

# GOOD NEWS

**March 22, 2009, Fourth Sunday of Lent**  
**2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21**

"I told you so." The temptation to say it is rooted in our human ego, in our wanting to be right, in our wanting others to recognize we are right, and in that part of us that is capable of enjoying someone else's downfall, maybe because it makes us look bigger.

Being on the receiving end of "I told you so" is painful. There are gut emotions of resentment mixed in with disappointment with ourselves and our errors, and maybe also hooking into the hope that we can return the retort later. I'll be right next time. I'll get you back.

When I hear the tough words of the Scripture, how "the wrath of the Lord against his people became so great that there was no remedy" (2 Chronicles 36:16), other conflicting emotions hit home. I'm glad that's not me. Yet I wonder if my smugness or arrogance has reached the level of those who are judged by God.

Such Scripture readings hit us where we are vulnerable. Here is the place we may also find the most stunning realization of who God is. John reminds us the Son entered the world not to condemn, but to save. In the stark story of Judah's downfall, where they came to the "no remedy" stage, the judgment was the utter destruction of their homes, their lives, and their Temple.

And yet later, even after being captive in Babylon, these people God cared for were allowed to rebuild.

God's judgments are not from resentment or hurt feelings or a desire to punish. God's warnings are to wake us up. 2 Chronicles tells us that "The Lord...sent persistently to them by his messengers, because he had compassion on his people and on his dwelling-place." But they didn't listen; they mocked the messengers.

How far will God go to bring us back? The Son of God would rather suffer in our place than see us fall. What are we asked to let go of in order to turn and see Christ?

**Dan Finucane**

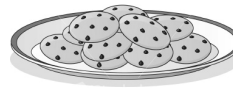
**PLEASE PATRONIZE OUR ADVERTISERS**

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That's the Best Way to Thank Them for Your Bulletin

**PHONE TREE FOR PRAYERS**, we have parish members who have joined us in our chain of prayers and we will pray for your needs. They will be praying always in the name of Jesus Christ, Our Lord. If you have a request for special prayers, you can begin the "**Phone Tree for Prayers**" by calling Fran Millie 724-568-3044 or Josephine Moliterno 724-567-7359.



**Hospitality committee** ~ are asking for volunteers to bake cookies for our Parish Mission on March 22 thru 25. Please bring baked goods to the church hall. A reception will be held each evening after the Mission.

**"DINNER AT Mary's" ( A Passion Play)** April 2, 3, & 4 at 7 p.m. at the Vandergrift United Methodist Church. This original play portrays Jesus last supper and the kitchen crew that prepared it. It then uses song and drama to link our contemporary experience of communion to Jesus death and resurrection. This community production used an ecumenical choir, cast, and soloists to present a fresh and powerful telling of the Easter story. Admission is free (A free will offering will be taken to benefit local food banks). You are also invited to bring a canned good or food item.

### Readings for the week of March 22, 2009

Sunday: 2 Chr 36:14-16, 19-23/Eph 2:4-10/Jn 3:14-21  
 Monday: Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54  
 Tuesday: Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16  
 Wednesday: Is 7:10-14; 8:10/Heb 10:4-10/Lk 1:26-38 (Annunciation)  
 Thursday: Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47  
 Friday: Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30  
 Saturday: Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53  
 Next Sunday: Jer 31:31-34/Heb 5:7-9/Jn 12:20-33

### OUR GIFTS TO THE LORD March 14 & 15

Offertory Collection.....	\$5,628.10
Children's Collection.....	8.00
Loose Collection.....	415.01
Utilities.....	259.00

**May the Lord bless you for your financial sacrifice to your Parish.**

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

In memory of Josephine Silvestri from her sister  
Rose DeRose

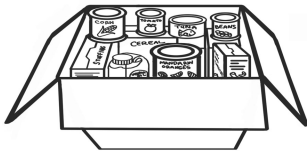
**MEMORIAL CANDLE**

In memory of Frank Duriancik by the family

**PLEASE PRAY FOR OUR PARISHIONERS AND FRIENDS** who are hospitalized, invalids or seriously ill at home: Loree Allera, Eugene Luczak, Anthony DelleDonne, Anthony DePanicis, Sr., Nick Perry, Pearl Karawsky, Harry Ashbaugh, Bernice McCutcheon, Sal Fasano, Mary Frances Moehring and all the sick who need our prayers.

**THANK YOU** ~ to Fr. Chad, our Parish family, Ministry of Consolation and all who comforted us in our time of sorrow. Ron Benes Family

**Knights of Columbus, Council #3174** ~ monthly meeting on Tuesday, March 31, instead of March 24, at 7 p.m. The change is due to the St. Gertrude Parish Mission, the week of March 22 thru March 25. All officers and members are requested to please attend.



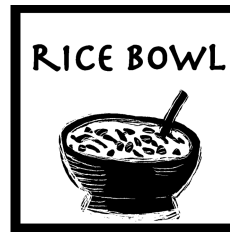
**THE SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DE PAUL** asks that you donate nonperishable food and/or

paper products or other sundry items so that Easter baskets can be assembled for needy families. Boxes are located at all church doors. We will, of course, accept monetary donations that can be placed in the Poor Box.

**A NEW JUNIOR CHOIR** is forming and practicing on Wednesdays at 4:15 p.m. in the church. They will be singing once a month at a Sunday Mass. Please encourage young people ages 7—13 to join! For more info, please call 724-727-2542 or come on Wednesday.

**Swiss Steak Dinner** ~ Boiling Springs Presbyterian Church, March 28 at 4—7 p.m. Adults \$8., under 6 free. Take outs are available at 724-478-1523.

**DIOCESAN LENTEN APPEAL** ~ The annual Diocesan Lenten Appeal is being held in all Parishes throughout the Diocese. This annual appeal helps fund many important services that the Diocese makes available to all parishes, services that we could not provide for ourselves. Each gift, no matter the size, is important. Our assigned parish goal this year is **\$38,464.00**. We can reach this goal if everyone does their part. You should have received a letter and a brochure in the mail. Please read the brochure and prayerfully reflect on your gift. You may put your gift/pledge in the envelope provided and drop in the collection basket in church, or mail to the rectory. Thank you. Your help is deeply appreciated.



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As we continue our Operation Rice Bowl journey let us remember in **prayer** that we are called to be good stewards of what has been entrusted to us. Through protecting the environment in which we live, we respect the goodness of nature, a gift God has given. May our **fasting** keep us mindful of those who have no clean water to grow crops or to nourish their families. May our **almsgiving** assist Catholic Relief Services as we **learn** about agriculture programs in Honduras.

**ST GERTRUDE CEMETERY REMINDER ~ PLEASE PICKUP YOUR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ANYTHING LEFT PAST MARCH 28 WILL BE DISCARDED.**

**Mount Saint Peter Concert Series** ~ Presents Sacred Music for Lent, Holy Week and Easter. Sunday, March 29, 7:30 p.m. St. John Passion—J.S.Bach, Maria Sensi Sellner, conductor. Sunday April 5, 7:30 p.m. Tenebrae, Mount Saint Peter Choir and Chamber Orchestra, Thomas Octave, conductor.. Saturday, April; 18, 7:30 p.m. University of Pittsburgh Men's Glee Club, Richard Teaster, conductor. A free will offering will be taken at each event. All are welcome!

**NO BINGO ~  
due to the Parish Mission.  
See you next Sunday!**



**Saturday, March 21, Lenten Weekday**

4:00 p.m. †Joey Donghia (An.)

**Sunday, March 22, Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish

10:30 a.m. †Joseph Misho (An.)

7:00 p.m. **PARISH MISSION**

**Monday, March 23, Lenten Weekday**

8:30 a.m. †Edward Luczak (An.)

7:00 p.m. **PARISH MISSION**

**Tuesday, March 24, Lenten Weekday**

8:30 a.m. †Gloria Dettore (An.)

7:00 p.m. **PARISH MISSION**

**Wednesday, March 25, Annunciation of Lord**

8:30 a.m. †Paul Butera

7:00 p.m. **PARISH MISSION**

**Thursday, March 26, Lenten Weekday**

8:30 a.m. †Anthony G. Dettore (An.)

**Friday, March 27, Lenten Weekday**

9:00 a.m. †Josephine Jancaro

10 - 12 N. Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

6:30 p.m. STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**Saturday, March 28, Lenten Weekday**

8:30 a.m. †Arthur Rattigan

4:00 p.m. †John Palatella

**Sunday, March 29, Fifth Sunday of Lent**

8:00 a.m. Living & Deceased of our Parish

10:30 a.m. †Eugene & Carmie Calderazzo Fam.



**MARCH 28 & 29**