“Whoever lives the truth comes to the light, so that his works may be clearly seen as done in God.” - Jn 3:21

“En cambio, el que obra el bien conforme a la verdad, se acerca a la luz, para que se vea que sus obras están hechas según Dios”. - Jn 3, 221
JESUS MEETS US WHERE WE ARE
BY RITA ZYBER, RCIA COORDINATOR

Jesus meets us where we are.

That’s what stands out for me in today’s parable of the prodigal son (Luke 15: 1-32). We see a loving and worried father who runs out to meet the son that had rejected him.

“While he was still a long way off, his father caught sight of him and was filled with compassion.”

This line tells us that the father must have been waiting for him. I picture him day after day, looking down the road in expectation of his son’s footsteps. Sometimes we all feel a long way off. We head out on our own, moving away from God – from the home that offers nourishment and abundance. But God doesn’t hold us in our bad choices. He runs to us, and always meets us exactly where we are.

This parable is particularly special for me. Each fall, we reflect on the prodigal son story with our RCIA candidates, those who are exploring the idea of becoming Catholic. We look at this story with an emphasis on their own journeys toward God, and toward a spiritual place that will feel like home for them.

I’m always honored to see how this reading calls out so many feelings and insights among the group. We can all relate to one of the characters. We can all feel such comfort and peace when we realize how precious we are, no matter what the circumstances. God meets us where we are.

Does any of us “deserve” this kind of love and tenderness? No. How many times have we moved away from God through our self-absorbed choices, or our indifference? But this story reminds us that we are not held in our sins. We are not excluded from the warm embrace of that rich, extravagant cloak. We can always “come to our senses,” as the son did. We can always come home.

The readings for these weeks of Lent express beautiful images of renewal, new growth, forgiveness and new possibilities. Our 17 RCIA candidates have been living and experiencing this as well. They are learning and preparing with great intensity and commitment. As a parish, may we lift them up with continued prayers and with admiration for the joy and growth they are experiencing through Christ.

Like the fig tree in last week’s gospel, our group has experienced the gardener’s care and attention. They have been nourished and fed through community, and through God’s word. Soon, they will join us in the deeper nourishment of the Eucharist on Holy Saturday.

“So stop wandering around. Instead, come home and trust that God will bring you what you need.” (Henri Nouwen, The Inner Voice of Love.)

RCIA Rite of Election — Those preparing to join the church, or complete their Sacraments of Initiation, celebrated the Rite of Election with Bishop Earl Boyea on March 9 in Ann Arbor. The group from St. Mary Student Parish, including some sponsors and team members, is pictured with the Bishop. Please continue to keep these candidates in your prayers as they prepare more intensely during the Lenten season.

CONNECT WITH US!
@SMSPumich SMSPNEWMAN facebook.com/smssp.um myParish the App for Catholic Life Everyday stmarystudentparish.org 331 Thompson Street Ann Arbor, MI 48104 734-663-0557  (f) 734-663-2756
**MEETINGS & EVENTS: MAR 31-APR 7**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**
- Choir Practice before each Mass: Music Room
- ASB Pancake Breakfast: 9:30 AM, Newman Hall
- Children’s Liturgy: 10:15 AM, Newman Lounge
- 5th Grade Assessment Makeup: 11:15 AM, Loyola Room
- ESL: 12:45 PM, Newman Hall
- Hisp/Lat. Children’s Lit: 2:00 PM, Donnelly Hall+
- Teen Confirmation: 3:15 PM, Donnelly Hall
- Magis Reflection: 5:00 PM, Rectory Lounge
- Outreach Team: 6:00 PM, Rectory Dining Rm
- Special Events Meeting: 6:30 PM, Loyola Room
- Reconciliation: 7:30 PM, Church
- Men’s Rotating Shelter: 8:00 PM, Newman Hall

**MONDAY, APRIL 1**
- SCC—Open: 9:30 AM, Rectory Dining Rm
- SCC—Julie: 4:00 PM, Rectory Dining Rm
- Ig.nite Team Meeting: 5:00 PM, Newman Room
- SCC-Jolene: 5:00 PM, Loyola Room
- Latinidad en Religion: 5:30 PM, Rectory Lounge
- Centering Prayer: 6:30 PM, Richard Room
- Bible Study: 7:00 PM, Rectory Lounge
- Born for Joy: 7:00 PM, Monteith Room
- SCC-Open: 7:00 PM, Rectory Dining Rm

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2**
- SCC-Moms: 9:30 AM, Newman Room
- Pray the Rosary after Mass: 5:45 PM, Church
- Catechist Planning Session: 5:45 PM, Newman Hall
- Triduum Choir: 6:30 PM, Church
- SCC—LGBT: 7:00 PM, Loyola Roon

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**
- SCC-Women: 9:30 AM, Rectory Dining Rm
- Prayer & Healing Team: 6:00 PM, Loyola Room
- Spanish Financial Workshop: 6:00 PM, Newman Hall
- MAGIS: 6:00 PM, Off-site
- SCC—Grad/YP: 6:30 PM, Richard Room
- Penance Service: 7:00 PM, Church
- RCIA: 7:00 PM, Donnelly Hall
- SCC-Ignatian: 7:00 PM, Newman Room
- SCC-Spanish: 7:00 PM, Monteith Room
- SCC-Women: 7:00 PM, Whitman Room

**MEETINGS & EVENTS: MAR 31-APR 7**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4**
- Retreat Team: 4:00 PM, Loyola Room
- Choir Practice: 4:15 PM, Music Room
- Ig.nite: 5:10 PM, Church
- SCC-Open: 6:00 PM, Monteith Room
- SCC-Grad/YP: 6:30 PM, Rectory Dining Rm
- SCC-Grad/YP: 7:00 PM, Whitman Room
- Big READ Closing: 7:30 PM, Donnelly Hall
- Restore: 7:30 PM, Rectory Lounge
- Semi Lockin: 9:00 PM, Newman Hall+

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**
- Intern Formation: 3:00 PM, Loyola Room
- SCC—LatinX: 5:30 PM, Loyola Room

**SATURDAY, APRIL 6th**
- Into the Light: 8:00 AM, Rectory Lounge
- MAGIS: 9:00 AM, Off Site
- Senior Mini Retreat: 10:00 AM, Donnelly Hall

**MASS INTENTIONS: MAR 31-APR 7**

**SUNDAY, MARCH 31**
- 8:30 AM: Mass for People of the Parish
- 10:00 AM: Mass for +Anne Marie Jamili
- 12:00 PM: Mass for +Frances McLaughlin
- 2:00 PM: Mass for Ike Perez
- 5:00 PM: Mass for +Joey Vitale
- 9:00 PM: Mass for +Fr. Robert Wheelock

**MONDAY, APRIL 1**
- 5:10 PM: Mass for +Lorraine Guidry

**TUESDAY, APRIL 2**
- 5:00 PM: Mass for +Chris Brown

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3**
- 5:10 PM: Mass for Shawn Brown & Family

**THURSDAY, APRIL 4**
- 5:10 PM: Mass for +Elaine Suchocki

**FRIDAY, APRIL 5**
- 12:10 PM: Mass for +Jim Schdmidt
**GRAD/YP MASS AND DINNER**

MON, APR 8 | 7:00-9:00 PM
Monthly Mass & Dinner for Grad/YP.
Join us to worship, connect, and enjoy a delicious homemade dinner with our Grad/YP community. First timers are always welcome!

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTIONS**

**EVENING PRAYER (VESPERS)**

MON, APR 29 | 7:00 PM
This month's Spiritual Directions evening will be a celebration of Evening Prayer (Vespers). Please join us for a candle-lit evening of prayer and song as we celebrate one of the oldest liturgies of the Church. Following the liturgy, those who wish will head to a local venue for a time to eat and socialize.

**ASB PANCAKE BREAKFAST**

SUN, MAR 31 AFTER THE 8:30 & 10:00 AM MASS
The participants of Alternative Spring Break (ASB) thank the parish for all the prayers and support. Please come, share a meal, and listen to our stories of ASB. All are welcome!

**A BIG BAKERY BINGO THANK YOU**

to all who contributed baked goods and participated in Bakery Bingo! It was a fun time for students and parishioners and we raised over $200 for Campus Ministry! Thank you!

**FEEDBACK ON OUR PARISH MISSION STATEMENT**

Over the last few months, the parish council and parish staff have been discerning our core values and mission here at St. Mary Student Parish. We invite the parish to review this current draft of our mission statement:

*St. Mary Student Parish is a welcoming, inclusive, caring, and diverse Catholic community, uniting residents and students.*

*We are Christ-centered with the Eucharist as the source of holiness in our vibrant liturgical life.*

*Inspired by Ignatian spirituality, we live a faith that does justice, reaching out to the marginalized.*

*As an apostolic parish, we are committed to ongoing formation of Christian witness, discipleship, and leadership.*

Please visit our website by April 6, 2019 to share your comments and suggestions: [https://www.stmarystudentparish.org/mission-statement-feedback/](https://www.stmarystudentparish.org/mission-statement-feedback/) Thank you for helping to form our mission!

**WICIR IMMIGRATION VOLUNTEER TRAINING**

TUES, MAY 7 | 6:00-8:00 PM
This is an training facilitated by the Washtenaw Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights for anyone who is interested in helping our community to respond to the urgent needs of our immigrant community members. Contact Amy aketner@smspnewman.org
SMSP Semi-Lock In
**Thursday, Apr 4 from 9:00 PM-Midnight**
St. Mary’s is having a PJ party! Come in your best onesie - there will be a contest! We will also have comfort food from Susan (includes a sundaes bar and mac and cheese), tons of board games, and an opportunity to watch the basketball games. We leave around midnight with a pancake breakfast and we will be offering rides.
Contact Claire ckrakowi@umich.edu

Senior Mini-Retreat
**Sat, Apr 6 from 10:00AM-1:30PM**
We invite all graduating seniors and those graduating in the winter semester of 2019 to join us for the senior mini-retreat. We will gather together for reflection, prayer, inspiration and community sharing. Let’s make the last moments count!
Contact Karl karlfink@umich.edu or Jenny jzick@smspnewman.org

St Mary Spirit Week
**Sunday, April 7-Friday, April 12**
Celebrate the end of the year with the first ever St. Mary Spirit week! Enjoy a lot of additional activities in the lounge during the week of April 7-12.
Themes include:
- Sunday, April 7: Color wars (by grade)
- Monday, April 8: Michigan Catholics Monday
- Tuesday, April 9: Decade day (by grade)
- Wednesday, April 10: Dress up like St. Mary’s Staff Day
- Thursday, April 11: Twin Day
- Friday, April 12: Semi-Formal Spring Dance—see below!
Contact Claire ckrakowi@umich.edu

St. Mary Semi-Formal Spring Dance
**Fri, Apr 12 from 7:30-10:30 PM**
Come celebrate the grand finale of St. Mary Spirit Week with the second annual Semi-Formal! We will have food, friends, music, and plenty of dancing the night away. Come with a date or with a group of friends!
Contact Claire ckrakowi@umich.edu

Sunday Nights @ SMSP
- From 6-9 PM there are tons of snacks (pretty much a dinner) in the Newman Lounge.
- Students gather after the 5 PM mass or before the 9 PM mass to get a bite to eat, do homework, or catch up with one another.
- We also have reconciliation available at 7:30-8:15 PM in the church. Stop by and stay awhile!
Lenten Programs

LENTEN PENANCE SERVICES
All services begin at 7:00 PM
- April 3 - St. Mary Student Parish - In English and Spanish
- April 8 - St. Thomas the Apostle Parish
- April 10 - Old St. Patrick Parish
- April 11 - St. Francis of Assisi Parish

LIGHT THE NIGHT
FRI, APR 5 | 6:00-9:00 PM
Teams of volunteers will go out into the streets of Ann Arbor and campus, inviting passers-by to come into the church to light a candle and pause peacefully in prayer. The church will be filled with candles and music. Those who enter are invited to light a candle, pray and remain in the quiet and peace. We will also have individuals remain in the church to pray with those coming into the church and for those going out on the streets. For more info, contact Daniel stantond@umich.edu

WITH JESUS IN GETHSEMANE
APR 13 | 1:00-4:00 PM
With Jesus in Gethsemane: A mini-retreat focused on Jesus’ relationship with his disciples and his Father in the hours before his arrest. This is open to all.
Brief talks will explore Mark 14. Small-group discussions, silent time, and concluding prayer together will enable you to enter into the scene and discover its meaning for you. Led by Kevin Perrotta and Fr. Joe Wagner, SJ.
Kevin Perrotta, a member of St. Mary Student Parish, has written books about Scripture and teaches part time at Sacred Heart Major Seminary and Siena Heights University. Fr. Joe is on the campus ministry and pastoral staff of the parish.

CROSSROADS 2019 EASTER MEAL
VOLUNTEERS, EASTER BASKET SUPPLIES, & DONATIONS NEEDED!
On Easter Sunday, 21st April, the St. Mary community will prepare and serve dinner at Crossroads Soup Kitchen in downtown Detroit (learn more about Crossroads at www.crossroadsofmichigan.org).
Volunteering at this event is a great way to share in and celebrate the love of the Easter season with Detroit community members and other St. Mary parishioners!
There are many ways to get involved in this service:
Make a donation
Your financial support of this communal meal with our brothers and sisters in Detroit is what makes it happen. Please make checks payable to: St Mary Student Parish and write “Crossroads Easter Meal” on the memo line. You can also make a donation on the St. Mary’s website.
Volunteer at Crossroads
Good Friday + Transport food/supplies to Crossroads: 11:00am-2:00pm
Easter Sunday + First Shift: 8:00am-12:00pm (Meal Preparation)
+ Second Shift: 11:15am-3:45pm (Dinner Serving)
If you would like to volunteer, please e-mail CrossroadsEaster@umich.edu with the following information: your preferred shift, a contact phone number, if you need a ride to Detroit or, if you have a vehicle, the number of additional people you can take with you to Crossroads. If you do not have e-mail access, please give the above information and your phone number to the parish office.
Donate supplies
We need Easter basket supplies and lots of candy!
Many children are guests at our Easter meal. Help us give each of them an Easter basket as a special gift from St. Mary Student Parish! Please donate basket-making components (baskets, Easter grass-paper type preferred, chocolate bunnies, ‘good for you’ snacks, crayons, toys, etc.). In addition to Easter Baskets for the children, each meal comes with a small bag of Easter candy. We would greatly appreciate candy donations—mini/fun size wrapped candies are the best. Larger bars are difficult to bag, and can get messy. Sorry - we cannot use unwrapped candy (jelly beans, etc.)
Toiletries
This is always a need for the community that Crossroads serves – any donations are appreciated. In addition to full-sized toiletries, travel and hotel sizes are also appreciated. If you are happening to travel soon and can acquire unopened hotel toiletries those are a no-cost donation item.
PLEASE TAKE YOUR DONATIONS TO THE PARISH OFFICE BY MONDAY APRIL 15TH.
Contact Sam sjennings@smspnewman.org
Thank you, as always, for your tremendous generosity

INTO THE LIGHT
SATURDAYS AT 8:00 AM ON, APRIL 6 & 13
Into the Light is a prayer group that has been meeting for over 20 years to share our faith and forge new friendships. At each meeting, the group reflects on Sunday’s scripture readings and holds a communion service together. Attendees bring a dish to share for breakfast! Please join us this Lent – all are welcome.
Contact Celeste celestenov@aol.com

EUCHARISTICADORATION
WEDNESDAYS | 6:00-10:00 PM
Eucharistic Adoration will take place most Wednesdays in the Church. It is a time to reflect and pray quietly before the Lord. You are invited to come when you can and stay as long as you like. This sign-up is to ensure that the Blessed Sacrament is not left alone: https://www.signupgenius.com/go/8050a4ea9a629ab9-eucharistic
WOMEN OF THE HEART
THURS, APR 11 | 10:15 AM
We will continue our discussion of Chapter Four in Gaudete et Exsultate. We will consider what Pope Francis calls the five signs or spiritual attitudes that are necessary for holiness in today’s world. These five signs are practical and realistic for those of us who call ourselves disciples. Francis makes sure to point out that these attitudes are not only about martyrdom, but rather, about what it takes to really BE examples of Christ to others. Contact Patty pmm@comcast.net or Phyllis pbmclaughlin@comcast.net

PRAY THE ROSARY
TUESDAYS AFTER THE 5:10 PM MASS
Reciting this ancient and powerful prayer with others can be a heart-opening experience and a way to promote peace in the world and in ourselves. We will provide you the texts of the prayers if needed. If you have intentions for which you’d like us to pray, or any questions, please send them to Toni weena@umich.edu

PARISH BIBLE STUDY
MONDAYS | 7:00 PM
Our Catholic faith teaches that God is alive in the Scriptures. Come discover the Word with us. We practice scripture-based faith sharing in a small discussion group. Discussions are guided by church-approved commentaries, question guides, and the Catechism of the Catholic Church.
We meet most Mondays at 7:00 PM.
Contact Kathy Ann 734-668-7437

CATHOLIC THINKERS BOOK CLUB
TUES, APR 9 | 7-8:30PM
The Catholic Thinkers Book Club will conclude its semester about early Church history by reading Elaine Pagels’ “The Gnostic Gospels.” Copies of these books will be on reserve at Literati or you may obtain it through any of the sources.
Contact Liz at YpsiLiz2006@gmail.com

DAUGHTERS OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES
SAT, APR 13 | 11:45 AM
Our last meeting will take place Saturday starting at 11:45am and ending around 2:15pm. We will begin with a small intimate Mass followed by a pot luck luncheon and discussion.
Contact Karen Stein holyfamilyministries@yahoo.com for more information.

Nourish Your Spirit

LATINIDAD EN RELIGION
MON, APR 1ST & 15TH | 5:30 PM
Latinidad en religión is a space in which the young Latino community gathers to interlink their Latinidad with their Catholicism. Contact Vicenta vvargas@umich.edu

CENTERING PRAYER
MONDAYS | 6:30 PM
Silent, contemplative prayer in which thoughts and feelings are stilled as we simply seek to be with God. Centering Prayer is a silent practice of prayer that rests on the faith that Christ is present within by his Holy Spirit. It is an excellent preparation for contemplative prayer, which is a grace or gift bestowed by God. Contact Serena Larson serena68@comcast.net

THOUGHTS FOR THE WEEK

During Lent, our Small Church Community groups are spending extra time in prayer and in studying God’s word together. We are including some “Thoughts for the Week” to help everyone in the parish lift their hearts in prayer as well.

LUKE 15: 1-3, 11-32 – THE PRODIGAL SON:
Author Henri Nouwen writes:
“Leaving home is much more than an historical event bound to time and place. It is a denial of the spiritual reality that I belong to God with every part of my being, that God holds me safe in an eternal embrace.”
Have you experienced a time in your life when you said “no” to what God was offering you?
When you moved away from God’s abundant love?
Who or what helped you to return home?
What keeps me from running toward fullness of life in Jesus Christ? What can I do about it?
God, please come and find me in the places where I hide from you. Give me the gift of courage to be still so I can be found by you.
(Miriam James Heidland, S.O.L.T.)

To see more reflections and prayers relating to the Sunday readings, you can access the SCC study materials on our parish website - https://www.stmarystudentparish.org/worship/scc/
A TASTE OF ITALY
SUN, APR 7 | 1:00-7:00 PM
Deacon Romolo and Lorraine Leone return for A Taste of Italy, a fundraising meal benefiting local shelter and support services for homeless youth including runaways, high-risk youth ages 10-20, and their families.
Italian cuisine will be served in Newman Hall following the 12 pm, 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm masses on Sunday, April 7th. Please feel free to stop in anytime from 1:00-7:00 pm. The fundraiser is brought to you by LGBT Outreach Ministry here at St. Mary.
Please donate online at our website stmarystudentparish.org/give or write checks out to SMSP with "LGBT Fundraiser" in the memo!

LGBT OUTREACH MINISTRY
1ST & 3RD TUES | 7-8:30 PM
“Come all you who are burdened, and I will give you rest,” says the Lord (Matthew 11:28). Discover Christ abiding in you. Discover the new life He offers in His church, in the sacraments, in scripture, and among the People of God. Discover the joys for new life in prayer, in fellowship, and in the life of the intentional disciple living generously and virtuously as Christ has taught us.
LGBT & friends welcome! We meet every 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month at 7:00 PM for reflection on our lives in the Ignatian tradition on one Tuesday and socializing on the other Tuesday of the month. Meetings are private and confidential. As a diverse community of believers, we respect each person as a unique reflection of God’s presence in our midst.
Contact Deacon Romolo Leone rleone@umich.edu; Rodrigo rodri_cg@hotmail.com or Cynthia jcynthia@umich.edu

ALPHA HOUSE
APRIL 1 – APRIL 6
St. Mary Student Parish is seeking volunteers to help at Alpha House during the week of April 1st through the 6th. Alpha House is an organization that provides temporary shelter, food, and support services for families in Washtenaw County.
You can volunteer by providing a main dish or side dish for dinner, serving meals, being with children during activity time, or being an overnight volunteer.
*If you are a student and unable to drive to Alpha House, transportation/carpool can be provided.
Contact Ally for more details alleidtke@smspnewman.org
Sign up at: https://bit.ly/alphahouse2019

2019 “BIG READ” CLOSING
THURS, APR 4 | 7:30 PM
Join us for our Big Read closing event where we’ll hear from two students who recently visited Dolores Mission and Homeboy Industries, which will be followed by reflection and discussion of Tattoos on the Heart: The Power of Boundless Compassion by Fr. Gregory Boyle, S.J. Looking to the future, we will consider ways in which we can practice radical kinship as a parish community.
Follow our discussion blog at https://www.stmarystudentparish.org/category/tattoos-on-the-heart-blog/
Contact Sam for more details sjennings@smspnewman.org.

RENEWING CATHOLICISM
SAT, APR 13 | 9:00AM-3:30PM
A conversation about what is valuable in the Catholic tradition and what needs to be reformed. Presented by: Inclusive Justice, Fortunate Families Detroit and held at Christ Church Cranbrook 470 Church Rd. Bloomfield Hills. For further information & to register go to: https://www.inclusivejustice.org/
LIFE IN THE DUMP: A FREE DISCUSSION
THURS, APR 11 | 7:00-8:30 PM
Fifteen million people live and work in garbage dumps around the world. Learn about their challenges and their progress breaking out of poverty. Discussion led by Selam Terafe, J.D., a United Nations-recognized human rights activist from Ethiopia, with the following panelists:
- Timothy Bouldry, Internationally Awarded Photojournalist in Nicaragua
- Angelica Cancinos, Winner of the Ivy Humanitarian Award in Guatemala
- Erika Cuevas, RE. TE. Leader in Honduras
- Tavian Jones, Garbage Dump Community Leader and Activist in Jamaica

Join us for a special discussion presented by the International Samaritan, an international nonprofit dedicated to raising the standard of living in garbage dump communities. The discussion is free but space is limited. RSVP to reserve your seat: http://www.intsam.org/events/

PARISH FINANCIAL UPDATE
Year-to-Date Offering Report as of 03/24/2019

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Annual Budget Goal $1,020,000
Year-to-Date (YTD) Goal $758,600
Amount Collected YTD $762,047
Above (Below) YTD Goal $3,447

Sunday Offering Report as of 03/24/2019

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MARCH MATCH MADNESS - WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Thank you to all who have generously donated to March Match! As of March 25, we have raised just $54,784 of our $100,000 goal. We are just over halfway there. Please team up with us to raise the remaining $45,216 in this final week. You can help St. Mary shape the next generation of dynamic Catholic leaders by making your gift to March Match today.

Making a gift is easy! You may give online at stmarystudent-parish.org/give or by credit card, cash or check. Donation cards may be returned with your Sunday offering or in the parish office.

You can even use your phone to make a gift! Use Venmo to make your March Match donation to @SMSPumich.
### St. Mary Student Parish Staff

#### PASTORAL STAFF  
734-663-0557

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
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#### CAMPUS MINISTRY STAFF

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#### PARISH STAFF

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To add or remove a name: stmarys@umich.edu or call the office 734-663-0557.

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**REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS:**

- Bo Adams, Elpido Adrian, Maria Delores Monicibas
MARCH 31

4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reading I  Jos  5:9a, 10-12
Psalm  Ps  34:2-7
Reading II  2 Cor  5:17-21
Gospel  Lk  15:1-3, 11-32

Having arrived in the promised land, the Hebrews celebrated their deliverance from affliction and distress in the Passover. Christ, our passover, has entrusted to us the message of reconciliation: let us forgive one another and celebrate the unconditional and abundant love of God our Father.

MARCH 31

5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

Reading I  Is  43:16-21
Psalm  Ps  126:1-6
Reading II  Phil  3:8-14
Gospel  Jn  8:1-11

To the exiles in Babylon, Isaiah foretells a new exodus, when the Lord will lead his people from captivity to freedom. True freedom is rooted in the person of Jesus, not in observance of the Law. It is he who challenges us to examine our own hearts before self-righteously judging others.
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