

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

If Advent is the season par excellence that invites us to hope in the God-Who-Comes, Lent renews in us the hope in the One who made us pass from death to life. Both are seasons of purification - this is also indicated by the liturgical color that they have in common - but in a special way Lent, fully oriented to the mystery of Redemption, is defined the “path of true conversion”. At the beginning of our penitential journey, I would like to pause briefly to reflect on prayer and suffering as qualifying aspects of the liturgical Season of Lent.

Prayer nourishes hope because nothing expresses the reality of God in our life better than praying with faith. Even in the loneliness of the most severe trial, nothing and no one can prevent me from addressing the Father “in the secret” of my heart, where He alone “sees”, as Jesus says in the Gospel. Two moments of Jesus’ earthly existence come to mind. One is at the beginning and the other almost at the end of his public ministry: the 40 days in the desert, on which the Season of Lent is based, and the agony in Gethsemane - are both essentially moments of prayer. Prayer alone with the Father face to face in the desert; prayer filled with “mortal anguish” in the Garden of Olives. Yet in both these circumstances it is by praying that Christ unmasks the wiles of the tempter and defeats him. Thus, prayer proves to be the first and principal “weapon” with which to win the victory “in our struggle against the spirit of evil”.

Christ’s prayer reaches its culmination on the Cross. It is expressed in those last words which the Evangelists have recorded. Where he seems to utter a cry of despair: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”, Christ was actually making his own the invocation of someone beset by enemies with no escape, who has no one other than God to turn to and, over and above any human possibilities, experiences his grace and salvation. With these words of the Psalm, first of a man who is suffering, then of the People of God in their suffering, caused by God’s apparent absence, Jesus made his own this cry of humanity that suffers from God’s apparent absence, and carried this cry to the Father’s heart. So, by praying in this ultimate solitude together with the whole of humanity, He opens the Heart of God to us. There is no contradiction between these words in Psalm 22 and the words full of filial trust: “Father, into your hands I commit my spirit”. These words, also taken from Psalm 31, are the dramatic imploration of a person who, abandoned by all, is sure he can entrust himself to God. The prayer of supplication full of hope is consequently the leitmotif of Lent and enables us to experience God as the only anchor of salvation. Indeed when it is collective, the prayer of the People of God is a voice of one heart and soul, it is a “heart to heart” dialogue, like Queen Esther’s moving plea when her people were about to be exterminated: “O my Lord, you only are our King; help me, who am alone and have no helper but you”... for a great danger overshadows me. In the face of a “great danger” greater hope is needed: only the hope that can count on God.

In a harmonious connection with prayer, fasting and almsgiving can also be considered occasions for learning and practicing Christian hope. The Fathers and ancient writers liked to emphasize that these three dimensions of Gospel life are inseparable, reciprocally enrich each other and bear more fruit the more they collaborate with each other. Lent as a whole, thanks to the joint action of prayer, fasting and almsgiving, forms Christians to be men and women of hope after the example of the Saints.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

*Next weekend is our in-pew solicitation for the Cardinal’s Appeal. Please give it your prayerful consideration.*

St. Mary's Day for the 40 Days for Life is Saturday, March 23rd. Sign up with Nancy the weekends of March 9/10, and March 16/17 in the Narthex.



***Liturgical Ministers for March 9th/10th, 2019***

<b>MASS</b>	<b>LECTOR</b>	<b>MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION</b>	<b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>
4:00PM	D. LEGATO	N. SMITH, W. PONDS	J. MARCONE, K. CASE
8:30AM	M. LATINI	J. HENDRICK, S. RIORDAN, J. SNELLINGER	A. AND E. TRUJILLO
11:30AM	M. ESLING	H. MARINARO, T. MARION	DJ PERRIN, Z. ADAMCIK, A. EPPS

The second collection next week is for Catholic Relief Services.



**Ash Wednesday Schedule:**  
9am Mass  
4pm Liturgy of the Word  
7pm Mass  
(In the Church)

*Stations of the Cross will be prayed every Friday during Lent beginning March 8th at 7pm.*

Take advantage of access to **Formed** for another year! You can create your own account **FREE** of charge at: [stmarysportjervis.formed](http://stmarysportjervis.formed.com)

You can sign up with your own email and password to gain access to multiple programs, movies, ebooks, and audios.

Fr. Newcomb will hold a class on the Presence Mystery of the Eucharist. Classes will be held on:

- 11 March Session 1: God is with us
  - 25 March Session 2: The Story of the Eucharist
  - 1 April Session 3: Bread of the Journey
  - 8 April Session 4: Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist
- 6:30pm in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room



Experience Lent through your child's eyes this year. You'll attend with your child on Sunday, March 3rd during Religious Education classes in the Most Sacred Heart Hall. Attendance will be taken and at least **one** parent must attend.

Little Lambs is in need of 2 printers. If you have a used printer that you are not using please consider donating it to the school.

Drew United Methodist will once again have their Lenten Soup lunches on Wednesdays during Lent. Fr. Newcomb will be speaking on Wednesday, March 13th at Noon. *Cost \$3.*

**S.M.A.R.T.** will be selling Palm Crosses the weekend of April 6/7 to be able to go to *Camp Veritas*. We appreciate your support.

The K of C is having their annual St. Patrick's Dinner Dance on Saturday, March 16th from 5pm-9pm. Cost \$30/pp. Corned Beef and Cabbage will be served along with beverages. DJ Steve Moglia will be the music entertainment. RSVP 856-4084.

**Fish and Chips Dinner Ticket Orders 2019**

#of Adult Tickets \_\_\_ x \$13.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
# of Child Tickets \_\_\_ x \$6.00 = \$\_\_\_\_\_ Contact Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# of Eat-In Dinners \_\_\_\_\_ # of Take-Out Dinners \_\_\_\_\_  
*Pick-up your tickets at the door the night of the dinner.*

Office Use only: Paid: Cash \_\_\_\_\_ Check# \_\_\_\_\_  
**NO REFUNDS!**

**ANNOUNCED MASSES**

- Monday, March 4 (Casimir)**  
9:00am Denise Kirchner, by Ellen McCarthy
- Tuesday, March 5**  
9:00am James Guidice, by Niece Janet
- Wednesday, March 6 (Ash Wednesday)**  
9:00am Harrison Hinkley, by Barbara and Dick Drew  
George Fedoruk, by wife and children  
4:00pm *Liturgy of the Word*  
7:00pm Roberto and Antonio Feliciano, by Ruby Feliciano
- Thursday, March 7 (Perpetua and Felicity, martyrs)**  
9:00am Intentions of Joan Bell, by the family
- Saturday, March 9**  
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's
- Sunday, March 10**  
8:30am Catherine Smith, by Mary Rimlinger  
11:30am Giuseppe Fiorillo, by Rosa Fiorillo

**Please Pray For the Sick:** Angela Portella, Ramonita Iri-zarry, Debi Cotugno, Theresa Fuller, Maureen Hildebrandt, Charles Hildebrandt, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, Helen Andreano, Robert Witherow, J.D. Lipa, Nancy Crumley, Valentina Hall, Ryan O'Connor, Dorothy Lynch, Allen Lynch, Sarah Madison, Mary Ohl, Andrea Fedoruk, Donald Wolff, William Lincoln, Jeanine Lincoln, Michael Barnes, Elizabeth Brennan, Susan Upton, Chris Marion, III, Eppie Harford., Walter Szpakowicz, Genevieve Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, and Betty Jane Niemeyer.

Ministers of the Holy Communion are needed to assist with the distribution of Communion to the patients of Bon Secours Community Hospital and St Joseph's Place residents. If you would like to be part of this rewarding ministry, contact the pastoral care office at 858-7000x6161

*Spring Forward Sunday, March 10th.*

The devastation of the Reproductive Health Act offers an opportunity for new growth and revitalization in our pro-life efforts within each parish of the Archdiocese. Sr. Virginia Joy, SV, Director of the Respect Life Office, and Sr. Pia Jude, SV, will be hosting a meeting for all parishes in the Orange County area to discuss ideas of how the Holy Spirit can be at work in moving us forward in building a culture of life. If you are interested in offering your time, talent, or treasure to assist in pro-life works, please come out on **Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 7:00PM at John S. Burke Catholic High School in Goshen, NY.**

The collection for February 23/24 was \$4,588.50  
Thank you for your continued generosity.