

focus

F O R G I V E N E S S

WEEKLY BULLETIN OF HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH
FEBRUARY 19, 2012

Quinquagesima Sunday Niedziela Pięćdziesiąticy

February 19, 2012

First reading: Isaiah 43:18-19,21-22,24-25

Psalms: Ps 41:2-5,13-14 **Lord, heal my soul, for I have sinned against you.**

Epistle: 2 Corinthians 1:18-22

Gospel: Mark 2:1-12

Intention: For all parishioners living and deceased

Worship leader: Rev. Mr. James Konicki

Lector: Claudia Bertasso

- Worship begins at 9:20am with Matins.
- Service of Worship and Holy Communion at 9:30am.
- Coffee Hour – please join us.
- Confirmation Class

First Sunday of Lent I Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

February 26, 2012

First reading: Genesis 9:8-15

Psalms: Ps 25:4-9

R. Your ways, O Lord, are love and truth to those who keep your covenant.

Epistle: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Intention: For all parishioners living and deceased

Worship leader: Rev. Mr. James Konicki

Lector: Larry Panfil

- Worship begins at 9:20am with Matins.
- Service of Worship and Holy Communion at 9:30am.
- Coffee Hour – please join us.
- Confirmation Class
- Annual Budget Meeting

Directed Giving for Lent:

Ash Wednesday Week, Feb. 22-25, LET'S DO LUNCH Tuna and Mayonnaise, Peanut Butter and Jelly, Soup and Crackers.

Please bring these items on Sunday, February 26th.

Contact

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Upcoming...

- Feb. 20: Presidents' Day Holiday
- Feb. 22: Ash Wednesday – Blessing and Distribution of Ashes at 7pm
- Feb. 24: Stations of the Cross, 7pm
- Feb. 26: Annual Budget Meeting
- Mar. 11: Solemnity of the Institution of the PNCC
- Mar. 18: Lenten Penitential Service
- Mar. 19: Solemnity - St. Joseph
- Mar. 25: Passion Sunday
- Apr. 15: Basket Social

Swim away!

Maybe it would be better if...

"Child, your sins are forgiven."

Fishing is a two-way relationship. It involves work, struggle, and tension. It also involves pain and trauma for the fish.

When a fisherman hooks a fish, which of them is really in charge? Most think the fisherman. He has the brains, the tools, and the power to overcome and land his catch.

Every fisherman knows that for every fish caught, many more get away. Some snap lines that trail behind them as they swim away. Others tear the hook out in the struggle, and swim away wounded.

Yet some fish figure out a simpler, braver path. Rather than pull, dash, or thrash, they swim toward shore, and approach the fisherman. When fish do so, you're bound to see a frantic person reeling like crazy shouting "No, no, no—not towards me!" But if the fish persists, the line goes slack, and the hook comes out with a flick of its head.

In cases where fish swim toward their enemy, they often gain freedom from pain, and leave dragging nothing behind them.

Today, God asks us to consider His forgiveness and the way we forgive each other.

Like the fish and fisherman, we are in relationships with each

other. At times those relationships can be marked by struggle, tension, and pain.

When we choose, as a result of hurt (those hooks that stab at us) to fight and flee, we end up either dragging the memories of those hurts behind us, or we end up deeply wounded.

God asks us to be the smart fish, to swim towards those who have hurt us. As we do, we free ourselves from the barbs that hurt us and we are free.

The pain doesn't go away easily, and true reconciliation and the rebuilding of relationships is a much longer process, but it has to start with our going toward those who hurt us. There we offer our forgiveness.

When we hurt God through sin, we will always find Him swimming toward us, with complete forgiveness. As we enter Lent, let us resolve to do the same with each other.

"Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? As many as seven times?" Jesus said to him, "I do not say to you seven times, but seventy times seven."

Matthew 18:21-22

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: Luke 7:35-50
MONDAY: Luke 15:11-32
TUESDAY: Luke 19:1-10
WEDNESDAY: John 8:1-11
THURSDAY: Acts 9:1-19
FRIDAY: Matthew 18:21-22
SATURDAY: Matthew 7:1-5

Pray

Lord Jesus, teach me to forgive as You forgive.

The Beginning of the Great Lent

"Yet even now," says the LORD, "return to me with all your heart, with fasting, with weeping, and with mourning;"

Joel 2:12

On Wednesday, February 22nd, the Church begins the season of Lent. On that day we will hold a Service of Worship and Holy Communion along with the blessing and distribution of Ashes at 7pm.

Throughout the Pre-Lenten season we have been called upon to prepare. Now, with Ash Wednesday, we are called to take action. Now is the time to repent, to correct our misdeeds and failings so that we may live as God intends us to live.

In the Book of the Prophet Joel we hear that God summoned infants, children, the newly married, the elderly, and the clergy to an assembly of prayer to show their repentance. Ash Wednesday summons everyone in the same way, to enter into a forty-day period of change. All are called to fast, pray, give alms, forgive, and be faithful and thankful. We know that what we lack in life, where we are broken, can only be corrected if we return to the Lord and reconcile with Him and each other.

Joel tells us that these actions, these ashes, are an indication of our intention to return to God with our whole hearts. This is the beginning point for a profound change that leaves us never to be the same again. To be renewed as children of God.

Of note...

Coffee Hour: Our weekly coffee hours are a warm and wonderful experience, a time to gather and speak with each other while we enjoy a wealth of good things to eat. If you are able, please help by signing up to take care of a coffee hour. Please see Ed Bertasso with any questions.

Parish Organizations: Did you know that our Parish has many organizations that need you. God calls us to work together for the good of our community, in support of each other, and for the needs of the Church. The YMSofR – Men's Society of the Resurrection, ANS – Women's Adoration Society, Choir, Parish Committee, and a hopefully reconstituted branch of the PNU (Spójnia) all need your help. See Deacon Jim.

Serendipity Calendar: What a fun way to support the parish and potentially WIN! The Serendipity Calendar allows you to choose one or more numbers between 001 and 999. If your number is drawn in the day's NYS Lottery

Praying for...

Kay Kaminski, Joseph and Lee Callahan, Tom Caulfield, Debbie Urban, Ann Marie Riley, George Williams, Diane Avellino, Laura Covari, Ellen Carey, Connie Cola, Alice and George Houser, Art, Dee & Baby, Angela Kaminski, Carol Kosik, Eddy Stutz, Jim Kelly, Phil Haberman, Jasimine Russo, Stanley Radzysinski, Joseph Lyman, Sandy Davis, Derek, Erin Smith, Margaret Bondi, Sharon Nasner, Dan, Kym, Maggie and Hannah Bucham, Ray Callanan, Jeannie Christopher, Connie Gigliotti, Joe Avellino, Jan Shufelt, Deanna Colfels, Cathy France, Patty Martel-Baum, Rick Rodino, Judy Springer, Judy Palmer, Deb Couns, Ed Jakubiak, Rick Kaminski, Luke Sobiechowski, Mark McCarthy, Bonnie Nelson, Rosemary Ragule, Lisa Caporizzo, Joseph Peplowski, Kelly Noble, Judy Held, Stefan Węglinski, Janet Spurck, Joannie True, Robert Dominy, Patricia Lewis Joan, Matthew, Brian, Shari, Adam, Peter Loss, Marilyn Heitala; Wayne Balnis

- All in need of God's healing grace.
- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States.
- All those in Public Service, Police Officers and Fire Fighters.
- All Active And Retired Clergy of the Holy Polish National Catholic Church.
- All who have asked for our prayers.

We continue in prayer and intercession for one of the parishes or ministries in our Holy Polish National Catholic Church. This week we remember:

St. Michael the Archangel Parish, Niagara Falls, NY its congregation and pastor, Fr. Senior Francis Kadryna.

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

Daily Numbers game, you win. Sign-ups have begun for 2012. Reserve your numbers early so you get your lucky numbers. Note that re-subscription notices will be mailed shortly. The cost for each number chance is \$20.

Lenten Devotions: During the season of Lent all are welcome and are strongly encouraged to attend Lenten Devotions. On Fridays in Lent you are invited to attend Stations of the Cross or Bitter Lamentations every Friday at 7pm. These acts of prayer will give us the opportunity to focus and reflect upon the redemptive sufferings of our Lord.