

*The Lord is kind and merciful.*

**February 23, 2020 ~ Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time**



**Saturday, February 22**

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

**Sunday, February 23**

9:00 am Mass of Thanksgiving

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

**Monday, February 24**

8:45 am For

**Tuesday, February 25**

8:45 am For Keiran Sheehan in honor of his Confirmation  
*by his grandparents*

**Wednesday, February 26 Ash Wednesday**

8:45 am For Marie Louise Chang, *by Koproski Family*

**Thursday, February 27**

8:45 am For

**Saturday, February 29**

5:30 pm For Joshua Broadhurst *by Madaras Family*

**Sunday, March 1**

9:00 am For Ida Vazquez *by The Schwints*

11:00 am For Carlos Revescola *by Nowak Family*

For Donald Dobbings *by McDermott Family*

**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

*February 29, March 1, 2020*

*Saturday, 5:30 pm*

Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Tom & Sarah Hanifin	Joanne Lee	Help Needed	Help Needed

*Sunday, 9:00 am*

Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Jim Scott	Patrick Kenney	Help Needed	Help Needed

*Sunday, 11:00 am*

Lector	Eucharistic Ministers	Gift Bearers	Altar Servers
Dina Carmelengo	Eileen Labue	Jaross Family	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 24**

8:45 am.....Mass  
4:30 pm..... CEC K-5,  
4<sup>th</sup> grade retreat  
7:30 pm.....Choir Rehearsal  
7:30 pm Finance Meeting  
7:30 pm Boy Scouts

**Tuesday, February 25**

8:45 am.....Mass  
6:15 pm JYM & Family Faith  
8:00 pm K of C Meeting

**Wednesday, February 26  
Ash Wednesday**

8:45 am .....Mass  
& distribution of ashes  
9:30 am Women's Bible  
Study  
4:30 pm Liturgy of the  
Word & distribution of  
ashes

**Thursday, February 27**

8:45 am.....Mass

**Friday, February 28**

Parish Office Closed

**Saturday, February 29**

8:00 am.....Men's Bible Study  
5:30 pm.....Mass

**Sunday, March 1**

9:00 & 11:00 am.....Mass  
SYM classes  
11:00 am .....K-10 Mass  
12:00 pm ...10<sup>th</sup> Grade  
Reconciliation & Pastor Interviews

**WEEKLY COLLECTION**

Current Year	Last Year 2019
<b>February 16, 2020: \$1,870.10</b> Churches in Central & Eastern Europe: \$326	<b>February 17, 2019: \$1,510</b> E.C.O figures not available
<b>Supermarket Gift Cards February 16, 2020</b> Sales.....\$2,800 Profit:..... \$140.00 YTD Profit.....\$693.75 # of Families.....12	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.

## MY DEAR PARISHIONERS,

Today we celebrate 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday in ordinary time, last Sunday before Ash Wednesday the beginning of the HOLY SEASON OF LENT. **How do we respond to hurts and offenses?** Jesus gives us some valuable teaching in the Gospel today.

If someone insults you or tries to take advantage of you, how do you respond? Do you repay in kind? Jesus approached the question of just retribution with a surprising revelation of God's intention for how we should treat others, especially those who mistreat us. When Jesus spoke about God's law, he did something no one had done before. He gave a new standard based not just on the requirements of justice - giving each their due - but based on the law of grace, love, and freedom.

What makes a disciple of Jesus Christ different from everyone else? What makes Christianity distinct from any other religion? It is grace - treating others, not as they deserve, but as God wishes them to be treated - with loving-kindness and mercy. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. The Lord Jesus suffered insult, abuse, injustice, and death on a cross for our sake. Scripture tells us that the blood of Jesus Christ cleanses us from all sin and guilt. Since God has been merciful towards us through the offering of his Son, Jesus Christ, we in turn are called to be merciful towards our neighbor, even those who cause us grief and harm.

How can we possibly love those who cause us harm or ill-will? With God all things are possible. He gives power and grace to those who believe and accept the gift of the Holy Spirit. His love conquers all, even our hurts, fears, prejudices and griefs. Only the cross of Jesus Christ can free us from the tyranny of malice, hatred, revenge, and resentment and gives us the courage to return evil with good. Such love and grace has power to heal and to save from destruction. **Do we know the power and freedom of Christ's redeeming love and mercy?**

**God knows our sinfulness and weaknesses better than we do - and he assures us of his love, mercy, and help. That is why he freely gives us his power, strength, and gifts so that we may not lack anything we need to do his will and to live as his sons and daughters. Do you want to grow in your love for God and for your neighbor? Ask the Holy Spirit to purify and transform you in the image of the Father that you may know and live in the joy and freedom of the Gospel.**

### .ASH WEDNESDAY AND HOLY SEASON OF LENT.

"Lent is a favorable season for opening the doors to all those in need and recognizing in them the face of Christ."-- Pope Francis

Ash Wednesday is one of the most popular and important holy days in the liturgical calendar. Ash Wednesday opens Lent, a season of fasting and prayer. Ash Wednesday comes from the ancient Jewish tradition of penance and fasting. The practice includes the wearing of ashes on the head. The ashes symbolize the dust from which God made us.

During Lent, we are asked to devote ourselves to seeking the Lord in prayer and reading Scripture, to service by giving alms, and to sacrifice self-control through fasting.

### Here are the church regulations for fasting and abstinence during Lent:

-Everyone 14 years of age or older is bound to abstain from meat on Ash Wednesday, all the Fridays of Lent and Good Friday.

-Everyone 18 or older, and under 59 years of age, is bound to fast on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

-On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, only one full meatless meal is allowed. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength, may be taken according to each one's needs, but together they should not equal another full meal. When health or ability to work would be seriously affected, the law does not oblige.

-Catholics should not lightly excuse themselves from these prescribed minimal penitential practices.

### ASH WEDNESDAY Liturgy and Mass schedule

ST. MARK ---

8:45AM - Holy Mass with distribution of the ashes.

4:30pm - Liturgy of the Word with distribution of the ashes.

OLM ---

6:30am – Liturgy of the Word with distribution of the ashes.

9:30am - Holy Mass with distribution of the ashes.

4:30pm - Liturgy of the Word with distribution of the ashes.

7:30pm - Holy Mass with distribution of the ashes.

### 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, *"The nuptial covenant between God and his people Israel had prepared the way for the new and everlasting covenant in which the Son of God, by becoming incarnate and giving his life, has united to himself in a certain way all mankind saved by him, thus preparing for the wedding-feast of the Lamb."*

On the threshold of his public life Jesus performs his first sign - at his mother's request - during a wedding feast. The Church attaches great importance to Jesus' presence at the wedding at Cana. She sees in it the confirmation of the goodness of marriage and the proclamation that thenceforth marriage will be an efficacious sign of Christ's presence.

Also in his preaching Jesus unequivocally taught the original meaning of the union of man and woman as the Creator willed it from the beginning: permission given by Moses to divorce one's wife was a concession to the hardness of hearts. The matrimonial union of man and woman is indissoluble: God himself has determined it *"what therefore God has joined together, let no man put asunder."* God bless you.

## SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

### First Reading: Leviticus 19:1-2, 17-18

The Lord urges Moses to tell the Israelite Community to love their neighbors as themselves. They should bear no grudge or hatred against another.

### Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 3:16-23

Paul, once again, reminds the Corinthians that they are the temple of God, and, as such, must avoid internal disputes and wrangling. He tries to make them realize that they belong to Christ and that the Spirit of God dwells within them.

### Gospel: Matthew 5:38-48

In this part of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus exhorts his followers to do an extraordinary thing — to love their enemies and to pray for their oppressors. He reminds them that there is nothing laudatory in loving those who love them for even the “pagans” do this. He urges them to “turn the other cheek” and to “walk the extra mile.”



### 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**



We are looking for a few Good Knights! You don't have to attend every meeting and participate in every charitable or Church event. Considered the “right arm of the Catholic Church.” The Knights of Columbus is the largest, Catholic, fraternal, family service organization in the world! Help those in need and grow in your faith.

*Faith makes things possible, not easy.*

*Faith can move mountains, but don't be surprised if God hands you a shovel.*

*Authors Unknown.*

### 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

### PANCAKE BREAKFAST AT SCHOOLEY'S MOUNTAIN FIREHOUSE...

Sunday, March 1st - - 8:00 am- 12:00 pm. Children ages 4-10 \$4, Senior Citizens \$6, Adults \$8. 231 Schooley's Mountain Road. All you can eat!! Pancakes, Eggs & Pastries.

### 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/)

