



Focus Bulletin

HOLY NAME OF JESUS PARISH – MARCH 23, 2025

3rd Sunday in Lent

III Niedziela Wielkiego Postu

March 23, 2025

Rite: Pew Missal, page 63, Canon, page 84.

First reading: Exodus 3:1-8,13-15

Psalm: Ps 103:1-3,6-8,11 **R. The Lord is kind and merciful.**

Epistle: 1 Corinthians 10:1-6,10-12

Tract: Repent and turn from all your transgressions; otherwise iniquity will be your ruin. **R. Cast away from you all transgressions that you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit!**

Gospel: Luke 13:1-9

Intention: For all parishioners.

Celebrant: Rev. Jim Konicki.

Lector: 10am, Lauren DeBlois.

- Matins, Holy Mass at 10am (Contemporary Rite, Pew Missal pg. 63).
- Coffee Hour / SOCL
- Holy Mass at Noon (Traditional Rite, Pew Missal pg. 15).
- Gorzkie Żale / Lamentations at 3pm.

THIS WEEK'S ENTRANCE HYMN

V. For though the fig tree blossom not, nor fruit be on the vines, yet will I rejoice in the Lord and exult in my saving God.

R. Happy the just, for it will be well with them, the fruit of their works they will eat.

V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Contact

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Today's Music

- Entrance: B1, Hymn Of Faith v. 1, 2, 4.
- Sacrament of the Word: R155, Spirit Of The Living God.
- Offertory: B92, Holy Cross.
- Communion: Were You There (instrumental).
- Communion Reflection: B175, Lord, Forsake Us Not v. 4, 5.
- Recessional: B110, Cross Of Compassion.

+++ Reminders & Notes +++

- Please keep inviting people to meet the Lord and join in worship and fellowship.
- **EVENTS:** Please see Fr. Jim or Paul in relation to these events.
 - **Basket Social:** Sign-up sheets are out. Please begin bringing in your baskets and place them on the stage,
 - **Seniorate Lenten Retreat:** Saturday, April 5th starting at 11am. See the sign-up sheet for desserts.
 - **Thursday Musical Club:** Spring Concert, April 12th.
- **LENT:** Every Friday we hold Stations of the Cross at 3pm. Bitter Lamentations / Gorzkie Żale are Sundays at 3pm. The faithful are reminded to abstain from meats every Wednesday and Friday. As part of personal sacrifice and increased charity, we ask for donations of dry and canned goods for those in need locally. They may be left at the Mary Altar.
- **Ordinations and Elevations:** God bless our neo presbyter, Fr. Justin Daviault and our newest Cleric, Mr. Robert Grizzell. Several of our seminarians will be Tonsured and will receive Minor Orders this Tuesday, March 25th. I will be in Scranton this evening through Wednesday. **Please continue to pray** for our seminarians and an increase in vocations.
- **Seminary Donations:** The Parish Committee asks that we combine our donations which we will then send on behalf of the parish to the Seminary to support those who will be our priests in the future. A basket has been placed out for that purpose. Checks and cash are fine. The basket will be out for several weeks. Please be generous.

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, the Body and Blood of Christ, by placing the elements on the tongue, never in the hand.

--- *And He said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation."* ---

'For three years now I have come in search of fruit on this fig tree but have found none. So cut it down. Why should it exhaust the soil?'

As we have discussed, God uses imagery so we might clearly understand His intent for us, the picture He envisions for us. We will continue this study of God's imagery throughout the Great Lent.

May God's imagery help us to achieve the vision He has for us and help us to arrive at Easter no longer ash, but light.

In last week's reflection we concluded by praying that our Lenten disciplines strengthen us for the work we must do in the chaos, bringing light to overcome darkness.

This week God's set of images call us to the charge of overcoming barrenness.

Jesus begins by issuing a set of very stark warnings, and the warning slightly hidden in the parable of the fig tree.

These kinds of warnings concerning consequences are the subject of vast theological and philosophical dances. We might regularly hear pastors saying – Well, Jesus didn't really mean that, He was actually saying...

People tend to shy away from the idea of consequences, from the idea that they have to lie in the bed they made, that we can set aside God's justice and take His mercy for granted. It is the very reason the word sin and the concept of hell are rarely if ever brought up – especially in churches.

In Jesus' parable, the owner of the fig grove is God. He arrives expecting results and when He finds the tree that produces nothing, He orders it cut down - literally cut off from life.

The picture of barrenness is a stark one. Today's image of the barren fig tree is not the only occasion for Jesus addressing a tree's failure to

produce. In Mark, Chapter 11 we see Jesus cursing a fig tree for failing to bear fruit even though it was out-of-season.

God expects us to bear fruit and to do so both in and out of season, to always be at the top of our game, in the action.

The other message we receive today is the assurance of help in the process. The owner, God, has waited for fruit for three years. He agrees to wait yet another year. The gardener, Jesus, will provide the tree with His grace by tending it, cultivating it, and fertilizing it. But there too we must take care not to take that grace and time for granted. Jesus' tending, cultivation, and fertilization must be taken into ourselves so we may reach the result He wants.

The image of barrenness and death is juxtaposed with God's image of life and fruitfulness. Which image we reflect is up to us.

Memory Verse

I am the True Vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit.

John 15:1-2

Time to Study God's Word

SUNDAY: John 15:8
MONDAY: John 15:16
TUESDAY: 2 Peter 1:5-9
WEDNESDAY: Matthew 3:8
THURSDAY: Matthew 12:33
FRIDAY: Psalm 1:3
SATURDAY: Galatians 6:7-8

Pray the Week:

Lord Jesus, grant that as I go forth, I may procedure fruit acceptable to You. Preserve me, by Your grace from any barrenness. May my Lenten journey produce the good fruits needed to do Your work. Amen.

PRAYER INTENTIONS

Laura Covari, Stan Podkulski, Kelly Noble, Elizabeth Węglinski, Curtis Szczepkowski, Joshua Moraski, Tom Abbot, Karen Kisch, Gregory Henderson, Theresa Ordon, Michelle Zawistowski, Susan Jones, Garry Packer, Gary & Sandra Tatlock, Fred Hendricks, Theresa, Carla, Francine, Eileen, Joyce Colson, Helen Spencer, Michael Clough, Frances Gary, Dan Crawley, Bob Chelkowski, Lyle, Ralph Zell, Brian Rohan, Tom Walters, Nedra Liebert, Dawn Main, Fran Muscatello, Zosia Wieczorek, Bob Giczkowski, Bishop John, Bishop Paul, Gordon Lamb, Aimee, Liz, Dorothy Morrison, Jennifer, and all needing God's healing grace.

- All those who serve in the Armed Forces of the United States esp. Michael Angehr, Mark Collins, Patric Jones, Timothy Olsen, Charlie Prothero, Fr. Joseph Kolek, Fr. Andrew Bilinski, Fr. Stan Jasiurkowski, Fr. Andrew Tenus.
- All those in Public Service: Civil Servants, 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
- The residents and staff of Pathways.
- All members of the Civil Air Patrol.
- All who have asked for our prayers for any need or intention.

This week we pray for the people and clergy of Our Lord's Ascension Parish, Bethlehem, PA.

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

Upcoming

- **March 23: 3rd Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Lauren DeBlois. Bitter Lamentations / Gorzkie Żale at 3pm.**
- **March 24: Feast – St. Gabriel the Archangel. Food Pantry, 3 till 6pm.**
- **March 25: Solemnity – Anunciation of the B.V.M. Tonsure and Minor Orders for Seminarians at 10am at St. Stanislaus Cathedral, Scranton, PA.**
- **March 26: No Holy Mass.**
- **March 27: Holy Mass at Noon.**
- **March 28: Holy Mass at Noon. Stations of the Cross at 3pm.**
- **March 30: 4th Sunday of Lent. Holy Mass at 10am and Noon. Lector: Joe Kaczynski. Bitter Lamentations / Gorzkie Żale at 3pm.**
- **March 31: Food Pantry, 3 till 6pm.**
- **April 1: Holy Mass at Noon. Birth of Francis Hodur (1866)**