

 <p>St. Cyril of Alexandria 28 Walton St. Alexandria Bay, NY</p> <hr/> <p>Saturday 5:00 p.m. Sunday 10:00 a.m.</p>	<p>The Catholic Community of Alexandria 17 Rock St. Alexandria Bay, NY 13607 315-482-2670</p> <p>pastor@stcyriils.org www.stcyriils.org</p> <p>Rev. Douglas G. Comstock, Pastor Bernard Slate, Deacon Joel Walentuk, Deacon</p>	 <p>St. Francis Xavier 43596 State Route 37 Redwood, NY</p> <hr/> <p>Sunday 8:30 a.m.</p>
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Liturgy Schedule for Week of March 1, 2020

Saturday, Feb. 29, 2020 **First Sunday of Lent**
5:00 p.m. Mary McDonald Allore by Tom & Richard Kavanaugh

Sunday, March 1, 2020
8:30 a.m. (SFX) Sally Sourwine by Maribeth & Family
10:00 a.m. Nichole Berry Garnsey by Cynthia & Robert Nelson & Family

Monday, March 2, 2020
7:00 p.m. *Liturgy of the Word with Communion*

Tuesday, March 3, 2020
5:15 p.m. Frank Hanzlian by Joan & Norm Townsend

Wednesday, March 4, 2020
8:00 a.m. Gerald Feeney

Thursday, March 5, 2020
5:15 p.m. [SC] Sharon Reed by Melinda & John Comstock

Friday, March 6, 2020
8:00 a.m. George and Frank Bolus by their Family

Saturday, March 7, 2019 **Second Sunday of Lent**
5:00 p.m. John and Elda Scrivani by Rod, Lisa, Cristofer & Dominic Tidd

Sunday, March 8, 2020
8:30 a.m. (SFX) The Family of Emma George by her Estate
10:00 a.m. Lewis and Catherine Slate by Deacon Bernie Slate

Sacrament of Reconciliation	
Saturday	3:45 – 4:30 p.m. at St. Cyril of Alexandria Church
Sunday	8:00 – 8:15 a.m. at St. Francis Xavier Church

Note: This Lent we have scheduled the Monday Mass at 7:00 p.m. to see if it is more convenient for folks who work past 5:00 p.m.

Soup and Stations

This Thursday we will celebrate the 5:15 Mass in St. Cyril of Alexandria Church, before gathering for Soup and Stations of the Cross.

Sign-up sheets for providing soup are found in each church. Come, join us!

Our Stewardship

February 22 - 23, 2020

Envelopes	\$1,081.00		
Plate	\$199.00		
Youth			
Electronic Giving	\$167.72	Fuel Collection	\$145.00
Total	\$1,447.72	Total Fuel Contrib.to Date	\$18,618.00
Last Year	\$2,393.72	Total Fuel Goal in '19-'20	\$20,298.00

The Springtime of Lent

Today is the first Sunday of Lent and just 18 days from the first day of spring! The liturgical season of Lent closely coincides with spring, calling to mind new life and growth, “the hope and change that should characterize this time of prayer, penance and conversion.”

As once was said, “Lent is the Church’s springtime. Out of the darkness of sin’s winter emerges a people the Church—reborn through baptism into their Lord’s death and resurrection from the grave.” (Unknown Author)

Lent originated in the first three centuries and, over the centuries, developed from a one or two day observance to 40 days, recalling the 40-day fasts of Christ. (Mt 4:2; Ex 34:28; 1Kgs 19:8) Thus, for 40 days the Church invites us to start afresh.

“...Just as Nature renews herself every spring, so during the Church’s spring we are encouraged to begin anew with the catechumens. We prepare for the renewal of our baptism, we suffer with Christ for our sins, we are buried with Him so that we may also arise with Him to a new life of grace and glory.” (Therese Mueller, *Our Children’s Year of Grace*)

The word Lent is derived from an Anglo-Saxon word *lenthen* or *lencten*, meaning “spring”. In spring farmers determine what crops to plant and begin preparing the soil thoroughly and planting the seeds carefully, hoping that the seeds buried deep in the soil will produce an abundant crop. We, in a way, do the same. We are “to spring” into action, to do the tasks of the season, to prepare for the new growth and graces that overflow from Easter.

Lent is an opportunity, not an obligation. It is not commanded by our Lord nor mentioned in the Bible. Our Church asks us to observe it because it is a helpful opportunity for repentance and renewal and for strengthening of our faith.

On Palm Sunday, the very threshold of his death and Resurrection, Our Lord assured his followers that “unless the grain of wheat falls to the earth and dies, it remains just a grain of wheat. But if it dies, it produces much fruit. Whoever loves his life loses it, and whoever hates his life in this world will preserve it to eternal life.” (Jn 12: 24-25)

Let us renew our Baptism during this Lenten spring, joyfully dying to self in order to become that fruitful grain of wheat. (Based on “Catholic Culture.org Catholic Activity: The Springtime of Lent”)

Judy Pearson

