

Blessed are they who follow the law of the Lord!

February 16, 2020 ~ Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time



**Saturday, February 15**

5:30 pm For Christine Kilbride by *Lennon Family*

**Sunday, February 16**

9:00 am For Special Intention for Fr. Javier by *Corry Family*

11:00 am For Raymond Van Hoorebeke by *Robert & Dawn Liska*

**Monday, February 17**

8:45 am For the health of Dorothy Hogan by *Bill Betz*

**Tuesday, February 18**

8:45 am For Edna Mae Cassidy (living) by *Donald Family*

**Wednesday, February 19**

8:45 am For Carmen Lopez by *Maria*

**Thursday, February 20**

8:45 am For

**Saturday, February 22**

5:30 pm For Helen Rohal by *Solecki Family*

**Sunday, February 23**

9:00 am For Parishioners of St. Mark's

11:00 am For Ed Milazzo by *McGrath Family*

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

*February 22,23, 2020*

*Saturday, 5:30 pm*

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Marianne Hobbie	Mike & Nancy Lennon	Help Needed	Help Needed

*Sunday, 9:00 am*

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Lia & Gabriella Nowak	Help Needed	Help Needed	Help Needed

*Sunday, 11:00 am*

Lector	Euch. Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Dina Carmelengo Sharon Donovan	Paul & Gina Tupaczewski	Help Needed	Help Needed



*For the month of February*

**Sanctuary Lamp:** In loving memory of Vito and Marie Benardone and Aeneas and Genevieve Corry by *Corry/Benardone family*

**Mass Candles:** In loving memory of Dorothy Totin Donohue and Marion Chambers by *Stokes family*

**Altar Breads & Wine:** Special Intention for *Skoczylas Family*

**THIS WEEK AT ST. MARK'S**

**Monday, February 17**

8:45 am.....Mass

Parish Office closed in observance of President's Day

7:30 pm.....Choir Rehearsal

**Tuesday, February 18**

8:45 am.....Mass

**Wednesday, February 19**

8:45 am..... Mass

9:30 am Women's Bible Study

7:30 pm K of C Meeting

**Thursday, February 20**

8:45 am.....Mass

**Friday, February 21**

Parish Office Closed

**Saturday, February 22**

8:00 am.....Men's Bible Study

5:30 pm.....Mass

**Sunday, February 23**

9:00 & 11:00 am.....Mass

Senior Youth Ministry Classes

12:00 pm Baptism Jordan

Michael Williams



**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Current Year	Last Year 2019
<b>February 9, 2020: \$1,732</b>	<b>February 10, 2019: \$1,837</b>
<b>Supermarket Gift Cards</b> <b>February 9, 2020</b> Sales.....\$2,250 Profit:..... \$112.50 YTD Profit.....\$553.75 # of Families.....11	St. Mark's Faith Direct Church Code is <b>NJ484</b>

**FAITH DIRECT...**

Our parish relies on the support of everyone in our parish family to help us further our mission this year.. Enrolling in online giving will simplify your monthly budgeting while also providing St. Mark's with consistent, reliable support for our parish family. If you haven't signed up yet, don't worry, it's easy to get started! Visit [faith.direct/NJ484](http://faith.direct/NJ484), Thank you for your support. God Bless You, Fr. Marcin

Did you know that St. Marks pays a small fee for all gifts made using credit cards? Faith Direct is now offering a way for St. Mark's families to give a little bit extra each month to offset these processing costs. We ask you to please prayerfully consider adding this 2.5% processing offset to your regular tithing so that St. Marks can receive the full amount of your gifts each month. If you manage your giving online, you can log into your Faith Direct account and check the box on the page where you can update your payment information. You can also contact Faith Direct's customer service team to make the change for you. Thank you for your continued support of our parish family.



Next weekend for Diocesan Assessment & Church in Central & Eastern Europe

## MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Today we celebrate 6<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time. Time goes very fast and we are almost in the Holy season of LENT!

Jesus did not come to abolish the Law but to fulfill it. Jesus came to fulfill the Law and this he did in the most unexpected way, at the Calvary. Jesus is also the fulfillment of our lives, the one who can raise our lives to a new level. Jesus is the one who can transform our lives by elevating them. Jesus is the one knocking on the door of our hearts every day.

Why do people tend to view the "law of God" negatively rather than positively? Jesus' attitude towards the law of God can be summed up in the great prayer of Psalm 119: "Oh, how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day."

For the people of Israel the "law" could refer to the Ten Commandments or to the five Books of Moses, called the Pentateuch or Torah, which explain the commandments and ordinances of God for his people. The "law" also referred to the whole teaching or way of life which God gave to his people. The Jews in Jesus' time also used it as a description of the oral or scribal law. Needless to say, the scribes added many more things to the law than God intended. That is why Jesus often condemned the scribal law because it placed burdens on people which God had not intended.

Jesus made it very clear that the essence of God's law - his commandments and way of life, must be fulfilled. God's law is true and righteous because it flows from his love, goodness, and holiness. It is a law of grace, love, and freedom for us. That is why God commands us to love him above all else and to follow in the way of his Son, the Lord Jesus who taught us how to love by laying down our lives for one another.

Jesus taught reverence and respect for God's law - reverence for God himself, reverence for the Lord's Day, reverence or respect for parents, respect for life, for property, for another person's good name, respect for oneself and for one's neighbor lest wrong or hurtful desires master and enslave us. Reverence and respect for God's commandments teach us the way of love - love of God and love of neighbor. What is impossible to humans is possible to God who gives generously of his gifts and the power of the Holy Spirit to those who put their faith and trust in him.

God gives us the grace, help, and strength to love as he loves, to forgive as he forgives, to think and judge as he judges, and to act as he acts with mercy, loving-kindness, and goodness. The Lord loves righteousness and hates wickedness. As his followers we must love his commandments and hate every form of sin and wrong-doing. If we want to live righteously as God desires for us, then we must know and understand the intention of God's commands for us, and decide in our heart to obey the Lord. Do you seek to understand the intention of his law and to grow in wisdom of his ways?

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Two millennia ago people were waiting for the Messiah but most of them missed him because they wanted a Messiah of their own making. Jesus did not come to abolish the law and prophets but to fulfill them by completing and perfecting them, and if we are open Jesus comes to us to complete and perfect us.

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ST. MARK, OUR PATRON...PRAY FOR US...

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### **.WE NEED TO BE STRONG IN OUR FAITH.**

There is a battle going on in the lives of each of us, a battle going on for the lives of each of us, a battle between good and evil. At the end of that battle in the next life we will either hear Jesus say, "you are mine" or hear Satan say, "you are mine." Through his cross Jesus has won the battle but it is up to us now to accept his grace and live as those redeemed by Jesus. There are manifestations of grace and manifestations of evil all around us but we can take the side of Jesus in the battle for our lives by **overcoming sin and temptation**.

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**FROM FR. JAVIER...**

### **TEACHING FROM THE CATECHISM OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH**

#### **THE SACRAMENTS OF THE CHURCH**

##### **The Sacrament of Matrimony**

My dear brothers and sisters, According to Catechism of the Catholic Church, *God* who created man out of love also calls him to love the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being. For man is created in the image and likeness of God who is himself love. Since God created him man and woman, their mutual love becomes an image of the absolute and unfailing love with which God loves man. It is good, very good, in the Creator's eyes. And this love which God blesses is intended to be fruitful and to be realized in the common work of watching over creation: "*And God blessed them, and God said to them: 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it.'*"

Holy Scripture affirms that man and woman were created for one another: "*It is not good that the man should be alone.*" *The woman, 'flesh of his flesh,' his equal, his nearest in all things, is given to him by God as a 'helpmate'; she thus represents God from whom comes our help. 'Therefore a man leaves his father and his mother and cleaves to his wife, and they become one flesh.'* *The Lord himself shows that this signifies an unbreakable union of their two lives by recalling what the plan of the Creator had been 'in the beginning': 'So they are no longer two, but one flesh.'* God bless you

## SIXTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading: Sirach 15:15-20

This passage from Sirach gives strong, unequivocal emphasis to free will in every person. Before each of us is set, sin or virtue, life or death, and each of us are free to choose the one or the other.

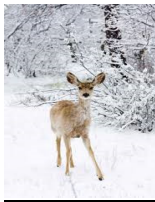
### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:6-10

Paul explains to the Corinthians that there are two different kinds of wisdom — the wisdom of God and the wisdom of the world. The wisdom of God is mysterious, but this wisdom has been revealed “to those who love him” through the Spirit.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:17-37

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus tells the people he has come to fulfill the law. He speaks strongly against murder and anger, against adultery and lust, and against false oaths and lies. He warns the people that unless their virtue exceeds that of the Pharisees, they “will not enter the kingdom of God.”

## FOOD PANTRY NEEDS...



A warm thank you to all the generous parishioners who have donated items to the food pantry so far this cold season. However, please continue to keep the food pantry in your prayers and on your shopping lists this winter. They are in particular need of medicine cabinet items, hearty soups, pasta/sauce, and coffee/tea, but anything you can donate will be greatly appreciated.



## USED BOOK SALE

St. Mark's is hosting a Used Book Sale. We will be selling gently used books, DVDs, CDs-adult and children's. We have over 1000 books – fiction, non-fiction, biographies, how-to books, cookbooks – children's first readers and chapter books – lots of popular titles. Something for everyone! Come on over and check it out. Invite your family, friends, and fellow readers.

Special Parishioner Hours: Friday, March 6 from 5pm-7pm

Open to the Public: Saturday, March 7 from 9am-3 pm and 5-7pm  
Sunday, March 8 from 10am-3pm  
Sunday is Bag Day – fill a bag for \$10

## PARISH WINTER MAINTENANCE...

As you know every winter our heating, snow, and ice removal costs go up and this winter is no exception. We could use your help. There are envelopes in the gathering space and a box for your donation. As always, we thank you for your support.



The Long Valley Knights of Columbus would like to thank everyone who supported the March for Life in Washington DC on January 24 especially the 41 people who rode the bus and participated in the march. You have shown that you are willing to give time from your busy lives in support of ending the ongoing scourge of abortion, and the growing evil of euthanasia. May God Bless you for your efforts.

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*Always be ready to give an explanation to anyone who asks you for a reason for your hope, but do it with gentleness and reverence.*

*1 Peter 3:15*

## NEW EYES FOR THE NEEDY...

The Knights of Columbus will be having an eyeglass recycling container in St. Mark's gathering space February 1-28. Please donate your used eyeglasses which will be given to the needy and be sincerely appreciated.

## Community News

### OLM FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB...

The OLM Book Club will meet on Wednesday, February 19 in the conference room of OLM's lower church at 7 pm. We will be discussing The Cemetery Keeper's Wife by Maryann McFadden, a local author. All are welcome to join us.

### CATHOLIC SCHOOL PRINCIPAL NEEDED...

The Catholic Schools Office of the Diocese of Paterson is seeking applicants for the 2020-2021 school year for a principal for St. Mary School, Pompton Lakes, NJ. St. Mary School is a PR-8 elementary school. Closing date for applications is March 9, 2020. A job description and application material can be found at [www.patdioschools.org/administrative-openings](http://www.patdioschools.org/administrative-openings)

### CARING BASKET GALA...

Assumption College for Sisters, Denville, will host their Nineteenth Annual Caring Basket Gala on March 26, 2020, The Event will be held at the Hanover Marriott from 6:30-10:00 pm. Featured during the event are 50/50 cash raffle and basket raffle along with a silent and live auction. All proceeds are primarily for the support and education of the 20 international sisters from developing nations who are attending the college where they say, "Teach a Sister-Touch the World. For more information and for the invitation, visit [www.acs350.org/events-2/](http://www.acs350.org/events-2/)

