



My Dear Parishioners,

Greetings Everyone! Praised be Jesus Christ! We have just passed the half-way point of Lent. As such, we arrive at "Laetare Sunday"—Rejoice Sunday, also known as "Mothering or Refreshment Sunday". All of those names flow from the Entrance Antiphon used at that Sunday Mass which reads: ***"Rejoice, Jerusalem, and all who love her. Be joyful, all who were in mourning; exult and be satisfied at her consoling breast."*** (Isaiah 66:10-11). Whatever the designation, there is a call upon us this week to rejoice not with the short-lived joy experienced in passing happiness, but with the lasting joy of knowing who and whose we are. It's the joy imaged in a little one held in the arms of his/her mom/

dad.

That's the very image proclaimed to us this weekend in the classic parable of the Prodigal Son. As the BIG sinner, the young son, experiences and discovers the even BIGGER embrace of his all-loving Father. That's an image worthy of our mediation this week: Placing oneself in the scene, noticing how that scene is present in our own day.

Its present this week as we rejoice with two of our priests who celebrate birthdays: Fr. McCabe (March 31) and Fr. Connolly (April 1). The image of a mother holding a new-born son, that's Laetare!

It will be present next Sunday at 9AM Mass, as two of our parishioners will be received into full communion with the Catholic Church: John Mucha and Dan Loven. They will be profess the Catholic Faith for the first time, receive Confirmation and First Communion. Mother Church, welcoming and holding her children, that's Laetare!

And it's present this week as we mark the one year anniversary of Deacon Jim Elliott's passing, April 1. Even in this sad remembrance, there is Laetare. Remembering, Entrusting. Knowing and Believing Deacon Jim to be at home, at rest in the Father's Embrace.

My friends, a lot for us to consider in this Fourth Week of Lent. And there is still more to unfold! Next week, a word about the Sacrament of Confession. But for now, in a world that is not at rest, Let's Rejoice in who and whose we are.

Peace,

Fr. Rogers

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**STATIONS OF THE CROSS
FRIDAYS OF LENT
7:00 PM
IN CHURCH**



LENTEN PENANCE SERVICE

**St. Patrick Church
Tuesday, April 12, 2022
7:00 PM**

Additional Opportunities:
Tuesday, April 5, 7:00 PM - St. Gabriel
Wednesday, April 6, 11:00 AM & 7:00 PM -
St. Cornelius

*"A clean heart create for me, God;
renew within me a steadfast spirit." ~ Psalm 51: 12*