

# March 31 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

"THIS MAN WELCOMES SINNERS AND  
EATS WITH THEM."



*Jesus, are you a prodigal son?  
Did you waste your life on us?*

*Or, God, are you  
the prodigal father,  
overflowing with love,  
who runs to meet us, embraces  
and kisses us, killing the fatted calf for us?*

*Prodigal Son, Prodigal Father,  
and Prodigal Holy Spirit,  
we are filled with awe and wonder  
at the love you squander on us.*

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## RIPPLES OF KINDNESS

"I drop kindness pebbles in still water every day, and I watch the effect they have on other people's lives. My favorite kindness pebbles are compliments. Drop a compliment and watch the ripple effect that it has in your life."

Remarkably, these cheery words come from a father who has faced many dark, difficult days. In *6 Minutes Wrestling With Life*, John Passaro tells of his daughter's heart-wrenching battle with meningitis. The struggles didn't make him bitter; rather, he frequently offers uplifting words on social media.

What if we followed Passaro's example and complimented people regularly? Philippians 4:8 (NIV) instructs us to think about things that are noble, lovely, admirable, excellent and praiseworthy. By extension, turning those positive thoughts into words causes "kindness pebbles" to spread God's light in ripples throughout someone's day — and, doubtless, through ours.

## PRAYER SERVICES

Wed., April 3	7:45 AM	Morning Prayer
Fri., April 5	7:45 AM	Morning Prayer

## MASS INTENTIONS

Sat., March 30	4 PM	Diane Earls
Sun., March 31	10 AM	Ruth Gehl
Sat., April 6	4 PM	Ron Moorman
Sun., April 7	10 AM	Cecilia Wesseler

## LITURGICAL MINISTERS

### Saturday – April 6 at 4:00 PM

*Greeters:* Brian and Karen Horan  
John and Linda Wagner  
*Servers:* Kayla Simon, Sam Simon  
*Cantors:* Joe Wagner, Sarah Wenning  
*Lectors:* Dottie Hellmich, Cathy Wagner  
*Euch. Ministers:* Terry Harmeyer, Bill Deller  
Judy Steuri, Janet Deller

### Sunday – April 7 at 10:00 AM

*Greeters:* Mike and Janice Simon - *back*  
George and Mary Bultman - *back*  
Mark Wagner - *side*  
*Servers:* Blake Simon, Connor Toops  
*Cantors:* Gene and Patty Simon  
*Lectors:* Julie Stephens, Paige Simon  
*Euch. Ministers:* Scott Simon, Ben Harlemert  
Vicki Wagner, Leslie Hicks

## PARISH SUPPORT

Adult Envelopes	\$2173.00
Children's Envelopes	\$ 2.45
Loose Collection	\$ 203.00
Total Regular Collection	\$2378.45

**\$3,335.00 needed weekly to meet budget.**

Special Collections	\$245.00
+ Catholic Relief Services -	\$225.00
+ Capital Improvement -	\$20.00

## **Lenten Blessings!**

*"A Christian Lent can never be entirely sad. With the fourth Sunday, the pent-up spiritual joy in the true member of Christ bursts forth in anticipation of the Easter joy to come." ~ Virgil Michel, OSB*

**STEWARDSHIP** – The stewardship message in the parable of the prodigal son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the older brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal, who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

**SANCTUARY LIGHT** – The sanctuary light will burn March 31 through April 7 for Wayne Fry.

**CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES** – This weekend, you are asked to help support the work of Catholic Relief Services. Please drop your envelope in the regular collection.

**DID YOU READ** – Did you read in last week's bulletin that 50% of the Raffle Surveys were returned? After tabulating the results, there was only a one response difference in keeping or ending the fall raffle. The Parish Council members were given a copy of the results of the raffle, including the many comments, and after much discussion, the decision was made to hold the raffle again next year. Thank you for all your comments. The Raffle Committee will give further attention to these ideas.

**COFFEE TALK** – Yes, Fr. Dan Bedel will present the next Coffee Talk on April 7, 3:00 PM. He will share reflections on this year's theme. He is an excellent speaker.

**SPRING SMORGASBORD** – In back and out the side door of church are papers for you and your family to sign up and help work at our smorgasbord this weekend! Also, ladies, if you have not heard from your chairperson, please call Judy or Susan.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** – Classes for Preschool through Grade 5 on Wednesday, April 3, 6:45 PM. A meal will be served: chicken nuggets. Grades 2 through 5 will have their Lenten Penance Service at 7:00 PM. Also, please don't forget to bring in your pennies!

Classes for Grades 6 through 10 next Sunday, April 7, 8:30 AM.

**BLOOD PRESSURE** – You can get your blood pressure checked next Sunday, April 7, in the St. Anne Room following the Masses. Amy Prentice and Jodi Meister will be there to assist you!

## **FOURTH WEEK OF LENT HAPPENINGS**

### **WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**

NO Adoration - Children's Penance Service

### **FRIDAY, APRIL 5**

**8:00 AM–12:00 Noon** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. Maurice

**6:00 PM** – Way of the Cross at St. Maurice

### **SATURDAY, APRIL 6**

**9:00 AM–NOON** – Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament at St. John

**4:00–7:30 PM** – Spring Smorgasbord

### **SUNDAY, APRIL 7**

Coffee Talk with Fr. Dan Bedel at St. Maurice

**CHURCH IN AFRICA** – Next weekend, we are asked to remember the Church in Africa. This provides funding for catechetical materials, workshops, and retreats. Envelopes are in your box.

**THE LORD'S LAUGHTER** – There is value in a good vocabulary. In my retirement, I called an old friend and asked what he was doing these days.

He replied that he was working on "Aquathermal treatment of ceramics, aluminum and steel under a constrained environment."

I was impressed. Upon further inquiry, however, I learned that he was washing dishes with hot water under his wife's supervision. (via George Goldtrap, Ormond-by-the-Sea, FL, The Joyful Noiseletter)

### **SUNDAY REFLECTION**

**Today's Gospel tells of how when an angry older brother confronted his father about welcoming the prodigal son back home with a lavish feast, the forgiving father replied: "My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours. But now we must celebrate and rejoice, because your brother was dead and has come to life again; he was lost and has been found."**

**In this story, can we see ourselves in all the characters? How many times have we been the prodigal son? Or the angry and jealous older brother? And how many times have we been the forgiving father? Consider how many times have we been grateful to our heavenly Father for his unending forgiveness of our transgressions.**

**– Deacon Dick Folger**