

OUR READINGS TODAY are filled with anticipation. *The days are coming*, Jeremiah prophesies in today's First Reading. *The hour has come*, Jesus says in the Gospel. The new covenant that God promised to Jeremiah is made in the "hour" of Jesus' Death, Resurrection, and Ascension to His Father's right hand.

The prophets said that this new covenant would draw Israel's exiled tribes back from all parts of the world. Jesus also predicted that His Passion would bring together the dispersed children of God. But today He promises to gather to Himself not only Israelites, but all people.

As we sang in today's Psalm, the spiritual restoration brought about by the new covenant is universal. In Jesus' "hour," sinners in every nation can return to God the Father—to be washed of their guilt and given renewed hearts to love and serve Him.



In predicting that He will be "lifted up," Jesus isn't describing only His crucifixion. Isaiah used the same term to tell how the Messiah, after suffering for Israel's sins, would be raised high and greatly exalted.

Jesus' prayer was not that He be saved from His agony. Instead, as we hear in today's Epistle, while dying on the Cross, He offered Himself to the Father—as a living prayer and supplication.

Where Jesus has gone, we can follow—if we let Him lead us. To follow Jesus means rejecting a life of sin and selfishness. It means trusting in God's will, the law He has written in our hearts.

Jesus' "hour" continues in the Eucharist, where we join our sacrifices to His, giving God the Father our lives in reverence and obedience—confident that He will raise us up to bear fruits of holiness.

THE STATIONS OF THE CROSS are synonymous with Lent. A plenary indulgence is gained by those who participate. Your final opportunity this year will be this Friday afternoon at 5:00.

OLPH PRE-EASTER POLISH FOOD SALE will be next Saturday, March 24th, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the parish hall. Plan to stock up on your favorites now; the next food sale will not be until our PolishFest in June.

YOU ARE INVITED to a **3-Day Lenten Retreat** this Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, March 19th to 21st, at St. Mary's Church on Tarkiln Hill Road. Masses each day will be at 12 noon and 7 in the evening. Confessions will be heard 30 minutes before each Mass.

SNOOPY: The Musical—based on the "Peanuts" comic strip, will be performed at Holy Family-Holy Name School next Friday and Saturday, March 23rd and 24th, at 8 p.m. and Sunday, the 25th, at 2 p.m. Adults \$15; seniors and children \$12.

AN EXTRA SMILE FOR LENT...A father took his young son to a baseball game. While they were sitting there, he asked the boy what he was giving up for Lent. The boy replied, "I'm giving up candy, Dad. What are you giving up?"

His Father said, "I decided to give up liquor."

Later in the game, the beer man came by, and the father ordered a beer. His son objected, "Dad, I thought you were giving up liquor!"

His father answered, "Hard liquor, son. I'm giving up hard liquor. This is just a beer."

To which the boy replied, "O.K. Then, I'm giving up hard candy."

**Sat. - Mar. 17 - 5th Sunday of Lent**

4:00 PM +Ted Irzyk
Req. Friends of Poland

Sun. - Mar. 18 - 5th Sunday of Lent

10:00 AM +Arthur Caron
Req. Dorothy Roncka

Mon. - Mar. 19 - St. Joseph

7:30 AM OLPH Parishioners
Living & Deceased

Tues. - Mar. 20 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM Return to Health & Sobriety
Req. Gus S.

Wed. - Mar. 21 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM +Lillian Strzelecki

Thurs. - Mar. 22 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM +A Friend
Req. Petitioner

Fri. - Mar. 23 - Lenten Weekday

4:30 PM Confessions
5:00 PM Stations of the Cross
5:30 PM In Thanksgiving for the Grace
of Holy Communion

Sat. - Mar. 24 - Lenten Weekday

7:30 AM +Anna Lesniak
Req. Family

Sat. - Mar. 24 - Palm Sunday

4:00 PM +Jeannette Holland
Req. Bob & MaryAnn Laprise

Sun. - Mar. 25 - Palm Sunday

10 AM +Florence Goyette
Req. Joseph & Wanda Williams

A MESSAGE FROM FATHER CONRAD

Sisters and Brothers of Our Parish Family,

The greatest fruit in the Sacrament of Reconciliation will come if we take the time to prepare well.

It takes real prayer and grace to come to this Sacrament well. It takes planning to say what we want to say well. This is all part of the time of grace that allows God to work in us and prepare us for a grace-filled encounter.

Finally, it is so important to come to the Sacrament as a celebration. This is an occasion for great joy and deep peace. It is a time of sincere expectation of the grace that will be given to us.

Whatever penance the priest offers us will foster the desired healing. We can all come forth from the Sacrament giving thanks and praise, because the powerful experience of the Incarnation, Life, Death, and Resurrection of Jesus will have touched our hearts. We will realize, "This was all for me!" It was for this moment.

When we say "Amen" to this grace and open our hands and hearts to then receive the Eucharist and say "Amen" again, we experience the full meaning of the Communion with Jesus given to us in these two sacraments together.

Peace and Blessings,
Father Conrad