



The stewardship message in the parable of the Prodigal Son is that it is never too late to become a good steward. Blessed is the elder brother who had been a good steward all along, but blessed, too, is the prodigal who had to lose all he had in order to understand the value of what he'd been given.

MONDAY Is 65:17-21; Jn 4:43-54
 TUESDAY Ez 47:1-9; Jn 5:1-16
 WEDNESDAY Is 49:8-15; Jn 5:17-30
 THURSDAY Is 7:10-14,8-10; Heb 10:4-10; Lk 1:26-38
 FRIDAY Wis 2:1a,12-22; Jn 7:1-2,10,25-30
 SATURDAY Jer 11:18-20; Jn 7:40-53
 SUNDAY Is 43:16-21; Phil 3:8-14; Jn 8:1-11

Daily readings: <http://www.usccb.org/nab/index.htm>



Lenten Schedule

March

- 21 Fourth Sunday in Lent
RCIA Second Scrutiny 8am Mass
- 23 Feast of Toribio de Mogrovejo – Mass 5:30p.m.
- 24 Mass 8:30a.m.
 Women of St. Michael's Day of Reflection
- 25 Feast of the Annunciation of the Lord –
 Mass 5:30p.m.
- 26 Mass 8:30a.m.
 Fish Fry 5:00pm Family Life Center
 Stations of the Cross 7pm Church
- 28 Fifth Sunday in Lent
RCIA Third Scrutiny 8am Mass
- 29 Parish Reconciliation Service 7pm Church

APRIL

- 4 Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion
- 6 Tuesday of Holy Week Mass
 8:30a.m.
- 7 Wednesday of Holy Week
 Mass 8:30a.m.
- 8 Mass of the Lord's Supper – Holy Thursday
 7:00p.m.
- 9 Good Friday of the Lord's Passion
 Veneration of the Cross 3:p.m.
 Stations of the Cross 7:00p.m.
- 10 Easter Vigil – Holy Saturday 7:30p.m.
 (NO Confessions - NO Mass at 5:30p.m.)



MARCH 23 THROUGH MARCH 28

MASS INTENTIONS

TUESDAY	5:30P.M.	✠Louise Schiller
WEDNESDAY	8:30A.M.	✠Norma Rivera
THURSDAY	5:30P.M.	✠Randy Crosley
FRIDAY	8:30A.M.	✠Gwen Sheridan
SATURDAY	5:30P.M.	✠A.J. Richter
SUNDAY	8:00A.M.	✠Mark Klockentager
	9:30A.M.	✠Duc Pham
	11:00A.M.	✠Myrna Gentirone

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Betty Hueber, sister of Nancy Windler; also for the soul of Jewel Lamb, mother of Frank Dodge; also for the soul of Aurora Garza, mother of Leroy Garza, grandmother of Jennifer.



Ed Ahlrich, Nick Alfano, Weldon Bailey, Bennie Paul Bono, Don Brawley, John Buettner, David Butler, Jennifer Cary, Maria Castillo, Larry Cavaness, Sister Mary Charitas, James Christie, Ruth Cleaver, Dorothy D'Augusta, Barbara Dillon, Charlie Dirba, Terry Ditges, Lenora Duval, Marcella Ezell, Linda Felsing, Clark Flournoy, Marcia Flournoy, Emily Garcia, Craig Garrison, Muriel Gates, Kathy Goolsby, Barbara Grant, Arthur Haas, Brandon Habis, Dorothy Harnden, Lorraine Hayes, Wanda Henry, Angeline Klekar, David Kubala, Jerry LaCoume, Mary LaCoume, Ray Langston, Sarah Langston, Tristan Cade Lawson, Mary McClintock, Irene McGaughey, Karen Moran. Jean Newport, Adrian Nye, Doris Perryman, Carolyn Peterson, Cecelia Peterson, Pat Prebys, Joe Ragland, June Ragland, **Joe Reyes, Jr.**, Vince Rowan, Mary Rogers, Billie Stricklin, Pat Van Dragt, "Vinnie", Amelia Volz, Allen Williams, Patricia Williams.

(Bold denotes new on prayer list this week)

Protecting God's Children Workshop for Adults

Preventing child sexual abuse is the goal of a new program selected by the Diocese of Galveston-Houston. "Protecting God's Children for Adults" educates clergy, staff and volunteers who work with children. The 3-hour session includes videos and facilitated discussions. All Clergy, staff and volunteers who have regular contact with children and youth are required to attend training. The session does start promptly so please be on time. The session will be held on the following date:

Thursday, March 25 at St. Michael's in the hall of the Family Life Center 6:15-9:30p.m.

Please go to www.virtusonline.org to register; the password is "trust".

Call Marsha Jacklitsch, 297-3043, for more information.

Have you visited St. Michael's website lately??? Our webmaster, Mike Caserta, has done some really good things for us...all sorts of helpful information and tools to help with our "Lenten Journey". www.smlj.org

Youth Ministry
MARCH CALENDAR

21 Classes Resume @ 6:30pm
26 Stations of the Cross 7pm
28 Class 6:30pm



ATTENTION Confirmation Candidates and Sponsors: Don't forget the Covenant Ritual on March 21st at the 11:00a.m. Mass. Please be no later than 10:40a.m. Seating will be reserved.

ATTENTION WOMEN: Mark your calendar! Lenten Day of Reflection Wednesday, March 24, 2004, Sponsored by Women's Club of St. Michael's. For information, contact Barbara Lanier, 798-2367 or Betty Betczynski, 285-9139.

Camp Creation VBS 2004 Explore God's great creation this summer at Davey & Goliath's Camp Creation Vacation Bible School!
It's all happening from June 21-25. Get ready for a week of exciting games, crafts, songs, and stories! Register now! All VBS Campers must be registered on or before May 14 to attend. We still need lots of volunteers! To volunteer, call Janice at 292-0501 or the church office at 297-3043.

Cash flow for January 2004	
Bank Account, Dec. 31, 2003	\$255,257.81
Savings Account, Dec. 31, 2003	+460,895.75
Total for December 31, 2003	\$716,153.56
4-Sunday Collections	+54,857.50
New Year's Day	+ 2,188.00
Misc., Int., Rent,	+ <u>138.01</u>
Regular Receipts	+57,183.51
Less Regular Expenses	-41,503.79
Less Cathedral Tax	- <u>6,412.13</u>
Total of Regular Expenses	-47,915.92
Difference/Suspense Accts.	+58.45
Add New Church & Bishop Fund Drive	+ <u>19,971.50</u>
Bank & Savings Balance on Jan. 31, 2004	\$745,451.10

A Second Collection of \$2,588 was sent to Our Lady Queen of Peace in January. A total of \$1,512 was sent to DSF & The Bishops' Fund for Latin America.

DSF News	
Parish Goal	\$84,200.00
Unpaid Pledges from 2003	<u>9,025.00</u>
Total owed DSF	\$93,225.00
Pledges for 2004	<u>31,821.50</u>
Total Due DSF as of March 8, 2004	\$61,403.50

Have you made your pledge?

Consecration to Jesus Through Mary
Thursday, March 25th, 5:00p.m. In the church before Mass. Call Art Vandaveer for information 297-4107.



What are the Scrutinies?

These ritual celebrations on the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sundays of Lent are communal prayers celebrated around those preparing for Baptism to strengthen them to overcome the power of sin in their lives and to grow in virtue. To scrutinize something means to examine it closely. The community does not scrutinize the catechumens; the catechumens scrutinize their own lives and allow God to scrutinize them and to heal them.

There is a danger in celebrating the Scrutinies if the community thinks of the elect as the only sinners in our midst who need conversion. All of us are called to continuing conversion throughout our lives, so we join with the elect in scrutinizing our own lives and praying to God for the grace to overcome the power of sin that still infects our hearts.

Many parishes today seek to surface the concrete issues that the elect need to confront; these issues then become the focus of the intercessions during the Scrutinies. Some parishes extend this discernment process to the wider community so that all are called to name the ways that evil continues to prevent them from living the gospel fully. Even if the parish does not do this in an organized way, every Catholic should spend some time reflecting on what obstacles to gospel living exist in his or her own life. Then when the Scrutinies are celebrated, we will all know that the prayers are for us as well as for the elect.

Taking seriously this dynamic of scrutiny and conversion gives us a richer perspective on Lenten "giving up." What we are to give up more than anything else is sin, which is to say we are to give up whatever keeps us from living out our baptismal promises fully. Along with the elect we all need to approach the season of Lent asking ourselves what needs to change in our lives if we are to live the gospel values that Jesus taught us. Our journey through these forty days should be a movement ever closer to Christ and to the way of life he has exemplified for us.

Adapted from Catholic Update.