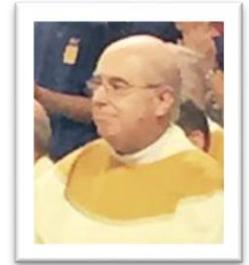


Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

February 26, 2017



The Call of Lent

Lent begins this week on Ash Wednesday. The Church's message to us during the Holy Season of Lent is to encourage us on our own personal journeys toward a deeper and richer relationship with God the Father who created us, God the Son who redeemed us, and the God the Holy Spirit who sanctifies us. That's why the Church urges us to fast, to pray and to give alms as important ways of expressing our desire to become better and holier people. (*Catechism of the Catholic Church, 1434*)

FASTING – Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence for all Catholics between 18 and 59, who are limited to one full meal. All Lenten Fridays are days of abstinence from meat for all who have reached the age of 14.

Without endangering your health, why not consider fasting from favorite foods and beverages? How about fasting or abstaining from unhealthy conversation, unsavory TV programs, books, and magazines, unhealthy Internet material, excessive computer or telephone time? Sacrifice a visit to a favorite restaurant and instead, give the money to a needy cause. The idea is to fast and/or abstain from things which do not make us better and holier people as well as to fast and abstain from people who are not good influences in our lives.

PRAYER – Remember, the greatest prayer we have is the Mass. Daily Mass during Lent is possible for some but not for all. Why not try some time in private prayer in our Adoration Chapel? How about the Stations of the Cross on Fridays at 7:30 pm or praying the Rosary at home? There's a lot of good spiritual reading out there.

ALMSGIVING - Giving to help the poor is a work of charity as well as justice. A donation to "Loaves and Fishes" will help to feed hungry men, women and children as does your support of our Diocesan Soup Kitchens through our monthly collection. Your support of our Facilities and Repairs fund has helped us to maintain our Parish buildings. Have you ever thought of volunteering some time to help at the Dorothy Day Soup Kitchen, with our Midnight Run or at our Sister Parish, Saint Peter in Bridgeport?

May God bless us all with the graces of the Lenten Season, especially the grace of repentance of heart.

Msgr. Larry Bronkiewicz

Pastor



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, February 27

Sir 17:20-24/Mk 10:17-27

7:00 AM Frank Amendola, Sr.

12:00 PM Ruth Karl

TUESDAY, February 28

Sir 35:1-12/Mk 10:28-31

7:00 AM Jason Wagner

12:00 PM Antoinette Bellacosa

WEDNESDAY, March 1

Jl 2:12-18/2 Cor 5:20—6:2/Mt 6:1-6, 16-18

7:00 AM Parishioners of the Parish

9:00 AM Dr. Amaury Menezes

12:00 PM Robert P. Galvin

7:30 PM James Fahey

THURSDAY, March 2

Dt 30:15-20/Lk 9:22-25

7:00 AM Cassie & Frank Stoveken

12:00 PM Mary Clark

FRIDAY, March 3

Is 58:1-9a/Mt 9:14-15

7:00 AM Robert Andrew Brian

9:00 AM Joan Mary Powers

12:00 PM John Salimbene

SATURDAY, March 4

Is 58:9b-14/Lk 5:27-32

8:00 AM Patrick Dinley

4:30 PM Edward J. Mitchell

SUNDAY, March 5

Gn 2:7-9; 3:1-7/Rom 5:12-19 or 5:12, 17-19/Mt 4:1-11

Church

7:30 AM Beth Colabela

9:15 AM Michael Mentasti

11:15 AM Parishioners of the Parish

Hall

10:30 AM Arlene Doyle

12:00 PM Ken MacGregor

5:00 PM John J. Murray - 15th Anniversary

Volunteers Needed- Dorothy Day

Dorothy Day House of Hospitality needs volunteers to make mixed salads the third Sunday of each month. Students that need service hours are welcome. For more information, please email mbreilly28@gmail.com.



Our next Pre-Baptism Class (required for parents who have not had a class within five years and wish to have their child baptized) will be held **Wed., March 8th** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Call Parish Office to register.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

February 19, 2017 \$21,947 \$175,667

February 21, 2016 \$25,248 \$188,338

*This week's 2nd collection is for Diocesan Hospitality Hse.
Next week's 2nd collection is for Facilities Repair.*

Prayers for the Sick

Please remember our sick in your prayers, especially **Theresa Avento, Mary Jo Calamai, Patti Capilli, Bill Casey, Jeanne Mastandrea, Tom McCarthy, and Pat Ruhl**. 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.



Church Altar Candle Burning in Loving Memory of John Ferraris

Ash Wednesday, March 1st

Mass and Distribution of Ashes:
7am, 9am, 12 noon, and 7:30pm (Church)

Liturgy of the Word and Distribution of Ashes:
5pm (Church)

Stations of the Cross

Stations of the Cross will be held every Friday evening during Lent at 7:30pm in the Church.

Lenten Regulations

Ash Wednesday and Good Friday are days of fast and abstinence. Limit one full meal on these days for all between the ages of 18 and 59. All Fridays of Lent are day of abstinence. All who have reached their 14th year are bound to abstain totally from meat.

Loaves and Fishes

A campaign to feed the hungry of Fairfield county will be held throughout the Lenten season. We ask you to put aside the cost of one meal per week and enclose it in the Loaves and Fishes enveloped to feed the poor in our area. Envelopes are available at the Church and Hall entrances and the Parish Office.

Lenten Fish Fry Dinner!

Save the Date: March 24, 2017

MASS INTENTIONS: The Feb 2018 calendar for Mass Intentions will open on Wednesday, March 1, 2017.

CATHOLIC ACTION

St. Peter's Run



This is a wonderful group activity! Please join our Catholic Action Team prepare and deliver lunches to the children of our Sister Parish, St. Peter's, Bridgeport on Saturdays. As there are no soup kitchens open in Bridgeport on the weekends, food support is greatly needed for the families of our Sister parish, especially during the winter months. We ask that you consider providing a bag lunch meal to about 200 children of St. Peter's who are enrolled in their Religious Ed program. Reimbursement for the cost is available. Thank you for considering serving Christ through the poor. Go to www.smcr.org for more info or to sign up.

DONATE: Food Pantries

During the month of February, collected food goes to the St. Joseph Parenting Center, strengthening families that are at risk of child abuse and neglect by providing free parenting education and support. Collection bins in the Church and Hall.

Best Lent Ever!

At Christmas, St. Mary Parish gave copies of *Resisting Happiness* as our gift to you! Now is another opportunity to use this wonderful book to its fullest! Sign up for Best Lent Ever, a **FREE**, video-based email program featuring internationally acclaimed speaker and *New York Times* bestselling author Matthew Kelly. From Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, Matthew will help you identify what stands between you and happiness . . . and what to do about it. Are you ready for your best Lent ever? The link to Best Lent Ever is at www.smcr.org.



MARQUETTE COUNCIL OF THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Don't you want to be the best role model for your child? The easiest way is to share the faith with your children by spending time with them and "walking the talk." Connect the words to action! Join the Knights of Columbus for the opportunity to serve our church and community together WITH your children. We are looking for Dads and their kids to help us throughout the year. Contact John McNicholas at jmpmcnich@yahoo.com or visit www.kofc245.org for more info.

SAVE THE DATE!

Special Needs Seminars: Wednesday, March 29th, 7-8:30pm, Knights of Columbus Hall, Greenwich & Thursday, March 30th, 7-8:30pm, St. Pius Community Room, Fairfield. More details coming soon.

PILGRIM VIRGIN



To honor the Mother of Jesus, consider inviting the Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Fatima to your home to pray the Rosary daily, a wonderful Marian devotion. The message from heaven for us is more urgent than ever to pray for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To invite the Pilgrim Virgin to your home contact Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

O = permanent or substitute adorer urgently needed.

X = 1 additional adorer needed.

Empty 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	O	X	O	X	X
2am-3am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
3am-4am	O	X	X	X	X	O	X
4am-5am	O	X	X	X	X	X	X
5am-6am	X	X			X		X
6am-7am	X		X	X	X		X
7am-8am	X		X	X	X	X	X
8am-9am	X	O	X		X		X
9am-10am	X	X		X	X	X	X
10am-11am	X			X		X	X
11am-12N	X						X
12N-1pm	X				X	X	X
1pm-2pm	O	O	X	O	X	X	X
2pm-3pm	X	X	X	X		X	X
3pm-4pm		X	X	X	X	X	X
4pm-5pm	X		X	X	X		X
5pm-6pm	X		X	X	X		X
6pm-7pm	X			X	X	X	X
7pm-8pm	X						X
8pm-9pm						X	X
9pm-10pm	X	X			X	X	X
10pm-11pm			X	X	O	X	X
11pm-12M	X		X		X	X	X

Some of these winter days are dark & difficult for many of us, but we always rejoice in the hope for a better temporal & spiritual life for all with its many fruitful blessings. We ask the Lord to inspire dear friends & future adorers to consider taking one of the following hours in the Adoration Chapel: SUN: 2-3am, 3-4am, 4-5am, 1-2pm; MON: 1-2am, 8-9am, 1-2pm; TUES: 1-2am; WED: 1-2pm; THURS: 1-2am, 10-11pm; FRI: 3-4am, 8-9am. In doing so, please call Bill/Monica @ 914-533-2832. 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 are sung and prayed. Please join us!



ST. MARY PARISH MEN'S MINISTRY

Membership in the STMMM is a lifetime invitation to come whenever you can! Once a member, always a member. Join us any Saturday @ 6:30AM for OJ, bagels, coffee and fellowship. Perhaps your spiritual life needs a tune-up? See how Jesus' teachings can enrich your life and the life of your loved ones. Learn strategies to meet life's challenges joyfully. Come get to know other fathers, grandfathers, sons and like-minded men of St. Mary Parish. stmmm.org

Divine Mercy Conference

April 8, 9am-5:30pm, Cardinal Spellman H.S., Bronx, NY. Registration Opens at 7:30am. Register: TheDivineMercy.org/Bronx or call 1-800-462-7426.