

focus **LIVING STONES**



HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – FEBRUARY 14, 2016

1st Sunday of Lent/Confirmation I Niedziela Wielkiego Postu/Bierzmowanie

February 14, 2016

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 82.

First reading: Acts 1:4-8

Psalms: Ps 117:1-2, 10-15

You will be My witnesses, My witnesses to all the world.

Epistle: 1 Peter 2:4-5, 9-12

Gospel: John 3:3, 5-8

Intention: For all parishioners.

Celebrant: 10am Rt. Rev. Bernard Nowicki

Lector: 10am Larry Panfil

- Matins at 9:50am and Holy Mass with Confirmation at 10am (Contemporary Rite).
- Breakfast and Annual Meeting

2nd Sunday of Lent II Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

February 21, 2016

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 82.

First reading: Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18

Psalms: Ps 27:1, 7-9, 13-14

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Epistle: Philippians 3:17-4:1

Gospel: Luke 9:28-36

Intention: for all parishioners

Celebrant: 9:30am and 11:30am Rev. James Konicki

Lector: 9:30am Derek Westcott, 11:30am Claudia Bertasso

- Matins at 9:20am and Holy Mass at 9:30am (Contemporary Rite)
- Coffee Hour
- Holy Mass at 11:30am (Contemporary Rite).
- Free Lunch on Sunday

Faith is compounded of many things, and by many kinds is it brought to perfection. For it is like a building that is built up of many pieces of workmanship and so its edifice rises to the top. And know, my beloved, that in the foundations of the building stones are laid, and so resting upon stones the whole edifice rises until it is perfected. Thus also the true Stone, our Lord Jesus Christ, is the foundation of all our faith. And on Him, on [this] Stone faith is based. And resting on faith all the structure rises until it is completed. For it is the foundation that is the beginning of all the building. For when any one is brought nigh unto faith, it is laid for him upon the Stone, that is our Lord Jesus Christ. And his building cannot be shaken by the waves, nor can it be injured by the winds. By the stormy blasts it does not fall, because its structure is reared upon the rock of the true Stone. – St. Aphrahat

Sick Calls and Hospital Visits – Please know that hospitals will not advise parishes when an individual is admitted. Confidentiality regulations prevent them from doing so. If someone is admitted please let Father Jim know so he might visit, pray with, anoint, and bring Jesus' healing presence to them. Call Fr. Jim at 518-522-0944. You may also call Fr. Mark Gnidzinski at 518- 437-A1889.

Contact

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Upcoming...

- **February 14: 1st Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass & Confirmation at 10am ONLY.** Breakfast and Annual Parish Meeting to follow in the presence of our Bishop Ordinary. Please join in!
- **February 15: President's Day. Holy Mass for Healing at 6:15pm.**
- **February 16: 63rd Anniversary of the Death of śp. Bishop Francis Hodur.**
- **February 19: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.**
- **February 21: 2nd Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am. Free Lunch on Sunday.**
- **February 24: Feast – St. Matthias; Ecumenical Bible Study at 7:30pm**
- **February 26: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.**
- **February 28: 3rd Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**
- **March 4: Stations of the Cross at 7pm.**
- **March 6: 4th Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 9:30 and 11:30am.**

We invite all who believe in the true presence of Christ in the Holy Eucharist to partake. It is our practice to distribute the Holy Eucharist by intinction. The Body and Blood of Christ are placed on the tongue, never in the hand.

Getting back to Eden.

What does Scripture say? The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart—that is, the word of faith that we preach—for, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.

This reflection is focused on the scriptures for the First Sunday of Lent and our Lenten preaching theme – Getting back to Eden.

St. Paul is writing to the Church at Rome reminding them that they have word.

The word had been given to them and they committed it, not just to rote memory. Rather, the word became a real and meaningful part of their lives. Their reception of God's word was life changing.

God's word was in their hearts and their actions were changed by it. Wherever they went, the word was on their lips and they proclaimed it.

The Church at Rome received the wonderful gift of the word and that word was transformative in their lives. They were changed by it. Their confession of faith – a confession that was through and throughout their lives – saved them. That word, that salvation made such a huge difference that over the next three centuries those at Rome were willing to suffer and die for the word.

Now we've used a rather big word here. God's word was "transformative" to these people. What does that mean? It means they were changed at three essential levels.

The transformative effect of God's word changed them (1) Psychologically – they had a new understanding of who they were. (2) Convictionally – they were part of a new and powerful belief system. (3) Behaviorally – every part of their lifestyle was changed.

Getting back to Eden starts with

the realization that our exile is over. The people of Rome heard that. It changed them. They were cast out and are now being let in. The gates that were closed to them have been opened. That powerful image made real in the Good News – the word – transformed the people of Rome. That powerful word transforms to this day. It has transformed the life of every person who has come to belief in Jesus by faith.

Like the Church at Rome we have received God's word. We have found faith in Jesus and have pledged our lives to Him. We confess His name and believe in our hearts that God raised Him from the dead. We recognize we are saved and on the road back to Eden. So let us re-double our efforts in making His word active in our daily lives. Let us, like Rome, be mindful of the wonderful gift – the beautiful word – that is ours. Let us strengthen our faith, proclaim it, and allow it to work its transformative effect in our lives.

Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Romans 12:2

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: Ecclesiastes 3:1
MONDAY: Deuteronomy 31:6
TUESDAY: Philippians 4:6-7
WEDNESDAY: 2 Corinthians 4:16
THURSDAY: James 1:17
FRIDAY: 2 Corinthians 5:17
SATURDAY: 1 John 4:4

Pray

Lord Jesus, transform and change me so I may be like You. Help me to live Your word and confess Your Name.

A Super Special Day

What a wonderful day. In the midst of the coldest weekend of the year our parish is filled with the warmth of the Holy Spirit. His gifts of wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, fortitude, piety, and fear of the Lord are poured out in a unique and special way on our brother, Derek. So too all of us! We are blessed and gifted in a special way by the presence of the chief pastor of our diocese, our Bishop Bernard. We gather for worship, warm in the family of God, blessed and joyful. We gather then in fellowship to enjoy a wonderful breakfast and then meet to look back at the many blessings we have been gifted with over the past year. Then to look forward to a year dedicated to joyful reverence. Thank you Bishop Bernard and Barbara for being with us and bringing us these special gifts – the warmth and love we have as a big family in the Holy Spirit.

Souper Bowl Thank You

Since 1998 our parish has collected \$1,700, 129 food items, and 114 pounds of food for the Souper Bowl of Caring collection. This year we added \$96 and 220 pounds of food! Thank you and bless you for caring and sharing with our local community.

Lent

Lent is here. We encourage all to persevere in their observation of this holy season. Haven't started yet? It is never too late. Check out "Ten Out-of-the-Box Ideas for Lent" at <http://www.yourmodernfamily.com/10-lent-ideas/>. The Church offers special Lenten Devotions like Stations of the Cross each Friday at 7pm. These prayerful moments help us in walking more closely with Jesus – telling Him in real ways that we stand with Him. All of us who are healthy enough are also to fast each Wednesday and Friday. Personal acts of devotion including sacrifice through our directed giving program and additional acts of piety can never hurt as well.

Outrageous Valentine's Raffle

A huge thank you to all who sold tickets for February's Outrageous Valentine's raffle. Prizes total \$1,220! Thus far we have raised \$1,500 after prizes to support summer activities for our youth – Kurs and CONVO.

Bible Study

The last Wednesday of each month we will hold an Ecumenical Bible Study at 7:30pm. Please stop by and join us to support this ministry. Please plan to join us on Wednesday, February 24th.

Holy Mass Intentions

Reminder... you can ask Father Jim to offer Holy Mass for any intention. Just see Fr. Jim and let him know what you want.

FREE LUNCH on Sunday

Our next free lunch is today. Thanks to Emily for preparing it. Please be sure to continue to invite friends, family, and everyone you know to partake every month. There is no cost or charge for this meal. This service opens our home to all in need of a little company, a warm meal, and the love of Christ. Our free lunch on Sunday program is on the 3rd Sunday of every month.

Of note...

Praying for...

Jasmine Russo, Laura Covari, Alice and George Houser, Angela Kaminski, Stanley Radzynski, Ed Jakubiak, Rick Kaminski, Bonnie Nelson, Mariea Chase, Nickole Mook, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Stefan Węglinski, Janet Spurck, Robert Dominy, Wayne Balnis, Claudia Bertasso, John Clas, Bishop Stanley, Brian Soos, Frances Myslinski, Virginia Lamb, Virginia Rogers, Curtis Sczepakowski, Derek Westcott, Dolores Konicki, Nellie Kucharski, Pastor Tom Kendall, Irene Borowski, Joshua Moraski, Sue White, Sue & Roger White, Chris Tatlock, Mildred Lewis, Debbie Esposito, Ceil & Eddie Gibbons, Helen Pasiak, Jessie Feathers-Ostrowski, Lucas Taylor, Joanne Bauer, Shirley Greene, Diana and Georgette Hannoush, Madison Sheridan, Resaan, Kathleen, Dan, William, Jeremy, Alison, Reginald, Eddie Stover, Karen & Jacob, Sean and Jessie Wilcox, Snyder Family, Amber Tatlock, Kathleen Hietala, Vicky Stover, Joe Barratiere, Tom Abbot, Dennis, Donnie Wright, Fr. Ray Drada, Umar Abdur-Rahman.

- All in need of God's healing grace.
- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States esp. Michael Angehr, Mark Collins, Patric Jones
- All those in Public Service, Police Officers and Fire Fighters.
- All Active And Retired Clergy of the Holy Polish National Catholic Church.
- All Students and Teachers at Mont Pleasant Middle School
- The residents and staff of City Mission of Schenectady
- All who have asked for our prayers.

We continue in prayer and intercession for one of the parishes or ministries in the Polish Catholic Church. This week we remember the people of B.V.M. Queen of Poland Parish, Strzyżew, Poland and its pastor Rev. Julien Kopiński.

Bless them, O Lord! Pobłogosław im, O Boże!

Coffee Hour: Coffee hour is held every week after 9:30am Holy Mass. Thank you to all who assist with this ministry of hospitality. All are welcome to join with us each week. If you can, please help out.

Parish Organizations: Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you? The YMSofR - Men's Society of the Resurrection Branch 56, ANS – Women's Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. See Father Jim.

--- *Lent is the perfect time to deepen our faith and invite others to share in our love.* ---