

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK – FEBRUARY 23, 2020

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2020
SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

5:00PM Slavko Mladjenovic
8:00AM Beatrice Rosario
10:00AM Benny Pulice
12:00PM Giacomina Scrivanich

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

8:00AM Anna & Jum Sun Lee
11:30AM Joseph Tolomeo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

8:00AM Joseph Lally
11:30AM Martino Hroncich

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00AM John Picinic
11:30AM John & Philomena McGowan
3:00PM Prayer Service
7:00PM Kara Antonia Ascione-Shusko

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

THURSDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00AM Ann Kancelaric
11:30AM Dorothy Lombardo

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

FRIDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

8:00AM Michael A. Cingire
11:30AM Ann Judith Santiago

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

SATURDAY AFTER ASH WEDNESDAY

11:30AM Ann Judith Santiago
Andy Apacible

5:00PM Rita & Stanley Osmani

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

8:00AM Elena Morin
10:00AM Ela & Eugenio Lopez
12:00PM Jules Bruno

ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of
Martino Hroncich

ALTAR WINE

In Memory of
D'Andrea & Milone Families

SANCTUARY LAMP

In Memory of
Anthony Frato

MASS CANDLES

In Memory of
Catherine Cerutti

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for next Sunday are:

Gen 2:7-9, 3:1-7

The beginning of creation.

Ps 51:3-4, 5-6, 12-13, 17

Have mercy on me, O God.

Rom 5:12-19

Christ's dying on the cross will bring us
salvation and life.

Matt 4:1-11

You shall do homage to the Lord your God;
Him alone shall you adore.

My dear parishioners and friends,

In our gospel today Jesus tells us to be perfect, just as our heavenly Father is perfect. When he says this Jesus isn't setting us up to try to achieve the impossible. None of us can reasonably expect to be God's equal in perfection. Only God is perfect. What, then, does Jesus mean when he tells us to be perfect as our heavenly Father is perfect?

In our gospel passage Jesus gives us several examples of how our behavior toward our brothers and sisters needs to be based on a "higher" sense of morality... choosing not to retaliate when we are attacked; choosing not to resist when we have been treated unjustly; choosing to love, even our enemies. Jesus teaches us to respond to provocation from a place of confident love, in hopes of conquering hate and injustice with love and kindness. This is the moral strength that Jesus himself has shone to all of us when he chose to lay down his life for us, in hope that he might win us over to loving him and loving God unreservedly.

This week we will once again begin our Lenten journey of prayer and penitence... following in Christ's footsteps through suffering and death. Brothers and sisters, let us conscientiously enter into the spirit of this season so that we might better learn the lesson of the cross during this holy time.

*Fondly yours in Christ,
Fr. Bruce*

PARISH SUPPORT

Thank you for sharing the gift of your treasure so that we can continue to do God's work here.

February 16, 2020

Sunday Collection

\$5,970.00

"But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you..." – Matt 5:44

Love your enemies, easier said than done, no doubt. But, remember, the foundation of stewardship is prayer. When we are in close communication with God, it opens our heart and it turns our attention away from "me" and moves it towards God and others. It allows us to have a little more empathy for "our enemy". When we pray for others, even "our enemies", maybe it softens their hearts as well.



PLEASE NOTE: WE WILL NOT BE HAVING BINGO DUE TO THE RENOVATION OF OUR BATHROOMS IN THE CHURCH HALL. HOPEFULLY, BINGO WILL RESUME ON THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH. WATCH THE BULLETIN FOR FURTHER DETAILS.

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is this Wednesday, a day of fast and abstinence. Ashes will be given out during the 8 & 11:30AM Mas, 3:00PM Prayer Service and 7:00PM Mass.

GET YOUR TAXES DONE FOR FREE

The Franciscan Community Development Center's Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) provides free income tax preparation assistance to families in our Community. Call 201-941-2977. The office will be open until April 15th. It will be closed on April 10th and 11th.

HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)

Have you and your family been struggling to pay your gas and electric bills? The Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) and Universal Service Fund may be able to help you pay your winter heating and PSE&G bills. Applications will be accepted until July 31st. For those falling behind on their gas and electric bills who are not eligible for low-income programs, moderate-income programs, such as the PAGE Grant and/or New Jersey SHARES programs, may provide the help you need. For more information, or to find out how to apply, call "211" which is available 7 days a week, or visit pseg.com/help or pseg.com/ayuda (Spanish).

BIBLE STUDY

Our next Bible Study Class will be held on Tuesday, February 25th at 7:00PM in the Church Hall.

SHINING THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The 2020 Annual Appeal "Shining the Light of Christ" has begun. By now, you should have received a letter from Cardinal Tobin inviting you to make a gift to the Appeal. I encourage all of you to look it over and prayerfully consider making a pledge. If you have not received materials in the mail, I encourage you to pick up a brochure at the back of the church. In the coming weeks, we will be holding a special collection for the Annual Appeal. Thank you for your support.

SAINT PATRICK/SAINT JOSEPH'S DINNER-DANCE

ONLY THREE WEEKS LEFT TO CELEBRATE OUR 104TH ANNIVERSARY with former and present pastors at our Saint Patrick/Saint Joseph's Dinner Dance to be held on March 14th. It will feature a corned beef and cabbage and chicken dinner with all the trimmings and St. Joseph's zeppole, soda, beer, coffee – BYOB. It will be catered by Sedona Taphouse and music will be provided by DJ Nick. Tickets are \$35 per person and available at the rectory. Proceeds will be for the renovation of the western vestibule roof. **NO TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AT THE DOOR.**

HEALING MASS

There will be a Healing Mass on Saturday, February 29th at 11:30AM. All are welcome to attend.

GOLDEN, SILVER & FIVE YEAR ANNIVERSARIES

The Archdiocese of Newark invites any couple celebrating 50, 25 or 5 years of Christian Marriage in 2020 to anniversary liturgies that will be celebrated at the Cathedral Basilica in Newark. Golden Anniversaries will be on May 3rd at 3:00PM – deadline for reservations is April 15th. Silver and Fifth Anniversaries will be celebrated on April 19th at 3:00PM – deadline for reservations is April 3rd. Please call the rectory from Monday-Friday during office hours to register.

PASTORAL MINISTRY WITH PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

The Archdiocese will hold an Employment Information Night for parents and guardians of teens and adults with intellectual and/or developmental disabilities on Wednesday, March 11th from 7:00-9:00PM at St. John the Evangelist Church (Conlon Hall), Bergenfield. For more information and registration call 973-497-4309 or register online Anne.Masters@rcan.org

ALTAR BREAD & WINE, SANCTUARY LAMPS, MASS CANDLES &

ALTAR FLOWERS

We have Altar Bread & Wine, Sanctuary Lamps, Mass Candles and Altar Flowers available for the year 2020. Please come into the rectory to book one of these items in memory of or in honor of your loved ones.

ESTATE SALE

There is a huge estate sale in Leonia. If interested in browsing or purchasing, please call 757-645-6868 for an appointment or you may email tradetalks@aol.com Items to be sold include: sports equipment, hummels, dinnerware, furniture, furs, women's clothing, garden tools, lawn mower, tools, a 2010 Lexus, costume jewelry and much more. A percentage of the proceeds from the estate sale will be donated to Epiphany Church.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY RETREAT

The Marianist Family Retreat Center, Cape May Point, NJ, will hold a Women's Spirituality Retreat from April 3rd-5th. Join with other women in an exploration of your own story and stories of women in faith. Come alone, or with a relative or friend. This will be a weekend of rest and renewal. Cost is \$140 per person, double occupancy. Call 609-884-3829 for reservations and information.

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

Greater Bergen Community Action, 263 Lafayette Avenue, Cliffside Park, presents English as a Second Language Classes from April-June, 2020 on Tuesday and Thursday mornings – 9:30AM-12:30PM. Registration dates are March 17th, March 19th or March 31st at 1:30PM. Potential students must register and take a placement test. Bring photo ID, proof of address and social security card if you have one. For registration and information please call 201-366-1020 ext. 7236.

2020 LENTEN REGULATIONS

The days of both Fast and Abstinence during Lent are Ash Wednesday and Good Friday. If possible, the fast on Good Friday is continued until the Easter Vigil (on Holy Saturday night) as the "paschal fast" to honor the suffering and death of the Lord Jesus, and to prepare ourselves to share more fully and to celebrate more readily His Resurrection. The other Fridays of Lent are days of Abstinence.

On a day of Fast, only one (1) full meal is permitted, **and two (2) smaller meals, which, if added together, would not exceed the main meal in quantity.**

Those between the ages of 18 and 59 are obliged to fast.

On a day of Abstinence, no meat may be eaten. Those who have reached the age of 14 are obliged by the law of abstinence.

The obligation to observe the laws of Fast and Abstinence "substantially", or as a whole, is a serious obligation.

The Fridays of the year, outside of Lent, are designated as days of penance, but each individual may substitute for the traditional abstinence from meat some other practice of voluntary self-denial as penance.

The time for fulfilling the Paschal Precept (Easter Duty*) extends from the **First Sunday of Lent, March 2, 2020 to The Solemnity of the Most Holy Trinity, June 7, 2020.**

*Canon 920, Sec. 1. *All the faithful, after they have been initiated into the Most Holy Eucharist, are bound by the obligation of receiving Communion at least once a year.*

CATHOLIC WOMEN'S AND MEN'S COMMISSIONS

The Archdiocese of Newark will sponsor Catholic Men's and Women's Commission. The Men's Commission will be held on Saturday, February 29th at Seton Hall University from 8:00AM-4:00PM with Mass at 4:00PM. The Women's Commission will be held on Saturday, March 7th from 8:00AM-4:00PM with Mass at 4:00PM at Seton Hall University. For registration for men email www.rcan.org/mens-commission or call 973-497-4545 or for women email www.rcan.org/womenscommission or call 973-497-4545. Cost is \$30 per person.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Doris Levy, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Baby Michael, Clyde Harger, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate, Geraldine Fox, Tatiana Flores, Rosalie Connors, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Donna Carrajat, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Sean O'Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Vinka Uselj, Louanne Mitchell, Kathy Lennon, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O'Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Richard & Patricia Citro, Brother Peter Lyne, Frank Magdaluyo, Conrado Trinidad, John Mitchell, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Angie Vigna, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Bob Sirianni, Laura Cipullo, Frances Marino, Robert Donato, Rosemary Kovacs, Richard Allen, Anthony Martello, Jr., Miguel Madera, Natalie Dente, Joe Villani, Lisa Mutchler, Elizabeth Chan Benjamin Yap, Henry Yap, Archbishop Emeritus John Joseph Myers, Rose & Anthony McCluskey, Jane Kim Estantino, Mike Hromin, Mary Donato, Nancy Manto, Gloria Masella, Giuseppe Totaro.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Ivan (Jivonic) Picinic, Janet Lewis.

"THE JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES BEGINS WITH ONE STEP!"