HIS WORD TODAY
BY REV. WILLIAM J. REILLY

“Beloved, Christ suffered for sins once, the righteous for the sake of the unrighteous, that he might lead you to God. Put to death in the flesh, he was brought to life in the Spirit… This prefigured baptism, which saves you now…. “The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent and believe in the gospel.””

Lent, often described as a journey, is the opportunity for all to come closer to the Lord. In a baptismal sermon Peter tells us that the suffering of Christ, which we recall during these days of prayer, has but one purpose to lead us to God. It is not what I do, but the work of the Lord, bringing me on my desert journey. The gospel tells us Jesus was led by the Spirit for His desert experience to announce that the kingdom is at hand.

God’s word spoke of a special moment in time, a moment which speaks to me today. Lent is that special time for me to meet the Lord in a new and different way. Through the threefold steps of prayer, sacrifice and good works, the kingdom becomes more present for me.

My journey began on Wednesday. Be honest, where is the Spirit leading you?

Masses of the Week
SATURDAY, February 17th
8:00AM Daniel Folker †
5:00PM John Marciniak †
Rosemary Buget † - 7th Anniversary

SUNDAY, February 18th - 1st Sunday of Lent
8:00AM Eugene Jurewicz †
George Douglas, Sr. †
Thomas Torre, Jr. †
10:00AM Rose Armato †
Dave Namendorf †
12:00PM Peter Mitchell, Jr †
Joseph L. Deering †
William Mara †

MONDAY, February 19th
8:00AM Alice Adams †

TUESDAY, February 20th
8:00AM Jennifer D’Andrea †

WEDNESDAY, February 21st
8:00AM Jim Mackin †

THURSDAY, February 22nd - Feast, Chair of St. Peter the Apostle
8:00AM Helen Flanagan †

FRIDAY, February 23rd
8:00AM Edward Tercasio †
JoAnn Anselmo †

SATURDAY, February 24th
8:00AM M. John Scanlan †
5:00PM Mary Infantino †

SUNDAY, February 25th - 2nd Sunday of Lent
8:00AM James Mackin † - 14th Anniversary
Margaret Shaloo †
Frank Lucibello †
10:00AM Jennifer D’Andrea †
Olga Jayson †
12:00PM Tom O’Hara † - 2nd Anniversary
Steven F Blundo †
Thomas Mara † - 9th Anniversary

Our deepest sympathy to…
The Family & Friends of
Janet Murphy
may she rest in peace.

Welcome Home to Healing
Reconciliation on Monday Nights
Throughout Lent

This Lenten season, each Catholic parish in the Diocese of Paterson will have Confession available every Monday evening beginning February 19th from 7:00pm - 8:30pm. If you have been reluctant to come to the Sacrament, have been away for some time or just found it difficult to get to a Saturday afternoon Confession time, this is a wonderful opportunity to re-connect with Christ and His Church. Don’t be afraid! Information will be provided. Ask the priest to help you. Experience the gracious mercy of God!
www.WelcomeHomeToHealing.org
May God richly bless you!

LIFE:
WHAT A BEAUTIFUL CHOICE

The following is an excerpt from an editorial entitled Preparing for a Pro-Life Lent by Father Frank Pavone. The full article can be viewed at priestsforlife.org.

Repentance is a changing of the mind and with it one's life, away from the path of sin and toward a life of holiness. However, it is not possible to repent of a sin which one does not recognize or admit is a sin. During Lent, we ask to be delivered from such blindness and to be forgiven even our hidden sins.

The application to the abortion problem is clear when we consider that the injustice of this act has been proclaimed as a "right" and a legitimate "choice." I have heard numerous people declare that while they know abortion kills a child, they have no problem supporting it. The problem is that "respectable" elements of society such as the Supreme Court, medical associations, and even some Christian denominations, continue to call abortion a "right." For that reason, many find it hard to recognize it as a wrong. Part of the purification of Lent involves the metanoia, the "change of mind," so necessary in this area. Those churches in particular, who have sold out to the culture need to be healed of this blindness and to be forgiven even our hidden sins.

Lent is about forgiveness and preparation for Easter. Easter celebrates the victory of life. Christians do not come to Church on Easter simply to congratlate Jesus for rising from the dead. They come in order to possess their own victory over death. In Easter, Christ destroyed not only His own death, but ours! He overturned the entire kingdom of death. Death has no more power over Him; nor does it have ultimate power over those who live in Him. Abortion, therefore, is a contradiction of Easter and there is no place for it in the church.

But there are churches who keep people in darkness or in the tomb, by not offering the light of God's truth. The influence of the true Church on the world, instead, is the influence of a community which already participates in victory over death. That influence moves the structures and choices of society away from death and destruction, and toward the affirmation, in word and deed, of the precious gift of life. It would be a profound distortion of the meaning of Easter if we separate, in thought or deed, our faith in the Resurrection from our efforts to secure justice and respect for every life.

May God richly bless you!

Heather
STEWARDSHIP—A WAY OF LIFE

Weekly Collection: $8,695.00
Collected (2/11): $8,695.00
Pennies for the Poor: $179.00

Diocesan Assessment: $78,000.
Collection 2/11: $2,478.
Collected to date: $13,119.

Collected (2/11): $8,695.00
Needed monthly: $7,800.

Pennies for the Poor: $179.00
Collection 2/11: $2,478.
Collected to date: $13,119.

Second Collection: This weekend (2/18): There is only one collection
Next Weekend (2/25): There is only one collection

Thank you for your generosity!

Annual Irish Soda Bread Sale
St. Patrick’s Day is a month away, and our teens will once again be selling those delicious loaves! Teen volunteers are needed to sell the bread after all the Masses on March 10 & 11. Parent volunteers are needed to help the teens as well. Please contact Laura to sign up: youthministry@goodcounsel.org.

CRS Rice Bowl
In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit CRSricebowl.org for more.

Taste of the Town
Pequannock UNICO will host their 3rd Annual Taste of the Town on Tuesday, March 6th, 5:30-8pm at the Best Western Regency House on Route 23. Over 20 local restaurants will participate. A cash bar will be available. For information or tickets please contact Tom Bellas at 973-615-9319 or visit www.pequannockunico.org.

Tricky Tray & Jazz Concert
to Benefit Pequannock High School Band
A Blue & Gold Tricky Tray & Jazz Night will be held Friday, Feb. 23rd in the high school auditorium and cafeteria. Doors open 6pm, raffles close at 7:45pm and calling starts at 8:15pm. Admission is $18 for each ticket purchased in advance until February 16th and $20 at the door or after February 16th. Purchase tickets at pthsband.com. For details contact Helene at helene.klaassens@pthsbandparents.com or Alison at alison.afflitto@pthsbandparents.com or call 973-557-5844.

Calling All Altar Servers
Bishop Navagh Columbiettes would like to thank you for your service to your church at a pizza & ice cream reception on Sunday, Feb. 25th. It will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall, Lincoln Park Rd, Peq., from 1:30 to 3:00PM. You are invited to bring your parents and siblings with you. Please RSVP to Dot Lynch either by phone at 973-715-4960 or email compustructure@aol.com. Please provide your name, parish and the number attending, no later than February 11th. Servers will receive a certificate that must go to a printer who needs some lead time to produce. Please come and let us thank you!

Antioch Pancake Breakfast
Our Antioch team is holding a Pancake Breakfast at Applebee’s in Butler on Saturday, March 3rd from 8-10am. $10 tickets will be sold after all the Masses this weekend, and can also be purchased in the church office during the week.

Antioch Paperwork due
Paperwork and a $150 fee for Second year candidates attending Antioch Weekend is now past due. Papers may be left in the green drop box in the gathering space. Contact Laura with any questions: youthministry@goodcounsel.org.

GIFT Classes
Grades 6-8 will meet again on Wednesday, Feb. 21st, 7-8:30pm. Classes for grades K-5 meet on Sunday & Monday, Mar. 4 & 5.

Lent Group for Teens
Take some time this Lent and discover what it means to follow Jesus. Meetings will be held Monday nights 7:30-9pm starting February 26th. All high school age teens are welcome! Follow us on Twitter to find out more: @olgcyouthmin

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In Iraq, we encounter Majd and his family, people forced to flee violence, searching for stability. How are we called to welcome the stranger in our midst? How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit CRSricebowl.org for more.

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Please Pray
For Those Serving Our Country

PFC Christian Baxter
Major Daniel J. Ciccarelli
Capt. Jacob A. Impellizzeri
PFC Bryan E. Laumbach
PFC Stephen Jordan Seifried
Sgt. Brendan P. Smith

If you have a loved one currently deployed please contact the parish office so we may include them in our prayers!

THIS WEEK AT OLGC:

Monday, February 19, 2018 - President’s Day
The parish office will be closed

08:00 AM Mass Chapel
Holy Hour begins immediately after the mass.
02:30 PM AA Mtg. Holy Family Rm.
07:00 PM Confession Reconciliation Rm
07:30 PM The Way for teens Parish Center

Tuesday, February 20, 2018

08:00 AM Mass Chapel
Holy Hour begins immediately after the mass.

Wednesday, February 21, 2018

08:00 AM Mass Church
Holy Hour begins immediately after the mass.
06:00 PM Teen Singers Choir Room
07:00 PM Hidden in Plain Sight Church
07:00 PM GIFT Classes, 6-8 School

Thursday, February 22, 2018

08:00 AM Mass Chapel
Holy Hour begins immediately after the mass.
02:30 PM AA Mtg. Holy Family Room
07:30 PM Celebration Choir Church
07:30 PM Women of Faith Holy Family Room

Friday, February 23, 2018

08:00 AM Mass Church
Stations of the Cross immediately after Mass
07:00 PM Rosary Chapel
07:30 PM Servants of Holy Cross Chapel

Saturday, February 24, 2018

08:00 AM Mass Chapel
03:45 PM Confession Reconciliation Rm
05:00 PM Mass Church

Sunday, February 25, 2018 - 2nd Sunday of Lent

08:00 AM Mass Church
09:00 AM Men of Courage Holy Family Room
10:00 AM Mass Church
12:00 PM Mass Church
Baptism Prep Class immediately after the Noon Mass
07:00 PM Antioch Meeting Parish Center