

Dear Friends,

The world stands condemned. God sends His only Son to save the world. What on earth caused that to happen? Nothing on earth caused it. What happens on earth is what causes the condemnation. God's response to the sins of the world is not to immediately carry out punishment for the sentence condemnation, but to offer a path of reconciliation.

Even after the kingdom of Israel fell for turning away from God despite all the warnings of the prophets, God brought them back from exile. This foreshadows the even greater act of salvation to be carried out in Jesus Christ. Jesus did not come to restore an earthly kingdom, but to establish a heavenly kingdom. He came not for one people, but for all people.

Jesus does this when He is lifted up like the serpent in the desert. Jesus is referring to His crucifixion. He is not crucified out of weakness, but out of love and mercy for us. It is the recognition of that fact that draws us to Christ. It is that that Paul praises in his letter to the Ephesians.

Jesus comes to replace condemnation with pardon, and death with life. As Paul says we are God's handiwork made for good works, therefore we should live in those works. Jesus calls us to life by the love and mercy He has shown us. The Father's offer of pardon and life through Jesus is an offer not something forced upon us. The draw of Jesus lifted up can be rejected. The good news of God's offer of salvation should not be confused with an undeniable right to salvation.

What is your response to the lifted up savior? Will I live in Christ or in the world? Whether you say it or not, you choose by your actions. What choice have I made so far? Is that going to be my final answer?

Fr. Peter Giovanoni



Weekend Ministries
March 17th & 18th

Saturday--5:00pm

Lector: E. McCarthy

EMs: J. Orr

Altar Servers: A. McCarthy, J. McCarthy, Z. Peterson

Sunday--8:15am

Lector: G. Prior

EMs: J. Dominic, C. Carson, J. Kayser

Altar Servers: C. Dameron, J. Dameron, J. Fitzgerald

Sunday--10:30am

Lector: B. Herdlick

Reader: C. Miller

EMs: M. Herdlick, J. LeDonne, L. LeDonne

Altar Servers: A. Ojeda-Galindo, F. Ojeda-Galindo, J. Ojeda-Galindo, M. Ojeda-Galindo

Sunday--6:00pm

Reader: A. Bishop

EMs: A. Bishop



Pray for the Sick

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| Joyce Ack | Grace Angela |
| Emma Aparicio | Vivian Barnes |
| Timothy Binder | Pam Bohmann |
| Robert Bradburn | Karen Byrne |
| Lisa Carpenter | Sue Colon |
| Jack Cullison | Catherine Dean |
| Erica Dingle | Jane Dougherty |
| Fritz Feltman | Rick Giovanoni |
| Jack Greenwell | Pam Hayden |
| Mary Agnes Hill | Jason Hoyer |
| Cameron Kalen | Jane Kenyon |
| Paul Mackie | Sid Marcus |
| Liz Marcus | Ann McDonough |
| Diane Miller | William Morris |
| Fr. O'Connell | Kay Owens |
| Lawrence Potter | Peggy Raley |
| Joel Rivera | Janet Sanders |
| Gabriel Santos | Nicole Shreve |
| Wise Tennyson | Hilda Trossbach |
| Janice Wood | Elizabeth Woodburn |

Mass Intentions
March 12th-March 18th

CRS Rice Bowl--We encounter Andrise, a teacher in Haiti who knows the importance of forming young people who will give back to the community--and their country. Reflect on the role teachers have played in bringing you closer to God and your community. How can you support those, worldwide, who are forced to flee their homes to find safety or better opportunities? Visit crsricebowl.org for more.

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| Monday | 9:00am | Addie McBride |
| Tuesday | 9:00am | Mary Margaret Preston |
| Wednesday | 9:00am | Ted Abell |
| Thursday | 9:00am | Leonard Shubrooks |
| Friday | 9:00am | St. Michael's School |
| Saturday | 5:00pm | Louis Norris |
| Sunday | 8:15am | St. Michael's Parishioners |
| Sunday | 10:30am | Gerry Mueller |
| Sunday | 6:00pm | Special Intentions |

Catechetical Corner

This is the Sunday of Lent when we can use rose vestments. It is known as Laetare Sunday for the Latin word for rejoice. We are past the midpoint of Lent, so we take a moment to reflect on the reason for our Lenten discipline. The changing colors of the vestments are part of the principle of involving the whole person in worship, in this case by the sense of sight.

The different liturgical colors symbolize different aspects of the faith. The purple of Advent and Lent is for repentance and contrition. The green of ordinary time recalls Jesus and our time living on earth but with an eye on the next life. The white of Christmas and Easter time is for the glory of God and the light He brings to the world. Red is for the blood of Jesus and the martyrs who witness to Him. It also represents the fire of the Holy Spirit. Black is used for All Souls Day to remember all our deceased.

2018 Annual Jubilarian Mass--Cardinal Donald Wuerl will celebrate the annual Jubilarian Mass honoring couples married 25-51+ years on Sunday, June 17th at 2:00pm at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Please call the parish or use the sign-up forms in the back of the church to register. Names of jubilarians need to be turned in to the parish office by Monday, April 16th.

Ridge Volunteer Fire Department Auxiliary--Saturday, March 24th will hold a Brown Bag Auction at the Ridge Fire House. Browsing 11:00am-1:00pm and auction begins promptly at 1:00pm. Baked goods and drinks for sale. Tickets will be 10 for \$10 or 25 for \$20. All proceeds benefits Ridge VFD Aux Campaign Fund. If you would like to donate, please contact Jessica Snyder 240-925-7114 or Debbie Fairfax 301-904-9829.

Quarter Auction--Sponsored by Ridge Rescue Squad Auxiliary. Sunday, March 18th at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Ridge. Doors open at noon and auction starts at 1:00pm. \$3 a paddle or \$5 for two paddles. Refreshments available.

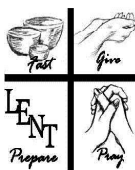
Knights of Columbus

--Fried Chicken Dinner on Sunday, March 11th from 11:30am-5:00pm at Knights of Columbus Hall in Ridge. \$12 for half-chicken.

--Bingo on Saturday, March 17th. Doors open at 5:30pm and games start at 6:30pm. Jackpot is \$5,000!

Stewardship Report

March 4 th Collection	\$5,647.00
1 st Dist. Catholic Aid Society	\$786.75



Good Friday is a day of fast and abstinence. All other Fridays are days of abstinence only.

Adoration will be held every Friday during Lent except Good Friday following the 9:00am

morning Mass.

Stations of the Cross are at 7:00pm on Friday evenings.

The Light Is On For You confessions will be heard on Wednesday evenings at 5:00pm.

Bible Study on Tuesday evenings at 7:00pm in the sacristy.

The Novena of Grace to St. Francis Xavier will be March 4th-March 12th at 7:00pm each week night and after all Masses on weekends and after weekday Masses.

"Gift: Life in the Spirit" is every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30pm in SMS Gym. Eighth grade and up are invited to attend.



St. Michael's School News



St. Michael's School

Annual Auction is planned for June 9th. We are able to accept gently used cars, boats, motorcycles or RV's in running condition. We can store and provide minor repair of donated



items. Please contact Rich Muir at 240-538-1888 cell, leave message if no answer.

Angel Wings and Things Thrift Store

--The store is open from 9:00am-4:00pm on Saturdays and from 10:00am-1:00pm on Sundays. Items can be dropped off on Saturdays between 10:00am-2:00pm. Thank you for your generous support!



Queen of Hearts--Every Friday night at the American Legion in Ridge. Tickets will be on sale from 4:00pm-7:00pm and food will be available starting at 5:00pm. Drawing at 7:00pm. Come out and support St. Michael's School for a fun night of chance!



Mark Your Calendars:

March 11--Confirmation Retreat, St. Peter Claver
12:00pm-5:30pm

March 16--No School

Queen of Hearts, 4:00pm

March 19--Easter Penance Service at IHM 6:00pm

March 25--Palm Sunday Breakfast, 8:30-11:00am