



Fourth Sunday of Lent March 31, 2019

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

Today's Gospel is the beloved parable of the Prodigal Son. It might even be better to call it the parable of the Welcoming Father because of how it pictures the father's open arms of forgiveness and his patient, long waiting for the prodigal's return.

But the elder brother also provides us a lesson. If you read carefully, you will note that we never learn whether or not he joins the celebration of his brother's return, whether he overcomes his envy and resentment.

In the father we see the mercy and forgiveness of God, his passionate love. We must not let this image fade. Forgetfulness of God's mercy is a real spiritual illness. It can lead us to forget how much he loves us and to focus on our own misery and failures. It can also lead us to become too much like the elder brother, looking down on others whose sins are too much before our eyes.

We should imitate the prodigal son, not in his dissipation but in his humble return to the Father. We do this most significantly by using the Sacrament of Confession. We do it also when in our interior life we recognize both the undetected depth of our sins and the infinite value assigned to us by the Father's forgiving embrace, the Son's sacrifice, and the gift of the Holy Spirit.

As most of you will know by now, I will be admitted to the University of Pennsylvania Hospital on Tuesday, April 2, thirteen years and a day after my priestly ordination and the anniversary of the death of St. John Paul.

I will receive a week of chemotherapy to weaken my immune system, so that I do not reject the

transplant. The transplant itself will take place on April 9. It is not any form of surgery. Rather I will receive a transfusion of adult stem cells from the donor. If all goes well, the stem cells will colonize and replace my malfunctioning bone marrow. I will spend thirty days in the hospital and then be in relative isolation at home for another two months. I will of course keep you posted.

My first job in the Diocese was in the Family Life Bureau, and I have served since then as Director of Pro-Life Activities. When I began, the secularist push for experimentation with embryonic stem cells was going full bore. This is the use of stem cells from aborted fetuses and is morally reprehensible. Indeed, I think it was proposed in part to make abortion seem good and useful. At that time and since then it was known that there were many cures coming from adult stem cell treatments and none from embryonic stem cells, which can multiply into most anything including cancers. So I am happy to become another statistic in favor of this morally acceptable procedure. And it's always good to remember that the Church's moral teaching takes sound science into account and that its correctness is underscored as a result.

*I also want you all to know that **I will not be incommunicado**. I will have my phone and laptop with me and will be happy to hear from you and to respond to you. Bishop Malooly has suggested that I not take a leave of absence but continue to lead the parishes as I am able. I hope also to continue to report to you.*

I ask your prayers for this most challenging step in my treatment.

In Christ,

Fr. Klein

Masses/Services for the Week

Saturday, Mar. 30

4:00 PM Parishioners

Sunday, Mar. 31

(Fourth Sunday of Lent)

8:00 AM Joseph and Kelly Wiseley Ferry

11:00 AM Mihaly Vincze

Monday, Apr. 1

12:10 PM Herbert V. Blackwelder, Sr.

Tuesday, Apr. 2

(m, Saint Francis of Paola,
Hermit)

12:10 PM Bill Evans

Wednesday, Apr. 3

12:10 PM Peter Vandergeest

Thursday, Apr. 4

(m, Saint Isidore, Bishop, Doctor
of the Church)

12:10 PM Geraldine Costa

Friday, Apr. 5

(m, Saint Vincent Ferrer, Priest)

12:10 PM Walter Calder, Sr.

Saturday, Apr. 6

4:00 PM Joan Hannas

Sunday, Apr. 7

(Fifth Sunday of Lent)

8:00 AM Parishioners

11:00 AM Sr. Mary George Barlow

Special Holy Hour

On Sunday, April 7 at 6 PM at St. Patrick's Church, Fr. Chris Coffey will preside at a Holy Hour in prayer for Fr. Klein's treatment and recovery.

Pray the Rosary

The daily Mass attendees at the Cathedral will pray the Rosary on behalf of Fr. Klein's upcoming medical procedures at 11:30 AM on April 2 and April 9. All are welcome.

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.

Birthday Wishes

Prayers and warm wishes for the following parishioners who have birthdays this week: **March 31:** Robert Blanck, Gregory Coin, Mark Blanck, Elijah Hamilton; **April 1:** Sarah Barrosse-Antle; **April 4:** Christine Cahill

Book of Sacred Liturgy

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March 31, 2019

Readings/Responsorial Psalm Pg. 509

Take Up Thy Cross #895

Amazing Grace #1001

These Forty Days of Lent Days #819

Chant Mass #764/Save Us, Savior

2019 Annual Catholic Appeal

"As I have done for you, you should also do"

The 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal will be conducted in parishes throughout the diocese next weekend. Funds generated by the Appeal provide pastoral, charitable, and educational ministries to tens of thousands of people in our 12-County diocese.

As members of The Cathedral of St. Peter, we are proud to be part of the Church of Wilmington. As members, it is important that we reach out in service to others by sharing our resources. Just as we are one in the Body of Christ, we must remember that we are one with other parishes and the diocese. The Annual Catholic Appeal offers us a chance to work in collaboration to care for the Church by sharing the gifts God has granted us.

Our Parish target is \$33,500. Your financial support also provides funding for your parish since 100% of monies collected above our target will be returned for our own ministerial needs.

Please give prayerful consideration to your resources as well as the thousands of individuals and families who receive needed assistance through the 37 ministries supported by the Annual Catholic Appeal. Decide ahead of time the contribution you wish to make this year and come to church next weekend prepared to offer your support.

You can learn more about the 2019 Annual Catholic Appeal by picking up a copy of the campaign information handout located in the back of Church or by visiting the diocesan website at www.cdow.org/annualcatholicappeal.

Penance Service

A Lenten Penance Service with individual confessions will be held on Sunday, April 7 at 3 PM at St. Anthony of Padua Church in Wilmington.

Vocation Reflection

"We are ambassadors for Christ," St. Paul tells the Corinthians in today's second reading, "as if God were appealing through us." In every generation, God calls some men to serve in a formal way as His ambassadors, preaching the good news, celebrating the Sacraments, leading His holy people as they strive to grow closer to their Lord. If you are a man between the ages of 18 and 49 and believe that God might be calling you to serve as a priest, call or write Fr. Norm Carroll, Diocesan Vocation Director (302) 573-3113, vocations@cdow.org. Be sure to visit our website: www.cdow.org/vocations