

LENT - February 27 & 28, 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

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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 27,
4PM Mass
For all the people**

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

**Saturday, March 6,
4PM Mass
William Harnett
Margaret & George Spittler
(Requested by Isabel Custodio)**

**Sunday, March 7,
9AM Mass
Manuel Custodio
(Requested by Isabel Custodio)
Margaret & Herbert Parka
(Requested by Judith Zeigar)
Sandy Carelli
(Requested by Margaret Eddy)**



**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

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.

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 performed 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.



Lenten Psalm of Awakening

Come, O Life-giving Creator,
and rattle the door latch
of my slumbering heart.
Awaken me as you breath upon
a winter-wrapped earth,
gently calling to life virgin Spring.

Awaken in these fortified days
of Lenten prayer and discipline
my youthful dream of holiness.
Call me forth from the prison camp
of my numerous past defeats
and my narrow patterns of being
to make my ordinary life extra-ordinarily alive,
through the passion of my love.

Show to me during these Lenten days
how to take the daily things in life
and by submerging them in the sacred,
to infuse them with a great love
for you, O God, and for others.
Guide me to perform simple acts of love and prayer,
the real works of reform and renewal
of this overture to the spring of the Spirit.

O Father of Jesus, Mother of Christ,
help me now to waste
these precious Lenten days
of my soul's spiritual springtime.

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

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

Immconcept@roadrunner.com

Sacred Heart School—March Madness Raffle

Every \$10 ticket gives you 31 chances to win \$100
Grand prize of \$1,000 picked on St. Patrick's day
Visit www.SacredHeartSchoolTroy.com for details

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

Gospel: Mark 9:2-10

Readings for Sunday March 7
1st Reading: Exodus 20:1-17
2nd Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:22-25

Gospel: John 2:13-25

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

The Most Important Part of Any Conversion

LENT

The first readings of Lent lead us through the history of God's covenantal relationships, highlighting the consistent fidelity of God toward all those with whom God forms such relationships. The covenant with "every living creature" after the Flood (Genesis 9:8-15) is, on the surface, simply a promise never again to bring a devastating flood as judgement. Beneath this promise, however, is a commitment to heal the broken world by attending to the human heart. The biblical story moves on the promises to Abraham, which commence this long, slow process. The story of Abraham's obedience to the enigmatic "test" (Genesis 22:1-18), while it raises ethical questions for modern readers, is intended to model the ideal human response to the offer of divine relationship, which is absolute trust in God even when God's will is mysterious, obscure, and even frightfully demanding. The story continues with the creation of Israel after the Exodus, as the descendants of Abraham and Sarah enter into a covenantal relationship with God that will be demanding for both parties (Exodus 20:1-17). Israel will continue to struggle to trust God, while God will struggle with the infidelity of Israel. Although repeated betrayal of the covenant relationship eventually leads to the Exile, God remains firmly committed to the relationship, not only redeeming Israel from exile (2 Chronicles 36:14-23), but also promising to reform their hearts so that they will be able to be faithful (Jeremiah 31:31-34). The servant of God promised through Isaiah represents this renewed and faithful Israel, who truly listens to God and fulfills its task of knowing God and making God known to the rest of the world (Isaiah 50:4-7).

The readings from the epistles have behind them the problem of human sin and its consequences, which are estrangement from God and ultimately death. Yet the emphasis throughout the season is on the lengths to which God has gone, in Christ, to save us from those consequences. Our salvation, in other words, has been costly. The suffering that early Christians, and perhaps all faithful Christians, face from a hostile world points toward the suffering endured by Christ, not for his own sake, but to save all those who believe in him (1 Peter 3:18-22). Paul likewise assures us his audience that the God who sacrificed his own Son will not abandon his people; they have nothing to fear, not even death (Romans 8:31-34). The sacrificial act on our behalf remains, though, difficult for humans to accept, for it points toward an attitude—or wisdom—that is completely foreign to human ways and largely incomprehensible to us. It must be accepted on faith that this is truly the way God operates (1 Corinthians 1:22-25). It is through the Cross, and not through any means recognizable to the world as "wise," that the "immeasurable riches" of God's grace have now been showered upon those who have enough faith in God to accept it (Ephesians 2:4-10).

The Gospel readings highlight Jesus as the fulfillment of God's expectations for Israel, not only as the promised Messiah but also as the ideal Israelite, or the ideal "child of God." In the wilderness, Jesus withstands the temptations to which we are all prey, keeping his eyes fixed resolutely on God and God's sovereign reign (Mark 1:12-15). The transfigured Lord manifests the glory that awaits him as the perfectly obedient Son who is able to place all of his trust in God's providential will for God's people, even to the point of laying down his life for them (Mark 9:2-10). Jesus, as the incarnate Word of God and temple of God's glory (John 2:13-25), most dramatically manifests this glory not through miracles but through his sacrificial death for the healing for all who will believe in it, a death that perfectly reveals the depths of God's love (John 3:14-21; 12:20-33).

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.

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.

Reconciliation Services

We come together as a community of mercy.

Tuesday, March 9, 4pm
Immaculate Conception Lower Church.
Monday, March 15, 6pm
Immaculate Conception Lower Church.

Please register in advance so the seating may be arranged properly. These are both the same exact communal reconciliation services; there is no need to come to both.

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.

HACA Ecumenical Lenten Devotion

For inspirational prayer from our local churches, see
Hoosick Area Church Association Facebook Page

Virtual Lenten Retreat - "God's Healing in Us"

We are offering a Virtual Retreat for Lent, "God's Healing in Us" by Fr. Richard Fragomeni, a native of Schenectady and beloved priest of our Diocese. If you would like to receive this online retreat, please email the office and we will send it to you. This thought provoking retreat consists of three 30 minute segments.

Lent
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**YOUR SACRIFICIAL OFFERINGS
& ATTENDANCE
For February 20 & 21**

Regular Offertory.....\$2,494.00
Monthly E-Collection\$2,566.00
Catholic Home Missions.....\$76.00
Total\$5,136.00

Attendance:

Saturday, February 20.....58
Sunday, February 21.....47
Total 105

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, Linda Kane, 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.



- Any food donations may be brought to church, our office, or directly to the Food Pantry.



- ♦ 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.