance. In the history of the Church, this Sacrament has been celebrated in different ways. Beneath the changes, there have always been two essentials; the acts of the penitent and the acts of Christ through the ministry of the Church. Both go hand and hand. Conversion must involve a change of heart as well as a change of actions. Neither is possible without God's grace." (USCCA, p. 237)

*Q. But we have Baptism, which reconciles us with God; why then do we need a special sacrament of Reconciliation?*

"Baptism does snatch us from the power of sin and death and brings us into the new life of the children of God, but it does not free us from human weakness and the inclination to sin. That is why we need a place where we can be reconciled with God again and again. That place is confession. It does not seem like a modern thing to go to confession; it can be difficult and may cost a great deal of effort at first. But it is one of the greatest graces that we can receive again and again in our life – it truly renews the soul, completely unburdens it, leaving it without the debt of the past, accepted in love, and equipped with new strength. God is merciful, and he desires nothing more earnestly than for us, too, to lay claim to his mercy. Someone who has gone to confession turns a clean, new page in the book of his life." (YouCat, Q. 226)

**CATECHISM CORNER**

*"The process of conversion and repentance was described by Jesus in the parable of the prodigal son, the center of which is the merciful father: the fascination of illusory freedom, the abandonment of the father's house; the extreme misery in which the son finds himself after squandering his fortune; his deep humiliation at finding himself obliged to feed swine, and still worse, at wanting to feed on the husks the pigs ate; his reflection on all he has lost; his repentance and decision to declare himself guilty before his father; the journey back; the father's generous welcome; the father's joy—all these are characteristic of the process of conversion. The beautiful robe, the ring, and the festive banquet are symbols of that new life—pure, worthy, and joyful—of anyone who returns to God and to the bosom of his family, which is the Church. Only the heart of Christ who knows the depths of his Father's love could reveal to us the abyss of his mercy in such a simple and beautiful way." (CCC, n. 1439)*

"Sin harms our relationship with God and damages our communion with the Church. Conversion of heart is the

**MASSES CELEBRATED**

**DURING THE WEEK**

**ARE HELD**

**IN THE CHURCH**

**SATURDAY — MARCH 5**

4:15 — 4:45pm — Confessions

5:00 — The Intentions of the Celebrant

**SUNDAY — MARCH 6**

8:30am — John Anderko, III req. by Ken Anderko

11:00 — The People of St. Luke Parish

**MONDAY — MARCH 7**

Mass will not be celebrated today

**TUESDAY — MARCH 8**

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

**WEDNESDAY — MARCH 9**

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

**THURSDAY — MARCH 10**

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

7:00pm — Lenten Penance Service

**FRIDAY — MARCH 11**

8:00am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

**SATURDAY — MARCH 12**

4:15 — 4:45pm — Confessions

5:00 — St. Luke Parish Memorial Society

**SUNDAY — MARCH 13**

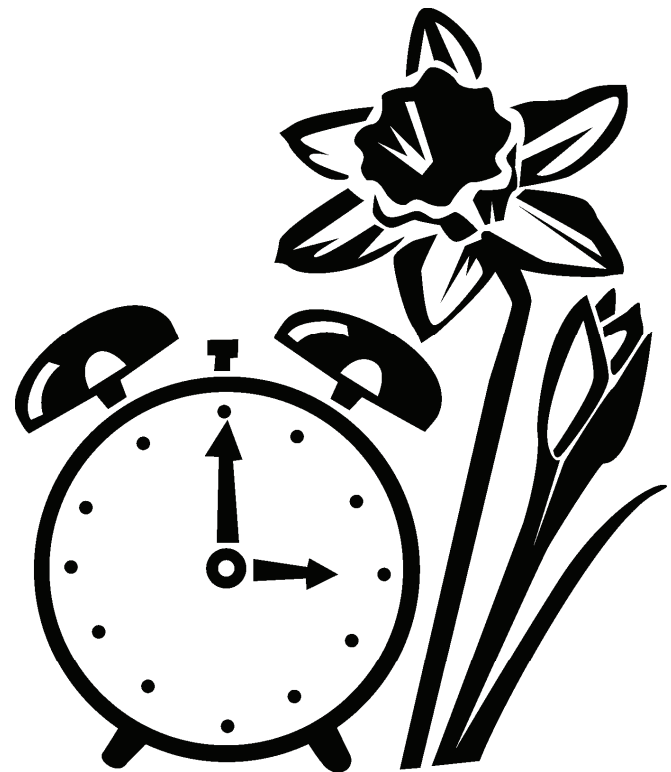
8:30am — The Intentions of the Celebrant

11:00 — The People of St. Luke Parish



Please pray for the sick in our parish especially, Pat Angelo, Yecenia Bosley, Bill Clift, Disabled Vets, Angel Faulkner, Father Don McLaughlin, Robert Simkus, Baby Miles Wagner, Danielle Woodward and Ron Zenarosa

Please remember our beloved dead and the men and women who have given their lives for our country.



Time to  
Spring Ahead

## TODAY'S READINGS

**First Reading** — God's people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12) or 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a. (Psalm 34) or Psalm 23.

**Second Reading** — We are now ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) or Ephesians 5:8-14.

**Gospel** — We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) or John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

## READINGS FOR THE WEEK

Monday: Is 65:17-21; Ps 30:2, 4-6, 11-13b; Jn 4:43-54  
Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12; Ps 46:2-3, 5-6, 8-9; Jn 5:1-16  
Wednesday: Is 49:8-15; Ps 145:8-9, 13cd-14, 17-18; Jn 5:17-30  
Thursday: Ex 32:7-14; Ps 106:19-23; Jn 5:31-47  
Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22; Ps 34:17-21, 23; Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
Saturday: Jer 11:18-20; Ps 7:2-3, 9bc-12; Jn 7:40-53  
Sunday: Is 43:16-21; Ps 126:1-6; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11; Alternate readings (Year A): Ez 37:12-14; Ps 130:1-8; Rom 8:8-11; Jn 11:1-45 [3-7, 17, 20-27, 33b-45]

## FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

**Names do define us.** There is a lot of name calling in the Bible readings proclaimed today. "Brothers and sisters" - those bound together in Christ. "New creation" - those drowned in baptismal waters washing away original life. "Ambassadors for Christ" = those who proclaim the Savior's presence among us by behaviors and actions and, perhaps even words. "Tax collectors and sinners" - harsh names, but names of those with whom Jesus eats. "Children" - at first, selfish and misbehaving, but then full of sense and repentant because the parent is full of love and forgiveness.

- What name will I claim and use this week?
- Then, how will I behave?

## CONFIRMATION SPAGHETTI DINNER

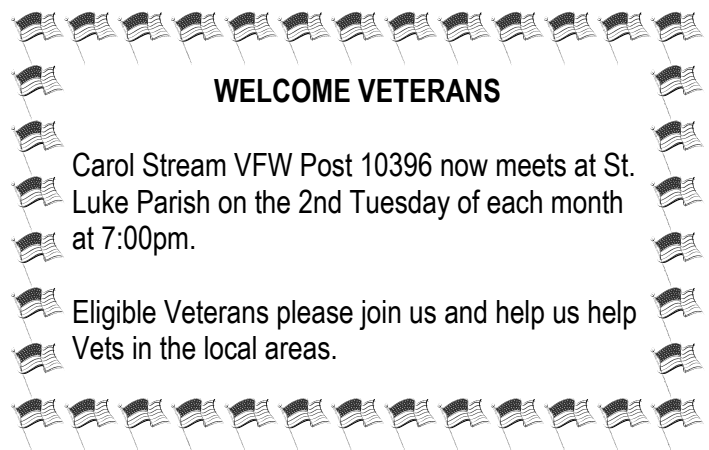
All are invited to support our Confirmation Candidates by attending the Spaghetti Fundraiser which will be held after the 5:00pm Mass on March 19th in Jericho. The kids will prepare a scrumptious plate of spaghetti with meat sauce. Salad, rolls and soda are included. Tickets available after all Masses for \$7 per person. Please come out and support the Religious Education Program.

## BELL RINGERS NEEDED!

Palm & Easter Sundays are right around the corner and we are hoping to feature the bell choir once again. However, we need a few more volunteers to join our ensemble.

Here's the thing, the only requirement is...you need to be able to count to 4! Bell playing requires an easily learned technique and our arrangements do not require music reading skills. Again, just counting:-) There will be a brief bell open house on Sunday, March 6 after each mass to give all a chance to try them out and see if you are interested.

If you are looking for a way to contribute and try something new, please contact the parish office by phone or email [stloff@aol.com](mailto:stloff@aol.com), thank you!



**WELCOME VETERANS**

Carol Stream VFW Post 10396 now meets at St. Luke Parish on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm.

Eligible Veterans please join us and help us help Vets in the local areas.



## STATIONS IN CHURCH

Would you like to do the Stations of the Cross during Lent? We will have the Church available for use on Fridays from 8:30am—10:00am. Books are provided for your use.



Do you feel that life is beating you down? Are you always struggling to make ends meet? Do you want to let go of unproductive thoughts, feelings and behaviors and replace them with positive ones that will move you toward a better quality of life?

Catholic Charities is offering a program of personal change called Out of Poverty. This program is not just about the lack of money; it's also about poverty of the spirit. Discussion within a group setting encourages honesty and focuses on the fact that life has not turned out the way you thought it would.

Give yourself a second chance and register for Out of Poverty classes today. Classes are held at Catholic Charities, 26 W. St. Charles Road in Lombard each Monday from 6:30 – 9:00 p.m. from March 28 through May 23. For more information or to register, call Robin Poage at 630-495-8008 ext. 2122. To learn more about Catholic Charities, visit [catholiccharitiesjoliet.org](http://catholiccharitiesjoliet.org).



## HOW TO GO TO CONFESSION

May the Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and of all the saints, whatever good you do and suffering you endure, heal your sins, help you grow in holiness, and reward you with eternal life. Go in peace.

- Rite of Penance, no. 93

- 1. PREPARATION:** Before going to confession, take some time to prepare. Begin with prayer, and reflect on your life since your last confession. How have you—in your thoughts, words, and actions—neglected to live Christ's commands to "love the Lord, your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind." and to "love your neighbor as yourself" (Mt 22:37,39)? As a help with this, "examination of conscience," you might review the Ten Commandments or the Beatitudes (Ex 20:2-17;Dt 5:6-21; Mt 5:3-10; or Lk 6:20-26).
- 2. GREETING:** The priest will welcome you; he may say a short blessing or read a Scripture passage.
- 3. THE SIGN OF THE CROSS:** Together, you and the priest will make the Sign of the Cross. You may then begin your confession with these or similar words: "Bless me, Father, for I have sinned. It has been (*give days, months or years*) since my last confession."
- 4. CONFESSION:** Confess all your sins to the priest. If you are unsure what to say, ask the priest for help. When you are finished, conclude with these or similar words: "I am sorry for these and all my sins."
- 5. PENANCE:** The priest will propose an act of penance. The penance might be prayer, a work of mercy, or an act of charity. He might also counsel you on how to better live a Christian life.
- 6. ACT OF CONTRITION:** After the priest has conferred your penance, pray an Act of Contrition, expressing sorrow for your sins and resolving to sin no more. A suggested Act of Contrition is:

My God,  
I am sorry for my sins with all my heart.  
In choosing to do wrong  
and failing to do good,  
I have sinned against you  
whom I should love above all things.  
I firmly intend, with your help,

to do penance,  
to sin no more,  
and to avoid whatever leads me to sin.  
Our Savior Jesus Christ  
suffered and died for us.  
In his name, my God, have mercy.

(*Rite of Penance*, no. 45)

7. **ABSOLUTION:** The priest will extend his hands over your head and pronounce the words of absolution. You respond, "Amen."
8. **PRAISE:** The priest will usually praise the mercy of God and will invite you to do the same. For example, the priest may say, "Give thanks to the Lord for he is good." And your response would be, "His mercy endures for ever" (*Rite of Penance*, no. 47).
9. **DISMISSAL:** The priest will conclude the sacrament, often saying, "Go in peace."

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## A SUNDAY FOR REJOICING

Today's Gospel story of the prodigal son is a favorite of many. We can identify with all the major figures and their crisscross of emotions. The father's initial grief over his young son's avarice is turned to relief at his return. The son's grief over his loss of fortune, family, and friends is turned to delirious joy at the sight of his father.

We understand the eldest son's bewilderment over his father's generosity. For the older son, virtue seems not to be its own reward. For all his honorable toil and loyalty, there seems to be no celebration. The father, however, is prodigal in his forgiveness and mercy. He expects the same generosity from his older son. He wants all to rejoice when the lost one is found.

This is a Sunday for rejoicing. It's time to pause, consider, and encourage one another. We are the prodigal children heading home. We are the elder siblings waiting with the eager Father, who scans the horizon. In Christ Jesus we are reconciled to the Father and one another. In his death and resurrection we have passed over. We are a new creation. In this we rejoice.

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## TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

One of the first steps to a Catholic wedding takes place in the parish rectory, as the newly engaged come forward to "set a date." We owe this scenario to reforms made by the emperor Charlemagne late in the eighth century. He required that nobles and commoners alike have public weddings, and also required that marrying couples be examined for factors that would block a marriage, such as previous marriages or close kinship. The pope was more conservative, however, and resisted the emperor's creativity. It was enough for the pope that the couples exchange consent.

That tradition is passed on to this day, to some couples' surprise. In 866, Pope Nicholas ruled that a marriage was legal and binding even without a liturgy or public celebration. After that, it was the consent of the couple, not the blessing of parents or priest, that made a marriage "count." If consent was lacking, such as through abduction or fear, then the marriage could not "take." Charlemagne got a great deal done, but he was a political flash in the pan, and the empire had virtually collapsed by the year 1000. Europe broke into a checkerboard of princedoms and languages, and at last all marriages came under the church, the glue holding the known world together.


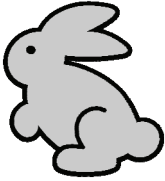
—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

JER — Jericho  
 PCCR — Parish Center Conf. room  
 RE — Religious Education

# St. Luke Parish

## March 2016

Confession: Saturday 4:15-4:45pm  
 Liturgies:  
 Saturday — 5:00pm  
 Sunday — 8:30 & 11:00am  
 Tuesday — Thursday 8:00am  
 Mass in church

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
13** Daylight Savings Time Begins	20*** Palm Sunday 3:00—5:00 FAACS - JER	1	2 7:00pm Parish Council Mtg - PCCR	3 7:00 Choir Practice	4 8:30-10:00 Stations Church	5
6 9:40-10:55 RE rms1-4 & 6  3:00—5:00 FAACS - JER	7	8 7:00-9:00 VFW rm 1	9 6:30pm CCW Board Mtg - JER	10 7:00pm Lenten Penance Service Church	11**** 8:30-10:00 Stations Church  11:00 Windsor Penance Service	12 All Masses Cash Card Pick up
13** 9:40-10:55 RE rms1-4 & 6  12:00-1:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day    7:00 Choir Practice	18 8:30-10:00 Stations of the Cross Church	19 2:00 Baptisms  6:00 Spaghetti Dinner - JER
20*** 9:40-10:55 RE rms1-4 & 6  9:45 Windsor Mass  12:00-1:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal	21	22	23	24 7:00pm Holy Thursday Mass	25 Good Friday  7:00pm Passion of the Lord	26 2:00 Blessing of Food Baskets  5:00pm Easter Vigil
27 Easter 10:00-12:00 Children's Choir Rehearsal & Mass  3:00—5:00 FAACS - JER	28 Office closed	29	30	31 7:00 Choir Practice		11**** 7:00 Finance Committee Meeting