



**BLD Trenton**



## This Sunday's *Counsel*

# Community News

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<http://bldtrenton.com>

March 18, 2022

### THEME:

Our faith in Jesus, God's chosen Son, leads us to repentance and fruitfulness.

### PROMISE:

*"He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion."* (Ps 103:4)

### WORD:

Ex 3:1-8a/ Ps 103:1-2, 3-4, 6-7, 8, 11/  
1 Cor 10:1-6, 10-12/  
Lk 13:1-9

### ORDERS:

- *Repent.* (Lk 13:3)
- *Bear fruit.* (Lk 13:9)

### DIRECTIONS:

- Recognize our sins, be remorseful, reconcile, confess our sins and forgive.
- Live the Word of God through prayers, fasting, almsgiving and service.
- Be faithful in receiving the Holy Eucharist and the sacrament of reconciliation.

## Uncompromising But Patient

### REFLECTION:

Lent is the season when we commemorate the passion, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ, for the salvation of man. It is a manifestation of God's great love to fulfill His promised redemption of mankind. We are there-



fore exhorted to make Christ's death on the cross meaningful in our life, to be constantly aware that we are the beneficiaries of His great sacrifice.

The saving power of Christ's death on the cross has purified us from all our iniquities and transgressions, and we have to persevere in our Christian faith to preserve a state of grace within us. We have to sustain a conscious effort to nurture our spirit and courageously preserve the purity of our heart as we are constantly imperiled by worldly temptations in our daily life. A weak spirit is prone to yield to tests that leads to sin. When overcome by sinfulness, we are hindered from having a joyful and inspired spirit which makes it difficult for us to be fruitful wit-

nesses of Christ's mercy and compassion. We are also drawn away from the loving presence of God.

Jesus commands us to repent and He tells us as well the consequence if we do not (cf Lk 13:3, 5). As we yield to His command, we be-

come reconciled with Him through the Sacrament of Penance, in sincerely confessing our sins to the priest. True repentance is to completely surrender ourselves from our wrongdoing, change our mind and heart, and turn away from everything that displeases God, through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. *"If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness,"* (1 Jn 1:9). We are enjoined to go to confession and receive the Sacrament regularly, to guard our heart and remain steadfast in fulfilling our obligations as faithful disciples.

While Jesus is uncompromising in His command to repent, in the parable of the

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### Tending the Flock

## Please Don't Cut It Down

The Lord also has something very fitting to say about a fruitless tree, *"Look, it is now three years that I have been coming to it. Finding no fruit on it, I will cut it down, to stop it blocking up my field."* The gardener intercedes... This tree is the human race. The Lord visited this tree in the time of the patriarchs, as if for the first year. He visited it in the time of the law and the prophets, as if for the second year. Here we are now; with the gospel the third year has dawned. Now it is as though it should have been cut down, but the merciful one intercedes with the merciful one. He wanted to show how merciful he was, and so he stood up to himself with a plea for mercy. *"Let us leave it,"* he says, *"this year too. Let us dig a ditch around it."* Manure is a sign of humility. *"Let us apply a load of manure; perhaps it may bear fruit."* Since it does bear fruit in one part, and in another part does not bear fruit, its Lord will come and divide it. What does that mean, *"divide it"*? There are good people and bad people now in one company, as though constituting one body.

*~ Augustine of Hippo, 354-430 A.D.*

## Last Week's Prophecies

- *"My child, open your heart each day to see the beauty of my blessings and grace."*
- *"My children, schedule a daily talk with Me and I promise you that you will have your own transfiguration experience. You will surely feel My presence in your lives."*
- *"I have spoken, you have listened. Now, obey and follow. I love you, I will always be with you."*

### Online Giving

You can now send your tithes and love offerings via **Paypal**.  
Donate link can be found at  
[www.bldtrenton.com](http://www.bldtrenton.com)

Or mail check to:  
BLD Trenton Foundation, Inc.  
P.O. Box 1367  
Toms River, NJ 08754

### The Lord's Provision

**March 4, 2022**

Tithe : \$ 345.00  
Love Offer : \$ 138.00

*Thank you for  
your generosity!!!*

### God's Blessings

#### Birthday

Ron King	3/18	Bob Academia	3/22
Lucy Mecnas	3/18	Ryan Retirado	3/22
Dan Wong	3/18	Jun Fincalero	3/23
Trisha Arriola	3/20	Hannah Hernandez	3/23
Ginelle Lamela	3/23		

*Kind and merciful Lord,  
pardon all my iniquities and heal  
me of all my ills.*

### Who Are You Gonna Call (or Text)?

For Mama Mary's visit - Beth Felibrico 732-995-7407  
For Prayer Service - Bert & Cora Velez 732-688-1541

### Reaching Out

Lent is a favorable time to seek out – and not to avoid – those in need; to reach out – and not to ignore – those who need a sympathetic ear and a good word; to visit – and not to abandon – those who are lonely. Let us put into practice our call to do good to all, and take time to love the poor and needy, those abandoned and rejected, those discriminated against and marginalized.

*~ Pope Francis*

### A Christian Prayer for Peace in Our Time

O God, author and giver of peace,  
in whose image and likeness each of us has been created  
with a human dignity worthy of respect on earth  
and destined for eternal glory,  
Listen to the cry that rises from every corner of this fragile earth,  
from our human family torn by violent conflict:

Give peace in our time, O good and gracious God,  
that peace which, as your son Jesus Christ told us  
and as we have experienced in these days,  
is a peace which the world cannot give.

To world leaders, grant the wisdom  
to see beyond the boundaries of race, religion, and nation  
to that common humanity that makes us all your children  
and brothers and sisters to one another.

To those who have taken up arms in anger or revenge  
or even in the cause of justice,  
grant the grace of conversion to the path of peaceful dialogue  
and constructive collaboration.

To the innocent who live in the shadow of war and terror,  
especially the frightened children,  
be a shelter and strength, their haven and hope.

And to those who have already lost their lives  
as victims of human cruelty and chemical warfare,  
open wide your arms and enfold them all  
in the embrace of your compassion, healing, and everlasting life.

Grant this through Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord.  
Mary, Mother of all and Queen of peace, pray for us.  
Our Father...  
3 Hail Marys...



*What is God's plan in our  
married life?*



### An Invitation to a MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER WEEKEND

Ave Maria Retreat House  
The National Shrine of Our Lady of  
Czestochowa  
654 Ferry Road Doylestown, PA 18901

**May 20-22, 2022**

Registration starts at 8pm Friday

Deadline of Application: May 1, 2022

Contact:  
German/Letty Butay 732 8875298  
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barren fig tree, He demonstrates patience, kindness, mercy and hope by giving us all the opportunities to reform and be transformed. Although it is within God's power to punish us for our failures, He patiently waits for us to realize our mistakes, be remorseful and become spiritually fruitful again. He gives us chances upon chances to be redeemed from our sinfulness and to turn back to

Him.

As we are cleansed from spiritual impurities, God allows us to be fruitful by His grace, and then we can start to cultivate righteousness in our life. The Lord wants to empower us in our talents and abilities so that we would bear fruit to win hearts for His kingdom. Lent is a time to let God nourish our souls through confession, prayer, Scripture reading

and serving our brothers and sisters. When we allow Jesus to fully live in us and love us, our lives become more and more fruitful. Let us heed the command of Jesus to repent of our sins as we seek our nourishment from God to regain our spiritual worthiness, keeping in mind His promise that, *"He redeems your life from destruction, crowns you with kindness and compassion,"* (Ps 103:4).

*Adapted from [www.bldworld.org](http://www.bldworld.org)*