

JMJ

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday's Gospel contains some of the most typical and forceful words of Jesus' preaching: "Love your enemies". Jesus delivered it in Galilee at the beginning of his public life: it is, as it were, a "manifesto" presented to all, in which He asks for His disciples' adherence, proposing His model of life to them in radical terms. But what do his words mean? Why does Jesus ask us to love precisely our enemies, that is, a love which exceeds human capacities?

Actually, Christ's proposal is realistic because it takes into account that in the world there is too much violence, too much injustice, and therefore that this situation cannot be overcome except by countering it with more love, with more goodness. This "more" comes from God: it is His mercy which was made flesh in Jesus and which alone can "tip the balance" of the world from evil to good, starting with that small and decisive "world" which is the human heart.

This Gospel passage is rightly considered the magna carta of Christian non-violence. It does not consist in succumbing to evil, as a false interpretation of "turning the other cheek" claims, but in responding to evil with good and thereby breaking the chain of injustice. One then understands that for Christians, non-violence is not merely tactical behavior but a person's way of being, the attitude of one who is so convinced of God's love and power that he is not afraid to tackle evil with the weapons of love and truth alone.

Love of one's enemy constitutes the nucleus of the "Christian revolution", a revolution not based on strategies of economic, political or media power: the revolution of love, a love that does not rely ultimately on human resources but is a gift of God which is obtained by trusting solely and unreservedly in his merciful goodness. Here is the newness of the Gospel which silently changes the world! Here is the heroism of the "lowly" who believe in God's love and spread it, even at the cost of their lives.

Dear brothers and sisters, Lent, which will begin this Wednesday with the Rite of Ashes, is the favorable season in which all Christians are asked to convert ever more deeply to Christ's love. Let us ask the Virgin Mary, docile disciple of the Redeemer who helps us to allow ourselves to be won over without reserve by that love, to learn to love as he loved us, to be merciful as Our Father in Heaven is merciful.

Sincerely yours in Christ,  
*Father Newcomb*

**Canon 1250:** All Fridays through the year and the time of Lent are penitential days and times throughout the entire Church.

**Canon 1251:** Abstinence from eating meat or another food according to the prescriptions of the conference of bishops is to be observed on Fridays throughout the year unless they are solemnities; abstinence and fast are to be observed on Ash Wednesday and on the Friday of the Passion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Canon 1252:** All persons who have completed their fourteenth year are bound by the law of abstinence; all adults are bound by the law of fast up to the beginning of their sixtieth year. Nevertheless, pastors and parents are to see to it that minors who are not bound by the law of fast and abstinence are educated in an authentic sense of penance.

**Fasting** The Church defines this as one meal a day, and two smaller meals which if added together would not exceed the main meal in quantity. Such fasting is obligatory on **Ash Wednesday** and **Good Friday**. The fast is broken by eating between meals and by drinks which could be considered food (milk shakes, but not milk). Alcoholic beverages do not break the fast; however, they seem to be contrary to the spirit of doing penance.

Starting on the 24th of February we will start our next Formed Lectio Bible Studies Series: from 6:30pm to 8pm in the Saint Peter and Saint Paul Meeting Room.

The Topic is: Lectio: Salvation with Dr. Michael Barber

**24 Feb:** Session 1: Not Self-Help

**9 March:** Session 3: Not Without Cost

**30 March:** Session 5: Not Just a Legal Transaction

**27 April:** Session 7: Not Simply a Moment

**1 June:** Session 9: Not Just for Other People

**2 March:** Session 2: Not Just Fire Insurance

**23 March:** Session 4: Not Just Personal

**20 April:** Session 6: Not a Spectator Sport

**4 May:** Session 8: Not Inevitable

**8 June:** Session 10: Not Only About the Future

*Liturgical Ministers for February 29th/March 1st, 2020*

Mass	Lector	Ministers of Holy Communion	Altar Servers
4:00pm	L. AVELLA	K. BOBISH	N. AND A. WEBB
8:30am	M. LATINI	T. CALVARIO, J. HENDRICK	T. LAMOREAUX, M. REINHARDT
11:30am	H. MARINARO	T. MARION	K. AND A. EPPS

**Altar Servers:** There will be a sign up sheet in the vesting sacristy to serve at Stations of the Cross. Stations will begin on Friday, February 28th at 7pm.

Fr. Newcomb would like all Ushers, and anyone who would like to become an Usher, to meet in the Church, on Sunday, February 23rd after the 11:30 Mass.

**Soap Box Derby-** Any child interested in driving the St. Mary's car for the Soap Box Derby is asked to contact Gina at the parish office. All names will be put in a "hat" to be picked. Child must be at least 10 years old.  
**Must reply before March 5th.**

**S.M.A.R.T.** will be selling Palm Crosses for \$10 in the Narthex the weekend of March 28th/29th and if any are left the weekend of April 4th/5th (Palm Sunday)

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**Fish and Chips Dinner Ticket Orders 2020**

#of Adult Tickets \_\_\_ x \$14.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# of Child Tickets \_\_\_ x \$7.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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# \_\_\_\_\_**

**RSVP BEFORE February 28th**

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**S.M.A.R.T.** will be selling Lenten soups the weekend of March 14/15 to defray the costs of Camp Veritas. There will be onion, cheddar broccoli, vegetable, and potato soups available. Cost \$8/Quart.

***We have various announced Mass Intentions available for the 2020 year. Cost is \$15. Stop by the parish office. Everyone loves the gift of prayer.***

Cedar Lake Estates in Port Jervis, NY, is looking to fill various positions, including housekeeping. They offer a high hourly wage, health benefits, 401k and a safe, happy place to work. If interested, contact [Rania@cedarlakesestate.com](mailto:Rania@cedarlakesestate.com). If you do not have access to email call 533-3328 ext 701 and leave a detailed message.

Drew United Methodist will be hosting the Lenten Soup Luncheon every Wednesday beginning March 4th at noon. Our Pastor, Fr. Newcomb will be preaching on March 18th. Cost is \$3 and includes soup, bread, beverage, and dessert.

BSA Troop 173 would like to thank the parishioners for continuously supporting our Troop's Chili Take-Out! It was huge success. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

### Announced Masses

- Monday, February 24**  
9:00am Michael McCarthy, by Bob & Nancy Dunn
- Tuesday, February 25**  
9:00am Liza Rodriguez, by the Brito family
- Wednesday, February 26 (Ash Wednesday)**  
9:00am Mary Wohlscheid, by Dick and Barbara Drew
- 3:00pm Liturgy of the Word
- 7:00pm Mary Wohlscheid, by Amelia Quinn
- Thursday, February 27**  
9:00am Marina Felix, by Dulce Souchet & fam.
- Friday, February 28**  
7:00pm Stations of the Cross
- Saturday, February 29**  
4:00pm Franz Kucher, by Hannelore Kucher & fam.
- Sunday, March 1 (First Sunday of Lent)**  
8:30am The parishioners of St. Mary's  
11:30am Augustine Corona, Jr., by the Russo fam.
- 1:00pm *Mr. & Mrs. Roland Larrison, by Paul & Rosemary Brislin.*
- 1:00pm *Hungarian Mass*

**PLEASE PRAY FOR THE SICK:** Donald Wolff, Carol Gomillion, David Lisker, Nancy Parsons, Debi Cotugno, Michael Bello, Michael Barnes, William Lincoln, Jeannine Lincoln, James Lincoln, Charles Hildebrandt, Maureen Hildebrandt, Walter Szpakowicz, Carmella Balsamello, Aedan Roach, Robin Radzikowski, James Roach, Catherine Simons, Brendan Carmody, Joe Formisano, Nico Nicolette, Jaryd Viserta, Steven Gaesser, Kacey Warner, Sandra Ramsey, Lorraine Mannarino, Elizabeth Startup Jones, Mary Lynn Beam, Jose Ramos, Carmen Ramos, Mercedes Rodriguez, Jose Brito, Michael Medaglia, Barbara Straub, Tress Loughrey, Sal Careri, Cody Bain, Robert Witherow, Susan Upton, Theresa Fuller, Allen Lynch, Enid Decker, Jackie Mundy, Chris Marion, III, Barbara Lindsay, Robert Ackerman, Wayne DeMarco, Ryan O'Connor, Elizabeth Brennan, Jerri Kavanaugh, Allan Garcia, Christine Haberzettl, Eric Hildebrandt, Rose Gotthardt, Georgia Gotthardt, John Olenick, John Hendrix, Stephen A. Odrechowski and fam., Scott Robertson, Eva Scopino, Jan Kaminski, and Ana Anaya.

**Bringing Jesus To Planned Parenthood Through Mary**  
Come and pray the rosary for the end to abortion every 2nd & 4th Fridays, at 1:00 PM, outside Planned Parenthood, 14 Prince St., Monticello, NY. Gathering at Church of St. Peter, 10 Liberty St., Monticello following 12:15 Mass. For more info. call Jane (845) 292-4647

The collection for February 15/16 was \$4,498.50  
Thank you for your continued generosity.