

From the Pastor's Desk:

Dear Friends:

Traditionally, the Fourth Sunday of Lent is called *Laetare Sunday* (Rejoice Sunday). Anticipating Easter joy, today's readings invite us to rejoice by being reconciled with God through repentance and the confession of our sins and by celebrating our coming home to be with our loving and forgiving God.

Today's Gospel celebrates the joy of the prodigal son on his "homecoming" where he discovers his father's forgiving and overflowing love. It is also the story of the rejoicing of a loving and forgiving father who celebrates the return of his prodigal son by throwing a big party in his honor, a banquet celebrating the reconciliation of the son with his father, his family, his community and his God. At the same time, by presenting a self-righteous elder brother, the parable invites us to avoid self-righteousness and self-justification by imitating the repentant younger brother. Let us admit the truth that we are an assembly of sinful people, repentant, and now ready to receive God's forgiveness and to experience Jesus' Personal Presence in the Holy Eucharist as our loving and forgiving God.

Let us return to our Heavenly Father with repentant hearts: As prodigal children, we face spiritual famine all around us in the form of drug and alcohol abuse, fraud and theft in the workplace, murders, abortions and violence, marital infidelity and priestly infidelity, as well as in hostility between and among people. All of these evils have proliferated because we have been squandering God's abundant blessings, not only in our country and in our families, but also in our personal lives. Hence, let us repent and return to our Heavenly Father's home.

God Bless You!

Fr. Madanu Lourdu Raju

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FORMATION ANNOUNCEMENTS

CCD: Catholic Christian Discipleship

The Gospel today tells of God's overflowing desire to be in relationship with us. We see this by the actions of the father who loves his younger son enough to let him go, yet he watches for his child's return. It is a reading that makes us wonder why the son wanted to leave home. The family is the community where Christian practices are nurtured and developed. Here are some of the most important practices: 1) Reading the Bible as a family and encouraging young people to read the Bible regularly. 2) Praying together as a family and encouraging young people to pray personally. 3) Serving people in need as a family and supporting service activities by young people. 4) Eating together as a family. There are 10 practices listed in the March issue of the Catechist magazine. You can find the list on Catechist.com

Classes: Wednesday - April 3rd

Gilman: **Grades K - 5: 3:40 - 5:00 p.m.**

Grades 6 -11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.

Sheldon: **Grades K - 11: 6:15 - 7:30 p.m.**

+ Thank you to all who contributed the necessary ingredients and worked at the **Pancake Breakfast** last weekend. It was a delicious breakfast and an enjoyable time together. As a result of your hard work, the Religious Education Program earned a profit of \$867.00

+ The **Confirmation Retreat** for our nine Candidates & nine Sponsors will be held in Sheldon on **Sunday, April 7th from 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.** Sister Julia Walsh, FSPA will direct the retreat. Offer a prayer to the Holy Spirit for all of them.

Blessings ~ Sister Marianna

OUR WEEKLY GIVING

Ss. Peter & Paul

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|----------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$ | 1,253.00 |
| Loose | | 109.00 |
| Total | | 1,362.00 |
| Total from March 25, 2018 | | 1,147.00 |
| Building Fund | | 50.00 |
| Black & Indian Mission | | 40.00 |
| World Mission | | 50.00 |
| Easter Flowers | | 360.00 |

St. Stanislaus

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|--------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$ | 370.00 |
| Loose | | 49.00 |
| Total | | 419.00 |
| Total from March 25, 2018 | | 636.00 |
| Energy | | 100.00 |
| Easter Flowers | | 323.00 |

St. John

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|--------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$ | 549.00 |
| Loose | | 126.00 |
| Total | | 675.00 |
| Total from March 25, 2018 | | 739.00 |
| Easter Flowers | | 70.00 |

St. Michael

| | | |
|---------------------------|----|--------|
| Adult Envelopes | \$ | 155.00 |
| Loose | | 88.00 |
| Total | | 243.00 |
| Total from March 25, 2018 | | 315.00 |
| Easter Flowers | | 25.00 |

(Totals include only the basic collection)

Called to Become Saints Catholic Services Appeal 2018-2019

The Annual Catholic Services Appeal in underway throughout the Diocese. The "fair share" responsibility is listed below. As of **March 1st**, we have collected:

Payments

| | Assessment | & Pledges | Amount Due |
|------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|
| Ss. Peter & Paul | \$ 11,393.00 | \$ 6,690.00 | \$ 4,703.00 |
| St. John | \$ 9,158.00 | \$ 5,660.00 | \$ 3,498.00 |
| St. Stanislaus | \$ 5,234.00 | \$ 5,234.00 | PAID IN FULL |
| St. Michael | \$ 2,789.00 | \$ 2,789.00 | PAID IN FULL |

SAVE the DATE! On Saturday, August 17th, St. John's is hosting a fundraiser at Paradise Shores 4. There will be dinner, dancing and raffles. You don't have to dance - just come and enjoy. We are lucky to have Cathy Reitz and 7 Swing Big Band for entertainment. They play music from the 30's, 40's and 50's including all the jazz classics we know and love. Ticket information will be coming soon. Please join us!

OUR SPONSOR THIS WEEK

