

*JMJ*

Dear Parishioners,

The passage of Luke’s Gospel that is proclaimed on this Third Sunday of Lent relates Jesus’ comments on two events of His time. The first: the uprising of some Galileans, which Pilate repressed with bloodshed. The second: the fall of the tower of Jerusalem, which claimed 18 victims. Two very distinct, tragic events: one caused by man, the other accidental.

According to the mentality of the time, people were inclined to think that the disgrace which struck the victims was due to some grave fault of their own. Jesus instead says: “Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans.... Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem?”. And in both cases He concludes: “I tell you, No: but unless you repent you will all likewise perish”. This, then, is the point to which Jesus wants to bring His listeners: the necessity for conversion. He does not propose it in legalistic terms, but rather in realistic ones, as the only adequate response to the events that place human certainties in crisis. In the face of certain disgraces, he warns, it does no good to blame the victims. Rather, true wisdom allows one to question the precariousness of existence and to acquire an attitude of responsibility: to do penance and to improve our lives. This is wisdom, this is the most effective response to evil on every level: interpersonal, social and international.

Christ invites us to respond to evil, first of all, with a serious examination of conscience and the commitment to purify our lives. Otherwise, He says, we will perish, we will all perish in the same way. In effect, people and societies that live without ever questioning themselves have ruin as their only final destination. Conversion, on the other hand, while not preserving one from problems and misfortunes, allows one to face them in a different “way”. First of all, it helps to prevent evil, disengaging some of its threats. And in any case, it allows one to overcome evil with good: if not always on a factual level, which sometimes is independent of our will, certainly on a spiritual level. In summary: conversion overcomes the root of evil, which is sin, even if it cannot always avoid its consequences.

Let us pray to Mary Most Holy, who accompanies and sustains us on our Lenten journey, so that she may help every Christian to rediscover the greatness, I would say, the beauty, of conversion. May she help us understand that doing penance and correcting one’s conduct is not simply moralism, but the most effective way to change oneself and society for the better. An adage expresses it well: to light a candle is worth more than to curse the darkness.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

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

**25th March** Session 2: The Story of the Eucharist

**1st April** Session 3: Bread of the Journey

**8th April** Session 4: Biblical Foundations of the Eucharist.

*6:30pm in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room*

***Liturgical Ministers for March 30th/31st, 2019***

| <b>MASS</b> | <b>LECTOR</b> | <b>MINISTERS OF HOLY COMMUNION</b> | <b>ALTAR SERVERS</b>           |
|-------------|---------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 4:00PM      | L. AVELLA     | W. PONDS, K. BOBISH                | J. LEGATO, M. FEDRIZZI         |
| 8:30AM      | J. HENDRICK   | T. CALVARIO, W. CARMODY            | D. GERARDO, M. REINHARDT       |
| 11:30AM     | M. ESLING     | T. MARION, H. MARINARO, N. SMITH   | S. AND I. CUELLO, A. ST. LOUIS |



*Stations of the Cross are prayed every Friday during Lent beginning at 7pm.*

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.

Catholic Daughters Court Madonna #114 is hosting a **Ladies Tea Party on Saturday, April 6th** from noon until 3pm. Ladies \$15 under 12 \$7. *Floral Wreath Headband or Springtime Hat Contest! Enchanted Table raffle & 50/50. Advance RSVP's by March 31st. No walk-ins. Contact: Laura Nicolette 973-293-3523*

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).

The movie "GOSNELL" will be shown in M.S.H. Hall on Sunday, March 24th, at 3:00pm. This movie is a true story that took place in Philadelphia, Pa. It's about an abortionist who was in business for 30 years. A police raid came upon this accidentally. It is meant to be a teaching moment for both Pro Life and Pro Abortion minded people. Also for parents to be informed for their children. It is rated PG13, 93 minutes long, **FREE** -no admission charge.

**SMART** will be selling Lenten Soups the weekend of March 30th/31st. \$8/Qt. to help fund Camp Veritas.

*Next weekend is the All You Can Eat Breakfast. Bring a friend.*

*To date our parish has received 36 pledges totaling \$6,100.*

*Our goal is \$35,500. Please give it your prayerful consideration*



Little Lambs is now accepting registrations for the 2019-20 school year. Children must turn three years old by December 1, 2019 for the Pre-K 3 class, and four by December 1, 2019 for the Pre-K 4 class. Classes meet 2, 3, or 5 days a week. There are full and half day programs available. Call Eileen Carmody 845-858-4208 for more information.

If you'd like to write to Fr. O'Hare, mail will get to him if addressed to: Deacon Stephen DeMartino 1011 First Avenue New York, NY 10022

## ANNOUNCED MASSES

**Monday, March 25 (Annunciation of the Lord)**  
9:00am Blaise Joseph Zorich, by Dr. Jane Brooks

**Tuesday, March 26**  
9:00am Joseph Amato, by Dick and Barbara Drew

**Wednesday, March 27**  
9:00am William Simons, by Dick and Barbara Drew

**Thursday, March 28**  
9:00am Deceased members of the Agnes and Otto Bayer family, by Aggie Devore

**Friday, March 29**  
**7:00pm STATIONS**

**Saturday, March 30**  
4:00pm The parishioners of St. Mary's

**Sunday, March 31**  
8:30am Peter Lawrow, by Mary Rimlinger  
11:30am Gwen Fitzgerald, by the Torres family  
1:00pm *Latin Mass*



*The Sanctuary Lamp will burn brightly this week in the Church, in memory of Mary M. Collins, by Diane Stierle.*

**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, Walter Szpakowicz, Genevieve Szpakowicz, Frances Brennan, Carmella Balsamello, Wayne Demarco, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Francis Cruz, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Cinerar, Dennis Horner, Jackie Mundy, and Elizabeth Startup Jones.



**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 Mount Carmel Society of Port Jervis NY will be having a sausage and pepper / Meatball sandwich sit down or take-out Saturday April 13th 2019. The location will be at The Mount Carmel Hall 21 First Street Port Jervis NY. The time will be from 4PM to 7PM.

Save the Date! March for Life Monday, June 3rd to Albany, NY. Free Transportation. For more info., call Oneida 796-0228, Jane 292-4647, or Linda 292-0709.

The collection for March 16/17 was \$4,462.50  
Thank you for your continued generosity.