

Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish

Reverend Father Aron M. Maghsoudi – Pastor

Rectory Office
738 Sunshine Avenue
Central City, PA 15926
814-754-5224

March 29, 2020
**Fifth Sunday
Of Lent**

Worship Sites
Church (Sacred Heart)
738 Sunshine Avenue
Chapel (St. John)
162 Wheeler Street

Private Prayer:

Daily

Church (Sacred Heart)
9:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Confessions

Anytime upon Request

Mass Intentions

Said privately by Fr. Aron

March 30 (Mon)	Lenten Weekday Debbie Knapp (Req. Julie Delsako)
March 31 (Tue)	Lenten Weekday Mack Bednar (Req. Irene & John Letosky)
April 1 (Wed)	Lenten Weekday Catherine Haggerty (Req. Children, Grandchildren & Great Grandchildren)
April 2 (Thu)	St. Fancis of Paola Lillian Koleszarik (Req. Bill & Kay Mihelcic)
April 3 (Fri)	Lenten Weekday Thomas Delasko (Req. Granddaughter Juleen, Jim & Brock)
April 4 (Sat)	St. Isidore Anne Chiapelli (Req. Donna Stefancic)
April 5 (Sun)	<i>Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord</i> For the Parish (Missa Pro Populo) Samuel Pesto (Req. Mark Pesto)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

A Reading from the Book of Ezekiel

Thus says the Lord GOD: O my people, I will open your graves and have you rise from them, and bring you back to the land of Israel. Then you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves and have you rise from them, O my people! I will put my spirit in you that you may live, and I will settle you upon your land; thus you shall know that I am the LORD. I have promised, and I will do it, says the LORD.

Responsorial Psalm

R. With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O LORD;
LORD, hear my voice!

Let your ears be attentive
to my voice in supplication. R.

If you, O LORD, mark iniquities,
LORD, who can stand?

But with you is forgiveness,
that you may be revered. R.

I trust in the LORD;
my soul trusts in his word.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn,
let Israel wait for the LORD. R.

For with the LORD is kindness
and with him is plenteous redemption;

And he will redeem Israel
from all their iniquities. R.

A Letter from St. Paul to the Romans

Brothers and sisters: Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh; on the contrary, you are in the spirit, if only the Spirit of God dwells in you. Whoever does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although the body is dead because of sin, the spirit is alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of the one who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, the one who raised Christ from the dead will give life to your mortal bodies also, through his Spirit dwelling in you.

A Reading from the Gospel of John

Now a man was ill, Lazarus from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha.

Mary was the one who had anointed the Lord with perfumed oil and dried his feet with her hair; it was her brother Lazarus who was ill. So the sisters sent word to him saying, "Master, the one you love is ill."

When Jesus heard this he said, "This illness is not to end in death, but is for the glory of God, that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. So when he heard that he was ill, he remained for two days in the place where he was.

Then after this he said to his disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

The disciples said to him, "Rabbi, the Jews were just trying to stone you, and you want to go back there?"

Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day? If one walks during the day, he does not stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if one walks at night, he stumbles, because the light is not in him."

He said this, and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus is asleep, but I am going to awaken him."

So the disciples said to him, "Master, if he is asleep, he will be saved."

But Jesus was talking about his death, while they thought that he meant ordinary sleep.

So then Jesus said to them clearly, "Lazarus has died. And I am glad for you that I was not there, that you may believe. Let us go to him."

So Thomas, called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us also go to die with him."

When Jesus arrived, he found that Lazarus had already been in the tomb for four days. Now Bethany was near Jerusalem, only about two miles away. And many of the Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother. When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him; but Mary sat at home.

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.

But even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you."

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise."

Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day."

Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

She said to him, "Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world."

When she had said this, she went and called her sister Mary secretly, saying, "The teacher is here and is asking for you." As soon as she heard this, she rose quickly and went to him. For Jesus had not yet come into the village, but was still where Martha had met him. So when the Jews who were with her in the house comforting her saw Mary get up quickly and go out, they followed her, presuming that she was going to the tomb to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said to him, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died." When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled, and said, "Where have you laid him?"

They said to him, "Sir, come and see."

And Jesus wept.

So the Jews said, "See how he loved him."

But some of them said, "Could not the one who opened the eyes of the blind man have done something so that this man would not have died?"

So Jesus, perturbed again, came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone lay across it.

Jesus said, "Take away the stone."

Martha, the dead man's sister, said to him, "Lord, by now there will be a stench; he has been dead for four days."

Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe you will see the glory of God?"

So they took away the stone. And Jesus raised his eyes and said, "Father, I thank you for hearing me. I know that you always hear me; but because of the crowd here I have said this, that they may believe that you sent me." And when he had said this, He cried out in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" The dead man came out, tied hand and foot with burial bands, and his face was wrapped in a cloth. So Jesus said to them, "Untie him and let him go."

Now many of the Jews who had come to Mary and seen what he had done began to believe in him.

DEAR PARISHIONERS

All Masses have been canceled until further notice. Events including Dyngus Day and the Senior Luncheon are being postponed. As soon as we have the alternate dates we will notify all ticket holders. You may call the rectory to return your tickets for a refund or wait until the new date is decided upon.

These are unprecedented times. The coronavirus has captured everyone's attention, but it has not taken away our faith. Our Church is alive and still carrying on its mission and Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish will continue to bring you the light of Christ. But in order to continue our work, we need your support.

To assist parishes like ours who do not currently offer online/electronic giving, the Diocese has provided the use of their online giving platform and created a specific "Your Parish Offertory" giving site. "Your Parish Offertory" is available on the diocese's home page featuring a GIVING button. Parishioners can also go to www.dioceseaj.org/giving. All funds donated will be credited to Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish and we will be made aware of your continued generosity. You can also mail your offertory directly to Our Lady Queen of Angels Parish, 738 Sunshine Avenue, Central City, PA 15926.

Even though there are no Masses being held, the Sacred Heart site will be open from 9:00 AM until 6:00 PM every day (**side door**) for anyone who wishes to pray and be with God. I hope everyone is taking the necessary precautions and is safe and prayerful during this time. Thank you for your support and may our Lord continue to bless you, our community, and our nation.

In Christ,



Fr. Aron

SANCTUARY CANDLE INTENTIONS - The Sanctuary Candle burns at the St. John site in memory of Thomas "Pap" Delasko by Grandson Billy.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

March 29 - **NO CCD** Class until further notice

April 18 - **CANCELLED** - To be rescheduled - Dyngus Day

April 19 - **CANCELLED** - To be rescheduled - Confirmation - St. Peter's - Somerset

April 26 - **CANCELLED** - To be rescheduled - Senior Parishioners' Mass and Luncheon

APRIL NOVENA - We will be praying The Devine Mercy Novena from April 10th through the 18th. Please use the enclosed booklet and pray the Novena at home! (Booklet is also available online in the Bulletin section.)

PRAYER LIST - Please call the rectory with any changes or additions. Kay Hintosh, Dale Berkey Jr., Allen S. Berkey, David Stockdill, Tina Udet, Rick Flickner, Patty Foltz, Connie Gruca, Judy Kostick, Lisa Schriff, Amy Thomas Georg, Betsy Paolucci, Areile Adomnik, Charles Field, Todd Diorio, Denne Osman, Addison Zearfaus, Pam Kacmarski, Tom Schall, Howard Rose, David P. Bonus, Henry Sprock, Connie Criscoulo, Hunter Slater, Nancy Deneen, Stephen A. Haydu, Andrea Sesack, Jerry Otto, Lyle Spearo, Lauren Barnes, Agnes Palya, Gerald "Curly" Mains, Rollin Wilson, Genevieve Berezonsky, Tom Hudak.

SMALL ERRANDS - Volunteers have contacted our office offering to run small errands like grocery and/or prescription pick up and drop off for anyone in need. Please call the rectory with your request (814-754-5224).

DYNGUS DAY TO BE RESCHEDLUED - As soon as we have the alternate dates we will notify all ticket holders. You may call the rectory to return your tickets for a refund or wait until the new date is decided upon.

FR. ARON'S THOUGHTS - As I delivered the parish announcements from the pulpit on the First Sunday of Lent (March First), I read the longer than usual lineup of church happenings with particular zeal. Clearly the next forty days were going to be enlightening for us as a parish and for me personally. Even though I had admonished all on Ash Wednesday that Lent is about change (not just fish fries), in all honesty I had a sure and certain excitement about the speakers, events, and schedule that stood between us and "Easter glory." Twenty six days later it is clear that a different lent was in store. I have spent the last week and a half in quarantine for a flu - perhaps not THE flu (the dreaded Coronavirus), but a flu that caused me a six day fever, aches, coughing, and separation from my family and the parish. Most of it was spent at a vacant rental property owned by my family. The conditions at the property are spartan and primitive (an understatement of the highest degree). My quarantine has given me a chance to think about this complex time and about the collective anxiety that many of us seem to be experiencing during this strange and peculiar form of lent. In the mysterious ways of Divine Providence we find ourselves here; maybe this "unexpected (or unwanted) retreat" will grant us something far richer than fish fries. For what it is worth, here are some very simple thoughts.

1. Confrontation. - Lent has frequently been compared to a desert. The deliberate austerity of the season helps to recall the frightening reality of confrontation in a wasteland - nowhere to run, nowhere to hide. Christ fasted in the howling bleakness of the desert where he faced humanity's most powerful distractions, alternatives so potent that they claim the place of God and run the risk of becoming an empty candidate for ultimacy, namely pleasure, power, and honor. To greater and lesser degrees some of us accept holy lent's invitation to look inwardly, but the reality is it can be nauseating and it's much easier to distract ourselves with other things that keep us from confronting ourselves and our own interior emptiness. This noise, this distraction, is summed up well by Cardinal Robert Sarah, "Without noise, postmodern man falls into a dull, insistent uneasiness. He is accustomed to permanent background noise, which sickens yet reassures him." Like it or not, COVID - 19 has put us in a spot where we cannot avoid the nausea of our deeper questions. Sure simple questions occupy our minds, will I have enough toilet paper? Do I really need to wear a facemask (or as my cousins in Slovakia say "mouth cloaks")? But bigger questions plague us, my IRA took a hit, will I retire on time? Is there something wrong with me if I worry about giving my relatives a hug? When will life return to normal? If I get this, will I live? Maybe they are all concerns that boil down to the most difficult subject of all, our mortality. In the gospel this weekend Jesus raises Lazarus from the dead. The passage is found in St. John's gospel ch. 11. In vs 33 we read, "When Jesus saw her weeping and the Jews who had come with her weeping, he became perturbed and deeply troubled." The phrase in Greek we translate as "perturbed and deeply troubled," has been interpreted in various ways. Some commentators translate it as "groaned," some other commentators, mostly Germans, render it as meaning, "he became angry, disgusted, enraged." Those scholars may've been on to something- honest confrontation with mortality can lead us to feel angry, disgusted, and enraged. It can be frightening; feeling helpless can be utterly overwhelming. Christ confronts death in the passing of a friend, he sees its effects on those who also mourn the loss of Lazarus and grapple with mortality. We don't like much confronting this reality, after all we dedicate incredible energy to anti-aging, thankfully the Coronavirus has given us a chance to look at it head on. Christ wept and became angry as he looked at it, Providence has gifted us with a time to look at this question anew and to find hope. This is not a stoic response to a question that troubles us, indeed Christ wept and later on would himself die an awful death. Sometimes we think that the biblical imagination is far removed from the reality of humanity's pain, pie in the sky idealism of ignorant pre-scientific people. However when we linger with the scriptures we see precisely the opposite - good people have long wrestled with the question of suffering and knew well the fear that surrounds human mortality. Christ, the life of all, is enraged at the effects of human mortality, he weeps (it could almost be translated "bawled"), life itself confronts decay, let us no lose heart as we finally allow our inner self to be renewed.

2. Idolatry. - I cannot think of a more frequently discussed religious topic - ever. After all, the first of the Ten Commandments deals with "strange gods" and "graven images" (if you use the Catholic/Lutheran numbering of the Decalogue), and much religious ink has been spilled detailing the devastating effects of false gods. That being said, for all of the attention it has received down through the ages, it is still a major concern. The idolatry of our schedule, exaggerated self-importance, and invincibility were rocked for me when I found myself unable to cure my ailments, leave the house, or establish a definitive exit date (thankfully the doctor has now informed me I'm good to go home on Monday). In that moment God visited me and, because of this flu, I had lost all means of escape. I was separated from my "all holy" calendar (everything was cancelled), my timeline (since I am not permitted to marry, aside from work commitments, I have long enjoyed being the master of my day to day activities), and even my possessions (the house had only a chair and a twin bed - far removed from the consoling fruit of my hoarder like tendencies), I found myself flying Soli Deo (God Alone). We are always looking for the next "big thing," peering around the corner for the new career, exhilarating experience, or religious event. In this way our lives are consumed with superficial wanderings, we are perpetually in search of our next fix. God visits us in our sickness, in the paralyzing fear of this virus, we have to stay at home, the option to run away is off the table. If we had options how many of us would really chose to stay behind and cast out into the depths of our interior life? I'm pleased to hear more people are going to adoration, praying the rosary, watching daily Mass. Perhaps it is only something as dramatic as this that will get our attention. We are easily distracted; in a culture of sensory overload and technological wizardry, I'm sort of glad our new neighbor, the Coronavirus, has blocked my driveway. It's time I spent more time with Love Itself, who has desired union with my heart for so long, even as I flirted with far shallower substitutes.

3. Human Solidarity. - A few days ago my mom, through no fault if her own, was several hours late bringing my breakfast and lunch (she leaves my food on the porch and has done a very nice job). Since I am unable to get my own meals I was stuck at the house waiting for her arrival. As my good friend Sister Mary Joseph reminded me, "a saint becomes a sinner when he hasn't had his dinner." Waiting is part of lent. Jesus even waited before he went to raise Lazarus. In that time of waiting for my food, I thought about what I was experiencing as a temporary inconvenience is a part of day to day living for countless souls. Children who don't know when they will eat, people in nursing homes who long for a visit, the suffering in the hospital for who wait for relief from chronic pain. We are all stuck waiting, and that can be a very enlightening reality. The arrival of the Coronavirus has reminded us that life is fragile and that everyone has a part in making sure we get through this mess. When Mass was suspended I must admit I found it troubling, almost disorienting. However it has struck me that just as people grew "victory gardens," collected scrap, and bought war bonds during WWII, this enemy which plagues our elderly and the most vulnerable, means we all have to be united as we battle a common enemy. No matter how you cut it this means we have to be separate for now. We all have to do our part. We are more linked than ever before, but sometimes those bonds lack depth. This pandemic is giving us a chance to allow our real bonds to deepen. A call from a friend helps to maintain sanity, a special delivery from someone helps to lift the spirit, being dependent on others reminds us of how precious and fragile life can be at times. I haven't had any human contact for almost two weeks but feel more than ever that when we find faithful friends we have found true treasures (Sirach 6:14).

In conclusion, take these musings for what they are worth - please know I am praying for you each day of my "retreat." Hopefully we will emerge from this purified, echoing the psalmist of old, "I sought the Lord, and he answered me and delivered me from my fears. Look to him and be radiant with joy, and your faces may not blush with shame."