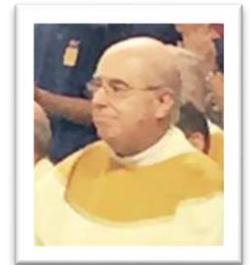


First Sunday of Lent

March 5, 2017



Lenten Prayer for Spiritual Renewal

God, heavenly Father, look upon me and hear my prayer during this holy Season of Lent.

By the good works You inspire, help me to discipline my body and to be renewed in spirit.

Without You I can do nothing. By Your Spirit help me to know what is right and to be eager in doing Your will. Teach me to find new life through penance. Keep me from sin, and help me live by Your commandment of love. God of love, bring me back to You. Send Your Spirit to make me strong in faith and active in good works. May my acts of penance bring me Your forgiveness, open my heart to Your love, and prepare me for the coming feast of the Resurrection of Jesus.

*Lord, during this Lenten Season, nourish me with Your Word of life
and make me one with You in love and prayer.*

Fill my heart with Your love and keep me faithful to the Gospel of Christ. Give me the grace to rise above my human weakness. Give me new life by Your Sacraments, especially the Mass.

Father, our source of life, I reach out with joy to grasp Your hand; let me walk more readily in Your ways. Guide me in Your gentle mercy, for left to myself I cannot do Your Will.

Father of love, source of all blessings, help me to pass from my old life of sin to the new life of grace. Prepare me for the glory of Your Kingdom. I ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever.

Amen



MASS READINGS & INTENTIONS

MONDAY, March 6

Lv 19:1-2, 11-18/Mt 25:31-46

7:00 AM Jim Fahey

12:00 PM Maureen Hyland

TUESDAY, March 7

Is 55:10-11/Mt 6:7-15

7:00 AM Deceased Members of the Rogers Family

12:00 PM Joseph Sorgie

WEDNESDAY, March 8

Jon 3:1-10/Lk 11:29-32

7:00 AM Susan Mello

12:00 PM Mary Clark

THURSDAY, March 9

Est C:12, 14-16, 23-25/Mt 7:7-12

7:00 AM William Miller

12:00 PM John Miltenis

FRIDAY, March 10

Ez 18:21-28/Mt 5:20-26

7:00 AM Delphine Pierandri

12:00 PM Elizabeth Hance

SATURDAY, March 11

Dt 26:16-19/Mt 5:43-48

8:00 AM John Esposito

4:30 PM Patricia Alt

SUNDAY, March 12

Gn 12:1-4a/2 Tm 1:8b-10/Mt 17:1-9

Church

7:30 AM Conrad and Mary Sponberg

9:15 AM Elvio Boldrini

11:15 AM Dec. Members of Anthony Cally Family

Hall

10:30 AM Mildred Marianacci

12:00 PM Parishioners of the Parish

5:00 PM Anthony Castoro

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 this **Wed., March 8th** from 7:30-8:30pm in the Barn. Call Parish Office to register.



Calling all Senior Citizens! Please join us at our next luncheon on Tues., March 14th! Rosary begins in the Hall at 11:30, Mass will be at 12:00, with lunch to follow. Come enjoy good food and good company. Please RSVP to Saint Mary School's Office, [203-438-7288](tel:203-438-7288) by Monday, March 13. (In case of inclement weather, the luncheon will be cancelled and not rescheduled.) Suggested donation \$6.



GOD'S PLAN FOR GIVING

WEEKLY YEAR-TO-DATE

February 26, 2017 \$23,778 \$199,445

February 28, 2016 \$25,248 \$212,308

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

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, Barbara Ortonowska 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.



Candle Intentions

A Church Altar Candle is Burning in Loving Memory of Florence DiVasto



Stations of the Cross

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

Lenten Regulations

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!

Save the Date: March 24th



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 March, collected food goes to the Easter Food Drive, sponsored by our Knights of Columbus. Collection bins are in the Church and Hall. Thank you for your generosity!

Best Lent Ever!

Our Parish gave copies of *Resisting Happiness* as our gift to you at Christmas! 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.

PILGRIM VIRGIN

Lent is a time for extra prayer, sacrifice and penance. Our Lady of Fatima's Message to the world: Do penance, amend your life, offend God no more and pray, especially the Rosary. Pray the Rosary daily for world peace and the conversion of sinners. To better prepare ourselves during Lent, invite the Pilgrim Virgin of Fatima Statue into your home. To schedule a visit call Elma Stoveken at 203-894-1341.



Our Homily Survey link is @ www.smcr.org. We appreciate and value your feedback!

EUCCHARISTIC ADORATION

You are Invited to Make a Holy Hour Before the Blessed Sacrament

Eucharistic Adoration is an ancient, prayerful devotion going back to the 4th century with St. Basil. It gives us the opportunity to pray before the exposed Blessed Sacrament, which is held in a "monstrance" (gold stand) so that the Host is clearly visible to all who come to pray.



One of the ways that Jesus remains with us is through his real sacramental presence in the Eucharist. At Mass, the gifts of bread and wine are consecrated on the altar by the words of Our Lord in the hands of the priest. The bread and wine cease to exist in essence, and in their place, Jesus gives us His body, blood, soul and divinity. This is the Eucharist. The Eucharist isn't simply a symbol or sign of Christ. Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist under the appearance of bread and wine. Outside of Mass, we come to Adoration to be with Jesus in the Eucharist (Blessed Sacrament), to pray to Him, to listen to Him, to rest in Him, and to keep Him company.

"Let us be generous with our time in going to meet Him in Adoration!" (John Paul II)

PERPETUAL ADORATION

Our Parish Adoration Chapel, 183 High Ridge Avenue, is open 24/7. The entrance is near our Religious Ed Office. Stop by anytime or call Bill/Monica @ 914-533-2832 to sign up for a needed hour:

SUN: 2-3am, 3-4am, 4-5am, 1-2pm; MON: 1-2am, 8-9am; TUES: 1-2am; WED: 1-2pm; THURS: 1-2am, 10-11pm; FRI: 3-4am
The full adoration schedule is at www.smcr.org

"Could you not wait one hour with me? Do you not know that I thirst for your love?"

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

Lent officially begins on March 1, Ash Wednesday. It is an opportunity to deepen our relationship with the Lord. How about spending a weekly hour and half and experience 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 wakeup call!** Upcoming Topic-March 11: Matthew 5:43-48