

The Lord is kind and merciful.

March 24, 2019

Third Sunday of Lent



Saturday, March 23
5:30 pm For Florence Acker by Monteverde Family

Sunday, March 24
9:00 am For Sylvia & Jim Scott by Jim Scott
11:00 am For Sylvia Totin by Stokes Family

Monday, March 25
8:45 am For Elizabeth Feldhusen

Tuesday, March 26
8:45 am For Fr. Robert Gordon

Wednesday, March 27
8:45 am For

Thursday, March 28
8:45 am For

Saturday, March 30
5:30 pm For

Sunday, March 31
9:00 am For Connie Wieb Barrows by Nyman Family
11:00 am For

**REMEMBRANCE MEMORIALS
FOR THE MONTH OF MARCH**

Sanctuary Lamp: In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone and Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by Corry/Benardone family
Altar Breads & Wine:
Mass Candles:

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE
March 30, 31, 2019**

Saturday 5:30 pm
Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno
Lector: Fred McQuaide
Eucharistic Ministers: Joanne Lee
Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 9:00 am
Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno
Lector: Kevin O'Shea
Eucharistic Ministers: Help Needed
Altar Servers: Help Needed

Sunday, 11:00 am
Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno
Lector: Al and David Escudero
Eucharistic Ministers: Angel Nowak
Altar Servers: Help Needed

DON'T (JUST) GIVE UP...

Lent shouldn't be *just* about giving up – it should also be about giving. One great way to give this Lent would be to donate Supermarket Gift Cards to the Long Valley Food Pantry for their Easter Baskets. What's so great about that? Well, it provides needed food for families in this area (plus some Easter treats for the children in those families), and, it fulfills the very first Corporal Work of Mercy, "To Feed the Hungry." It also happens to be very convenient. Just stop by the Supermarket Gift Card table in the gathering space and tell the nice person there, "I'd like to give!" What could be more convenient? You were going to buy gift cards for yourself anyway, weren't you?

THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S

Monday, March 25
8:45 am Mass
No CEC classes – Spring Break
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross & Reconciliation

Tuesday, March 26
8:45 am Mass
No JYM classes –Spring Break
8:00 pm K of C Meeting

Wednesday, March 27
8:45 am - Mass
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

Thursday, March 28
8:45 am Mass
5:00-10 pm Fundraiser at Bea McNally's Hackettstown

Friday, March 29
Parish Office Closed

Saturday, March 30
8:00 am Men's Bible Study
5:30 pm Mass

Sunday, March 31
9:00 am & 11:00 am Mass
SYM

WEEKLY COLLECTION

Current Year	Last Year 2018
March 17, 2019: \$2,317.47 Extended Catholic Obligations: \$404.40	March 18, 2018: \$2,683 Extended Catholic Obligations: \$385
Supermarket Gift Cards: Sales: \$3,550 Profit: \$177.50 2019 YTD Profit \$1,349.50 # of families: 17	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is NJ484

FAITH DIRECT...

Fast. Pray. Give up your Envelopes! We invite you to help St. Mark the Evangelist by enrolling with Faith Direct to provide the church with consistent support and simplify your giving. Signing up is easy! Visit www.faithdirect.net and use our church code: **NJ484**, or **text the word ENROLL** to (Text-to-Give Phone Number).
God Bless You, Fr Marcin



THERE WILL BE A SECOND COLLECTION NEXT WEEKEND FOR OUR PARISH LITURGICAL EXPENSES. AS ALWAYS YOUR GENEROSITY IS GREATLY APPRECIATED.

MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

LENT goes very fast. Today we already celebrate 3rd Sunday of Lent. Today's Gospel, Jesus' parable of the barren fig trees illustrates Jesus warning about the consequences of allowing sin and corruption to take root in our hearts and minds. When Jesus preached the coming of God's kingdom of peace and righteousness to his people, he called them to repent and believe in the gospel - the good news of pardon, peace, and new life in the Holy Spirit. Jesus did so many signs and miracles demonstrated the power of God's kingdom breaking into the lives of all who turned to Him with faith and obedience.

The real danger which Jesus points out is that an unexpected disaster or a sudden death does not give us time to repent of our sins and to prepare ourselves to meet the Judge of heaven and earth. The Book of Job reminds us that misfortune and disaster can befall both the righteous and the unrighteous alike. **Jesus gives a clear warning - take responsibility for your actions and moral choices and put sin to death today before it can destroy your heart, mind, soul, and body as well. Unrepentant sin is like a cancer which corrupts us from within. If it is not eliminated through repentance - asking God for forgiveness and for his healing grace - it leads to a spiritual death which is far worse than physical destruction.**

Why does God judge his people? He judges to purify and cleanse us of all sin that we might grow in his holiness and righteousness. God, in his mercy, gives us time to get right with him, but that time is now. We must not assume that there is no rush. A sudden and unexpected death leaves no time to reconcile one self's when someone must stand before the Lord on the Day of Judgment. Jesus warns us that we must be ready at all times. Tolerating sinful habits and excusing unrepentant sin will result in bad fruit and final destruction.

The Lord in his mercy gives us both grace and time to turn away from sin, but that time is right now. If we delay, even for a day, we may discover that grace has passed us by and our time is up.

The unfruitful fig tree from today's Gospel symbolized those who unresponsiveness to the word of God. Jesus' parable shows the patience of God, but it also contains a warning that we should not presume upon patience and mercy. God's judgment will come sooner or later.

.CONFESSION AND HOLY COMMUNION.

Lent is a time when we should go to confession. Every Monday evening every church in our diocese is open from 7 to 8:30 with priest who is waiting to those who would like to reconcile themselves with God through the sacrament of penance.

We know that still many Catholics do not go to confession frequently but they come to communion every time when they come to church. As the Catechism of the Catholic Church teaches, "anyone conscious of a grave sin must receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation before coming to communion"

St. Paul reminds the Corinthians that the Eucharist is the very Body and Blood of the Lord. He urges them to examine their consciences, warning them to refrain from receiving Holy Communion if they are in serious sin. He says, "Whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily...eats and drinks judgment on himself".

Confession is never easy. It requires deep humility. For this reason, Tertullian, a Christian writer living at the end of the second century, urged Christians to move beyond any embarrassment in confessing their sins.

Everyone in the Church from the young person preparing to receive First Holy Communion to the pope himself needs to go to confession. As Pope Francis has said, "... [even] priests and bishops...have to go to confession. We are all sinners". So important is individual confession that Pope Francis has spoken about it more than his predecessors. He himself goes at least twice a month

Jesus never stops looking at us with love. Thus, it is always possible for us to be forgiven, no matter what our sins may be. His pierced heart is the fount of forgiveness. By the power of the Holy Spirit, the Crucified and Risen Lord, in the Sacrament of Reconciliation, continually offers us pardon and hope. Thus, in making a worthy confession, we find peace in the embrace of God's mercy.

---**HELP OUR PARISH.** If you go to Bea McNally's Irish Pub, 109 Grand Ave. Hackettstown on Thursday, March 28th (5pm - 10pm dine in or take out) --- **20% of your bill will be donated to St. Mark's.**

--- **PASCHAL CANDLE.** If anybody would like to donate a new Paschal Candle and have it lit throughout the year in memory of someone... please contact Fr. Marcin

THIS WEEK PARISH MISSION AT OLM CHURCH. MONDAY, TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY BY MSGR. RAY LOPATESKY. **STARTS AT 7PM**

DIVINE MERCY ENCOUNTER---SUNDAY---MARCH 24---3PM---MUSIC PROGRAM BASED ON THE DIARY OF ST. FAUSTINA-----OLM CHURCH.

Our Parish Mission was very successful. Thank you all who participated in our Parish Mission. My special thanks go to Fr. Joe and our music ministry, Melissa Heike for supplying us with copies of the readings and music, members of our Parish Advisory Council for our Kick-off Pot Luck Luncheon and the Pizza Party to close out our mission week.

I would also like to thank the Knights of Columbus for their continuous support of St. Mark's Parish, and especially for their help with recent improvements that have been made here at St. Mark's. Thank you all so very much.

*ST.MARK pray for us...Stay close to Jesus,
Fr. Marcin*

FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...

St. John of Egypt - March 27

Hermit (ca. 304 - 394)

St. John was among the most famous of the early Desert Fathers, his ascetic exploits were celebrated by a number of saints, including Augustine, Jerome, and John Cassian. After spending his early life as a carpenter, John received a call to a life of prayer and solitude. He apprenticed himself to an elderly monk who tested his capacity for obedience by forcing him to perform seemingly ridiculous exercises, like faithfully watering a dead twig or moving heavy rocks from

place to place. Upon his master's death, he set out for the desert wilderness. In a remote cave he constructed a cell in which he walled himself in, allowing only a single window through which he received donations of food. John received visitors only on Saturdays and Sundays. The other days he spent in prayer. Nevertheless, pilgrims flocked to see him, drawn by his renowned gifts for prophecy, healing, and the ability to read people's souls. Even the emperor sent messengers to receive his wisdom.

John spent over forty years in this life. At the age of ninety, sensing that his end was near, he closed his window, leaving instructions that no one should disturb him for three days. At the conclusion of that period he was found to have expired while kneeling in prayer.

"Am I a saint, or a prophet like God's true servants? I'm a sinful and weak man ... Live always in the fear of God, and never forget his benefits." - St. John of Egypt

FROM FR. JAVIER...

TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH - THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH

The Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation

My dear brothers and sisters Jesus' call to conversion and penance, like that of the prophets before him, does not aim first at outward works, "*sackcloth and ashes*," fasting and mortification, but at the conversion of the heart, interior conversion. Without this, such penances remain sterile and false; however, interior conversion urges expression in visible signs, gestures and works of penance.

Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of our whole life, a return, a conversion to God with all our heart, an end of sin, a turning away from evil, with repugnance toward the evil actions we have committed. At the same time it entails the desire and resolution to change one's life, with hope in God's mercy and trust in the help of his grace. *This conversion of heart is accompanied by a salutary pain and sadness which the Fathers called *animi cruciatus* (affliction of spirit) and *compunctio cordis* (repentance of heart).*

The human heart is heavy and hardened. God must give man a new heart. Conversion is first of all a work of the grace of God who makes our hearts return to him: "*Restore us to thyself, O LORD, that we may be restored!*" God gives us the strength to begin anew. It is in discovering the greatness of God's love that our heart is shaken by the horror and weight of sin and begins to fear offending God by sin and being separated from him.

God bless you

IT'S TIME TO JOIN THE LV COLUMBIETTES...

Please consider joining the Long Valley Columbiettes to meet dedicated Catholic women who work together to help out others in need. Social and fundraising events take place every year, such as a Christmas party, knitting scarves for the homeless, veterans' hospital visit, pajamas/book collection, and many more charitable projects.

We meet the third Wednesday of every month at OLM. The degree installation is Sunday, March 31. Please contact Lucie Cohn 973-699-6793 for more information.

COLUMBIETTES COLLECTION...

The LV Columbiettes are collecting the following items the weekend of April 6 and 7. New women's, men's and children's underwear and women's feminine products to be donated to Father English Center in Paterson, also, men's white t-shirts to be donated to Operation

Chillout. A collection box will be in the gathering space. Thank you for your help in helping others.



ST. MARK'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE...

Saturday, April 27, 7- 10 pm. We are going to celebrate the end of our 30th Anniversary year with a Dinner Dance in our Parish Hall. Music to be supplied by SC3 Entertainment. At this time we are looking for parishioners to help plan and organize the event. Please contact Phyllis Fania at (201) 919-7962.

OLM ALTAR SOCIETY - DAY OF RECOLLECTION...

A Day of Reflection sponsored by the Rosary Altar Society, will be held on Saturday, **March 30, 2019**, from 9:30 to 3:00 pm. All attendees are to bring a brown bag lunch, desserts will be served. Coffee and Bagels will be provided. The cost is \$10.00. Contact Dolores Reagle at 908-296-5660 to sign up. All ladies of OLM & St. Mark's and their guests are invited.

TRIP TO LONGWOOD GARDENS, SATURDAY, APRIL 27TH.

This trip is open to all church members. The bus will be leaving the OLM church parking lot at 8 am and returning approximately 6 pm. Price of \$45 includes bus and entrance fee. Checks must be received by this **Monday, March 25th**. Checks should be made out to OLM Altar Rosary Society and can be sent to the OLM church office. Please put attention Altar Rosary on the envelope. Questions, call Cyndi Sturla 908-391-4764 or Linda Richartz 908-876-9601.

COMMUNITY NEWS

CONCERT – ST. PATRICK CHURCH CHATHAM...

Please join us for an amazing and inspirational concert by composer and speaker Eric Genuis on Sunday, March 31st from 2-3:30pm at St. Patrick Church in Chatham. Eric is a talented musician who will perform original music with a professional cellist, vocalist, and violinist. His mission is to bring hope to the hopeless in prisons, VA hospitals, inner city schools, and homeless shelters, anywhere where he can uplift the human spirit! Please come and support his mission while enjoying an amazing experience! Join us for a light reception following the concert. For information and to rsvp: maggiehansonmusic@gmail.com



All- powerful and ever-living God the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help for the sick; restore their health, that they may again offer joyful thanks in your church

.Richard Alvarez, Daria Cremonini, Tony Atkins, Mary McArdle, Fran Clary, Rocky Labato, Anna McFarland, Girard Nolte, Jr., Dan Salerno, George and Ann Senftinger, Fredrick Senftinger, Anne Sheehan, Special Intention, Mary Travisano, Christopher Zeliff,

