

# Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

March 31, 2019

Fourth Sunday of Lent



**Saturday, March 30**  
5:30 pm For Parishioners of St. Mark's

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

**Monday, April 1**  
8:45 am  
10:45 am Mass at Heath Village – Faith Chapel

**Tuesday, April 2**  
8:45 am

**Wednesday, April 3**  
8:45 am For Rita Heykoop by Bill Betz

**Thursday, April 4**  
8:45 am

**Saturday, April 6**  
5:30 pm

**Sunday, April 7**  
9:00 am For Jerome Kroger 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  
April 6, 7, 2019**

**Saturday 5:30 pm**  
Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno  
Lector: Tom Morley  
Eucharistic Ministers: Joanne Lee  
Altar Servers: Help Needed

**Sunday, 9:00 am**  
Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno  
Lector: Tony Cretella  
Eucharistic Ministers: Rick Gebbia  
Altar Servers: Help Needed

**Sunday, 11:00 am**  
Celebrant: Fr. Javier Bareno  
Lector: Dina Carmelengo  
Eucharistic Ministers: Eileen Labue  
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, April 1**  
8:45 am Mass  
7:00 pm Stations of the Cross & Reconciliation All K-10 CEC students are to attend

**Tuesday, April 2**  
8:45 am Mass

**Wednesday, April 3**  
8:45 am - Mass  
9:30 am Women's Bible Study

**Thursday, April 4**  
8:45 am Mass

**Friday, April 5**  
Parish Office Closed

**Saturday, April 6**  
8:00 am Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm Mass  
Columbiettes collection of men's, woman's and children's underwear

**Sunday, April 7**  
9:00 am & 11:00 am Mass  
SYM  
12:00 pm Baptism Cole Conte Conceicao  
Columbiettes collection of men's, woman's and children's underwear

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Current Year	Last Year 2018
March 24, 2019: \$1,403	March 25, 2018: \$2,710
Supermarket Gift Cards: Sales: \$3,400 Profit: \$170 2019 YTD Profit \$1,519.50 # of families: 13	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](http://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



## MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

The rose chasuble today reminds us that already we have reached LAETARE SUNDAY in Lent, just over half way through Lent. LAETARE means rejoice. The Scripture readings today give us a great reason to rejoice. The prodigal son is welcomed back by his father. Paul tells us that Christ has reconciled us to the Father, and in the first reading the Israelites celebrate their first Passover in the Promised Land. The readings indeed give us many reasons to rejoice.

There is a great search for happiness and fulfillment in life now. The emphasis now is on enjoying life. That search for happiness and fulfillment is symbolized by the prodigal son who went in search of happiness in the parable in today's Gospel. The only problem was that he thought he could find happiness in what the parable calls a life of sin. We would say now he tried to find happiness by satisfying his every desire whether moral or immoral. This eventually led him to living with the pigs in the piggery. But true happiness is not to be found outside of ourselves, but within ourselves, in our own hearts. I am sure if his father or anybody else had tried to show him before he left home that he would be wasting his life and money, he would not listen. He had to be left to learn the hard way, from his own mistake, since there was no way you could reason with him. He also had to decide himself to come home. If someone went to bring him home he would resent it.

In the parable we are given a most beautiful description of our heavenly Father. He is outside of the house waiting for the younger son to return. When the son returns his father runs to him, kisses him, brings him in and throws a party for him.

When we return to God he throws a party for us. Our heavenly Father welcomes each of us to his party. The most beautiful line for me in the parable is what the father says to the elder son, "All I have is yours." Our heavenly Father says to us, "All I have is yours." This is a most beautiful promise and invitation. We were not told at the end of the parable whether or not the elder son went in to the party. After reading this parable we also have a choice to make, will we stay outside or will we go in to enjoy the Father's party.

Come to the Father in the sacrament of reconciliation before Easter and like the prodigal son kneel before him. Rest your head on his chest and allow the Father to embrace you, with the love of a father and mother. Come to the Father to receive his forgiveness. That moment when the Father embraces you in the sacrament of reconciliation is when the priest recites the words of absolution over you and absolves your sins. **Saints have a past, sinners have a future.**

### ---GOD'S MERCY---

God's Mercy. How extraordinary. It is difficult for some to comprehend God's mercy because we live in a world that is not merciful. We live in a world that often acts in a way contrary to God's mercy, a world that often does not forgive and seeks revenge. God's mercy is so opposite to the thinking of this world. Also some people may have grown up with a distorted picture of God that did not focus on God's love and mercy.

We can turn to Mary also asking her to intercede for us before her Son Jesus that we may receive the fullness of Jesus' love and forgiveness and mercy. There is nothing Jesus' mother would want more for us than to be close to her son Jesus. If we turn to God there is no sin that cannot be forgiven by God. Bitterness, anger,

resentment and revenge in the world are destroying the world. There is a better way to live, the way of God, God's mercy. God's love and mercy is the cure for this world.

Jesus told this parable to teach us that God is always waiting for us to return to him. If we are in a bad place in life like the prodigal with the pigs, there is a better way to live, with God in our life. Life is better with God than without God. Notice the mercy of God and the welcome that God has for us. When we return to God we are welcomed back as a son, not as a servant. If we turn to God there is no sin that cannot be forgiven by God.

Next Saturday (April 6<sup>th</sup>) - FIRST SATURDAY DEVOTION. 9am confession. 10am rosary and adoration, 10am Holy Mass. **OLM CHURCH**

*St. Mark our patron, pray for us...God bless you,  
Fr. Marcin*



Because our parish exceeded its 2018 Bishop's Annual Appeal Goal we have receive a rebate from the Diocese.  
2018 Goal: \$10,000.00  
Cash Received through March 8, 2019: \$17,250.00  
50% of Over-Goal Cash: \$7,250.00  
Rebate as of March 8, 2019: \$3,625.00  
Thank you very much for your support and thank you for your appeal gift that directly helps our parish.

**FROM FR. SLAWOMIR...**  
**Micah – March 29**  
Prophet (Eighth Century BC)

The prophet Micah was a younger contemporary of the prophet Isaiah. Like him he operated in the southern kingdom of Judah in the eighth century BC. Unlike Isaiah, who sprang from the priestly elite, Micah came from a small village in the countryside. He identified with the poor of the land, those who bore the burden of the city folk with their privilege and their greed. The rich, he said, were like cannibals feeding off "the flesh of my people." In harsh tones he denounced those who "abhor justice and pervert all equity". The northern kingdom of Israel had fallen to Assyria. Micah warned that the same fate awaited Judah. He did not even spare Jerusalem from the head of divine judgment to come. The corruption had gone too far; the wound was "incurable."

And yet what God sought from Judah was correction, not destruction. Micah proclaimed the preservation of a saving "remnant" from which a new nation would emerge. There would be a lasting era of peace and justice war would be no more, and justice would reign. What in return did God require? Not burnt offerings, lavish sacrifices, or elaborate worship: "but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God."

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Micah 4:3

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 the interior penance of the Christian can be expressed in many and various ways. Scripture and the Fathers insist above all on three forms, fasting, prayer, and almsgiving, which express conversion in relation to oneself, to God, and to others. Alongside the radical purification brought about by Baptism or martyrdom they cite as means of obtaining forgiveness of sins: effort at reconciliation with one's neighbor, tears of repentance, concern for the salvation of one's neighbor, the intercession of the saints, and the practice of charity "*which covers a multitude of sins.*"

Conversion is accomplished in daily life by gestures of reconciliation, concern for the poor, the exercise and defense of justice and right, by the admission of faults to one's brethren, fraternal correction, revision of life, examination of conscience, spiritual direction, acceptance of suffering, endurance of persecution for the sake of righteousness. Taking up one's cross each day and following Jesus is the surest way of penance.

Eucharist and Penance. Daily conversion and penance find their source and nourishment in the Eucharist, for in it is made present the sacrifice of Christ which has reconciled us with God. Through the Eucharist those who live from the life of Christ are fed and strengthened. "*It is a remedy to free us from our daily faults and to preserve us from mortal sins.*"

God bless you



**ST. MARK'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY DINNER DANCE...**  
Saturday, April 27, 7- 10 pm. We are going to celebrate the end of our 30<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **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.

### **ROSARY ALTAR SOCIETY MEETING – TUESDAY, APRIL 9, AT 7:15 PM...**

All ladies of Our Lady of the Mountain and St. Mark's parishes are invited to join us for our Rosary Altar Society Meeting at OLM on Tuesday, April 9, at 7:15 pm. We begin with the Rosary followed by Mass and the Novena to our Blessed Mother, and end with our meeting where you can enjoy some refreshments. We are very pleased to have as our speaker Fr. Zigmund Peplowski, pastor of St. Cecilia in Rockaway. At this meeting we will be asking all members to nominate Board Members for the next two year term. Please come join us and bring a friend. If you have any questions, please contact our President, Linda Richartz at 908-876-9601.

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### **POPE JOHN XXIII ACADEMY....**

"Want More? Be More at Pope John! Pope John will be hosting an academy-wide Open House on Sunday, April 7th between 1:00 and 3:00 pm. The event is open to all families with children in PK3 to Grade 11. Come learn about the academy's 20/20 Vision and our new tuition structure for next year. Contact the Office of Admission to learn more and to RSVP at [admissions@popejohn.org](mailto:admissions@popejohn.org) or (973) 729-6126."

**WASHINGTON TOWNSHIP RECREATION**, is gearing up for summer with camps and clinics. Camp signups have begun and part of our "**EARLY BIRD SPECIAL**" We are taking off \$20 for each summer camp you sign up for before **APRIL 30<sup>th</sup>**. Payments must be received by **April 30<sup>th</sup>** in order to receive the discount. Sorry no exceptions. All registration forms and camp descriptions are on our website [www.stmorris.org](http://www.stmorris.org) Any questions email [recreation@wtmorris.net](mailto:recreation@wtmorris.net) or call office 908-876-5941.

**MOMMY AND ME YOGA CLASSES FOR AGES 4-7 on** Tuesdays April 23-May 28 3:45-4:30 pm the LV Teen Arts Center, 212 W. Mill Rd. LV. For information email [recreation@wtmorris.net](mailto:recreation@wtmorris.net) visit website [www.wtmorris.org](http://www.wtmorris.org) or call office 908-876-5941



*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, Christopher Zeliff,



Mary Travisano, Jane Ericson

