



## First Sunday of Lent March 10, 2019

Dear Members and Friends of St. Mary's/  
St. Patrick's, and St. Peter's Cathedral:

The first Scripture reading for the First Sunday in Lent this year confesses our utter dependence on the Lord. Moses instructs the Israelites that when they have entered the land of promise, they are to make an offering of a basket of the first fruits of the land. As they do so, they are to make a confession that their ancestors were nomads, wandering Arameans who made their way into Egypt and became slaves but who were freed by God and brought to this land.

The Lenten fast, indeed all sacrifice, rests on a similar insight: what we have is a gift, and we owe God a return in faith and adoration. We are dependent on God's mercy for life, forgiveness and for final salvation. Lent helps us to remember that.

Lent also echoes Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness. For forty days we remember that we are yet far from the promised land, far from the Kingdom of God. For Christians the escape from Egypt and the gift of the promised land anticipate the resurrection. Easter corresponds to the Jewish celebration of Passover. It is the Paschal (Passover) Feast. Thus, this reading from the Old Testament points us to the celebration for which Lent prepares us.

It points also to the fullness of the Easter Feast, for the ceremony described in the reading today is part of the Jewish festival Shavuot. The Hebrew word means *weeks* because the festival was celebrated a week of weeks after the Passover, that is, on the fiftieth day. And so Greek-speaking Jews called it Pentecost. That day on which Israel celebrates her beginnings is the day when the Church celebrates her beginnings. That day on which Israel celebrates the gift of the Torah is the day on which the Church celebrates the gift of the Spirit. The Easter Feast is fifty days in length and corresponds exactly to the Jewish calendar in this regard.

We are thus beautifully 'set up' by today's Old Testament reading for the blessed season of Lent and the glorious Paschal Feast.

May God grant you a holy, penitential Lent so that you might celebrate the Easter Feast with a full, enlightened joy.

Fr. Klein  
In Christ,

### **Pray for the Sick**

Darlene Bargelski, Facenda Burton, Michael Dineen, Helen Dugan, Cal Fuhrmann, Jaxon Gardner, Valencia Giannantonio, Ann Hagan, David Kidd, Kathy Kingsley, Fr. Leonard Klein, Rita Lynam, Bill Marshall, Francesca Olivere, Alice Goetz O'Neill, Teresa Rodriguez, Earlene Roles, Howard Scott and Cheryl Smith.

### **Video Library**

Check out the wonderful Video Library located on the left side of the Sacristy. DVDs can be borrowed for a period of one month.

### **Holy Father's Prayer Intention for March**

Recognition of the Right of Christian Communities. That Christian Communities, especially those who are persecuted, feel that they are close to Christ and have their rights respected.

### **Catholic Forum**

Listen to *Catholic Forum* anytime at [www.cdot.org/Catholic-Forum](http://www.cdot.org/Catholic-Forum), or search "Catholic Forum" on Apple, Spotify, or iHeartRadio podcasts. Next Sunday, March 17, tune in to hear part-two of Father Richard Jasper's Lenten series.

### Masses/Services for the Week

#### Saturday, Mar. 9

4:00 PM Mary C. Blackwelder

#### Sunday, Mar. 10 (First Sunday of Lent)

8:00 AM Parishioners

11:00 AM Sophie Donahue

#### Monday, Mar. 11

12:10 PM John R. Hahn

#### Tuesday, Mar. 12

12:10 PM Leonard R. Klein (L)

#### Wednesday, Mar. 13

12:10 PM James Joseph Costigan

#### Thursday, Mar. 14

12:10 PM Joseph McTaggart

#### Friday, Mar. 15

12:10 PM James and Lena Moletteire

#### Saturday, Mar. 16

4:00 PM Judith Coombs-Convery

#### Sunday, Mar. 17 (Second Sunday of Lent)

8:00 AM Parishioners

11:00 AM Judith Coombs-Convery  
(Bishop Malooly to preside at Confirmation)

### Mass Book

Our Mass Book has several weekday dates available for your Mass intentions. Please call the Rectory to schedule.

### Good News from our St. Vincent DePaul Society

It was with much gratitude that a check for \$5,000 was received from the estate of the late Bill Evans, long-time parishioner and a crusader for the poor. In response to his kindness and commitment to the Society, of which he was a member, several Masses will be celebrated in his memory. New members are always welcome; please consider joining the mission to follow Christ through service to those in need. Please call Ann Hagan for more information at 475-2408.

### Rachel's Vineyard Catholic Retreat

The next retreat is May 3-5 at Malvern Retreat House. The retreat weekend is a beautiful opportunity for emotional and spiritual healing for any woman or man who has struggled with abortion. For more information contact Nan Freeman at (302) 333-1904 or visit [rachelsvineyard.org](http://rachelsvineyard.org)

### Book of Sacred Liturgy

#### First Sunday of Lent

March 10, 2019

Readings/Responsorial Psalm Pg. 502

These Forty Days of Lent #819

Draw Near O Lord Our God #812

Chant Mass #764/Save Us Savior

### Word of Life

"Maya discovered she was pregnant six months into her freshman year of college. When her son was born, she placed him with a very kind adoptive family; she 'just knew they were the right choice.' Now, years later, Maya emphasizes the importance of offering ongoing support to expectant mothers considering adoption." Learn how at [www.usccb.org/women-consideringadoption](http://www.usccb.org/women-consideringadoption).

—USCCB Secretariat of Pro-Life Activities "Accompanying Expectant Mothers Considering Adoption"

### New Castle County Irish Society

The Society will host an "After Parade Party" on Saturday, March 16 from 1 to 6 PM at 1301 S. Rodney Street. Everyone is welcome to continue the festivities. The music of John Kelly will be featured. Admission is \$8.00 for members; \$10 for non-members; free for children 12 and under. Cash bar and food will be available. A Ham and Cabbage lunch/dinner will be served on Sunday, March 17 from 11 AM to 7 PM. Take-out platters are also available by calling 658-8288. An Irish Dance program will be performed by the McAleer School of Dance at 4 PM. All are welcome!

### Marriage Help

Retrouvaille is a peer ministry of volunteer couples who can help you re-awaken the love, trust and commitment that originally brought you together, just as they have done in their own marriages. The next program begins on the weekend of April 26 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. Another program will be held in August. For more information or to register for one of the weekend programs, visit [www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or call 1-800-470-2230. All inquiries are kept strictly confidential.

### Catholic Charities honors Major General Francis Vavala at Annual Tribute Dinner

Major General Francis Vavala, retired Adjutant General of Delaware, will receive the Msgr. Thomas J. Reese Award at Catholic Charities Annual Tribute Dinner on Wednesday, April 3, 2019. The Most Reverend W. Francis Malooly, D.D., Bishop of the Diocese of Wilmington, will present the award at the dinner to be held at the Chase Center on the Riverfront. To learn more about the Annual Tribute Dinner and our honoree, or to support the Tribute Dinner through sponsorships or ticket purchases, visit the Catholic Charities website at [www.cdow.org/charities](http://www.cdow.org/charities). You may also call Catholic Charities at (302) 655-9624.