

LENT - February 20 & 21, 2021



“Each year we are gifted with this joyful season that we might be better prepared to celebrate the Easter mystery of your love with heart and mind renewed.”

BISHOP OF ALBANY DIOCESE:

Edward B. Scharfenberger

BISHOP EMERITUS: Howard Hubbard

PASTOR: Fr. Tom Zelker

tomzelker@gmail.com

OFFICE MANAGER: Sue Hyde

+OUR PARISH OFFICE & MAILING ADDRESS

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

WEBSITE: www.icchoosickfalls.com

Facebook page: Immaculate Conception Hoosick Falls

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION MASS SCHEDULE:

CELEBRATED IN IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH HALL

SATURDAY, 4 PM & SUNDAY, 9 AM

TRUSTEES: Christina Angell & Ellen Scott

FINANCE COUNCIL:

Krissy Fauler, Dave Stagnitti, & Linda Billert

PASTORAL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Virginia Cuddihy, Mike Brewster

Jerry D'Acchille, Rick Ferrannini, Karen Kaufman,
and the two Trustees

MUSIC MINISTRY: Richard Cherry

WORSHIP AND ENVIRONMENT: Lynne Mango

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Liturgy Schedule:

**Saturday, February 20,
4PM Mass
For all the people**

**Sunday, February 21,
9AM Mass
For our parish conversion**

**Saturday, February 27,
4PM Mass
For all the people**

**Sunday, February 28,
9AM Mass
Pat Herrington
(Requested by Bob Shay)**



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.

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.

Church Building Update

Workers renovate and repair the ceiling with new plaster board.

Most of the church ceiling needs to be replaced or reinforced. The most financially feasible way to do this is by sheet rocking over the current ceiling, bolting it to the wooden beams and repainting it. A test section is being worked on this week.

The two big transept windows (on either side of the altar area) are in very poor condition and are falling down. They will be replaced by digital reproductions that will look just like the originals. The Immaculate Conception window is still in good shape. Improved exterior lighting is being considered.

The roof project is underway. Centimark Roofing has already repaired wind storm damage and preformed temporary fixes to other leaks. Roof replacement, gutter repair, and steeple restoration are to be done in April.

Thank you for your continued patience and support.



Comfort & Hope Group

Monday, March 1 at 6:30 pm in the Church Hall kitchen area. A faith-filled support group for anyone who has experienced the death of a loved one. We are not alone in our grief, our shared stories bless us with Christ among us. Masks are required.

Render Unto Caesar
If you need tax contribution information
please call our office.



Lent: Service and Prayer

Please consider donating food to our Pantry. People are hungry here in Hoosick Falls. Any food items may be left at Church or the Pantry.

"Little Black Books"

Meditations on the Gospels of Lent

Rice Bowls

The people of our Church help the poor and hungry throughout our world.

Stations of the Cross

Fridays of Lent 3pm in Church

Contemporary Meditations on Jesus' Cross and people of faith today.

Cards of Hope

Lent is a season of restoring our bonds of communion with each other as we strive to live our creed. We extend ourselves to become a sacrament, a beacon of hope for the world. Let's not forget our neighbors, our homebound, those confined by winter, age, COVID, or infirmity. A simple note can light up a person's day. We are inviting you to share of yourself by writing a simple card ..about winter, Lent, joy, thinking of you, etc...to one of our people. Sign the card, address the envelope with the person's name, and drop it off at Church/rectory. We will deliver the cards. Names of people to write to: Bill; Rita; Agnes; Pat; Warren; Neil; David; Carolyn; Louise; Bev; Ann Marie; Annie; Marge; Felicia; Don; Phyllis; Margaret; Al; Reta; Ralph; Joan; Tom; Sobie; Lorraine; Pam; Isabella; Helen; Winnie; Mary; Peg & Jack; Gail & Rich; Sue; Mary & John; Ellen; and Bette. You can write out as many or as few cards as you like. If you are unable to write out notes, blank cards may be left at church or our office.

If you would like to receive ICC emails, please call the parish office at 518-686-5064 or email to:

Immconcept@roadrunner.com

Faith Formation News

As part of our Family based focus these are **This weeks and Next weeks** readings so you and your family can think about those lessons.

Readings for Sunday February 21
1st Reading: Genesis 9:8-15
2nd Reading: 1 Peter 3:18-22

Gospel: Mark 1:12-15

Readings for Sunday February 28
1st Reading: Genesis 22:1-2, 9a, 10-13, 15-18
2nd Reading: Romans 8:31b-34

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Here is this weeks YouTube video that you can share and discuss with your family. Go to YouTube and search for the following:

Learning Detachment from Your Stuff

The Meaning of the Season

As he traces the historical development of Lent, Patrick O'Regan, OSB, notes that, for Christians of the fourth and fifth centuries, Lent's "purpose and character" were "entirely derived from the great festival for which it prepares...the yearly reminder of their own incorporation into the paschal event through baptism."

Lent cannot be separated from Easter - not then and not now. Just as it was for the early Christians, it is a time for us to prepare our hearts and reflect more deeply on our baptismal call to continuing conversion. This call to conversion is at the forefront of Lent from the first day of the season. On Ash Wednesday, people flock to churches to receive ashes and to be told, "Remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return" or "Repent, and believe in the Gospel." These two formulas for the imposition of ashes offer insight into the meaning of the season. The first formula is a *memento mori*, a remembrance of death. Even in our world, where rituals surrounding death are increasingly sanitized and privatized, this formula reminds us that the reality of death is undeniable. The second formula is a call to repentance - urging us to turn away from sin and toward the Good News.

Both of these formulas also invite us to deeper meditation on our Baptism and the Paschal Mystery. The first tells us that we shall die and return to dust, but we already know that we need not fear death. After all, we have already been "buried with Christ in the death of baptism" so that we may "rise also with him to newness of life." The second echoes the message of John the Baptist, who spent his ministry "proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins" (Luke 3:3).

The First Reading for Ash Wednesday (Joel 2:12-18) lays out what we are to do to repent of our sins - and the list has not changed much in the intervening millennia. The Book of Joel is not prominent in the Lectionary, as its readings appear only a few times besides Ash Wednesday. On Ash Wednesday, though, its seven verses speak with a prophetic clarity that resounds anew each year. It tells us what to do: to bring all of the people together and return to God with our whole heart, with fasting, weeping, and mourning.

Lent is a busy season in most communities. The Masses of the season themselves emphasize "the baptismal and penitential aspect of Lent," but parishes do much else to ensure that Lent disposes the faithful... to celebrate the paschal mystery". They hold missions, provide daily devotional booklets (or emails or text messages), celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours, offer additional weekday Masses, communally celebrate the Sacrament of Reconciliation, increase the number of other opportunities for individual Reconciliation, pray the Stations of the Cross, sponsor service projects, and share meals from simple soup suppers to elaborate fish fries. All these practices demonstrate that while we are urged to the three traditional Lenten practices - prayer, fasting, and almsgiving—together we heed the message from the Ash Wednesday Gospel (Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18) by not doing so in an individualistic, self-aggrandizing, or gloomy way. And all of these practices are the ways in which the baptized prepare to renew their baptismal promises at Easter.

The Palm Sunday Mass begins in glorious triumph but quickly changes tone and directs our attention to the cross. An exuberant procession with palms yields to a Collect that reminds us that God "as an example of humility... caused our Savior to take flesh and submit to the Cross," while the readings and prayers for the Mass emphasize his self-emptying. The Second Reading (Philippians 2:6-11) and the Gospel Acclamation verse recall that he "became obedient to the point of death, even death on a Cross," and the Preface for the Passion of the Lord tells that, "though innocent, he suffered willingly for sinners." The first weekdays of Holy Week—which feature violet vestments, prayers alluding to the passion and the cross, and readings focusing on Christ as Servant—are the final period preparation for the upcoming mysteries of the Triduum.

In his 2015 Palm Sunday homily, Pope Francis urged us to remember that God's way is humility, "a way which constantly amazes and disturbs us." As disciples of Christ, then, we too must humble ourselves, "making room for God by stripping oneself, emptying oneself." Doing so is essential as we prepare to celebrate Holy Week, because "only in this way will this week be 'holy' for us too." The Lenten season is indeed a time for us to grow in humility. In Preface III of Lent, we praise God in these words: "For you will that our self-denial should give you thanks, humble our sinful pride, contribute to the feeding of the poor, and so help us imitate you in your kindness." Every Lent, as we deny ourselves, repent of our own sinfulness, and recall our Baptism, we open ourselves anew to the power of God's healing, transformative grace.

Lent
February 20 & 21, 2021

**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS
& ATTENDANCE
For February 13 & 14**

Regular Offertory.....\$4,819.00
Total\$4819.00

Attendance:

Saturday, February 13.....44
Sunday, February 14.....47

WE ASK FOR YOUR PRAYERS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

Barbara Bouplon, Cheryl McLaughlin, Dave Hanselman, Dawn Myers, Dorothy Roy, Dr. Marcus Martinez, Felicia Martelle, Fr. Joe Manerowski, Gary Grogan, Jeff Babson, Jesse Stevens, Judy Brownell, Judy Quackenbush, Marie Slattery, Matt Waytkus, Melissa Cleary, Nancy Hathaway Mahoney, Neil Waytkus, Paulette Sukuskas, Ronda Sharpe, Sally Williams, Stacy Rogers, 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 518-686-7835.



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 518-686-5310.



- ♦ 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, 518-686-5064.**

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.