

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2021  
FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT

5:00PM Sottile & Sariti Families  
10:00AM Tommy Voto  
12:00PM Sveto Beverin

**MONDAY, MARCH 1**

11:00AM Carlo & Gilda DiStefano

**TUESDAY, MARCH 2**

11:00AM Antonio Picinich

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3**

ST. KATHARINE DREXEL

11:00AM Antonio Picinich

**THURSDAY, MARCH 4**

ST. CASIMIR

11:00AM Rocco Liscotto

**FRIDAY, MARCH 5**

11:00AM Marijan Fatovic

**SATURDAY, MARCH 6**

11:00AM Anna Maria Cicolini-Chille

5:00PM Rita Osmanski

**SUNDAY, MARCH 7**

**THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**

10:00AM Antonia Busanic

12:00PM Gino Zilocchi



**ALTAR BREAD**

*In Memory of  
Antonia Hroncich*

**ALTAR WINE**

*In Memory of  
Daisy Hsu*

**SANCTUARY LAMP**

*In Memory of  
Antonia Hroncich*

**PREPARING FOR MASS**

*The readings for this Sunday are:*

**Gen 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18**

God ordered Abraham to take his only son and offer him as a sacrifice.

**Ps 116:10, 15, 16-17, 18-19**

I will walk before the Lord, in the land of the living.

**1 Rom 8:31b-34**

God did not spare his only Son, but gave him up for the sake of all people.

**Mk 9:2-10**

A voice proclaimed "This is my Son, my beloved. Listen to him."

**GIVING UP YOUR "ISAAC"**

Some time ago, a cousin called to tell me about a confusing situation that required him to make a quick decision. His only son's medical diagnosis indicated a malignant meningioma, a delicate brain tumor, and the doctors were considering an open brain surgery with a 55% chance of survival for the nine-year-old boy.

I could hear him crying and asking God, "why would you allow me to pass through this test?". "There you go!" I interrupted him. "You are passing through a test and not stuck in it. Take the 55% chance, sign the medical papers, and God will make it a 100%!" chance. I could hear him say a strong "Amen" to my urging, which sounded like a prayer.

Long story cut short, sometime after the surgery, he came visiting with the little boy, and nobody could ever guess that he was ever an inpatient at Mount Sinai Hospital. The test became a testimony.

Have you ever been in a situation where there seems to be no better alternatives? Have you ever been in a case where it appears that the whole world would be crashing upon your head and nothing seems to serve as a remedy? Have you ever passed through a test?

Abraham was in that situation. After waiting for twenty-five years for God to fulfill the promise of a son from his wife Sarah, God calls him and makes the most unexpected request: *Take your son Isaac, your only one, whom you love, and go to the land of Moriah. There you shall offer him up as a holocaust on a height (mountain) that I will point out to you.*

From the narrative, God described Isaac very well to demonstrate the connection and affection Abraham has for him; "...your only one, whom you love." For us, Isaac represents everything that is so precious and dear to us. Isaac represents anything that appeals to us as a treasure. Your Isaac is where your heart is (Matt. 6:21).

The message of today tells us that our test would come from our Isaac. Your test cannot come from anything that does not appeal to you. The Lenten call for repentance, fasting, and abstinence relates to giving up our Isaac. God is inviting us this season to give up the numerous Isaacs in our lives. Often, we think that when we give up our Isaac, life will become tasteless and bitter. Sometimes we believe that our Isaac determines our future, and without our Isaac, we shall become nothing. That is false!

Your Isaac could be those actions and thoughts that have become so habitual that you are helpless and hopeless without them. It could be a person or thing to whom you have this attachment that threatens your relationship with God. It could be a place you like to visit that stops your visits to God; it could be anything that stands in opposition to your spiritual, moral, and even psychological well-being.

As we journey still farther into the Lenten season, let us ask God to help us to give up the contending Isaacs in our lives to be able to reach the heights with him at the end of the season. May God bless your Lenten journey, and have a splendid week ahead.

*Fr. Bonnie*

**PARISH SUPPORT**

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

*February 21, 2021*

*Sunday Collection*

*\$3,953.00*

*Catholic Church in Eastern Europe*

*\$ 711.00*

*"Here I am!" he answered." – Genesis 22:11*

*It is easy to say, "Here I am, Lord," when we are kneeling in church. But how easy is it to say, "Here I am, Lord," when a neighbor needs our help, when we are invited to join a parish ministry, or when we are asked to provide financial support? Often times we are called when it's not convenient for us. Discipleship is not always easy, most of the time it will make us uncomfortable and vulnerable.*

**2021 ANNUAL APPEAL**

The 2021 Annual Appeal is well underway. We have \$7,096.00 already pledged. This is approximately 23% 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 lobby or visit [www.rcan.org/sharing](http://www.rcan.org/sharing). 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 8<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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 200 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.

***"THE QUALITY, NOT THE LONGEVITY, OF ONE'S LIFE IS IMPORTANT!"***

### MISSALETTES FOR ORDINARY TIME, LENT & EASTER

New Missalettes for Ordinary Time through Lent are on sale at the rectory for \$3.00 each. We also have the new Missalettes for Holy Week and Easter Time. 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

"Yeah, you won," said the irate wife to her husband, "and now you get to live with the loser." – Retrouvaille leader on why win/win outcomes are a better way to resolve disagreements.

### PARENTING POINTERS

"God put Abraham to the test." (Gen.22:1) Although some may interpret this scripture as Abraham being willing to kill his beloved son for God, probably the better lesson is that we all must at some point let go of our expectations for our children and trust God to lead them in ways we might not have chosen.

### 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

*Lucille Priarone, Nick Delgiodice, Pasqua Morin, Kenneth Trapp.*

### 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**



