

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

This past Wednesday we began Lent, and today we are celebrating the first Sunday of this liturgical season that encourages Christians to set out on a path of preparation for Easter.

Today, the Gospel reminds us that Jesus, after being baptized in the River Jordan and impelled by the Holy Spirit who settled upon Him and revealed Him as the Christ, withdrew for 40 days into the Desert of Judea where he overcame the temptations of Satan. Following their Teacher and Lord, Christians also enter the Lenten desert in spirit in order to face with Him the “fight against the spirit of evil”.

The image of the desert is a very eloquent metaphor of the human condition. The Book of Exodus recounts the experience of the People of Israel who, after leaving Egypt, wandered through the desert of Sinai for 40 years before they reached the Promised Land.

During that long journey, the Jews experienced the full force and persistence of the tempter, who urged them to lose trust in the Lord and to turn back; but at the same time, thanks to Moses’ mediation, they learned to listen to God’s voice calling them to become his holy People.

In meditating on this biblical passage, we understand that to live life to the full in freedom we must overcome the test that this freedom entails, that is, temptation. Only if he is freed from the slavery of falsehood and sin can the human person, through the obedience of faith that opens him to the truth, find the full meaning of his life and attain peace, love and joy. For this very reason Lent is a favorable time for a diligent revision of life through recollection, prayer and penance.

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Father Newcomb



“While this is a rough year for the Church, it could also be considered the most important time to show our support of its good works... and therefore assist the work of the *Cardinal’s Appeal*. If you have been thinking and praying about a gift, may our time together today help you come to a decision to help make our archdiocese stronger. If you have already made your gift, thank you most sincerely for your generosity.

As you consider your gift, please realize that you are not alone in this effort.

***To date our parish has received 25 pledges, totaling \$4,630
 Our goal is \$35,500.***

Liturgical Ministers for March 16/17, 2019.

MASS	LECTOR	MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION	ALTAR SERVERS
4:00PM	T. WEBB	J. SNELLINGER, J. FLYNN	N. AND A. WEBB
8:30AM	J. SMITH	J. TAYLOR, T. CALVARIO, W. CARMODY	T. LAMOREAUX, D. GERARDO
11:30AM	H. MARINARO	T. MARION, B. DENNINGTON	J. ENNIS, S. MASCI, S. BHIKARRY

The parish of the Immaculate Conception, Saint Mary's Church in Port Jervis is seeking a director for its early childhood education center. The center, which serves the tri-state area, includes an early childhood program for 3-year-olds and a pre-kindergarten program for 4 and 5-year-olds. Applicants must have at least a bachelor's degree in early childhood education, a firm commitment to the Catholic faith, and an ability to work collaboratively both with the center staff and that of the parish. Salary and benefits commensurate with education and experience. Please send resume and three professional references by e-mail (St-Marys-Rectory@hvc.rr.com), by fax (845-858-8375), or by regular mail (PO Box 712, Port Jervis, NY 12771).

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

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.



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

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.



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.

St. Mary's Little Lambs is selling raffles for 3 baskets. \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets may be purchased at the parish office.

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.

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

ANNOUNCED MASSES

- Monday, March 11**
9:00am Josef Haering, by Hannelore Kucher
- Tuesday, March 12**
9:00am Kyle Pascoe, by Loughney fam.
- Wednesday, March 13**
9:00am William, Anna, and Michael Kelly, by Gloria Mosher
- Thursday, March 14**
9:00am Deceased members of the Muere & Nuestro families, by Nenita Costescu
- Friday, March 15**
7:00pm *STATIONS*
- Saturday, March 16**
4:00pm Dickson Morrison, by Patrick Leap
- Sunday, March 17**
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's
11:30am Charlene and Carl Case, by Darren and Mary Case

Please Pray For the Sick: Angela Portella, Ramonita Irizarry, 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, Betty Jane Niemeyer, Carmella Balsamello, and Wayne Demarco.

Have you considered a Catholic Elementary School for your child? Are you interested in learning more about Catholic schools serving children in grades Pre-Kindergarten through Grade 8 in Orange County? Please visit a Catholic school on **TOURING TUESDAYS** from 9-11am or by appointment. **TOURING TUESDAYS** are universal open houses held at all regional Catholic elementary schools throughout the Archdiocese of New York. **TOURING TUESDAY** dates for the 2019/2020 school year are as follows: **March 19 & April 9**

Please call (646) 794-2885 to RSVP.

The collection for March 2/3 was \$4,679.50.
Thank you for your continued generosity.