

**Reflection for Today**

There is a short parable told in the gospel reading that is very intriguing. It talks about getting a second chance. A fig tree did not bear fruit for three years and its owner decided to cut it down. But a vinedresser intervened to give it another chance to produce. If it still didn't bear fruit after more caring, it would be cut down. Jesus offers an important lesson here. Few of us can get through a day without making mistakes, sometimes serious mistakes, in the decision we make, in the way we handle people, or in how we carry out our responsibilities. None of us is perfect; we make errors in judgment and performance. The mistakes we make, of course, have consequences. Penalties await our blunders. But if we have a mature sense of responsibility, we take our lickings, pay our dues, and settle our debts. And then we get on with life.

The message of the parable, however, is a little more positive. It encourages us to *take advantage* of our second chances—that we accept them not as mere strokes of good luck, but as graces to learn something. There are important lessons in life we can learn without having to endure the customary pain. It all depends on whether or not we can accept the grace of a reprieve, and run with it. If, after getting a reprieve, we go on with the same risky habits, the same poor choices, the same bad behavior, we prove only that we are ungrateful for having been spared. We have learned mothering and will eventually get “cut down.” And who can we blame but ourselves? A man who goes back to smoking after a part of his lung is removed is not indulging a pleasure, he is choosing to commit suicide.

**Schedule of Masses**

**Monday, March 25—Annunciation of the Lord**

**10:00 am (Polish/English)**

**+Andrew Blank**

(Margaret & Robert Sernoskie)

**Tuesday, March 26—No Mass—St. Ludger**

**Wednesday, March 27—St. John Damascene**

**6:30 pm Stations of the Cross (Polish)**

**7:00 pm (Polish/English)**

**+Terry Hoffman** (Knights of Columbus 16003)

**+Mary C. Luckasavitch**

(Bernadette Kutchkoskie)

**+Leonard Kuiack** (Andrew & Marlene Shulist)

**Thursday, March 28—St. Guntram**

**9:00 am +Patrick Yaskolskie**

(Boniface & Elaine Pecarski)

**Friday, March 29—St. Gundleus**

*Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament beginning at 3:00 pm*

**6:30 pm Stations of the Cross (English)**

**7:00 pm +Wilfred Stoppa**

(Dennis & Josephine Etmanskie)

**+Larry Lorbetskie** (Matthew & Rachel Cherry)

**+Lolly Shulist** (Shulist Family)

**Saturday, March 30—St. John Climacus**

**5:00 pm +David Brotton**

(Anthony & Patricia Dombroskie)

**Sunday, March 24—4th Sunday of Lent—St. Benjamin**

**11:00 am (Polish/English)**

**For all of our parishioners**

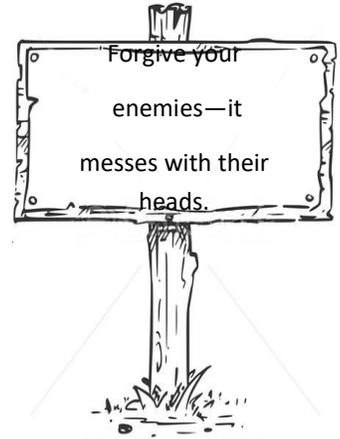
***In your prayers remember:***



- \* Our sick and hospitalized
- \* Our elderly parishioners.
- \* All those at the manor, lodge and homebound.
- \* Our deceased family & friends.

## Ministry Assignments next Sundays

	Sat, Mar 30- 5:00 pm	Sun, Mar 31-11:00 am
<b>Rosary</b>	Rita Coulas	Bronis Lorbetskie Emilia Sadecki
<b>Altar Servers</b>	Sylvester Prince	Janisa Visutskie Aaran Visutskie
<b>Lector</b>	Michael Kosnaski	Michael Dombroskie Catherine Bloskie
<b>Eucharistic Minister</b>	Ed Chippior Terry Burchat	Jerzy Kozicki Zbigniew Mroz
<b>Ushers</b>	Clarence Stamplecoskie Dominic Burchat Xavier Hudder	Michael Coulas Tony Murack Zbigniew Szymkow
<b>Altar Guild</b>	Sat, Mar 30th to Fri, Apr 5th—Lillian Shulist & Julie Burchat	



## Announcements

Please attend our Lenten Season devotions: Stations of the Cross (Polish) on Wed at 6:30 pm followed by Mass (Polish/English), and Stations of the Cross on Fri (English) at 6:30 pm followed by Mass (English). We will also sing the Lamentations following Sunday Mass at 11 am. **Adoration on Fridays** beginning at **3:00 pm**.

The parish has received enough prizes for the Chicken Supper Raffle. A **huge thanks** to those who offered prizes and to Doris Hudder and Lorraine Coulter for their efforts in making this happen. We will try to have tickets ready for Easter.

**The Annunciation of the Lord—Mar 25th.** This is the ancient title for the feast celebrating the Incarnation of the Word. This feast is a joint celebration of Christ and the Blessed Virgin: of the Word who become the Son of Mary and of the virgin who becomes the Mother of God. In the universal Church, this liturgy celebrates the beginning of redemption. It also honours Mary as the 'new Eve', the obedient and faithful woman who generously agrees to be the Mother of God. Mary cooperates freely in the plan on salvation. Please attend Mass on Mon to celebrate this feast.

**Rosary Society meeting on Wed, Mar 27th at 7:30 pm**, after Mass.

New **Ministry list** available at back of church.

A copy of the **weekly Diocesan E-News** will be posted on the bulletin board at the back of the church.

**SHARE YOUR BREAD WITH THE HUNGRY.** We will collect **non-perishable food** items in the Lenten Season to help provide people in need, as our almsgiving. **Please check expiry dates.** Please leave your items in the box provided at the front of the church. Items will be delivered to Madawaska Valley Food Bank on **Wed, Apr 17th**.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.** Groups of 2 ladies/men to join the **altar guild**. One hour/week at your convenience. Involves shaking of ferns, vacuum sanctuary carpets, dust railings; does not include flower arranging. Call Lorraine at 613-756-1571.

The Knights of Columbus are sponsoring a bus to go to the March For Life, **Ottawa, on Thurs, May 9th**, with pick-ups in Barry's Bay, Wilno, and Killaloe. The trip is **FREE. Schedule and details on bulletin board.** There will be a **sign up** sheet at the back of the church on **Mar 30th, Apr 6th and Apr 14th weekends**; or you can call Paul by Apr 15th, to sign up 613-639-2431.

Pamphlets **available** at the back of the church on **Cremation and Funeral Litugies.**

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