

Second Sunday of Lent

February 25, 2018



Tough Decisions Need Prayer

If I were ask how many people in church this morning have had to make important decisions, and I mean hard life-changing decisions, my guess is that every adult in church today has faced that kind of a decision. We have probably all come to that fork in the road and had to decide – do I go right or go left.

Today's Gospel is a turning point in Jesus' life. Remember that he has been making his way around the country preaching and teaching in marketplaces and on hillsides. Like ourselves, when we have been working hard for a long time, Jesus desperately needed a break. He was drained of energy – so he decides to go up the mountain to pray. Prayer helped the Lord recharge his batteries.

Jesus is also facing a decision – and a very important one: to leave Galilee and make his way to Jerusalem or stay in Galilee. Opposition to him is growing stronger. He knows it will intensify if he goes to the capital, and he knows what will happen when he gets there.

Jesus has come to that fork in the road, and so he once again goes apart to pray, to speak with His Father. Jesus makes no important decision without prayer.

What does he decide? To go to Jerusalem and all that that meant. To do what His Father had sent him to do. He finally and fully understood and accepted the mission his Father had given him and where it would take him and what it would mean. It would be his final trip to his nation's capital. The place where he would suffer, die and rise again on the third day.

As we make our way through Lent, and think about today's Gospel, we may be feeling as tired as our Lord felt – drained of energy by the pace of our own lives. We may need to recharge our own batteries. Let's think of our Mass this morning as that opportunity.

Like the Lord, we may be facing a tough decision right now in our own lives. Maybe we are at another fork in the road of life. Maybe we're facing a difficult choice, a hard choice, a life-changing decision. If we are, we realize that we have something in common with our Lord in today's Gospel.

Let's follow his good example and take whatever it is to prayer.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz".

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 26

Dn 9:4b-10/Lk 6:36-38

7:00 AM John Henwood

12:00 PM Rachel Curcio

TUESDAY, February 27

Is 1:10, 16-20/Mt 23:1-12

7:00 AM John Wagner

12:00 PM Vincent J. Lewis

WEDNESDAY, February 28

Jer 18:18-20/Mt 20:17-28

7:00 AM Felton J. Kapel

12:00 PM Elsie Bartolucci

THURSDAY, March 1

Jer 17:5-10/Lk 16:19-31

7:00 AM Josephine Connelly

12:00 PM Helen Redmond

FRIDAY, March 2

Gn 37:3-4, 12-13a, 17b-28a/Mt 21:33-43, 45-46

7:00 AM Margaret Johnson

9:00 AM Mary Jo Calamai

12:00 PM Donald Gels

SATURDAY, March 3

Mi 7:14-15, 18-20/Lk 15:1-3, 11-32

8:00 AM H. Rico Casavecchia

4:30 PM Laura Sierpina

SUNDAY, March 4

Ex 20:1-17 or 20:1-3, 7-8, 12-17/1 Cor 1:22-25/Jn

2:13-25 or, for Year A,

Ex 17:3-7/Rom 5:1-2, 5-8/Jn 4:5-42 or 4:5-15, 19b-26, 39a, 40-42

Church

7:30 AM Dina Casavecchia

9:15 AM David Lavatori

11:15 AM Angelo and Paula Debono

Hall

10:30 AM Helen Noonan

12:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

5:00 PM Bill Pitcher



PRE-BAPTISM CLASS

Pre-Baptism instruction is required for parents who have not had any within five years and wish to have their child baptized. Our next class will be held on Wednesday,

March 14th from 7:30-8:30 pm in the Barn. Please call our Parish Office to register.

Mass Intentions for Feb 2019 will be available at the Parish Office starting Thursday, March 1, 2018.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

February 18, 2018	\$19,086	\$157,429
February 19, 2017	\$21,947	\$156,336

Hospitality House

2018	\$4,500
2017	\$6,458

Ash Wednesday

2018	\$4,959
2017	\$5,818

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Olivia Avate, Mike DeSerio, Margaret Hughes, Lee & Scott McCoy, Jennie Palmieri and Jane Ventrella:**

For the sake of privacy, only immediate family members may add someone to our prayer list. Individuals will be removed monthly unless we are otherwise notified.



Candle Intentions



A Church Altar Candle

is Burning in Loving Memory of John Ferraris



STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross will be prayed in our Church every Friday at 12:30pm as well as 7:30pm during Lent. (Good Friday at 12pm.)

MEATLESS LENTEN FRIDAYS

All Fridays of Lent are days of abstinence from meat for all those who are 14 and over.

LOAVES AND FISHES

"Loaves and Fishes" is a Lenten Campaign to help feed the hungry of Fairfield County. We encourage you to put aside the cost of one meal per week and enclose it in the "Loaves and Fishes" envelope for the poor in our area. Envelopes are available at the Church and Parish Hall entrances and at our Parish Office.

LENTEN FISH FRY DINNER!

Friday, March 16



Religious Education



IMPORTANT DATES:

Confirmation Candidate & Sponsor
 2nd Grade Reconciliation Retreat, 2/26
 Hall 4:30-6:00
 2nd Grade Reconciliation Retreat 3/1
 Hall 4:30-6:00

Confirmation Retreat Fri March 2nd at 4:00-10:00 Hall
 Reconciliation Ceremony March 8th (6:00 pm) Church
 Reconciliation Ceremony March 9th (6:00pm) Church
 Reconciliation Ceremony March 10th (10:00) Church

RESPECT LIFE COMMITTEE

Each child is sent into the world by God with a unique message to deliver, a new song to sing, and a personal act of love to bestow. *Please join us for our next Respect Life meeting Thursday, March 1st at 10am in the Day Chapel.*



DEFENDING OUR RELIGIOUS LIBERTY

“Religious freedom is not only that of private thought or worship. It is the liberty to live, both privately and publicly according to the ethical principles resulting from found truth,” says Pope Francis. This is why it is important that our lawmakers protect the rights of the Church and its ministries and organizations when overhauling the current healthcare mandate.

SAVE THE DATE

Movie Night & Mac ‘n’ Cheese Pot Luck
 Saturday, March 10th in our Parish Hall.
 Movie: Facing the Giants.

Divorce & Separation Support Group meets Sundays at 7:30pm in the Barn, next to our Church. No meeting 4/1. All faiths welcome!

Religious Ed Administrative Assistant. Full time. Some evenings and Sundays required. Email Pat Postiglione, ppostiglione@smcr.org.



20th ANNIVERSARY



Saint Mary School
 RIDGEFIELD

National Geographic Geography Bee

The National Geographic Bee is an annual competition organized by the National Geographic Society, designed to inspire and reward students' curiosity about the world. Students in grades four through eight (4-8) from 10,000 schools across the United States will compete in the 2018 National Geographic Bee for a chance to win college scholarships and the glory of being the National Geographic Bee Champion. Saint Mary students in Grades 4-8 competed. Congratulations to Grade 7 student Michaela Martin, who was the Saint Mary Winner, and Grade 4 student Sean Khanna, who came in second place. Michaela will now take an assessment to see if she will move on to the Connecticut State Geography Bee.

Saint Mary School is currently enrolling students in select grades of Preschool through Grade 8 for the 2017-2018 school year, as well as accepting applications for the 2018-2019 school year. For more information, or to set up a tour, please contact Anna O'Rourke at (203) 438-7288, or visit www.smsridgefield.org.

FAITH FORMATION CORNER



Prayer & Temptation

How often the Gospels say that Jesus needed to “withdraw” from the crowds, and even the disciples, to pray. Like all of us, Jesus needed prayer, in his case, with the Father. And while the Gospels don’t afford us much access to Jesus’ inner life, we know that his prayer was real: that is, he truly sought help from the Father.

We also know that Jesus was really tempted. After his baptism, the Gospels describe Jesus as being “driven” or “led” into the desert for a period of testing. In Matthew and Luke we read incidents of Satan tempting Jesus in three ways: to turn stones into bread (to feed himself), to throw himself from a high tower (to prove God’s loving care), and to worship Satan (in exchange for power and glory).

Like most temptations in our own lives, Jesus’ temptations were cloaked in apparent goodness. Why wouldn’t you want to feed yourself? Why not let God show you love? Why not acquire some wealth and power? The most tempting temptations rarely appear 100 percent evil, for then they would be easy to identify and reject. After much prayer, Jesus realized that giving into these lures would prevent him from being the person he was meant to be.

In the desert of our temptations, our lives can seem dry indeed. But if we follow the voice of conscience, and remember that God is always with us, we can, like Jesus, reject anything that leads us from becoming the flourishing person God wants us to be.

In All Seasons For All Reasons, J. Martin, SJ

CATHOLIC ACTION

VOLUNTEERS: LUNCH & BINGO

Two or three volunteers needed to serve lunch. Commitment is appx 2x/month, weekdays of your choosing, Mon-Fri. Hours: 11:45am-1:00pm. ALSO needed: 2 Bingo Callers. Wednesdays 1-2:30. Commitment - 1 hour a month. Where: Congregate Housing, 51 Prospect Ridge. For more info or questions, contact Suzanne MacAvoy, 203 438-7056, sdmacavoy@hotmail.com



DONATE: FOOD PANTRY

Food collected in February goes to the Dorothy Day Hospitality House. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!



EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION



Our Adoration Chapel, the oldest one in Connecticut, is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or sign up for an hour:

O = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed. X = there is at least 1 adorer. 2 adorers are desired. Blank boxes= there are 2 or more adorers

	Su	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa
12M-1am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1am-2am	X	O	X	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	X	X	X	O	X	X	X
3am-4am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
4am-5am	X	X		X	X	X	O
5am-6am	X	X	X	X		X	X
6am-7am	X	X	X	X		X	X
7am-8am	X	O	X	X	X	X	X
8am-9am	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
9am-10am	X	X	X		X	X	X
10am-11am	X	X		X		X	X
11am-12N	O	X	X	X	X		O
12N-1pm	X	X		X	X	X	X
1pm-2pm	X	X		X	X	X	O
2pm-3pm	X	O	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm	X	X	X		X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X				X	X	O
5pm-6pm	X			X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X	X	X		X	X	O
7pm-8pm	X	X				X	X
8pm-9pm	X	X	X			X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
10pm-11pm	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
11pm-12M	X	X	X	X	X	X	X

Now that we are in Lent we are given more of an opportunity to practice & develop the virtue of patience. Patience seems to be an elusive virtue that we desperately seek daily. By prayer & acceptance are we able to achieve this goal. We must try to affirm our inherent goodness. Do so by coming to the Adoration Chapel & pray before the Blessed Sacrament. Call Bill or Monica at 914-533-2832 to sign up as an Adorer or substitute or sign up on our website. God bless us all.

EVERY Thursday evening, 7-9pm, in our Adoration Chapel, the Chaplet of Mercy, 7 Sorrows of Our Blessed Mother and 15 decades of the Rosary sung and prayed. Please join us!

MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Our order was founded in 1882 on the principles of charity, unity and fraternity.

The Marquette Council's activities started here at St. Mary Parish in 1894 and have continued uninterrupted for over 120 years. Our goal is to offer our members and their families an opportunity to share God's love through service to our Priests, Parish and community. Want to enrich your faith & model strong values for your family? Learn more at www.KOFC.org or contact Phil Del Giudice, Grand Knight, Compass_grp@yahoo.com.

PILGRIM VIRGIN



The Pilgrim Virgin statue was damaged on her last visit and will not be able to travel for several months until repairs are made. Our Lady's message to all remains the same: Pray the rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners.

RCIA



This group is open to anyone who would like to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, Confirmation and/or Holy Eucharist. All are welcome to join and learn more about the Catholic Faith. For more info, call Pat Postiglione, 203-438-7335 or ppostiglione@smcr.org



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

LENT IS A GREAT TIME TO TRY MEN'S MINISTRY MEETINGS! Lent is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Lord. How about spending a weekly hour and half experiencing our Men's Ministry on Saturday mornings from 6:30-8:00AM? Think of it as a weekly stop on your Lenten journey - shared with 50 to 60 other like-minded men. Besides having a great and welcoming community, we also serve bagels, coffee & OJ each week to ease the pain of a **very worthwhile wake up call!**

PARISH FAIR KICKOFF MEETING

There will be an important kick off meeting for this year's Parish Fair on Monday, March 5th in the Day Chapel at 7PM. All past Fair chairpersons and anyone interested in taking on a bigger role for this year's Fair in September should attend.

