

February 5, 2012
Sunday of the Prodigal Son
 Holy Dormition Friary, Sybertsville, PA
 www.hdbfm.com



Rembrandt, The Return of the Prodigal Son
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Divine Liturgy – February 5-12
with special prayers for:

Sun Feb 5	8am	+ John Soltis & + John Skislok
Mon Feb 6	8am	Franciscan Missionary Union <i>for all those enrolled</i>
Tue Feb 9	8am	health of the Repasky family
Wed Feb 10	8am	health of Ed Havrilla Jr
Th & Fri		no Divine Liturgy - pray for vocations
Sat Feb 11	8am	All Souls Liturgy
Sat Feb 11	5pm	+ Connie, Theresa, Chuck Crosley
Sun Feb 12	8am	health of Ed Havrilla Jr

There will be no Divine Liturgies Monday-Friday during the Great Fast (starting February 20). Please join us for the Divine Liturgy of Presanctified Gifts on Wednesdays and Fridays at 5pm.

Verse of the Week

So then, putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors, for we are members of one another.
–Ephesians 4:25

Voice of the Week

Beg our Lord to grant you perfect love for your neighbor... If someone else is well spoken of, be more pleased than if it were yourself; this is easy enough, for if you were really humble, it would vex you to be praised... Force your will, as far as possible, to comply in all things with others' wishes although sometimes you may lose your own rights by doing so. Forget your self-interests for theirs, however much nature may rebel.
–Teresa of Avila

Gospel Reflection Luke 15:11-32

He found himself in dire need. So he hired himself out ... to feed swine.

Who do you turn to when you're in trouble?

When the prodigal son ran out of money, he still relied on himself, whatever job he could get. But nothing he could get on his own was as good as what his father's servants had at home.

It seems so easy. We're told from childhood that the grown up thing is to do it ourselves. So when we slam a hand in the door, we curse and think it starts to feel better.

The hurt hand, the lost job, the betrayals and illnesses are all part of our wandering. We stumble around trying to be independent individuals. Yet Our Father in Heaven is waiting for us to return home.

When we pray for mercy rather than cursing the pain, we turn to the arms of our waiting Father.

—Jerome, ofm

Prayer of the Week

Almighty God, help me to resist temptation this week. Help me to pinpoint divisive activities that get in the way of my walk with you. May my thoughts, words, and actions give glory to you. Amen.

Repentance: To Think Again
Forgiveness Vespers

3pm Sunday February 19

Prepare for the Great Fast. If your parish does not have Forgiveness Vespers, then come to pray with us and practice the reconciliation that we must live every day as we grow in Christ.

Msgr George Appleyard will preach on **Repentance: To Think Again.**

Reception following. If you would like to bring snacks or refreshments, please call 570-788-1212 ext 400. *Let us begin the Great Fast with mercy.*

On Confession & Reconciliation
We Confess to Christ

Why do I have to tell my sins to a priest?

When we go to Confession, we are not speaking only to the priest. In fact, we are confessing our sins to Christ in the presence of the Church. The priest is a witness, in counsel and absolution giving **words of healing mercy.**

Those who follow the Twelve-Step program know the importance of accountability. By coming to Confession, we have an opportunity to be accountable in front of another human being. It's harder to excuse away those things we must face. This is especially important in our struggle against sinful habits.

Thankfully, we do not have to tell the details of every wrong, simply the types of failures and whether each is frequent or rare. Presenting our symptoms to the Divine Physician, the priest (like a pharmacist) prescribes the medicine, which we call penance. ■

**Forming Consciences for Faithful Citizenship:
A Call to Political Responsibility from the
Catholic Bishops of the United States**

(continued from previous weeks)

Human dignity is respected and the common good is fostered only if human rights are protected and basic responsibilities are met. (#49)

Option for the Poor and Vulnerable

50. While the common good embraces all, those who are weak, vulnerable, and most in need deserve preferential concern. A basic moral test for our society is how we treat the most vulnerable in our midst. In a society marred by deepening disparities between rich and poor, Scripture gives us the story of the Last Judgment (see Matthew 25:31-46) and reminds us that we will be judged by our response to the “least among us.” The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* explains:

Those who are oppressed by poverty are the object of a *preferential love* on the part of the Church which, since her origin and in spite of the failings of many of her members, has not ceased to work for their relief, defense, and liberation through numerous works of charity which remain indispensable always and everywhere. (no. 2448)

51. Pope Benedict XVI has taught that “love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and preaching of the Gospel” (*Deus Caritas Est*, 22). This preferential option for the poor and vulnerable includes all who are marginalized in our nation and beyond—unborn children, persons with disabilities, the elderly and terminally ill, and victims of injustice and oppression.

– to be continued

Applying Church Teaching: For Your Reflection

The bishops ask us to bring our Christian values to the ballot box because our religion is not simply a Sunday ritual but is a way of life. Christianity is about acting and deciding in a Christ-like way.

Q: How did a preferential option for the poor affect the way you voted in the last election?

Q: How can our love for "the least among us" change the way we talk about the economy?

Q: Do you think love for the poor and vulnerable can change the way we face crime and safety in our cities?

In the News...from Indianapolis:

A few days ago, the Governor of Indiana signed a law outlawing any contract that requires workers to pay for collective bargaining. Some workers plan to rally, bringing their cause to the Superbowl today in Indianapolis.

What does collective bargaining rights in Indiana have to do with the Superbowl? This is what DeMaurice Smith, Executive Director of the NFL Players' Association, had to say:

“When it comes to issues like right to work legislation, & what we believe is the rightful and important ability to unify for collective action, anywhere there is a fight over that fundamental right to build teams among workers, that’s where we’re going to be. **The lockout taught us an important lesson about our ability to stay together.** While we’re out here, we’re going to make sure the folks who work for a living and unions they belong to know we appreciate them, we appreciate the strength they gave us for our fight.”

The Catholic Church supports the right of people to gather together and negotiate compensation and working conditions. To do this, most people need to hire someone able to read the fine points of contracts: collective bargaining costs money. *Do we really want a nation that discourages cooperation, dividing groups, and working against the common good?*

Football requires that we play as a team, that we are invested in each other. In this way, the game – both on and off the field – is just like real life.

Around the World

Zerqa, Jordan: Doctors at the **Mother of Mercy Clinic** saw 25,224 patients last year, including 4,159 new patients, thanks in part to support from the church-sponsored Catholic Near East Welfare Association. The Clinic specializes in maternal and pediatric medicine and operates a pharmacy that offers medicine at half-cost or for free. For information, contact CNEWA at www.cnewa.us or 1-800-442-6392.

It is only love that makes us acceptable to God.

– Thérèse of Lisieux, Doctor of the Church

PRAYER PUPS BY JEFFREY SMITH



GOD WANTS US TO HELP OTHERS SO WE CAN BE MORE LIKE HIM, NOT FOR "BRAGGING RIGHTS."

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