

CHRIST THE KING

BENTON, PENNSYLVANIA

FEBRUARY 11, 2024

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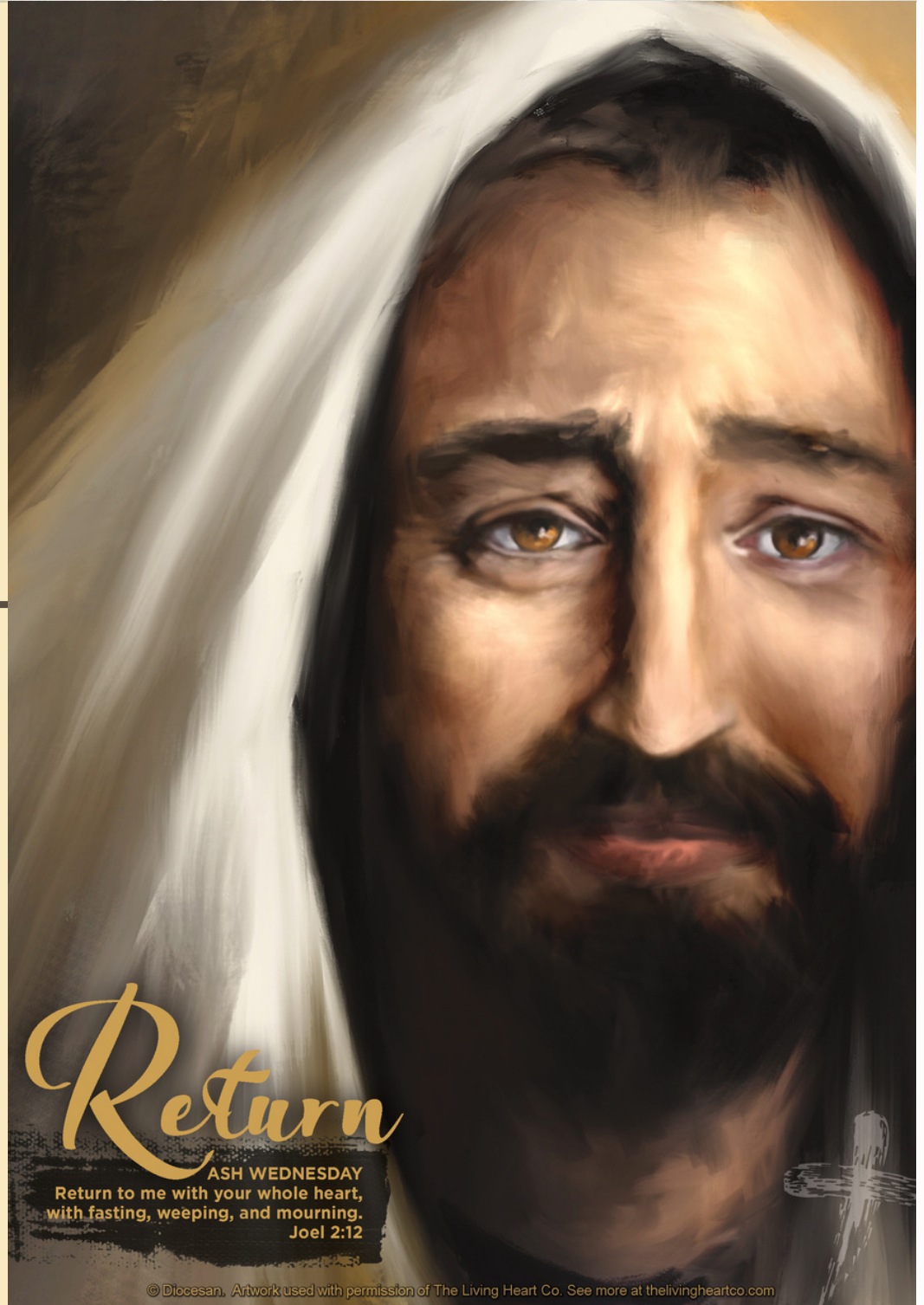
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Return

ASH WEDNESDAY
Return to me with your whole heart,
with fasting, weeping, and mourning.
Joel 2:12

STRATEGY TAKES COURAGE

Below is a thought provoking article by Pat Lencioni. Pat is one of the founders of The Table Group and a ministry called "Amazing Parish". He is also the author of 13 books.

One of the biggest differences between leading a parish during the age of Christendom vs. Apostolic Mission is strategy. In the old days of **Christendom, parishes were largely the same, operating like franchises providing the same menu of services to people in their neighborhood. What was most important, it seemed, was providing all of the standard offerings of a parish. Not providing something that the parish in the next neighborhood provided could be a point of embarrassment in the deanery or diocese.**

Frankly, that was never a good approach, as it inadvertently made parishes seem somewhat generic and often mediocre. As Christendom has faded and society has become more and more agnostic – and in some cases and places downright hostile to Jesus – a new approach to how we see our parishes is necessary. But it is difficult for many pastors, parish leaders, and even pew-sitting Catholics to embrace. Let's call that approach Strategic Differentiation.

What I mean is that every parish needs to boldly become exactly what the people around them need in order to know and love God. Outside of the Mass and the Sacraments themselves – which are preeminent, of course – parishes need to see themselves as entrepreneurial restaurants, if you will, rather than generic franchises. They need to design their menus and their offerings specifically to maximize the impact they can have on their little part of the world, rather than on a singular, common, and generic model. Why is this so difficult?

Because **it requires courage** – the courage to disappoint some people who are locked into the Christendom model and don't yet understand the shift toward apostolic mission. These people are so often seen as the heart of our parishes, when in reality they may be the anchors that keep our ships from moving forward. It's not that they need to be rejected or cast aside, but rather taught to become missionaries rather than customers.

I recently worked with a parish that has gone through a significant shift in the past five years. Because of Covid, demographic changes, tired leadership, and macro-cultural changes, they are left with barely more than one third of their previous congregation. The staff is determined to revitalize the parish, but their first inclination was to do so by reinvesting in all the ministries they were doing five years ago. That is a common response to challenges within parishes – go back and make it like it was before. But the times have changed, society has changed, and the way the Church brings Jesus to the world has to change, too. Frankly, we, as a Church, needed to do this thirty years ago, but sometimes we don't embrace change until our situation is so dire that we are forced to.

The new pastor of the parish, and his team, are going to change the way they go about revitalization in profound ways. The first step is pruning. Aggressively, but respectfully, putting an end to ministries that were not bearing fruit, is a requirement.

With a limited staff and limited budget – which is the reality for 99% of the organizations in the world – it has to stop spreading its time, energy, and money across everything it had been doing for decades. That sounds logical, but when it comes to actually making those decisions, it is always harder than it seems. Too often, we pick one or two fledgling ministries to end, which doesn't really address the problem in a meaningful way.

For this particular parish, they may need to stop doing Confirmation altogether for young people. Wait a second. Confirmation is a Sacrament. How can they stop doing it? Well, they have less than 10 young people going through confirmation, and yet they have a staff member that spends A LOT of time doing that. There are two parishes near them that have vibrant Confirmation programs. And get this. One of them is now their "sister parish," run by the same pastor that is now overseeing theirs! It makes perfect sense to have those handful of students take part in a program nearby – it's very close – leveraging the resources and programs and fellowship in that program. It seems like a no-brainer, right? But it's hard, because the wonderful person who runs Confirmation at the declining parish might very well feel a deep sense of loss. And in the old world where every parish was generic, that was the unfortunate reality.

Of course, the better way to look at this is to ask that person, "What else could you be doing to bring people in this parish to Jesus if you weren't doing Confirmation? How could we use your time, energy, and salary in a way that produces real fruit?" And in the vast majority of situations, there are plenty of opportunities. Even if there aren't, that is not a good reason to continue spending money on programs and salaries that don't bear fruit. After all, parishes are not jobs programs, but rather outposts of the Great Commission...

To bring Jesus and His Church to a people who is increasingly lost and desperate for His grace and truth, **we need to be bold, courageous, and strategic. We need to take risks. And for those who understandably ask, "But what about the collections and the financial stability of that declining parish?", the answer is clear. God will provide. He always has. His mission has never been about lining up all the financial resources and risk-free plans before embarking on our mission.**

For those who want more concrete assurance, I would say that the parish needs to go to the surrounding parishes and ask for their help. Explain that you are going to be sending some people to their parishes for ministries that they are more capable of providing, but they want to help those parishes by serving their parishioners who work in their area...

I suppose the real approach for this parish, and for every parish in the age of Apostolic Mission, is **to be part of the larger Church first. For faithful pastors and their teams, this requires looking out toward the world and strategically providing what it needs, rather than inward at the rectory or the parking lot, and carefully protecting what we have.** As obvious as this sounds, and as undeniable as the current situation is, it is only with great courage and trust in God that we will be able to make the change.

**STEWARDSHIP
FEBRUARY 4**

Offering	\$1957.00
Rainy Day	\$25.00
Propagation of Faith	\$305.00
St. Nick	\$125.00
Total	\$2412.00

HALLOW APP

JOIN THE LENT PRAY4O CHALLENGE

Dive deeper into prayer this Lent with **Hallow**, a Catholic prayer and meditation app that helps us all find peace in God. Free to the Parishioners of Christ the King along with your friends/family.

If you have questions see Ken Houck or call him at 570-951-2608

In Your Prayers, Please Remember:

Intentions of the Holy Father,

All Priests including:

Fr. Mowery
Fr. St. Hilaire
Fr. Sola

Michael Bardi
Maureen Beck
Lorena Bennet
Sue Berger
Christina Capriola
Russell Castrogiovanni
Cobert Family
Ryan Dell
Anne Eustice
Chris Ertwine
Farwell Family
Vivian Whitenight Hynick
Bob Kalie
Margaret Kalie
Austin Kelsey
Joseph LaBonte
Mary Ann Levan
Mary Ellen Neal
Dorothy O'Handley
Nancy Oman
Rich Scavone
Jackie Scherer
Judy Serra
Mark & Patricia Sullivan
Sharon Tishler
Lena Tunaitis
Verbyla Family
Mike Vertucci
Marisa & Ted Whitenight
Nancy Wisbar
Sonny Womelsdorf
Mary Ann Zevency



Mass Intentions

Saturday, February 10

Gracie Kozak & Raymond DuFresne
by Mark & Kathy Kozak

Sunday, February 11

Chandra Dzoch, OCDS by 3rd Order Carmelites

Monday, February 12

People of the Parish

Wednesday, February 14

People of the Parish

Friday, February 16

Luke Verbyla by Lee Ann & Joe Boiwka

Saturday, February 17

People of the Parish

Sunday, February 18

Justin Kozak by Lee Ann & Joe Boiwka

Mass intentions are available in memory of, or in honor of a loved one. The donation for having a Mass said for a personal request is \$10.00. You can drop your request in the collection or contact the parish office.

LITURGICAL ROLES

Lector

Feb 11 - Paul Haden
Feb 18 - Barb Treier

Extraordinary Minister

Feb 11 - Stephen Root
Feb 18 - Lee Ann Boiwka

Collection Stewards

Feb 11 - Patricia Sullivan & Gloria Hess
Feb 18 - Lee Ann Boiwka & Sharon Tishler

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Do everything for the glory of God.

Do everything for the glory of God. Paul's words are both commanding and encouraging. As Christians, whatever we do ought to reflect who we are: children of the Most High God, adopted sons and daughters of the Lord. We are sisters and brothers of Christ, and our very identity should permeate all we say and do. We are encouraged in this endeavor, and aided by grace, so that we can glorify God for his sake, and for the sake of the world's salvation.

The first reading regulates procedures for dealing with people with skin disease. They are denounced unclean and must live alone. Paul calls the Corinthians to give glory to God in everything they do. In the Gospel, Jesus is moved with pity for a man with leprosy. Jesus touches the man, and he is made clean.

REPORT CHILD ABUSE

To report suspected abuse of a minor by a church official, employee or volunteer, please call the Diocese of Harrisburg Youth Protection Hotline: 1-800-626-1608 or email: ReportAbuse@hbgdiocese.org.

Whenever someone reports suspected sexual abuse of a minor to the Diocese, whether a recent or past occurrence, the Diocese will act quickly and decisively in justice for all concerned and in complete compliance with both canon and civil law.

To report suspected abuse of a minor, call the toll free PA Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-932-0313 or <https://www.compass.state.pa.us/cwis/public/home>.



CYE News

MARDI GRAS is Feb 11th - Our CYE fundraiser and super fun special event.

PLEASE join us for lunch to celebrate the event and socialize with adults and children alike. A win win for ALL!!!!!!

MEN'S CONFERENCE - APRIL 20 7:30 A.M. - 3:30 P.M. DIOCESAN CENTER

The 2024 theme is "St. Joseph: The Carpenter's Table."

Keynote Speaker is Jon Leonetti.
Breakout - Rev. Joshua Cavender &
Deacon Armando Torres

To learn more and to register: www.hbgdiocese.org/men.

UNBORN CANDLE DONATIONS

\$3.00/ week,
\$5.00/ 2 weeks or
\$10.00/ month
Month of February - Richard & Tamara Lindner

BENTON FOOD BANK

For the month of January - February we will be collecting tissues due by February 18th . The Food Bank at the N4C's is the 3rd Tuesday of every month.

WE ARE COLLECTING THE FOLLOWING

Aluminum tabs - supporting the Ronald McDonald House in Danville

Fronts of recycled cards - Supporting St. Jude's Ranch for children and young adults - providing them with life and work skills

Used postage stamps - Program called Stamps for the Wounded (they do not accept the flag stamps)

You can put these items in containers on the table at the entrance of the church. Thank you!

98TH ANNUAL CONVENTION

BE STILL & LISTEN

Annie McHugh's love for Christ and the Catholic faith has led her to work for the Church as a parish youth minister and for the Domestic Church. Annie and her husband Mike work in youth ministry at two parishes, run the Rockville Catholic Summer Program, and give talks about life and love through their family ministry, "Mike and Annie Talk."

Save the date:

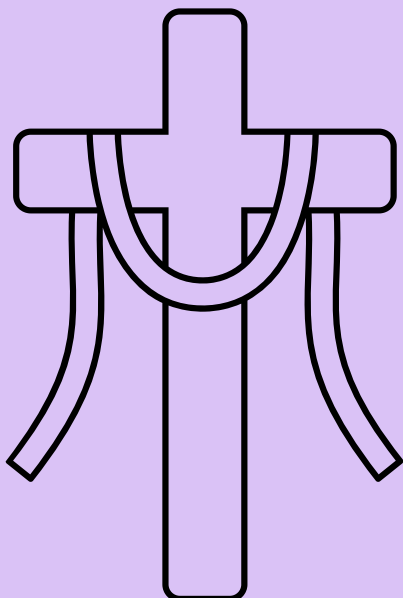
Saturday, April 6, 2024
at the Roman Catholic Diocesan Center, Harrisburg, PA.

Registration and continental breakfast begin at 8:00 am with closing prayer at 2:30 pm.

For more information about the convention visit <https://hdccw.webs.com/hdcccw-convention>

"Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him..."
Psalm 37:7

ASH WEDNESDAY & LENT



**ASH WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH - 9:00 A.M. MASS AT CTK
(ST. COLUMBA MASS TIMES - 6.30 & 8:30 A.M. & 7:00 P.M.)**

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

**BEGINNING FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH AND EVERY
FRIDAY THROUGH LENT
MASS AT 6:00 P.M. WITH STATIONS TO FOLLOW AT 6:30**

2024 BENTON COUNCIL OF CHURCHES LENTEN SERVICES

<u>DATE</u>	<u>THEME</u>	<u>LOCATION</u>
2/18/24	PROBATION WILDERNESS, FASTING & TESTING	ASSEMBLY OF GOD
2/25/24	PERSECUTION HEROD & JERUSALEM, PURSUE THE PROPHET	ST. GABRIEL CHURCH
3/3/24	PENITENCE THE PURSUIT OF REPENTANCE: PILATE, PILLARS & FIGS	BENTON CHRISTIAN
3/10/24	PRODIGIOUS WELCOME & DINE WITH SINNERS	CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
3/17/24	PERFUME MARY'S COSTLY PERFUME	UMC WALLER

**** February 18th Christ the King Choir, March 10th Christ the King is the Host, and on March 17th Father Andrew St. Hilaire is the Speaker****