



The Season of Lent

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:

Edward B. Scharfenberger

BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard

PASTOR: Fr. Tom Zelker

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OFFICE MANAGER: Sue Hyde

+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

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Hoosick Falls, NY 12090

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OFFICE HOURS: Monday—Friday 9:00 AM - 3:30PM

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:

HELD AT FIRST UNITED CHURCH

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

TRUSTEES: Christina Angell & Ellen Scott

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, Mike Sanders & Linda Billert

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster
Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman,
and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

We Pray Lent

OUR LITURGIES put into prayerful reflection and celebration this Season of Lent. Curly and pussy willow branches grace the gathering space as a sign of a new springtime; violets and purples reflect our yearning for conversion; the Cross in our sanctuary beckons us to follow. Our Mass is simpler and serene. Liturgy is really a conversation between God and his people. The Word is spoken and dwells among us. Our music and prayer inspires us, challenges us, reassures us, places before us the demands of discipleship, and caresses us with love as God speaks tenderly, yet boldly and we respond as we come to faith. We pay attention more devoutly; perhaps together we will listen and be converted again...reformed as God's Holy People. We begin quietly and call out as we have for centuries, confident in the mercy of God, with the ancient Greek, "Kyrie eleison, Christe eleison". Our response to the Hebrew Scripture is Psalm 51, "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and renew a right spirit within me."

We tell of God's amazing, soaring heights of gracious healing offered to all. The Gospel is proclaimed without any Alleluias (what a contrast to Easter's exuberance). The ancient stories of encounters with Christ become our stories. As we gather around the Lord's Table, we ask God to free us from apathy, complacency, fear, evil, and stubbornness that we truly hear God's life changing summons to discipleship. Because of Jesus' love, we will never be the same. We proclaim how God loves us through the Cross into the Resurrection...through Jesus' death into new life. And so we give thanks and seek to become reconcilers in our world. We celebrate Communion with Christ and with one another. We remember that we belong to God and to each other; even in silence God speaks to us, calling us beyond any fear or doubt. Within our heart, God's Word speaks to us of home, freedom, and life. After this Holy Communion, we sing supportively as a bonded community. We go forth believing evermore that we are sent out in the name of God as a people on a conversion pilgrimage...acting with justice, loving tenderly, serving all people, and walking humbly with God and each other. We leave our worship in quiet reflection to live faithfully every day.

**ALL MASSES IN THE DIOCESE OF ALBANY CANCELED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE,
FAITHFUL URGED TO TAKE TIME TO PRAY AT HOME**

Due to growing concerns and medical advice related to the rapid spread of COVID-19 in social settings, Bishop Edward B. Scharfenberger has announced that **all regularly scheduled public Masses in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany — except weddings and funerals — will be canceled until further notice.** Churches will, however, remain open for private prayer, pending further regulations.

In addition, all Confirmations have been canceled until further notice and will be rescheduled. Funerals and weddings may be attended only by close family and in accordance with social distancing and capacity requirements. Further restrictions may force a change in those guidelines as we go forward.

“Although we know how difficult it is for Catholics to be without the Mass and without the Eucharist, we must do our part to help ‘flatten the curve’ and stop the spread of COVID-19 in order to protect the most vulnerable among us,” Bishop Scharfenberger said when making the announcement. “I encourage the faithful to pray and fast as we continue our journey through this season of Lent. Try to include at least 15 minutes of daily intentional prayer, with family where possible and safe. Use the Bible, say the Rosary, watch Mass on TV, and please remember to pray for those who are suffering from the Coronavirus worldwide and for all those in the medical community who are on the front lines.”

The Diocese of Albany is keeping Catholics apprised of changes, updates and resources on its dedicated web page: rcda.org/coronavirus. In addition, a Faith at Home page includes links to livestreamed Mass, daily Scripture readings, saints of the day, and suggestions for creating a sacred space at home: rcda.org/coronavirus/resources.

Giovanni Virgiglio, Jr. | Diocesan Chancellor

**- MASS IS CANCELLED -
ST. JOSEPH’S ROOM, IN THE
ICC HALL IS
OPEN FOR QUIET PRAYER**

PLEASE REMEMBER THE PEOPLE WHO ARE ILL, THE MEDICAL STAFFS WHO CARE FOR US, AND THOSE WHO ARE ISOLATED AND AFRAID. MAY GOD’S PEACE, HEALING, AND FAITH BE OURS.

God of healing and hope; in Jesus you meet us in the depths of our being, in our places of pain and fear, in our places of joy and adventure. Look with mercy on those who have contracted this new virus, on any who are vulnerable, and on all who feel in danger. Through this time of global concern, by your Holy Spirit bring out the best, not the worst in us. Make us more aware of our interdependence on each other, and the strength that comes from being one Body in you. Rejoin us as one Sacred People. Amen.



Pandemic

What if you thought of it
as the Jews consider the Sabbath—
the most sacred of times?
Cease from travel.
Cease from buying and selling.
Give up, just for now,
on trying to make the world
different than it is.
Sing. Pray. Touch only those
to whom you commit your life.
Center down.

And when your body has become still,
reach out with your heart.
Know that we are connected
in ways that are terrifying and beautiful.
(You could hardly deny it now.)

Know that our lives
are in one another's hands.
(Surely, that has come clear.)
Do not reach out your hands.
Reach out your heart.
Reach out your words.
Reach out all the tendrils
of compassion that move, invisibly,
where we cannot touch.

Promise this world your love—
for better or for worse,
in sickness and in health,
so long as we all shall live.

—Lynn Ungar

Campaign Commitment Form

In support of Re-Igniting Our Faith and _____
(Parish Name, Parish Address)

Parishioner Contact Information:

Addressee _____

Address Line 1 _____

Address Line 2 _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I/We pledge the following commitment:

Pledge Amount: \$ _____

Initial Payment: \$ _____

Balance: \$ _____

Payable Over: 3 Years 5 Years

Payment Type:

- Cash/Check (Please make checks payable to your parish's Re-Igniting Our Faith Campaign E.g., St. Mary's Re-Igniting Our Faith Campaign.)
- Bill Me (Payment options will be mailed to you.)
- Credit/Debit/Automatic Recurring Payments (Payment details will be mailed to you.)

Please contact me/us, I/we wish to make a:

- Gift of Stock/Securities

I/We intend to transfer stock from my/our account at _____ by _____
(Financial Institution) (Date)

- Planned Gift (Bequest, Gift of Life Insurance, Retirement Plan Assets, Charitable Remainder Trust)
- Matching Gift

Payment Schedule:

I/We would like to be billed (please choose one):

- Monthly
- Quarterly
(March, June, September, December)
- Semi-Annually
(June, December)
- Annually
(December)

SIGNATURE _____ DATE _____

A LENT OF OPPORTUNITY

Fast from judging others; Feast on Christ dwelling in them.
Fast from emphasis on differences; Feast on the unity of all life.
Fast from apparent darkness; Feast on the reality of all light.
Fast from thoughts of illness; Feast on the healing power of God.
Fast from words that pollute; Feast on phrases that purify.
Fast from discontent; Feast on gratitude.
Fast from anger; Feast on patience.
Fast from pessimism; Feast on optimism.
Fast from worry; Feast on God's providence.
Fast from complaining; Feast on appreciation.
Fast from negatives; Feast on affirmatives.
Fast from unrelenting pressures; Feast on unceasing prayer.
Fast from hostility; Feast on non-resistance.
Fast from bitterness; Feast on forgiveness.
Fast from self-concern; Feast on compassion for others.
Fast from personal anxiety; Feast on eternal truth.
Fast from discouragement; Feast on hope.
Fast from facts that depress; Feast on verities that uplift.
Fast from lethargy; Feast on enthusiasm.
Fast from suspicion; Feast on truth.
Fast from thoughts that weaken; Feast on promises that inspire.
Fast from shadows of sorrow. Feast on the sunlight of serenity.
Fast from idle gossip. Feast on purposeful silence.
Fast from problems that overwhelm; Feast on prayer that sustains.

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him;
male and female he created them.

God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good.

During this great season of renewal let us be inspired by the reality that we are made in God's image and likeness.

Let us use this opportunity to capture once again the reality of this great mystery of who we are.

Lent is our time to renew again how we should live this mystery of love.

It is the Author of Life calling us out of our self imposed fear of living that love, through the renewal of this great season.

**Crafted from the foundation
beams of our Church, we
continue to build up the reign
of God with living stones.
Jesus Christ is our true
cornerstone.**



YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS & ATTENDANCE
March 14 & March 15

Offertory \$2,102.00
Total \$2,102.00

Attendance:

Saturday - March 14, 4:00 PM 65
Sunday - March 15, 9:00 AM 101
Total 166

This week's second collection is for Catholic Relief Services (Mar. 21 & Mar. 22).

** In order for your contribution to be counted, please be sure to include your full name and/or envelope # if using a plain envelope.*

HACA Food Pantry will be open normal hours, however, they will give out pre-packaged bags at the door to one family at a time. All normal items will be included. **Additional Items Needed: Ramen noodles, oatmeal, canned dinners (spaghetti, chili, stew), pancake mix, rice/pasta boxed mixes (Rice a Roni), shampoo, toothpaste and brushes, and feminine hygiene items.**

Food Pantry Volunteers...We are looking for volunteers to help. For information and training, contact Dianne Hosterman at 686-5310.



- ◆ Wednesday mornings at 10 AM: Bulletin proofreaders. **Call the office.**
- ◆ Sunday morning: Collection Counters. **Call the office.**
- ◆ Lectors (readers) at Mass: **See Gloria Shufon, or call the office, 686-5064.**

ELECTRONIC GIVING

Our automatic withdrawal system is working well. This may be an easy way for you to support our parish. Please contact our office for more information.

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Fr. Joe Manerowski, Karen Thomas, Lenny Austin, Beverly James, Gloria Parker, Ronda Sharpe, Matt Waytkus, Veronica Hoag, Keith Buck, Bill Ellis, Dave Hanselman, Felicia Martelle, Pat Carknard, Cheryl McLaughlin, Hanna Stevens, Jean Shaw, Lenny Darosa, Neil Watykus, Corrine Philpott, Jeff Babson, Shirley Bissonette, Cassandra Percy, Chris Haynes, Janet Smith, Sandy McCart, Dawn Myers, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Judy Quackenbush, Sally Williams, and all those who are ill or hurting. Those who have been on the prayer list for quite some time will still be prayed for, but will not appear in the bulletin. If you are in need of prayer for yourself or someone else, please call Margaret O'Malley at 686-7835.

THANKS...from a parishioner.

Our Sponsor of the Week is...

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