Bulletin Shorts for Year C – 2022

Sunday Prayer Shaping Life and Belief

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Lent

This Bulletin Shorts Series began in 2016 during the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy. Now, in this seventh year, it still aims to help the faithful and catechumens delve into the Sunday Scriptures and wrestle with Christian life. The hope is to rest more and more in God’s grace and act in more merciful ways. It is a life-long task.

Use these shorts with your diocese, parish, ministry, and friends. Put in the postal and electronic mail, post on the website, print in bulletin or newsletter, and share in other helpful ways. They are a gift. They are also posted on some diocesan worship office web pages. Here are two direct links

* Diocese of Springfield in Illinois: <http://www.dio.org/worship/liturgical-year.html>
* Diocese of Belleville: <https://dps.diobelle.org/dps/worship/seasonal-resources>

**This is my final year for writing these Bulletin Shorts. Seven Years (five in retirement) seem a good sacramental number. It has been a joy. If you or someone you know wants to take up this task, let me know and we can see what the next steps might be.**

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**Corporal Works of Mercy** ♦ Feed the hungry ♦ Give drink to the thirsty ♦ Shelter the homeless ♦ Clothe the naked ♦ Visit the sick ♦ Visit the prisoners ♦ Bury the dead ♦ Give alms to the poor ♦ Care of our Common Home ♦ **Spiritual Works of Mercy** ♦ Counseling the doubtful ♦ Instructing the ignorant ♦ Admonishing the sinner ♦ Comforting the sorrowful ♦ Forgiving injuries ♦ Bearing wrongs patiently ♦ Praying for the living and the dead ♦ Caring for our Common Home ♦

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| Bulletin Shorts for Lent in Year C – 2022 |

**Ash Wednesday – 02 March 2022**

Joel 2:12-18. Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6ab, 12-13, 14 and 17. 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:2. Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18.

**Reflecting on Ashes.** Ashes are a visible sign, an outward one of grace, reflecting inner realities. In the words of the Bible readings, they show a “return to the Lord” (Joel), they plead “not to receive the grace of God in vain” (2 Corinthians), and they instruct “when you pray, go to your inner room” and when out and about “do not look gloomy” (Matthew). This Lent (an Old English word meaning “springtime”), let us bear our ashes one day and spend the rest of these days praying and doing without fanfare.

* How will this Lent keep me humble?

**First Sunday of Lent – 06 March 2022**

Deuteronomy 26:4-10. Psalm 91:1-2, 10-11, 12-13, 14-15. Romans 10:8-13. Luke 4:1-13.

**Reflecting on Baptism and Temptations.** Luke’s gospel recounts that Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit at Jordan’s baptism, is led by that same Spirit into the desert – a place for reflection and prayer. And hunger. And temptations by *diabolos*, the false accuser. What happens? Strengthened by baptism at which he is called “beloved”, temptations are resisted – not easily, but resisted nonetheless. Food for our thoughtful reflections this Lent.

* How does my Baptism strengthen me for Christian living?
* How can I face temptations of eating, of power, of vain glory this Lent?
* How will I pray for and support the elect throughout the diocese called this day to Baptism-Confirmation-Eucharist at the coming Easter Vigil?

NN [list names] are the elect from our parish.

**Second Sunday of Lent – 13 March 2022**

Genesis 15:5-12, 17-18. Psalm 27:1, 7-8, 8-9, 13-14. Philippians 3:17–4:1. Luke 9:28b-36.

**Reflecting on Transfiguration.** Lent is not an end. It is a necessary transition, as it is every year, to the glory of life in Christ – in which we already share in some incomplete way. These dazzling white clothes of Jesus recall our own baptismal garments in which we were clothed in him. They remind us to imitate him in all we think and do and say.

* How does the glory of Christ dazzle me to reflect on \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* How does my Baptism strengthen me to do \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* To use Saint Paul’s words, how will I stand firm in the Lord?

**Saint Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Solemnity – Saturday, 19 March 2022**

2 Samuel 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16. Psalm 89:2-3, 4-5, 27, 29. Romans 4:13, 16-18, 22. Matthew 1:16, 18-21, 24a OR Luke 2:41-51a.

**Reflecting on a Saintly Step-Father.** Saint Joseph speaks no words in the gospels. He dreams, however, and trusts enough to do as he is told. He also looks after and looks for his child.

* Will I do what I am told? What is it? Am I quite enough to listen?

PRINTING NOTE: Check with the pastor or pastoral administrator about which readings will be used for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent in order to choose the appropriate bulletin shorts.

**♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ The Readings of Year A ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦**

When we celebrate the three scrutinies with the elect, the Church requires we use the Lectionary Year A readings. These ancient biblical texts – Woman at the Well, Man Born Blind, and Raising of Lazarus – are so apt for our Christian formation, they can be used every Lent, replacing the Year B and Year C texts even if the scrutinies are not celebrated.

**About Scrutinies.** We celebrate three rites of scrutiny with the elect in the midst of Lent on the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays to uncover and then heal what is sinful and wrong. As we strengthen them, we look within ourselves, within the Church, and into the world for the same uncovering and healing.

**Third Sunday of Lent – 20 March 2022**

Year A readings**:** Exodus 17:3-7. Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9. Romans 5:1-2, 5-8. John 4:5-42.

**Reflecting on Water.** Water, water, everywhere. Water in the Exodus through the sea and flowing from the rock in Horeb. Water in Jacob’s well. Living water is found only in Jesus, becoming a spring of eternal life.

* In preparing to renew baptismal promises this Easter, how will my figuratively drinking at the well of Baptism today nourish my Christian life?
* Each time I dip my fingers in the font, I will pray for \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_?
* When the First Scrutiny is celebrated with the elect this Sunday, how will I also shun with them all that is wrong in our lives, in the Church, and in our world?

**The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity – Friday, 25 March 2022**

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10. Psalm 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11. Hebrews 10:4-10. Luke 1:26-38.

**Reflecting on Speaking Angels.** This angel speaks to Mary, not in a dream, but in person. What a conversation Gabriel and Mary have! And what faith and action results.

* How am I listening for God and what will I do because of the resulting conversation?

**Fourth Sunday of Lent – 27 March 2022**

Year A readings**:** 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a. Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6. Ephesians 5:8-14. John 9:1-41.

**Reflecting on Seeing.** Since Jesus is the light of the world (look to the Easter candle), there is no room for darkness in this Reign of God. The healing of the man blind from birth clearly illustrates this for, while sightless, he does as he is told and has insight into God’s activity in life. He “sees” even before he sees.

* What darkness is in need of Christ’s light?
* What will I do, at Jesus’ request, to see and live the Christian life more clearly?
* How will my lenten activity give light and insight to the elect preparing for Baptism-Confirmation-Eucharist this Easter?

**Fifth Sunday of Lent – 03 April 2022**

Year A readings**:** Ezekiel 37:12-14. Psalm 130:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 7-8. Romans 8:8-11. John 11:1-45.

**Reflecting on Empty Tombs.** Lazarus is dead. At Jesus’ command, however, he walks out of the burial place. Today we hear of open graves and empty tombs. This is an image of the end of the world when we will live for ever with God. Jesus says so today, and, later in Easter, says it again when he himself is raised from death.

* For whom among the dead and dying will I pray?
* What is the implication of now filled graves that will one day be empty?
* How will my prayer and activity support the elect preparing to enter the tomb of Baptism this Easter?

**♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ The Readings for Year C ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦ ♦♦♦**

When the scrutinies are not celebrated with the elect, the Lectionary readings for the Third, Fourth, and Fifth Sundays of Lent in Year C, though not required, may be used. The Year A readings, however, may always be used in every year on these Sundays.

**Third Sunday of Lent – 20 March 2022**

Year C readings**:** Exodus 3:1-8a, 13-15. Psalm 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11. 1 Corinthians 10:1-6, 10-12. Luke 13:1-9.

**Reflecting on a Tree and a Bush.** In Luke’s parable, the gardener wants to give the unproductive fig tree a second chance. Here is an image of God’s tending to all of us – always wanting the opportunity for second (and third and fourth and…) chances. In the Exodus account, God, in an unconsumed burning bush, speaks to Moses. Both vineyard and Horeb are holy ground, places for God’s saving activity.

* How will I work the holy ground of my life this week, this Lent?
* What fruit will my life bear?
* How will I listen and respond to what God calls out to me?

**The Annunciation of the Lord, Solemnity – Friday, 25 March 2022**

Isaiah 7:10-14; 8:10. Psalm 40:7-8, 8-9, 10, 11. Hebrews 10:4-10. Luke 1:26-38.

**Reflecting on Speaking Angels.** This angel speaks to Mary, not in a dream, but in person. What a conversation Gabriel and Mary have! And what faith and action results.

* How am I listening for God and what will I do because of the resulting conversation?

**Fourth Sunday of Lent – 27 March 2022**

Year C readings**:** Joshua 5:9a, 10-12. Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7. 2 Corinthians 5:17-21. Luke 15:1-3, 11-32.

**Reflecting on a Spendthrift Father.** We know this story by heart. A greedy son, an extravagant father, a big party, and an indignant second son. The first son comes to his senses. The father never loses his senses. The second son, after grumbling, remains a mystery.

* How do I, like the first son, come to my senses about God’s perpetual love and care for me?
* How is God, like the spendthrift father, extravagant with me?
* How will I be generous to others? Works of Mercy may be a place to start.

**Fifth Sunday of Lent – 03 April 2022**

Year C readings**:** Isaiah 43:16-21. Psalm 126:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 6. Philippians 3:8-14. John 8:1-11.

**Reflecting on Shameful Acts.** She is caught in adultery. They drag her before Jesus and the crowd, more to trip him up than mete out the law. What does Jesus do? He asks, who is without sin? A great lenten question.

* What stone will I put down and not pound against someone else?
* What sin will I admit and find a way to resolve it?
* Because of God’s mercy to me, what mercy work will I do for another?

**Palm Sunday of the Lord’s Passion – 10 April 2022**

Procession: Luke 19:28-40.

Mass: Isaiah 50:4-7. Psalm 22:8-9, 17-18, 19-20, 23-24. Philippians 2:6-11. Luke 22:14–23:56.

**Reflecting on the Procession.** We read and hear the Passion Gospel today. But first, at the procession, when we bless palms, we hear what precedes it. There is a colt, there are cloaks spread on the road, there are shouts: “Blessed is the king”…”Peace in heaven.”

* What cloak will I spread before Jesus to make it easy for him to come to me?
* So that stones do not cry out, what will I proclaim about Jesus Christ?
* How will I clear my calendar so I can come to my parish church for all the celebrations of the Easter Triduum?

Evening Mass of the Lord’s Supper, Holy Thursday, 14 April at 0:00 pm.

Celebration of the Lord’s Passion, Good Friday, 15 April at 0:00 pm.

Preparation Rites on Holy Saturday with the Elect, 16 April at 0:00 am.

Easter Vigil during the Night, 16 April at 0:00 pm.

Easter Sunday during the Day, 17 April at 0:00 and 0:00 am.