

Mass Intentions for the Week

Sun. March 30

8:00am - Patricia Ostrowski
by St. Martin de Porres
9:30am - Susan Hutchins
by William Nelson

Sun. April 6

8:00am - Mother's Day Remembrance
9:30am - Olivia C. Morgan
by the Newton Family

April Lectors

8:00am Mass

April 6 - Barbara Smith
April 13 - Pat Dyer
April 20 - Andre Allen
April 27 - Myrna Draper

9:30am Mass

April 6 - Alice Bragg
April 13 - Holy Name
April 20 - Lurita Boyd
April 27 - Ndidi Nwabugwu

Readings for the Week of March 30, 2025

Sun., March 30 - Jos 5:9a, 10-12/2 Cor 5:17-21
/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32
Mon., March 31 - Is 65:17-21/Jn 4:43-54
Tues., April 1 - Ez 47:1-9, 12/Jn 5:1-16
Wed., April 2 - Is 49:8-15/Jn 5:17-30
Thurs., April 3 - Ex 32:7-14/Jn 5:31-47
Fri., April 4 - Wis 2:1a, 12-22/Jn 7:1-2, 10, 25-30
Sat., April 5 - Jer 11:18-20/Jn 7:40-53
Sun., April 6 - Is 43:16-21/Phil 3:8-14/Jn 8:1-11



On Good Friday, April 18th, there will be a collection for the Holy Land

Special Intentions Prayer for Our Parish

- ◆ Our Deceased Members
- ◆ Our 1st Responders,
- ◆ Health Care Workers
- ◆ Our Military Personnel
- ◆ All those in need of our prayers especially our sick & shut-ins : Lula Bell, Robert Brown, Shirley Hargro, Margie Lewis, Karl Magby, Jewel Marshall, Antionette (Tonie) Newton, Vanessa Newton, Louise Nolley, Marianne Partee, Samuel Ruff, and Josephine Williams.

GOSPEL MEDITATION

ENCOURAGE DEEPER UNDERSTANDING OF SCRIPTURE
March 30, 2025
4th Sunday of Lent
John 9:1-41

A man looking a bit downtrodden approached me as I filled my car's gas tank. He asked, "May I share with you my testimony about how good God is?" "OK," I skeptically answered. He went on to tell me that he had been an alcoholic and drug addict, and that God had healed him; now he was four years sober. He said, "I didn't deserve it, but now I'm a different person. God is so good! Have a terrific Tuesday!" A few minutes later, as I drove away, I saw him smiling and handing a homeless person some money. I was confronted with a choice: either he was a total fraud or God had changed him. Something had happened to him, and it didn't seem fake. Maybe it was God.

When Jesus heals the man born blind, the man becomes a challenge to everyone who meets him. They must decide. Is he the same blind person who they knew before? Who healed him and how? And what is the status of the one who can heal such infirmities? We shouldn't be surprised at the storm of doubt, hatred and animosity that swirls around the healed man — so it often goes when Jesus heals someone even to this day.

Like we often do, the religious leaders confronting the healed man declare that God is not at work. They ask with mocking superiority and dismissive disdain, "You were born totally in sin, and are you trying to teach us?" (John 9:34). And they cast him out. When Jesus clearly works in our lives, in us or around us, we should accept it, and give praise and thanks for this wonderful manifestation of his goodness.

Lenten challenge: Think of one way the Lord has healed you. Perhaps he healed a form of selfishness, a physical ailment, or something else. This week, find a person to whom you can share that testimony, and share it. Don't worry if they don't accept it was God who did it.

— Father John Muir

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(PRACTICING) CATHOLIC – THE APOLOGY
By Colleen Jurkiewicz Dorman

Mini Reflection: God doesn't need our repentance. We need our repentance.

The Apology: I like to imagine the Prodigal Son practicing his apology in the mirror.

He wouldn't have, of course. Mirrors weren't exactly a dime a dozen back then. But I imagine him anyway, rehearsing the words as he contemplates his own gaunt reflection: "Father, I have sinned against God and against you. Treat me as you would treat one of your hired workers."

In other words, I have done wrong. I deserve nothing from you. But please, don't let me starve. Save me.

The apology wasn't necessary to move the heart of the father. We know that because before they meet, before anything is said, the father is overcome with compassion — not because he got his satisfaction, that long-awaited "I'm sorry, I was wrong." No, he's simply overjoyed to see his son alive. Even without apology, we know the father will beg his son to stay.

So why does the son apologize?

The father doesn't need the "I'm sorry." He isn't starving and lost. He knew all along it was a bad idea. He doesn't need to learn any lessons.

But what a tragedy it would have been, if the son had never said he was sorry. Undoubtedly, his father would have let him stay as a hired worker, and he would have had food to eat. He would have survived. But he wouldn't have been what he was born to be.

I often think of the son's apology as I am kneeling in the confessional, awkwardly reciting sins God already knows and is eager to forgive. Why are you doing this? some people would ask. God doesn't need this.

It's the apology, you see. The apology means everything. The Prodigal Son was dead. The apology brought him back to life.

God doesn't need our repentance. We need our repentance.

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Parish Financial Information *Weekly Totals Include E-Giving			
March 2025			
	Regular Collection	Martin's Future	Diocese Collection
March 2	\$2,309.00	\$1,545.00	\$50.00
March 9	\$2,470.00	\$932.00	\$450.00
March 16	\$2,682.00	\$850.00	\$45.00
March 23	\$1,814.00	\$1,110.00	\$5.00
March 30	\$	\$	\$
Total Income	\$9,275.00	\$4,437.00	\$550.00

Our next Baptism class for parents of children under 7 has been scheduled for May 4 at 12:30 PM in the school building at Blessed Trinity. Register in advance at your parish office. This will be our last class until fall. You do not need to wait until your baby is born to come to the class. Godparents are also welcome to attend .

Confirmation 2025: If you are in at least the 9th grade (including adults) and would like to be Confirmed next fall, now is the time to talk to us! Those who are not attending a Catholic High School and did not participate in the recently ended Introduction to Sacred Scripture Class, please contact Pat Dyer at Blessed Trinity as soon as possible to discuss catching up.

Monthly Faith Formation packets are being prepared by our volunteers. Thank you. We have already had donations of supplies, but we need cornstarch and baking soda donated for our May packets. We will need 15 boxes of cornstarch and 15 boxes of baking soda total. If you can help, please bring them in and give them to Paula Hunt, Pat Dyer, or Lanette Jennings.

Lenten Events @ St. Martin de Porres

Mon., April 7-1st Reconciliation @ 6pm & Penance Service Mass - St. Martin de Porres @7pm

Sun., April 13-Palm Sunday-SMdP - Regular Mass Times

Fri., April 18-Good Friday- SMdP @ 3pm,

Sun., April 20-Easter Sunday-SMdP-Regular Mass & Times

Living Stations of the Cross will be presented by our youth on Friday, April 4 at 7 PM in the church at Ss. Columba-Brigid. Our First Communion class is featured, but we need another soldier, a Simon, some people for the crowd, friends of Jesus, Daughters of Jerusalem and some readers. Older siblings of our First Communion class and Confirmation candidates are encouraged to participate. Children and youth over 3 are welcome. Parents can hold younger children so they can be part of the crowd. There are no lines to memorize for these parts. Readers will have everything printed out for them. Practice will be at 6 PM on April 4. This is always a treat for our parishioners. Call or email Pat Dyer if you are interested: 716-256-2598 or patriciadyermp@gmail.com.

Family 21 Events Calendar

Mon. Mar. 31-Lenten Journey Mass-Blessed Trinity @ 7pm
Fri., April 4-LIVING STATIONS-Ss. Columba-Brigid @ 7pm
Mon., April 7-1st Reconciliation @ 6pm & Penance Service Mass -St. Martin de Porres @7pm
Fri., April 11-Tennebrae Service-Blessed Trinity @7pm

Holy Week

Sun., April 13-Palm Sunday-St. Martin de Porres-Regular Mass Times
Thur., April 17-Holy Thursday-Ss. Columba-Brigid (Bi-Lingual Mass) @ 7pm.

Fri., April 18-Good Friday- St. Martin de Porres-3pm, Ss. Columba-Brigid-7pm (Bi-Lingual)

Sat., April 19-Holy Saturday-Blessed Trinity @ 8:30pm

Sun., April 20-Easter Sunday-St. Martin de Porres-Regular Mass Times

Sun., May 4 - Women's Guild celebrates-"Wear White-Women's Day" 8am & 9:30am Mass

Wed., May 21 - Prayer Partner Pot Luck Dinner-Ss. Columba-Brigid@6pm- (Arrival time-5:30pm)

Sat & Sun. July 19 & 20- Eastside Garden Walk @ St, Martin de Porres - 10am to 4pm

Sun., Aug 17-Annual Picnic (more info to follow)

Sun., Dec. 21- St. Martin de Porres Christmas Concert (details to follow)

Catholic Relief Services Update:

Amina Bukar, a mother of five, is a well-respected leader and small business owner in Muna Moforo, Nigeria. In her village nutrition group, she teaches mothers how to prepare nutrient-rich porridge for their children to help them grow strong and healthy. This is important because in Nigeria, more than 25 million people face extreme hunger and lack access to nutritious food. Visit www.crsricebowl.org/stories-of-hope for more Stories of Hope! Visit www.crsricebowl.org/ for more information! Thanks for your support! Interested in joining our local chapter? Contact Dcn. Jerry or Dcn. Don.

Catholic Charities update

We had a very successful HOPE day on March 19th. Catholic Charities raised over \$500,000 dollars during this one day event. This is helping us to move closer to our 8.5 million dollar goal for WNY. St Martin de Porres also played a part in the event raising over \$ 500 dollars on this day. Your gifts are greatly appreciated. Catholic Charities provides services for 147,000 persons each year. St Martin is approaching our goal with over \$7900 donated thus far, on the way to our goal of \$14.470. Let's keep the momentum going!. The Appeal ends on June 30th. Laurie Alford

Pilgrims of Hope-- The Pope underscored how Jesus awaits us at the threshold, "especially the most vulnerable," such as the children suffering due to war and hunger, and the elderly often forced to live abandoned and in solitude. He described how the Lord awaits those who have lost homes, fled homelands for safety, lost jobs and cannot find one, those in prisons, and people enduring persecution for their faith. - Let us pray for all of them!