

Fourth Sunday of Lent – March 31, 2019

Found Alive Again

Readings: Joshua 5:9–12; Psalms 34:2–7; 2 Corinthians 5:17–21; Luke 15:1–3, 11–32

In today's First Reading, God forgives "the reproach" of the generations who grumbled against Him after the Exodus. On the threshold of the promised land, Israel can with a clean heart celebrate the Passover, the feast of God's firstborn son (see Joshua 5:6–7; Exodus 4:22; 12:12–13).

Reconciliation is also at the heart of the story Jesus tells in today's Gospel. The story of the Prodigal Son is the story of Israel and of the human race. But it is also the story of every believer.

In Baptism, we're given a divine birthright, made "a new creation," as Paul puts it in today's Epistle. But when we sin, we're like the Prodigal Son, quitting our Father's house, squandering our inheritance in trying to live without Him.

Lost in sin, we cut ourselves off from the grace of sonship lavished upon us in Baptism. It is still possible for us to come to our senses, make our way back to the Father, as the prodigal does.

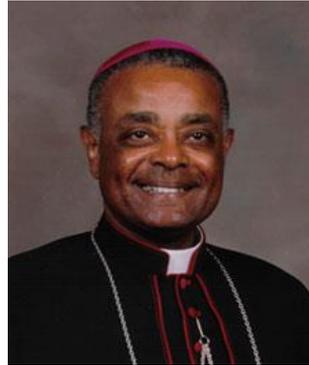
But only He can remove the reproach and restore the divine sonship we have spurned. Only He can free us from the slavery to sin that causes us—like the Prodigal Son—to see God not as our Father but as our master, One we serve as slaves.

God wants not slaves but children. Like the father in today's Gospel, He longs to call each of us "My son," to share His life with us, to tell us: "Everything I have is yours."

The Father's words of longing and compassion still come to His prodigal children in the Sacrament of Penance. This is part of what Paul today calls "the ministry of reconciliation" entrusted by Jesus to the Apostles and the Church.

Reconciled like Israel, we take our place at the table of the Eucharist, the homecoming banquet the Father calls for His lost sons, the new Passover we celebrate this side of heaven. We taste the goodness of the Lord, as we sing in today's Psalm, rejoicing that we who were dead are found alive again.

Father Blake Evans, Pastor



Pope Francis is expected to appoint **Archbishop Wilton Gregory** of Atlanta to serve as the next Archbishop of Washington. A formal announcement could come as early as next week. Gregory would become the seventh Archbishop of Washington. (Source: Catholic News Agency)

Congratulations!

Deacon Ebuka Mbanude has been called to orders! Ordination to Priesthood will be on June 2019. First Mass at Nativity! Save the dates: June 16 & 17. Details soon.

+

The parishioners of Nativity Catholic Church offer the Christian family their deepest sympathy and sincere condolences and pray for the repose of the soul of **Charles Christian**, our longtime parishioner and Knight. Rest in peace and perpetual light shine upon him! May his memory be eternal

2019 Annual Jubilarian Mass. The Annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25, 30, 35, 40, 45, 50 and 51+ years will be held on Sunday, June 23, 2019 at 2:00 pm at the Basilica. Use the sign-up forms in both entrances to the church to register. Names of jubilarians need to be turned in to the parish office by Friday, April 26.



Spring clean-up. Grab your work gloves and mark your calendar to join us for a Nativity Church spring cleaning of our outside campus grounds. We will also do some painting of the outside hand railings, so bring a paint brush or two if you enjoy painting. We will get together on Saturday morning, April 13, 10am - 12 noon, gathering at the Youth Center. I'll break out the grill for a lunch of hotdogs, brats, and hamburgers, some vegan as well. For additional information, please contact Amado Alvarez 202-381-9276.

Mass Intentions

March 30 – April 6, 2019

Sat. 3/30	8:00 am	Mr. & Mrs. Harry Connick Jr. & family
	5:30pm	+Roger Chancellor
Sun. 3/31	8:00am	+Jonathan C. Mitchel & Deceased family members
	10:00am	+Rosalie P. Hughes & +Eleanor Jackson-Thomas
	1:00 pm	People of the Parish
Mon. 4/1	12:00	+John Haynes
Tue. 4/2	12:00	Evelyn Lowey
Wed. 4/3	12:00	Michael Williams & family
Thu. 4/4	12:00	Mr. & Mrs. Dan Tan
Fri. 4/5	12:00	CCCPS Brightwood Students Class of 2018-2019
Sat. 4/6	8:00 am	Souls in Purgatory
	5:30pm	People of the Parish

Please pray for the sick of our Parish:

*Alice R. Allen, *Amina Anderson-Pringle, *Ann Butler, *Carmen Dolores Campos, *Eileen Carroll-Doshier, *Carla Andrea Catacora, *Shawn Coleman, *William Corbel, *Maria Cruz, *Maurice & Flora Detiege *Kevin Fagan, *Isel Fitzgerald, *Linda Foster, *Charlie Gick, *Fr. Paul Grauls, SDB, *John Green, Sr., *Janet Henery, *Blanca Hernandez, *Lawrence C. Hill, *Lee Hobbs, * Sydney Horge, *Francis Howard, *James Humphries, *Elaine Hunt, *Helen Hurd, *Larry Ivy, *Irene Jimenez, *Geraldine Jones, *Charles Johnson, *Odile Kalla, *Michael Kelly, *Busara Keneddy, *Claude Kolthoff, *Betty Lawton, *Yavonna Lewis, *Emilio Lowey, *Sandra Lucas, *Eric Malcolm, *Edwin & Regina Mbanude, *Theresa McNair, *Edith Mebane, *Maria Magdalena Medrano, *Agnes Moore, *Clarence Morris, *Gina Myers, *Iris Newman, *Father Everett Pearson, *D. Cynhia Peters, *James Pope, *Dorothy Richburg, *Auristela Roman, *Rosa Maria Santos, *Andre Sims, *Bonafacio Selayo *Delores Sloan, *Adrian Smith, *Bernadette Smith, *Theresa Smith, *Louise Sweatt, *Suzie Thompson, *Emily Towles, *Dominic Valentine, *Dorothy Waring, *Paul Williams, *Florentina Zoretta.

Stations of the Cross - Fridays after the daily mass in Chapel. Friday at 6 pm during Holy Hour/Adoration in the Great Upper Church

Reconciliation: Every Wednesday from 6 to 7:30 PM at **St. Gabriel Church** (26 Grant Circle, NW. Washington, DC 20011)



Sacred Heart League will meet, in the lounge, on Friday, April 5th after the Noon Mass.

Attendance Report

3/24/19

Attendance:	424 souls
Offerings & Tithes:	\$5,933
Spanish Mass:	\$459
Utility fund:	\$532



Lenten Fish Fry. Every Friday at 6 pm in the Lounge. This event will occur every Friday during Lent except Good Friday. Dinners are \$10, sandwiches

\$5. Proceeds provide grants, scholarships, and awards for parish activities. More information call Stephen Hawkins 202.285.6356 or Peter Gervais 202.494.7347

Thank you!

To the **Knights of Columbus** for the rose colored vestment used on this joyful Sunday of Lent.

Catholic Daughters would like to thank all parishioners for their help and support during their Bake Sale.

Question of the week: Whom have I misjudged in the past? How can I look beyond appearances to see into the heart?

Catholic Appeal. The theme of the 2019 Appeal is "Our Faith. Our Hope. Our Mission." and is much different from a one-time special collection. Please find the Annual Appeal brochure and Frequently Asked Questions in your pew for your review. A gift to the Annual Appeal will touch the lives of thousands of people in a very positive way. Thank you for your prayerful consideration and generous response.

Purple Sanctuary Candles. Available (limited supply). This weekend Saturday and Sunday, March 30 & 31st. For purchase \$3.00

Bible Study is back! - We return to Corinth and St. Paul's famous 1st/2nd Letter to the Corinthians. 5:45pm - 7pm Mondays with Fr. Evans.

Lenten Food Drive. Food to help food-insecure families and individuals in our community. Nativity parish collection for the Lenten food drive will take place the weekends of Mar 30/31 2019 and Apr 6/7 2019. Bags for your donations will be placed at the entrances of the church. When you attend Mass, please leave your donations at the entrances of the church. Our collections will stay at **Nativity for our food pantry (which is VERY low on supplies).** Please be generous with your contributions. Thank you!