

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2021
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM Barbara Miele &
Dooley Family
10:00AM Miguel Angel Sanchez
12:00PM Giacomina & Nicolo
Scrivanich

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22
*THE CHAIR OF ST. PETER THE
APOSTLE*

11:00AM Dorothy Lombardo

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23
ST. POLYCARP

11:00AM Antonio Picinich

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24

11:00AM Antonio Picinich

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 25

11:00AM Antonio Picinich

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 26

11:00AM Kara Antonia Ascione-
Shusko

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27

11:00AM Stanley & Rita Osmanski
5:00PM Sottile & Sariti Families

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28
SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

10:00AM Tommy Voto
12:00PM Sveto Beverin

REPENT AND BELIEVE IN THE GOSPEL

Repentance and belief in the Gospel are decisions we are invited to take this Lenten season. Still, we cannot just decide without the proper motivation, and there cannot be adequate motivation except we understand that nothing would work without the Holy Spirit's action in our lives. God's word tells us that the Holy Spirit is our Helper (Romans 8:26), and He would convict us of sin because of our unbelief (John 16:8-9). The Holy Spirit cannot also force Himself upon us; we need to be open to and ask for His presence in our lives like our Lord Jesus Christ.

What we need is repentance, put in another way, each of us has something to repent from though some of us think that they are righteous and do not have any need or room for repentance. To repent, we need to be humble, as true repentance is impossible without humility. This Lent period is good enough for us to examine our lives and not the lives of others as most of us do. Our Lord Jesus Christ tells us to remove the plank in our eyes so that we can see very well before we could remove the speck in our neighbor's eyes (Matt. 7:5). Take some time and x-ray your life; there could be an area of repentance in your life; this is the time to relent and repent. True repentance invites us to fast from sin not only from food and to resist the devil (James 4:7).

To believe in the Gospel, we need to unfreeze our minds from our false convictions and allow the Holy Spirit to teach us (John 14:26; Neh.9:20). Often, we rationalize and negotiate the word of God to favor us and our desires. To believe in the Gospel entails dropping our will to accept and do the will of God through His words. May the season of Lent help us to open our minds to listen to the word of God and receive the message in a more personal way. May each day within the forty days of the Lenten period take us closer and deeper to God as we repent and believe.

Have a blessed Sunday and a more glorious First Sunday of Lent.

Fr. Bonnie



ALTAR BREAD

In Memory of

*Garritano, Martire, Stancato &
Abbate Families*

SANCTUARY LAMP

Special Intention to

Mt. Carmel & St. Jude

PREPARING FOR MASS

The readings for this Sunday are:

Gen 9:8-15

God made a promise to Noah that he would never devastate the entire planet with a flood.

Ps 25:4-5, 607, 8-9

Your way, O Lord, are truth to those who keep your covenant.

1 Pet 3:18-22

We have been saved by our Baptism.
We must continually strive to obey God.

Mk 1:12-15

The story of Jesus' stay in the desert, where he was tested by Satan.

PARISH SUPPORT

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

	<i>February 14, 2021</i>
<i>Sunday Collection</i>	<i>\$3,711.00</i>
<i>Assessment Collection</i>	<i>\$ 816.00</i>
<i>"After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God..." – Mark 1:14</i>	

Do you ever think about how difficult it must have been for Jesus to come into Galilee, knowing that John had just been arrested for teaching the same message that Jesus was proclaiming. It must have taken great love and trust from us. We must be willing to surrender completely to God, trusting that God will always give us all that we need to fulfill His plan for us.

2021 ANNUAL APPEAL

The 2021 Annual Appeal is well underway. We have \$5,395 already pledged. This is approximately 17% of our goal of \$31,700. The outpouring from many parishioners like you helps sustain the important ministries across the Archdiocese of Newark. These programs help to make our own parish a more vibrant place of worship. If you have yet to give, please pick up a pledge envelope on the table in the elevator or visit www.rcan.org/shring. Thank you for your prayers and support.

CHRIST THE TEACHER SCHOOL

Christ the Teacher School is registering students for the 2021-2022 school year. A Nationally Recognized Blue-Ribbon School of Excellence, we offer a full academic program from Pre-K to 8th grade with many additional specials such as Spanish, art, music, computers, library and physical education. We have an award-winning STEM program and a one-to-one technology initiative for grades 4-8. Students enjoy a number of clubs, activities and sports, even virtual ones this year.

We are very happy to announce a Madonna Scholarship for new students entering our school. Based on financial need and scholarship, families are encouraged to apply.

Our website is: www.christtheteacherschool.org. Tours are by appointment only. Please call 201-944-0421.

STATIONS OF THE CROSS

Stations of the Cross are held every Friday evening during Lent at 7:00PM and Good Friday Stations will be at 3:00PM.

SUNDAY MASSES

Sunday Masses will be at 5:00PM on Saturday and on Sunday at 10:00AM and 12 Noon. We can now accommodate up to 150 persons at each mass. When you attend mass, you must wear a mask before you enter the Church and leave it on for the whole mass. Also, please sanitize your hands when entering the Church with the hand sanitizers found at the elevator entrance. Please do not take off or lower your mask when you approach the priest for Holy Communion. Take the Communion in your hand and step aside and lift your mask as you return to your seat.

I remind you that the Archbishop has indefinitely dispensed all Catholics from their "Sunday obligation" so do NOT feel compelled to attend mass out of fear.

MASS CANDLES, SANCTUARY LAMPS & ALTAR BREAD & WINE

Mass Candles, Sanctuary Lamps and Altar Bread and Wine are available for the year 2021. Please come to the rectory between the hours of 10:00AM-3:00PM to book any of the above items in memory of or in honor of a loved one.

LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Nearly a third of NJ households report having difficulty covering household expenses. If you or someone you know is struggling to pay for utilities, the Community Food Bank of New Jersey now offers application assistance for LIHEAP (Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program) and USF (Universal Service Fund), two programs that assist income-eligible households and individuals with home heating and medically necessary cooling costs. Our bilingual Resource Access team will provide Bergen County residents with information about the benefits, pre-screen them for eligibility, and provide virtual assistance with the application process. If you would like to know more about applying for these benefits, call 1-908-838-4831.

**"SHARE YOUR SMILE. YOUR SMILE
HAS THE POWER TO CHANGE
SOMEONE'S DAY!"**

MISSALETTES FOR ORDINARY TIME, LENT & EASTER

New Missalettes for Ordinary Time through Lent and Easter are on sale at the rectory for \$3.00 each. We will not be able to put the books into the pews during this pandemic. If you wish to have a book to follow along with the mass, please purchase your own. All books contain weekday and Sunday readings.

MARRIAGE MOMENTS

What do Valentine's Day Presidents Day, and Ash Wednesday have in common? We are all called to love; but no one, even a President is perfect. Being human we each have our faults. Ash Wednesday called us to purify our love through self-sacrifice.

PARENTING POINTERS

The past few years have been tumultuous for race relations. Few people think of themselves as racist, but do you or your children have friends of a different race? It may feel awkward but is there a way to meet someone (perhaps virtually) who looks different than you this week? If Covid-19 precludes direct contact, you can walk a neighborhood, read a book, or watch a relevant movie.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK OF THE PARISH

Ann Callagher, Caroline Craven, Felicia Martello, Arianna Cappola, Cindy Simeone Reynolds, Baby Juliette Payne, Brian Hone, Cora Shaffer, Baby Michael, Cesar Valdecantos, Kay Tak, Michele Spino, Evelyn Rodriguez, Barbara Snow, Mary Iannaccone, Doris Portillo, Teresita Zafra-Santos, Ann Marie Applegate, Tatiana Flores, Christopher Nash, Pat Romano, Tony Martello, Little Gabriel, Rachel Rocks, Sean O'Connor, Vladimir Drobikov, Louanne Mitchell, Colleen Meyers, Domenick Deodino, Rosemarie Liversidge, Christine Caruso, Patrick Bove, Camille Moglia, John Keegan, Kay O'Connor, Anthony Martini, Pantaleon Domingo, Conrado Trinidad, Joanne Kaiser, Patricia Warren, Ramon Villavicencio, Danilo Bonifacio, Daniel Johnson, Ryan Cariddi, Laura Cipullo, Richard Allen, Anthony Martello, Jr., Miguel Madera, Joe Villani, Lisa Mutchler, Elizabeth Chan, Benjamin Yap, Henry Yap, Anthony McCluskey, Jane Kim Estantino, Mike Hromin, Nancy Manto, Roy Regaspi, Gloria Marquez, David Barmore, Drew Johnson, Kunaim Emelyanesko, Kathy Santiago, Vinny Franco, Baby Grayson DiNatale, Kathie Gumb, Michael O'Connor, Patrick Shanley, Rev. John Renard, Louise O'Connor, Cathleen McLaughlin, Fran Barbato, Jared Lanzaloto, Joel Rivera, Angelina Cozzitorto, Joseph Kirincich, Lucy D'Ambrosio, Steven Skific, Baby Luca, Eileen Palazzo, Rosalind Yap, Barbara Curran, Ada Venditti, Gail Milone.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE DECEASED OF THE PARISH

Irene Mansfield, Dennis Franin, Francesca Papalia.

CORONA VIRUS PRAYER

**Keep us good Lord,
Under the shadow of your mercy,
In this time of uncertainty and distress.
Sustain and support the anxious and fearful,
And lift up all who are brought low;
That we may rejoice in your comfort
Knowing that nothing can separate us from
Your love.
In Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen**

