

The Forth Sunday in Ordinary Time

January 31, 2021

Date	Intentions	Requested by
1/ 31 11:00	Joe & Ella Burns +	Estella Burns
2/03 12:00	Fr. Eric Hunter + Latin	Estella Burns
2/04 12:00	Fred Burns	Estella Burns
2/05 9:00	Louis Laux + Latin	Estella Burns
2/07 11:00	Scott Peek, Sr. +	Ted & Nancy McGowan



Candlemas

There will be an additional Latin Mass on Tuesday, February 2nd at 10:00 am for the blessing of candles. If you would like to bring in candles to be blessed please remember to label them clearly!

Saint of the Week

Grant me, O Lord My God, a mind to know you, a heart to seek you, wisdom to find you, conduct pleasing to you, faithful perseverance in waiting for you, and a hope of finally embracing you. Amen

~St. Thomas Aquinas, Priest & Doctor of the Church

A Prayer for World Peace

Dear God, thank You for all creation. In the spirit of Jesus of Nazareth and all teachers of peace who inspire the many faith traditions, help me and all the people of the world learn how to replace hate, war, oppression, and division with love, peace, freedom, and reconciliation. Help me to embody Your love in my relationships with my family, friends, strangers – even my enemies. I commit myself to this sacred task throughout my life. So let it be. Amen.

Father's Column

The End of the Alleluia

In recent decades, we have discontinued the reciting or singing of the Alleluia on Ash Wednesday. Traditionally, however, the Alleluia would cease being sung on this day (two and a half weeks before Lent) and would not be taken up again until the Easter Vigil. Why?

“Alleluia” literally means “praise Yahweh (God)!” and is taken from the Hebrew: *Hallelu-Yah*. While *prima facie* it is a simple cry of praise to God, deep in the Old Testament the Jews associated it with heaven and closeness with God. For instance, in the Book of Tobit we read: “in the streets (of the heavenly Jerusalem) Alleluia is sung” (Tob 13:220) If, then, Alleluia has a deep association with the praises of those in heaven and thus close to God, the removal of the Alleluia would reflect the opposite, namely being far from God.

This idea of God's distance and seeming inaccessibility is a major theme of this day, namely the third Sunday prior to Ash Wednesday, known as Septuagesima Sunday. The word *septuagesima* literally means 70th. It represents roughly the 70th day prior to Easter. While not literally 70 days (it is actually 63), the Church nonetheless used this number as a symbol in reference to the 70-year Babylonian Exile, when for 70 years the Jews were in exile far from Jerusalem, a symbol of heaven and the place where God dwells with man.

On this day, Christians are called to recognize how far this earthly vale of tears is from heaven, our true home. As sons and daughters of Adam and Eve, our first parents who ushered in the fall, we remember our own fallenness and thus distance from holiness of God and heaven. It was this moment in the life of the Prodigal Son when, finally realizing the depths of depravity to which he had fallen, and knowing his won distance from his father, came to his senses, and equally importantly, began making his way back home.

Lent is a time of walking away from our sinfulness and towards God, heaven, and a holy way of life. This process begins with our realization of our sinfulness and so putting aside the Alleluia.

Holy Week Schedule

The Triduum will be held at St. Jude's

- Holy Thursday Mass 6 pm
- Good Friday Stations of the Cross 12 pm
- Good Friday Liturgy 3 pm
- Holy Saturday Liturgy 8 pm
- Easter Sunday
- St. Jude's 9 am
- Our Lady of the Mountains 11 am

In this time of Covid-19
please consider making your offertory donations on-line. Visit our website:
www.olmhighlands.com

Our Lady of the Mountains

Guidelines and Precautions during the Covid-19 Pandemic

We are taking the following precautions to keep everyone safe at Mass.

1. The obligation to attend Mass is still lifted.
2. Social distance of 6ft is observed at all times.
3. Seating is limited to every other pew to facilitate social distancing.
4. Sanitizing hands is encouraged upon entering and leaving. Hand sanitizer is available at the entrances.
5. The wearing of masks is highly encouraged. Masks are available at the entrances.
6. Reusable items in the pews have been removed, such as hymnals and missals.
7. Congregational singing is suspended.
8. All physical contact between congregants is suspended such as hand-holding at the Our Father and the Sign of Peace.
9. The priest sanitizes his hand between households during the distribution of Holy Communion.
10. Distribution of the Precious Blood is suspended.
11. All high-contact surfaces are disinfected after Mass.

Please pray for our parishioners and their relatives and friends:

Carolyn Neupauer, Alsia Sutton & Family, Christine Walker, The Pittari Family, Laura Sanders, Mary Catherine Cann, James Urbanski, Griffin Harper

Also for those in our book of prayer intentions, and those for whom there is no one to pray.

Please pray for all the men and women serving the United States in the military.

Please pray for the souls of our beloved deceased.

Pat Pittari, Clara Lewicki, Fr. Ubald Rugirangoga, Scott Peek, Sr., Stewart Austin, John Powers, and Ron Simmons, Harry Vaughn